



LPSS Matters

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In this Issue:

- Into the Unknown
- We Remember...
- Spartan Stuff
- Letters
- and finally.....

We have had many instances where alumni have changed their e-mail addresses and not let us know. If you or anyone you know have changed or are changing your e-mail, LET US KNOW!!!

"The true test of a first-rate mind is the ability to hold two contradictory ideas at the same time."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

LORNE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

*(The Mississauga News Feb. 26, 2003,
submitted by Fred Hilditch ('63))*

The 80th anniversary will be celebrated on April 26th from 10 to 2pm at the Lorne Park Public School 1325 Indian Rd. Call 905-278-8771 for more information or to submit memorabilia.

Lorne Scott fondly remembers his days at Lorne Park Public School ... even the times he got the strap.

"I was teasing the girls...and I got what I deserved," said Scott, with a chuckle. "I was taken to the cloak room and strapped in private on a few occasions. Things have sure changed. No one gets the strap anymore."

That was close to 70 years ago, but Scott easily recalls his elementary school years, especially his first day at school back in 1930. "It was registration day for Grade 1 and I had my first encounter with the class bully. He would pick on me occasionally but me and my best buddy Don Perks whomped him a few grades later. That's how we did things back then. It was no big deal. And that bully never did amount to much," said the 78-year-old Mississauga resident, who still gets together with Perks every few weeks for a friendly game of cards.

"I have nothing but good memories about the school. It was fun and the teachers were tops," said Scott, who will soon be sharing memories and reminiscing about the good old days with his former school pals at Lorne Park Public School's 80th anniversary celebration, coming up in April.

"It will be great to see which of my old cronies show up," said Scott, who attended the last school reunion 10 years ago and had a great time meeting up with former teachers and students.

"I know that this time fewer of my pals will be there. A lot of them are gone. It's sad, but that's life," Scott said matter-of-factly. He recalls playing on the teeter-totter with a few schoolmates at the last reunion.

"I swear, the teeter-totters are the same ones we used to play on," he said. "And nearby, we played baseball at lunch and after school."

Scott recalls walking to school from his home on Queen Victoria Ave. in Lorne Park. He was born in the family cottage there in 1925, and five years later the family took up permanent residence across the street in a home built on three acres. His birth home still stands today. His father ran a butcher shop on Avenue Rd. in Toronto and drove his car along the Lakeshore to get there daily.

"He would bring home a prime rib of roast and we grew fruits and vegetables. We never went hungry," said Scott. "Life was a lot simpler then. We didn't have a lot, but we didn't need a lot or want a lot."

There weren't as many contentious issues as there are today, he said.

"Now people want things handed to them on a platter...there was no platter back then," he said. "You just made do and you lived with the consequences."

Pearl Weaver also has warm memories of when "life was simple and good. We never had much, but we were rich in other ways.

"If we had five cents for a cone, we thought we were in heaven," said the 84-year-old Port Credit resident, who attended the elementary school the year it opened.

"School was great, and we couldn't wait for recess and lunch to play games and sports," said Weaver, who fondly recalls racing to a nearby pond to skate at lunch hour. "We never stood idly about."

Weaver, who also recalls getting the strap for talking in class, finished Grade 8 but didn't continue on to high school. Rather, she stayed home to take care of her ailing mother in their Lorne Park Rd. home.

"In those days, you listened to your parents, and to your teachers. There was respect," she said.

Meanwhile, the public is invited to attend the anniversary celebration, Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lorne Park Public School, 1325 Indian Rd.

Event organizers are looking for memorabilia to display, i.e. photos, yearbooks, concert programs and trophies. If you have items to lend, call the school office at 905-278-8771.

“Into the Unknown”— Lynn Jenkins (Stevenson) ('71)

COLOURS

Colour is so much a part of our everyday life that most of us just take it for granted.

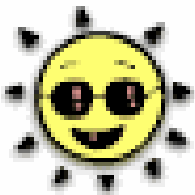
Certain colours attract us more than others. It is amazing what you can tell about a person from the colours they wear. That ‘favourite’ colour of yours also says a lot about your personality. Using the following colours, choose your two favorites: (choose your colours *before* you read the meanings)

RED, BLUE, GREEN, YELLOW, PURPLE, BROWN, GRAY, BLACK

Your first colour choice shows your basic personality traits.

