

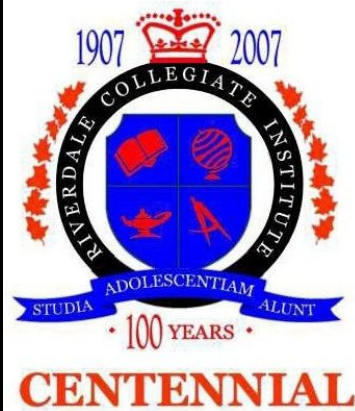
The RIVERDALIAN

PROMOTING & MAINTAINING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG RIVERDALIANS

Issue 26

Winter / Spring 2008

RIVERDALE C. I.



Future Meetings of the Alumni Association

Monday, June 9, 2008
 Wednesday, September 10, 2008
 Monday, January 12, 2009
 Tuesday, June 9, 2009
 7:00 PM in the RCI Staff Room

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A Note of Appreciation and a Plea for Input

- from the current Editor, Jim White (Class of '65)

Since 1999, for a total of 19 issues, this newsletter has been the pet project of one person - **Mick Spillane**. With Mick's leadership, a team of dedicated individuals produced and distributed a top quality newsletter that was obviously read and appreciated by those who received it. In 1998, distribution was only 800 copies. In June of 2007 over 2000 copies were mailed to Riverdale Alumni. The success of the Centennial Anniversary Reunion was, to no small degree, a result of the promotion facilitated by the distribution of *The Riverdalian*. Mick was also the driving force behind the publication of the *Riverdale Centennial Booklet*. Mick's appreciation of and connection with the community that is Riverdale came through clearly in the pages of these publications.

Mick, on behalf of the entire Riverdale Community, THANK YOU!

We need your input.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are probably fondly reflecting on your time at Riverdale. You may have memories that you would like to share with your fellow Alumni. This is your newsletter. Please feel free to share your thoughts about

- how your Riverdale experience contributed to your personal success,
- a warm memory of an incident that, for unspoken reasons, could not be widely shared at the time,
- or an acknowledgment of a teacher or classmate who had a positive impact on your life.

If you would like to share some of your personal history – what you have done and what you are doing now – don't hesitate. And, on a more serious note, if you can confirm the passing of a Riverdale Alumnus, please let us know.

Be a part of your newsletter. Send your submissions to

jwhite.jsw@rogers.com .

Welcome New Editor Jim White '65

By Diane Carlton, RCAA President
 Thank you for volunteering your talent, energy and time to serve as editor of our alumni newsletter. We very much appreciate your Riverdalian spirit and will do everything we can to assist you.

RECEIVE THE RIVERDALIAN VIA E-MAIL

Because of the high cost of printing and mailing, we are hoping to distribute as many newsletters as possible via e-mail. Please help us by sending an e-mail to jendacott@look.ca with 'RIVERDALE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER' in the subject line.

Alumni Reconnecting

Since the 100th anniversary reunion, it is apparent many former classmates have continued their reconnection with their “old” friends. In November, Pat (Guthrie) Drew (class of ‘66) e-mailed many of her former classmates whom she had met up with in May. Pat, who lives in Winnipeg, was coming to Toronto to spend Christmas with family. A few of her former classmates had expressed interest in meeting her for lunch during her week back home, so she set about organizing an appropriate restaurant, via the Inter-

net. What started out as a small group getting together at The Sisters Restaurant in Scarborough, grew to a group of 30! A number of this group had missed the reunion for various reasons and were really pleased with this mini-reunion. Once again, more addresses were exchanged and it appears that many old friendships have been renewed. The power of the Internet and e-mail makes so many wonderful things possible. What a surprising and happy outcome for Pat!

Attention '66 and '67 Grads

If you were a member of the class of 1966 or 1967 and are interested in reuniting with many of your former classmates in the near future, you are not alone. A small committee has been working diligently since the RCI 100th Anniversary to develop a contact list of such '66 and '67 grads. The “Mini Reunion” is currently being planned for the Fall of 2008. If you would like to be on the contact list for your year, please advise either Linda (Simpson) Romito, class

of '66, at linda.romito@aci.on.ca or phone 905-713-6665 OR Solveiga (Karklins) Meita, class of '67, at meita@rogers.com or phone 905-830-1271. Please pass the word to others who may not be on the mailing list for *The Riverdalian*. Those who transferred to Monarch Park after starting at RCI are also welcome. Details will be available in the coming few months through Linda or Solveiga.

