



## Trivia Night March 26, 2010

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars. Here are some of the important upcoming events!

- March 16: 30th Anniversary Bridge Building Competition
- March 20-27: Band Trip to Cuba
- **March 26: ND Alumni Trivia Night**
- April 1-10: ND Europe Trip
- April 29-May 2: Choir Trip to San Diego
- **May 11: Blessing of the New School with Archbishop Michael Miller**
- **May 14: ND Walk-a-thon**
- June 3: Final School Mass and Grad Commencement (@ Massey Theatre)
- June 5: Grad Prom @ Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel
- June TBA: ND Elementary Sports Camp (1 week)

### Exercise Your Brain at a Whole New Trivia Night!

**Friday, March 26, 2010**

- 6:00 p.m. – Social
- 6:30 p.m. – Pasta Dinner!
- 7:30 p.m. – Game



Tickets are \$25.00 including dinner, or \$15.00 without. Tickets must be purchased in advance to make sure we have enough food. Reserve a table of 8 for \$100.00. Contact ltesan@gmail.com or the school: 604 255-5454.

*This will be the LAST event in the Fr. Cuddy Auditorium.*

### Blessing of the New Academic Wing

Mark your calendars!

**Tuesday, May 11, 2010** will be the date of the Celebratory Mass and dedication of the new NDRS academic wing. Archbishop Miller will be presiding.

Along with the contractors and architects, we are expecting members of the entire ND community to attend: priests and parishioners from the contributing ND parishes, students, their parents and families, teachers, staff, alumni and representatives from the various Notre Dame Committees.

### Attention Grads of 1990

Plans **ARE NOW SET**  
for our 20th reunion!

When: **Saturday, June 5th @ 7pm**

Where: Croatian Cultural Centre

Cost: \$45.00 per person

(GRADS ONLY PLEASE)

Details are at  
[www.notredamegrad90.com](http://www.notredamegrad90.com).

Contact us if you have any questions:

Davide Ficociello:  
[d\\_ficociello@hotmail.com](mailto:d_ficociello@hotmail.com)  
604-582-1942

Joe Jurilj: 604-202-0202

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*



### School Construction

Just before Christmas Pat Waslen was kind enough to take a few of us for a tour through the new academic wing. It looks amazing! The classrooms are large and bright, the library has a great view facing north toward the mountains. In this newsletter you'll find another photos of the work in progress as of last December. Of course things are a lot further along now!

**SEE THE NEWSLETTER  
IN LIVING COLOUR AT  
OUR WEBSITE**

[www.ndalumni.org](http://www.ndalumni.org)

## Update from the ND Alumni Foundation

The landscape at 2855 Parker Street has changed forever. In fact, the school address itself will be changing to 2880 Venables St. and the excitement in the air is infectious.



After 7 years of praying, planning and persistence, the new ND Academic Wing located on the Venables side of the property is scheduled for completion and occupancy in April 2010. The next phase, scheduled for completion by the start of the 2011 school year, will provide a new connection between the upgraded gym and the upgraded Fr. Joe Cuddy Theatre. When completed, ND will be one of the largest independent educational facilities in the province.

The Notre Dame Alumni Foundation continues to support this project financially.



The Annual Gala last November was a huge success. Over 350 guests participated in the dinner, dance and auction

which raised \$40,000 for the students at ND. Thank you to all who supported the Gala by not only attending but by being generous with the bidding, buying raffle tickets, donating auction items and advertising. Special thanks to the many parents and staff at ND who worked long hours in support of the



NDAF to make it all happen.

Last newsletter we reported that the Foundation had donated over \$230,000 to the project since planning started in 2003. This school year we have donated an additional \$50,000 to cover the cost of new desks for the school as well as contributed \$75,000 to the structural needs of the school. All the money



raised stems from the generosity of many ND Alumni and their families. Think about how you can contribute to the students at Notre Dame...every dollar makes a difference. Donations are welcomed through our many tax deductible fundraising programs including the Brick Program, Corporate Sponsorship, Classroom Sponsorship & Planned Giving.

Please contact us through the school office: 604-255-5454.

## ND Bridge Building Contest Celebrates 30 Years

The Balsa Bridge Building Contest has been held annually at ND since 1980. All students in Physics 11 or 12 take part, so hundreds of bridges have been tested during the contest.



For the contest, students build very light weight bridges (100-grams) made of balsa wood and glue that can support a HUGE load. The primary aim is for students to experiment with materials, and learn about structure and strength. The current record-holding bridge was built in 2000 by Physics 12 student Matt Sullivan. It held 209.4 kg (over 460 lbs)!

Congratulations to Peter Vogel and all ND Physics students who have participated in the contest over the years!



*Peter Vogel with 2000 Bridge Contest Winner Matt Sullivan*

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## New ND Alumni Web Site

The New Alumni web site is now up and running at [www.ndalumni.org](http://www.ndalumni.org). Feel free to send your stories, links, photos and ads for alumni events to [ndalumni@ndalumni.org](mailto:ndalumni@ndalumni.org) and we'll post them on the site. Follow the links to join the NotreDame Facebook and the Google Group to send messages to other alumni and get the newsletter emailed to you in full colour!

## Letters

Dear ND Alumni,

I have been an army officer in the Canadian Forces for a total of over 25 years – sometimes on part-time service, sometimes (including now) on full-time service.