RED

You know what you want and have no problem going after it. Success is very important to you. You crave action and have a strong set of desires. There can be a tendency to choose sides quickly, sometimes a little too quick. You are flexible and can often be easily swayed. You may not always stand on your own convictions. You do everything to the extreme. You enjoy life and know how to live it to the fullest.



BLUE

You are conscious of the way you dress, act and speak. It is important for you to be accepted. Sometimes you worry too much about what others think or expect from you. Loyalty in friendship is important. Remember that patience is a virtue, especially when dealing with others.

GREEN

You are determined and well focused (stubborn). You are not a quitter, you always finish what you start. When you want something--you usually get it. You strive to balance and calmness in your life. Honesty is one of your best traits and you expect it from those associated with you. At times you can be a little too sensitive for your own good. Your reputation is very important to you. You do like to gossip!



YELLOW

The new, the modern and the future is what you are all about. The mundane, customary and traditional tend to bore you. You are intellectual and tend towards idealism. Your imagination can be quite strong and so can your creative abilities. Sometimes you tend to be shy and/or reserved.

PURPLE

Ouch! Watch that sarcasm! It can hurt, even when you don't mean it to. You tend to take things too personally and as a result, are easily upset. Don't let those emotions rule you. You have strong creative abilities. You like to impress those around you with flair and style. You are unique and do not necessarily follow the norm.

BROWN

You are steady, reliable and responsible. You are good with money and security is important to you. You have a strong desire to belong and often others take advantage of you. There are

some things in your life that you may wish to change -- don't hold yourself back.

BLACK

You do like to be in control of things around you. You will often rebel against accepting things as they may be. You hold things in and hide your true feelings and emotions from others. Once you have made up your mind on an issue, you are not easily swayed. You are often clever and witty. You enjoy mystery and intrigue. Your second colour choice tells what sort of goals you have.

RED

You are hoping to achieve an exciting lifestyle that is filled with activity.

BLUE

Having harmony and balance in your life is extremely important to you.

GREEN

Gaining recognition and acceptance of your own views is your main goal.

YELLOW

You want to become involved in things that are new and involve a better future for everyone.

BROWN

Security, physical and mental comforts are your main goals in life.

GRAY

You want to be as uninvolved in the pressures of life and society as possible.

BLACK

You do not want to be dominated in your lifestyle and will do what you can to avoid it.

For alumni who are interested, my new book is:

“Mary Lynn, Articles, Stories, Letters”

<http://www.firstlightproductions.ca/marylynn.html>

THE PERFUME

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized

the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left, she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had

in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer.... The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Random acts of kindness, I think they call it? "Believe in Angels, then return the favour"

Sent in by Fred Hilditch ('63)



We Remember...

Eleanor Dawson ('66) Arline Gorelle

Please add these 2 names to the site "We Remember". Eleanor Dawson graduated in 1966 and passed away due to cancer in 1995.

Arline Gorelle, former vice-principal died in Nov. 2002 also due to cancer.

Thank you

Elaine Ostarnder (George) ('66)



Dianne Whittaker (Beasley) ('74)

My brother in law Tim Slater passed away just last October and I see that you have him listed. Thank you.

As I was talking to friends at his funeral I was informed of a dear friend of mine that passed away approximately 10 years ago. We graduated together in 1974 her name was Dianne Whittaker, her married name was Dianne Beasley. I was maid of honor at her wedding. She was a brides maid at mine. It was quite a shock to hear this news as one of the reasons in my coming to this site was to find Dianne. It is with regret that I ask you to add her name to this list.

Thank you

Karen Lawrence ('74)

Mary Jane Ashenhurst (Avnie) ('63)

Mary Jane (Charlie) Ashenhurst LPSS 1963. The obituary which was published in the Vancouver Sun on Saturday, Feb. 1. The name will not look familiar to most people but it is for Mary Jane Ashenhurst (1963). She has been going by the name Charlie Avni for a long time.

The Ashenhursts moved to Clarkson 1960 (Bramsey Drive, Fairfield Manor) and Charlie attended Lorne Park from Gr. 11 on. After graduation she went to University of Western Ontario and from there to live on a Kibbutz in Israel. She spent several years in the Israeli army and then returned to Canada and began to work in the technical theatre field. In the early 70's she moved to Vancouver and continued this work out there. A few years ago she moved home to Mississauga to look after her dad, Carl Ashenhurst. She leaves behind her dad and siblings John (B.C.), Lani (London) and Jim (Burlington).