Connecting Alumni

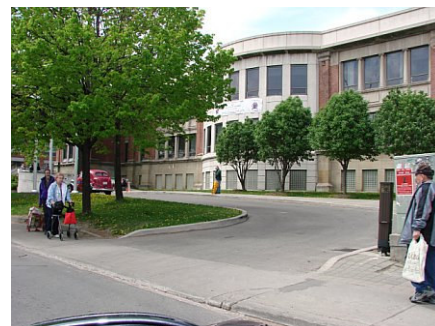
Frustrated because you can't connect with your old classmates?? Is there someone who you have wanted to contact, but you have no idea who might know where that person is??

If you are a paid member of the RCAA, and the person you want to contact is also a paid member, the Riverdale Collegiate Alumni Association will be providing a new service to help in your search.

It will work like this: Check the list of RCAA members on the RCAA web site — www.riverdalealumni.ca . Send an e-mail with the name and graduating year of the person with whom you want to connect, along with your contact information to Howard Birnie at hwbirnie@rogers.com . Also include a statement that you give permission for Howard to pass on your contact information. If that person is a

paid member of the RCAA, Howard will send an e-mail to that person informing him/her that you want to connect. It will be the choice of that person whether or not to contact you.

Remember, this service will work only if both parties are paid members of the RCAA. At \$25.00 for a lifetime membership, you can't find a better deal. Spread the word.



Adopt a Picture and Help the Scholarship Fund

By Mick Spillane

The Riverdale Collegiate Picture Collection includes many early school pictures that have been repaired where possible and beautifully framed in ebony wood with acid-free matting and dust-tight jackets. The collection numbering 180+ pictures was prepared as a special Centennial Project and is permanently mounted on wall space throughout the school for the viewing pleasure of future generations of Riverdalians.

Many pictures were donated by alumni in response to our Alumni Newsletter requests and have been recognized with a plaque identifying the donor. Should you have a significant picture depicting life at Riverdale Collegiate and wish to have it as part of the Riverdale collection, please send it to the Alumni



Association for consideration. All pictures not used will be returned to sender.

The collection covers a host of different areas of Riverdale life from the very beginning to the present, including academics, sports, public speaking, clubs, art, music and drama.

The collection says a great deal about Riverdale and serves as a 'quiet reminder' over the decades of who we are as Riverdalians.

For a \$300. donation to the Scholarship Fund, you can adopt a picture and have your name and the names of five friends engraved on a brass picture plaque.

A tax receipt will be issued. Make

cheque payable to Riverdale Collegiate Charitable Foundation.

What They've Done and Where They Are Now

From **Sue Ferguson** (Class of '66):

Following graduation from RCI, I attended University of Toronto, and graduated from the Physical & Occupational Therapy Programme. I still work in my preferred field as a physiotherapist in the community, seeing people in their own homes in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton region. How lucky can one get having a career that is satisfying and rewarding as well as working in an area of Ontario that is beautiful and serene?

Along the way I became a partner in a therapy company, *Therapacc Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation*, and so have a professional and business career. Unlike many of my colleagues from RCI and UofT, I am still working with no immediate plans to retire.

I did have a 2 year sabbatical from 2000 to '02 when my partner and I escaped on a sailboat, and adventured as far as Trinidad through the Caribbean.

How lucky to have been the recipient of a good education and been a contributor to my fellow Ontarians.

From **Jim White** (Class of '65):

After Riverdale, I attended UofT and graduated in '69. Hitchhiked to Mexico in late '69-'70. My employment history consists of a few years of doing graduate placement at a private technical institute and about 16 years as a 'Training Consultant' in the Community College system. I am currently self-employed, and write policy manuals, procedures manuals and job descriptions for a large variety of employers. At this time, I am the Editor of this newsletter.

I have been married to the same woman for 34 years (she is a very tolerant person), have two sons and two grandchildren.

Let your classmates know what you've been up to. Send your submissions to jwhite.jsw@rogers.com.

Gabriella Prata (Class of '78) Releases New CD

Gabrielle Prata and her husband, Robert Longo, released their first CD in September of 2007.

The title track, *I'm Not Going Anywhere*, is an original love song co-written by Gabriella and long-time friend Brian Finley. An Italian version is also on the CD.

Much like their own careers, the CD "encompasses a few different styles of music."

During the summer of 2007, the duo performed in Summertime and Hammerstein in the unique 400-seat rural setting of the Westben festival.

The two have set up home in the Warden and St. Clair avenues area of Scarborough, after living in New York City.

Prata was born and raised in Toronto, and was thrilled to attend the 100th anniversary reunion. While attending Riverdale she lived right across the street from the school.