Late in 2008 I was transferred from Ottawa back to British Columbia to work with the Canadian Forces' team (Joint Task Force Games) assisting the RCMP and other agencies of the Governments of Canada and BC in security and public safety for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. It's been quite a challenging task but I'm confident that "Team Canada" will be primed and ready.

I am a communication and information systems specialist officer, and have had the opportunity to live and/or work in eight different provinces of Canada and to serve on a variety of missions, in Canada and abroad. Most noteworthy so far was a tour of duty with the multinational NATO Stabilization Force, conducting peace enforcement operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 2002-2003.

Outside of work, I've done a fair bit of personal travel: North America and the Caribbean region, of course, as well as to South America, Europe and briefly to Africa (Morocco). It's great to be back in the vicinity of Vancouver again after living elsewhere for 20 years. My brother Bruce (ND Class of 1981), my sister (now Karen Samuels, ND Class of 1985) and their families all live in the Vancouver area. I've been the one family member leading more of a single, wayfaring lifestyle. Thankfully, I've been able to travel to attend the Class of 1980's 10th, 20th, and 25th Anniversary Reunions, and to retain a few "old school" ties to the Notre Dame community. Hopefully, I'll be able to attend some of the more regular events and my class' 30th this year.

*Brian Farkes (1980)*



*New school library meeting room underway*

## Legends of Notre Dame

The following is the first of what we hope will be many stories of funny, happy sad or strange memories that alumni of Notre Dame would like to share with their fellow alumni. We invite you to share any memories of your time at Notre Dame with us.

### Why "The '59ers"?

If you made a collection of all the programs of every Notre Dame Graduation Prom, you might notice a strange thing. The program for the 1959 Prom has no mention of Notre Dame and the front states simply "The '59ers May Banquet".

The drama behind this mystery began in 1958 when the class of '59 was told they would not have a Prom because of problems at one of the 1958's "after-grads"

There are almost as many versions of that "incident" as there are for the Kennedy assassination but my favourite and the one which still makes me laugh:

One "after-grad" was held at the home of a student who just happened to live next door to the Convent of St. Francis of Assisi. You would think, knowing that they were next door to a convent, and knowing that it was a serious offense to drink, they would have been very careful. You would definitely think they would know better than to toss their empty bottles onto the convent's lawn. But that, according to my best source, is exactly what happened and what became one of the legends from early years at N.D.

Note: Did 1959 have a Prom? Yes, the parents sponsored it but Notre Dame's name could not be used, hence the 59'ers. Did we have an "after-grad"? No, much to our parents' delight.



## Oops – We Forgot!

### 1959 Reunion

One of my fellow classmates, while happy with the article and photos of our reunion, reminded me that we didn't thank my fellow committee members. So, my thanks goes out to my right hand throughout the process: Dr. Lawrence Benedet, Joanne (Steele) Pitcher, Grace (Mazzucco) Carter, Eleanor (Saban) Bublitz, Cecile (Murphie) Smith, Rosalie (Metzger) Zimmer, Sharon (Bach) Phillips and all those who couldn't come to meetings but supported us by sending photos, ideas etc. Steppie Blesh '59

### November Newsletter

We forgot to thank the Notre Dame Building Foundation, the Notre Dame Alumni Foundation, the Administration of Notre Dame Secondary and MacArt Printers for their support during the process of producing the Special Edition of the newsletter. Thank you! It was very much appreciated.

### In Memoriam

Ken Penneway '59 and Lynn Renville, wife of Ron Renville '59.

# 1984 REUNIONS

## CLASS OF 1984 CELEBRATES 25th REUNION

The reunion was a blast!! Thanks to Silvana Stagnita and Gina de Angelis for getting the ball rolling. We had a pretty good turn out: about 30 people. Suellen Wichar came all the way from Alberta. Sharon Vlake was there in crutches and all. It was in Burnaby at the Grand Villa Hotel.



We talked about the good old days and our ND memories, updated each other about work and family, had plenty to drink and burned off calories on the dance floor. The band played 80's music, of course! The girls looked amazing as always. We haven't aged at

all!! The guys looked pretty good too. A great time was had by all. We decided we need to get together more often. The plan is to do something this summer. many of us are on Facebook so if any grads aren't, join in. Unfortunately, some grads missed out this time around. We hope that next time we'll have a bigger turn out.



## Class of 1960 (50 Years!!)

Any 1960 grads interested a 'casual' reunion in May or September 2010, call Anita (Serka) Prizmic @ 604-468-0337.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$10 MEMBERSHIP FEE.**  
**WE DEPEND ON YOUR REGISTRATION TO PUBLISH THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Please email your address change and updated class lists to [ndalumni@ndalumni.org](mailto:ndalumni@ndalumni.org)  
**THANK YOU!**

## BUY A BRICK FOR ND!

Your name will be engraved on a pre-numbered brick and you will receive a numbered certificate and tax receipt.

Yes, I will purchase a brick for our new Notre Dame facility:

- BRONZE  
\$500 or \$42/month for 12 months
- SILVER  
\$1,000 or \$84/month for 12 months
- GOLD  
\$2,500 or \$105/month for 24 months
- PLATINUM  
\$5,000 or \$140/month for 36 months

Method of Payment:

- Cheque payable to the Notre Dame Alumni Foundation
- Mastercard
- Visa

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to pay all at once
- I wish to pay monthly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about:

- Establishing an endowment award
- Major fundraising project

Send all payments or inquiries to:

**Notre Dame Alumni Foundation**  
**2855 Parker Street, Vancouver BC**  
**V5K 2T8**  
**Charity # 88564 0607 RP001**