Thanks to Sandra Lindsay



Spartan Stuff

1957—1964—Fred Hilditch ('63) fred@businessdata.on.ca,

Memories of the Premiere Class

Era' 1957 to 1964:

Ron Poulton (1964) &

Vicki Rosengren, (Poulton) 1966

Vicki recognized me (Fred) while I was in the waiting room of my Lorne Park Dentist. Since then we have had coffee at Tim's and Dinner at Cuda's. She has written the following note about her family:

Ron and I were married in 1966 and had our first child, Carol in 1966. We lived on the Lakeshore in Port Credit for a little over a year. From there we lived in Cooksville for a few years. In the meantime we had another child. George in 1970.

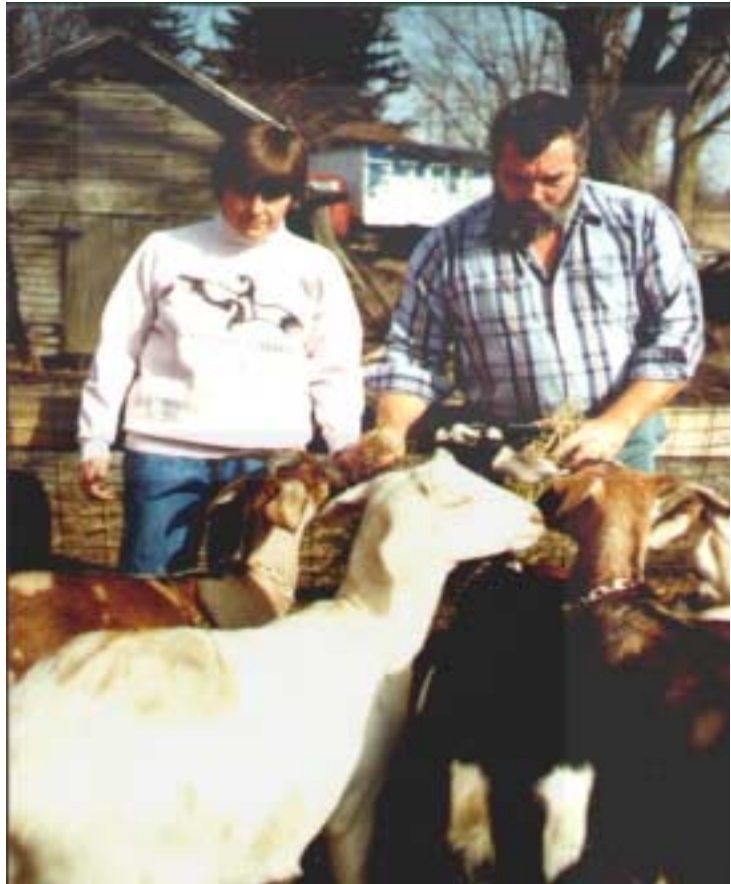
Ron played a lot of hockey (see Hockey picture below) in those days and took great pleasure in having a night out at the Rod and Gun club every Thursday night with the boys. This is where Ron developed his already strong arms, lifting the beer up and down from the table to his lips. He also developed some Molson muscle while he was at it.

We enjoyed our cottage that was a few miles north of Parry Sound. After about 8 years we sold that and moved to New Brunswick. Nearly froze to death there. Ron joined the local legion, which was where most of the entertainment was as the area only had about 250 people. Ron organized a Recreation Club, a volunteer fire department for the area. He also ran a local dart club at the legion. We spent 14 years there.

He purchased his own transport truck and drove for a few years from the East Coast to Toronto. He slipped a disk in his lower back and that ended his truck driving career. After being treated by the Worker's Comp, they sent him back to school where he took a 2 year course in Agriculture. He made the honour roll and was at the top of the class.

In 1987 we moved to the Simcoe Area and bought a farm where we raised goats (pictures) and shipped our milk to the Hagersville dairy. We grew soybeans and hay. We also planted a small apple orchard. In 1994 we started our own scrap tire removal business. Our son George was one of the partners.

long enough to see the last two grandchildren as he died from a heart attack in Sept of 1999. Thank goodness he didn't live long enough to suffer through losing our son who passed away from a snowmobile accident January 15, 2003. .