"I was involved in everything," she said. "I was a big swimmer in the school, I was a city champion swimmer, and I was on the choir committees. It was just a whirlwind, I loved it. And it was so nice seeing everybody at the reunion. It was unbelievable. You couldn't park for miles. It was so busy."

To order their CDs or check out upcoming public performances, log onto

www.pragosentertainment.com

Have You Joined??

Please join your Alumni Association for the one-time fee of \$25.00. Encourage other alumni to join as well. The funds are important for the continuation of our newsletter. Please send your application and cheque to: RCAA Alumni Association, 1094 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, ON M4M 2A1.

New Members

Dianne (Powell) Babcock	1956
Phyliss Carleton	1938
George Cass	1945
John Egan	1956
Natalie (Lehmann) Hosmer	1999
Nicholas Hui	2001
Marlene (Spilchen) Kaiser	1964
Mary Kapches	1974
Andy Lam	1978
Elizabeth (Maxwell) Jarman	1948
Pat Matthews	1973
James Muir	1955
Ted Nebitko	1951
Minh On	1999
Gary Pound	1966
Jim Rae	1957
Allen Tomlinson	1949
John Wardle	1960

Alumni Lost

**WHERE ARE THESE PEOPLE?
PLEASE HELP US FIND THEM.**

Ulo Ambus	1960
Elizabeth (Woodbridge) Cooper	1948
John Grills	1961
Karl Karlson	1957
Ron & Linda Lawford	1954
Susan McCabe-Forbes	1973
Willam Wong	1987

If you have a current address for any of the above, please contact Howard Birnie at (416) 485-1848 or hwbirnie@rogers.com

After each mailing we receive returned mail due to alumni moving to new addresses. It would help if we could be advised in advance of the newsletter

Riverdale Trivia

Frederick Chestnut (b. 1853, d. 1929) was appointed the first janitor of Riverdale Collegiate when it opened in 1907. He held the position until he died.

Auditorium Seat Sale — Diane Carlton

Seventy-one (71) more plaques have been allocated to seats in Riverdale's Auditorium, making for a grand total of 332 seats now sold. A \$100.00 donation made out to "Riverdale Collegiate Charitable Foundation" will buy you one seat in Riverdale's Auditorium, plaque and all, plus a charitable donation receipt. But hurry, they won't last long. Thank you to the following supporters who recently purchased seats for themselves or in Memory of someone special.

DONATED BY:

Danny Angelidis
 Mark Baigrie
 Mark Baigrie
 E.E. Barber
 Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Bendell
 Joyce Bishop
 John Borovilos
 Robert Bowering '61-'63
 Doreen Bowie
 Doreen Bowie
 Kathryn Keiko Bryant '68-'73
 Gail G. Carter
 Christine Castle

 Dr. Samuel Herbert Cockburn
 Bill Cook
 Bruce & Heather Corbett
 Dorita Corby
 George Davis
 Marty De Graauw
 Arlene De Graauw-Baillie
 Susan Ferguson
 Betty Anne Freeman
 Betty Anne Freeman
 Iris Frise
 Gunars A. Gaikis
 Tom Green
 Marylin Hall
 Barry Hong
 Brett Howell
 Marian Jen
 Lauri Jhiivala
 Denise Kelsey
 John Kinna '61
 Pauline Naomi Knude
 Brian Lauzon
 Garth MacGirr
 Catherine Drake MacPhie
 Janet Mason
 Janet Mason

IN HONOUR OF:

Mary Alexiou Angelidis
 William Baigrie
 Marjorie Baigrie
 Laura Hughes
 Yvonne & Jim Bendell

 Helen & Taso Borovilos

 Anna Macintyre
 Dawson Woodburn

 Bill Carter
 Donald & Christine Castle
 Meredith Lapp

 Frank Corby
 Jim Bitove
 Arlene Baillie De Graauw
 Martin De Graauw

 Donald Scott (4 Aces '45-'49)
 The Sloane & Gaikis Families '73-'02
 Dale Herbert

 Carol Kusano
 Marian, Shirley & Roland Jen
 George & Helen Bird

 T. James Brennan
 Joseph D' Arcy Lauzon

 1963-1968 Drama Students
 Ross Mackintosh

DONATED BY:

Wendy McBride
 Wendy McBride
 Phyllis McConachie
 Don McCrossan
 Sybil A. McEnteer
 J. Lorne McEvoy
 Dr. William Middleton
 Dr. William Middleton
 Janet Moni
 Janet Moni
 Harley Murphy
 Larry Newland
 Jim Orfanakos
 Jim Orfanakos
 Gertrude Owens
 Robert Panko
 Robert Panko
 Diane Parnell
 Will Pasquill
 Eva Paterson
 Gwyn Pickles
 Barbara Renwick
 D. Gordon Salmond
 Kelly Smith
 Mick Spillane
 Rick Buchanan
 Walter Stasyshyn
 Audrey V. Thompson
 Ed Travolo
 Unknown
 Maria Vlahos
 Donna Vlahos-Paraschos
 Vicki Vonzuben
 George Vukelich
 Tat Wong
 Bruce Webb
 Marion Wilkens
 Katherine Ing Young
 Katherine Ing Young
 Katherine Ing Young

IN HONOUR OF:

Peter McBride '61
 Wendy McBride '64
 Graduates of '41

 Class of 1952
 Ethel McEvoy
 Magdeline Middleton
 Dr. William Middleton
 Jack Brewer
 Ethel Egan
 Linda Murphy
 Mr. & Mrs. Newland
 Stan Sauve
 Aare Johanson
 Trudie Parviainen Owens
 Elisabet Pricop
 Robert Panko
 Ken & Dianne Parnell
 Raiderman
 Kay Hoey
 Madeline Roach
 '44-'45 Jr. Football Champs

 Howard Gotlib

 The Stasyshyn's
 Edward S. Bamber

 Jeanne M. Leighton '49
 George & Maria Vlahos

 Chuck Vonzuben
 Aare Johansen
 Katherine Hoey

 Dawson Woodburn
 Muriel Ing Hattori

 Diane Ing Howard

Where Does All the Money Go???

Your \$25.00 RCAA membership fee goes to support the general operations of the Association, such as the production and distribution of this Newsletter. All other money raised through auditorium seat sales, surpluses from the Centennial Anniversary Reunion, profits from the sale of Centennial Memorabilia and any other money raised through RCAA efforts go directly into the Riverdale Alumni Scholarship Fund. Support your favourite high school!!!

A Tribute to Jack Brewer (Class of '66)

by David Ramsden (Class of '66)

Jack Brewer passed away suddenly in August of 2007. David Ramsden was a classmate and long-time friend.

Jack Brewer was many things during his lifetime and some of you reading this will remember him as an All City half back for the Riverdale football team or one of the top sprinters in the city or as a hockey player or most recently as the very successful owner/operator of the Chick'n'Deli on Mount Pleasant Road.

Jack enjoyed life and was fortunate enough to live out his dreams from childhood. He played hockey on a professional level in North America and Europe in the late '60s and into the mid '70s. In the late '70s he enjoyed success in the real estate business but he wanted to fulfill his childhood dream of owning a bar/restaurant so he started his apprenticeship in various locations throughout the city and in February 1983 he opened the Chick'n'Deli.

As many of you know the Deli was the place to go in the mid '80s and through the '90s. The success of the Deli was directly attributable to Jack's operating philosophy which was he wanted the location to be a

place where people could get together to enjoy each other's company and feel more or less like they were at a big house party. Needless to say this philosophy worked as many of you know from trying to get in to the place any night of the week.

The warmth and affection people felt for Jack was very clear on August 27th when an open house was held at the Deli to celebrate his life and once again there was a line up to enter the place. Jack would have been happy to know that so many people came together to remember him as a warm, caring and generous friend who enjoyed talking, laughing and crying with you.



Jack with Linda Romito at the Centennial Reunion

In Memoriam

Jack Brewer (Class of '66) see tribute above.

Jim Bitove (Class of '40)

Heather Cameron (Class of '67) - Heather was Riverdale's Female Athlete of the Year in 1966-67.

Melina Galvas (Class of '??)

Brad Henderson (Class of '70) - Brad worked his way up from a newsroom messenger boy to a top executive at the Toronto Star.

Kathryn Long (nee Ironside) (Faculty) - Kathryn taught Art from 1948 to '55.

Jean Hollingsworth (nee Ross) (Secretary '45 to '50) - Jean was the wife of Sam Hollingsworth, who taught History at Riverdale and passed away in 1993.

Doug Scott (Faculty) - Doug taught French and coached basketball from 1957 to 1963.

Danny Thorpe (Class of '61) - Danny was the captain of the Riverdale senior basketball team that won two consecutive TSSAA championships.

Floyd Varley (Class of '49)

Werner Weiss (Class of '65) - Werner was a big man who drove a small Volkswagen bug.