We now have 3 grandsons and one granddaughter. Unfortunately he didn't live long enough to see the last two grandchildren as he died from a heart attack in Sept of 1999. Thank goodness he didn't live long enough to suffer through losing our son who passed away from a snowmobile accident January 15, 2003.

Spartan Stuff

1957—1964—(cont.)

Top: Fred Hilditch, Dave Pipes, ?, Jim Blake, ?, Brian Donnelly, Don Youngman, Ray Burton, Ron Poulton

Bottom: Ron Pither (Hilditch Cousin), John Hilditch, John ?, Ron Sutherland (Sponsor) Ron Caraway, Gary Jasper, . King ?



Conversation with Suzie Reed ('62)

I (Fred) just had a coffee with Ron Poulton's wife Vicki. She told me her father-in-law (Ron Poulton's father) operated the restaurant across the road from your parents property on Lorne Park road.

Suzie's Reply: Hi Fred, You're absolutely right - it was called the Cottage Coffee Shop. It was our hangout. In fact I probably bought my first pack of cigarettes there when I was young and foolish & trying to impress the boys. Oh boy, does that place bring back memories. Thanks for sending me these little tidbits of Lorne Park - I really enjoy them. Hope you are well.

Memories of Cathy Kerr ('63) by Jean Godsman ('63)

Through a request by an fellow public school student David Ripley (Dentist in Collingwood) and with help of Louis DeBoer ('63) & Ally (Kerr) Koohtow ('62), your alumni tracked down Jean Godsman whose has given the follow memories:

Dear Fred:

Many thanks for sending me the obituary for Cathy. My heart is heavy as I think about her loss, too early. She was a very good friend during some very important years. We stayed in touch through most of our twenties, but at one point I moved several times in quick succession; she divorced; and attempts to reach her were unsuccessful. Now, through the kindness of you, David Ripley, Cathy's mother, Sandy Kerr, and Louis DeBoer, I at least know this very sad news. When I remember Cathy, it is with a great smile. I wonder how many times we listened to Elvis sing "Love Me Tender" and "Blue Suede Shoes" together? Cathy—future Deputy-Secretary and grandmother—was such a great fan. I think about our rollicking pajama parties in the Kerr's camper, and walks through the woods near the creek that ran near her house. I also think about discussions on everything from country music (a passion of hers that I did not share) to the meaning of life. She was a thoroughly decent, kind, warm, good-humored friend. The best. I am glad she had such a full life in her shortened span.

Now, we have email, and it is easy to be in touch at a distance, and not as easy to get lost. While I have been in the U.S. for many years now—ever since I left LPSS—I remember my Canadian years with great fondness, and in many ways miss the culture that brought me up. At times like these, with President Bush decimating our environmental laws and threatening unilateral action in Iraq on as-yet unproven evidence, I miss Canada especially.

I would very much appreciate being in the loop to hear about LPSS and LPSSers.

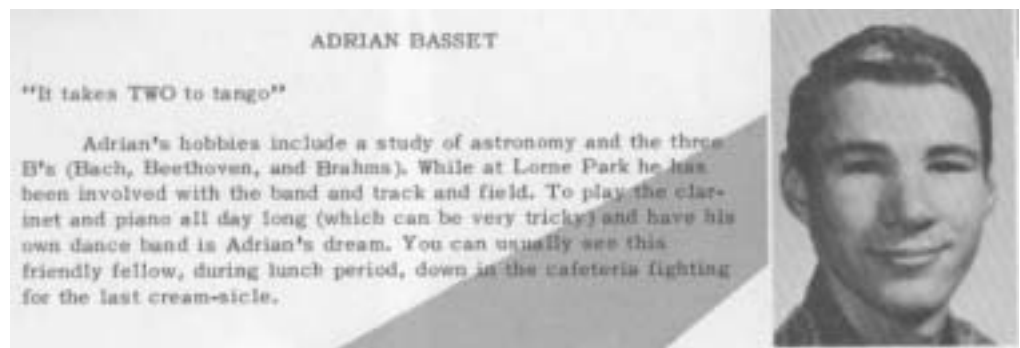
All best, Jean (Godsman) McClellan

This note came a little later: Thanks for all the newsletters. A good few memories stirred. Thanks also for the SHIT history.. I did not know this and will certainly use it. One of the few things I remember from Latin class, which I detested, was the derivation of SNOB—sine nobilitas—without nobility. I've always liked that one. Jean (Jean lives in Woodstock, Connecticut, which is about an hour to an hour and a half from where I live in Southern Rhode Island. Her and her husband are retired and living on a farm there that belonged to his great-great grandfather)

Spartan Stuff

Jim Dickson 1962 is looking for Adrian Bassett

There's one of my best friends from the early days that I would dearly love to track down - Adrian Bassett. He and his parents were English and lived on Bobolink Rd, just east of Orr Rd. Adrian was quite an accomplished clarinet player in the school band. Later on, his father died and his mother, after a while, moved to New York or Pennsylvania. Adrian just seemed to disappear. Can anyone help?

**Clarkson Hockey Team –1957-8**

Top – R to L Mr. Tompkins, Bob Bates, ?, Brad Campbell, Gary Nickerson, John Hilditch, Biff (Bill-now) Hawke, Doug Smith, David Shrimpton, ?, Tim Ditchburn, Mr. Briton. Bottom – R to L Brian Skelton, Chuck Templeton, Bobby Younger, ?, Joe (Allan) Crawford, Roger Hogue, Malcolm Corp, ? . (Shrimpton is a retired school principal & Crawford is a retired SS Music teacher)

Note from Rick Gorman 1964

Fred! Happy New Year to you and your family. And to all who are connected to this wonderful chain of memories that are evolving. From your hockey picture, back row, 4th player from the right, is Doug Smith. According to his sister, Jane, at the Mississauga reunion, Doug is currently a professor at Carleton University in Ottawa. I will be attempting to reach him when I visit my lifelong buddy, Chris Nicholl, who has lived in Ottawa working for the Feds for many years. His home is in Manitock, just outside of Ottawa. Details to follow. Rick's riddle: he has 4 children, 1 boy and three girls, and wife was successfully pregnant 2 times only and she didn't have twins either time. Can you figure that out. By the way, all children are engineers and all educated at Queens.

Spartan Stuff

1957—1964—(cont.)

Kennedy S. S. Turns 50

May 9th and 10th Kennedy will celebrate it's 50th. Interesting to our older members who attended Kennedy in the fall of 1957. Just think Kennedy is 50 years old in 2003 and LPSS is 50 in 2007.

Note from Susan Penberthy (Pethick) ('61) (RN)

I started at Lorne Park as a lowly grade 9 student so Lorne Park and I have aged together. I was on the split shift until the school building was completed. We were bused until the building was done and then walked along the hydro right of way past Terry's fields on the way from Birchwood Drive in Clarkson to Lorne Park. Some days it was interesting because of the snow, however we persevered.

I am currently working as an Occupational Health nurse and have the best job in the company as I get to interact with everyone from bottom to top. I would love to hear from some of my class mates, so please share my email address 'SPethick@suncor.com'. I live in Stouffville which is north of Markham. Stouffville side road and Hwy 48. I was sorry to miss the reunion, especially as I have seen very few people since I left after grade 12. I was anticipating going and renewing some friendships and sharing memories, however life doesn't always go the way you think it will, and I was unable to attend. Perhaps the 50th. Keep up the great work with the Newsletter.

TidBits: From Sandra: I had email from Biff (now called Bill) Hawke in India. From Vicki: Just sitting here listening to the radio. AM 740 on Friday nights does 4 hours of late 50's, early 60's. Really great music. Also every night at 5, they do the 50's at 5. Gordon McKye: We live in Lorne Park (on Greenoaks in the Birchwood area) and have done so for 35 years. Both of our daughters graduated from LPSS.

Brooke Hilditch, Fred Hilditch's ('63) daughter

The University of Guelph Honours Top Athletes, On Wednesday, March 26th, approximately 620 athletes and coaches joined in a celebration of Gryphon accomplishments at the annual Athletics Banquet and Awards Night.