From the Principal — Mr. Ralph Nigro



With the start of 2008, we realize that we are now entering the second century of greatness in the history of Riverdale Collegiate. We enter the 2008 year with great enthusiasm, as our students and staff are once again engaged in many learning activities both inside and outside

the classroom. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Ms. Rebekah Tsingos who joined us on January 7th as our permanent Vice-Principal. Ms. Tsingos comes to us from Danforth CTI where she served for two years as Vice-Principal. Ms. Tsingos was also Curriculum at Riverdale for 5 years. We thank both Mr. Henkle and Ms. Desnoyers who filled as Acting Vice-Principals from September to December. I would also like to welcome back Ms. Jacqueline Harris-Burbank and Ms. Candy Rambersingh who are both returning from parental leaves.

Ms. Barb Peters our talented Strings teacher retired at the end of December, after a 31 year teaching career. Twenty-eight of those years were spent here at Riverdale C.I. We thank Ms. Peters for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors. Replacing Ms. Peters is Ms. Grace Law who is a graduate of Riverdale C.I. and a former student of Ms. Peters. Welcome Ms. Law!

There are many wonderful events that will take place between now and the March Break. Our school athletics program is in full swing again. We are looking for great things from our Girls' Volleyball Teams and our Boys' Basketball Teams again this year. Our lunchtime intramurals are in progress with Boys' and Girls' Floor Hockey taking center stage.

Our music students and teachers, fresh from their spectacular performances in December's Evening of

Holiday Music, are working very hard to prepare for the Kiwanis Music Festival and for their performances at Massey Hall on April 9 and 10. I have no doubt that they will once again represent Riverdale with great pride and dignity.

Our Girls' Athletic Association recently wrapped up their Five Alive Week. This was five days of activities, displays and guest speakers that stressed healthy living for young women. One of the highlights of the week was guest speaker Jayne Hefford who represented Canada at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympics as a member of the Women's Hockey Team. Ms. Hefford won one silver and two gold medals in her three Olympic appearances for Canada.

In the next few weeks, we will be launching our Respect@Riverdale campaign. This initiative involves the infusion and reinforcement of respectful behaviour in everything that goes on in our school. This is part our provincially mandated character education program. The program will also include many assemblies with guest speakers. Our local feeder schools have also been invited to participate.

From February 22nd to March 3rd, twenty Riverdale C.I. students along with Mr. Fick and Ms. Stevenson will travel to Siena Italy as part of our cultural exchange with the Liceo Scientifico Galileo (Galileo Science Academy). The trip will also include stops in Florence, Rome and Venice. Students from Siena will then travel to Toronto and will be hosted by Riverdale C.I students from April 23rd – May 4th. This is a truly extraordinary opportunity for everyone involved.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Alumni Meeting on June 9th, 2008 in the Riverdale C.I. Staffroom.

The Report of Her Death Was Exaggerated

In the June '07 issue of The Riverdalian it was reported that Karen Sunseth '63 had left us. Fortunately, as Karen so nicely puts it, "I am happy to report that I am well and enjoying life to the fullest." Our apologies for any confusion and inconvenience.

Happy Hour

This comes to us from Bob Prole ('65) via Jeff Allen ('66).

Like many Riverdalianians from the '60's, Bob is a retired educator.

Four old retired guys are walking down a street in Ft. Myers, Florida. They turned a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - all drinks 10 cents". They look at each other, and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, Gentlemen?"

There seemed to be a fully-stocked bar, so each of the men asks for a martini.

In short order, the bartender serves up four iced martinis, and says, "That'll be 10 cents each, please."

The four men stare at the bartender for a moment, and then look at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced with the bartender again saying "That's 40 cents, please."

They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity is more than they can stand.

They have each had two martinis, and so far they've spent less than a dollar.

Finally one of the men says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Boston," the bartender said, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery for \$25 million, and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime - wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same.

"Wow!!!! That's quite a story," says one of the men.

The four sipped at their martinis, and couldn't help but notice three other guys at the end of the bar who didn't have drinks in front of them, and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there. One man gestured at the three at the end of the bar without drinks and asked the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender replied, "Oh, they're retired teachers from Ontario. They're waiting for happy hour when drinks are half price."

If you missed the Reunion, you can still purchase

RIVERDALE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA .

(tee shirts, mugs, athletic wear and the *Centennial Anniversary Booklet*)

All proceeds go to the Riverdale Scholarship Fund.

Call 416-393-9820 to order yours today.

This Newsletter is published twice yearly by
The Riverdale Collegiate Alumni Association,

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