1. President's Trophy - Female Student-Athlete Brooke Hilditch from Rugby and Wrestling

This award is presented to a female student-athlete that best exemplifies the combination of academic and athletic excellence. To be eligible, the athlete must have attained an 80% average for the previous two semesters prior to consideration and must have lettered in her sport(s). Brooke has combined athletic and academic excellence to the highest degree. She has maintained an average of 85.4% in the demanding Biomedical Science program over the past two semesters while competing in two sports: Rugby and Wrestling. This year, Brooke has earned almost every possible honour in Rugby including team MVP, OUA All-Star, OUA Player of the Year, CIS All-Canadian and CIS Tournament All-Star. But, it doesn't stop there, in Wrestling, she captured a silver medal at the OUA Championships and placed 6th at the national championships. Brooke also won:

2. Female Athlete of the Year 3. All-Canadians Woman Rugby 4. OUA Most Valuable Player Woman Rugby
5. 2002-2003 HONOUR AWARD

Thanks to Jean, Susan, Sandy, Ally, Gordon, MaryLou, Jim, Suzie, Vicki, Marybeth, Louis, David

1965—1969—David Crouse ('65) david.crouse@utoronto.ca

Ray Riddell ('66) I enjoyed reading the short bios in the last newsletter. I was interested to see Susan Letson is in Halifax working right around the corner. I thought Jane Crook ('66) and Peter Lambert ('66) were down here too but have lost track of them. We had a bit of a mini reunion when Dr. Janice Webster visited some time ago and we had a good time talking of the good old days. If anyone from '66 is coming to Halifax let me know and we will roll out the red carpet.

Mark Irwin ('69) (from Mark's sister, Pat Irwin '72) Mark graduated from York's 1st class in film production in 1974, and has been in the movie business ever since. He moved to L.A. in 1987. His filmography can be found on www.IDMb.com, 'the movie business database'. He grew a beard in 1967, for which Mr. Pleasance tried to expel him, and has never shaved since (I don't think he actually has a chin). Anyway, best regards and thanks for the updates.

Spartan Stuff

1970—1974—Dana-Leigh Tisdale ('71) dtisdale@telusplanet.net

1975—1979—Michelle Nolan (Oliphant) ('77) mnolan42@cogeco.ca

1980—1984—Clarisa Stevens-Guille ('83) clarissa_sg@hotmail.com

Ian Henderson ('83) has just returned from an extensive honeymoon in Australia And New Zealand after marrying Nancy last September. Ian works at Novartis Pharmaceuticals and can be contacted at ian.henderson@pharma.

Ian Ross ('83), President of Merge, a portal software company www.mergeinc.biz has recently returned from an extensive trip to Vietnam with his fiancée Claudine Labelle. In addition to managing his own company Ian is helping Claudine with her new business venture of importing made to measure business clothing. Ian can be reached at ian.ross@mergeinc.biz

Clarissa Stevens-Guille ('84) has recently returned from living in The Netherlands and can now be reached at clarissa_sg@hotmail.com or by phone (905) 274-1251. Please contact for any alumni updates for the years 1980-1984.

1985—1989—Rob Boyce ('88) rob.boyko@maketechnologies.com

1990—1994—Natasha Blair (Lemire-Blair) ('92) tash@abstrakt.org
(assisted by Nanda Lwin ('89))

1995—1999—Robbie Owen ('98) rsowen@hotmail.com

2000—2004—Correspondent needed

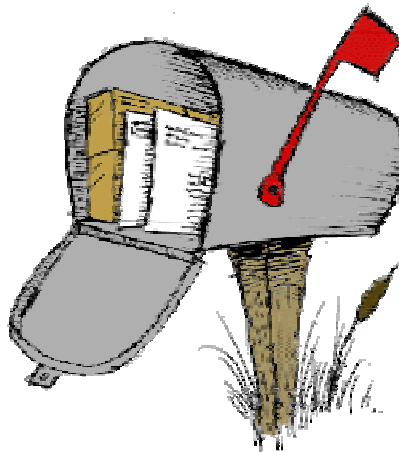


Letters

Hello LPSS Newsletter,

I noticed an error in the "Think You're Having A Bad Day?" section of the January 2003 Newsletter Page 2. You mentioned or someone had sent in a fact about a diver who was found on top of the tree after a forest fire. This was an Urban Legend and I saw a show on TLC the other day called "Psychics and Urban Legends" explaining this whole story as one of fiction....it never happened.

Chris Kup ('85)



and finally...



In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything was transported by ship. It was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common. In dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below

at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "S.H.I.T" on them, which meant to the sailors to "Ship High In Transit."

In other words, high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Contributed by Fred Hilditch ('63)

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