



**Alumni Gala November 18, 2011**

**Trivia Night February 3, 2012**

## School Construction Update

Recently the parents who have children at Notre Dame received a letter regarding the status of construction at the school. We would like to take this opportunity to synopsize this letter for the Alumni.

1. Phase I is complete and is a beautiful educational facility

2. Phase I was financed through \$11 million dollars from the Archdiocese of Vancouver and \$11 million dollars from the ten feeder Parishes.

3. In 2007, a professional surveyor estimated the cost for the entire project at \$28 million dollars and in 2008, the Archdiocesan Building Committee estimated it at \$27.5 million dollars. The addition to this amount was the installation of the Geo-Thermal heating system (green & great saving now & in future) and two additional classrooms to Phase I, totaling \$650,000.

4. There are now enough funds remaining from the \$22 million dollars for an Alternate Phase II which will:

a) Upgrade the Auditorium for classroom use only; it will not be permitted to use it as a public performance space.

b) Construct an uncovered walkway from the new school to the Auditorium (old gym) and clean up the grounds.

c) At the time of publication, the Archdiocese is taking active steps to implement this alternate plan.

5. So what is missing? About two-thirds of a normal secondary school.

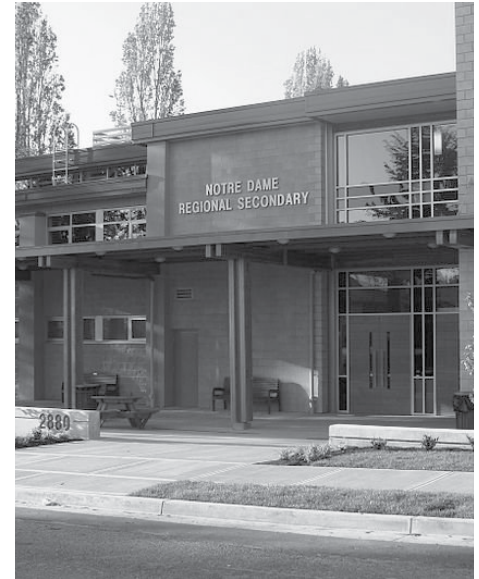
a) There is no cafeteria, no chapel (in a Catholic School?), no staff room, no school kitchen, no facility for teaching culinary arts, no area for drama, music or band, and no public performance space for plays, etc. At the present time, there are 4 portables fulfilling some of these functions but the contract with the city ends in 2012 with no guarantee of renewal.

b) This alternate Phase II project will be completed so that it will be in conformity with the original Phase I plan, though, of course, will only complete a small part of that plan.

6. The permit agreement with the City of Vancouver requires the completion of the original Phase II, (not including a proposed field) to follow immediately upon completion of Phase I. Obviously, apart from the pre-agreed demolition, the school is in default of that agreement.

The Notre Dame Community deeply appreciates the money donated by the Archdiocese and those who donated to Project Advance and in particular, the \$11 million dollars from the 10 feeder parishes for whom this has meant great sacrifice. They have certainly contributed as much as Notre Dame can reasonably or fairly expect.

What does the school need now? We need your support for the completion of the original plan for Phase II, including if necessary, authorization being given to the school to borrow the necessary funds. You can support this:



1. By expressing your support to either your Pastor, if you live in the 10 feeder parishes, or to the Archdiocesan Building Committee. We need you to do this now.

2. Through your continued donations to the N.D. Alumni Foundation and to the idea of some type of Capital Fundraising Campaign.

For clarification of any of the above, you may contact Pat Waslen ('83), co-chairperson of the N.D. Building Committee 2007-2010 at [patwaslen@aol.com](mailto:patwaslen@aol.com).



**ND Alumni Association Representatives** Chairperson: Laurie Marconato '82; Vice Chairperson: Anna Bosi '83; Registrar: Diane Boroevich '65; Treasurer: Bruna Pizzolato '65; Newsletter Editor: Stephanie Blesch '59; Publisher: Michael Blackstock '84; Alumni Foundation/Building Committee Liaison: Eva Zanotto '76; Social/Trivia Night: Lana Tesan '72; School Liaison: Alan Charlton.

## Births

Tina Cibelli '96 - girl

Jacob Tran '93 - girl

Jonathan Ruge '93 - boy

Sam '92 & Mikeala (Porcellato '93) Parrotta - boy

Mike '87 & Sara (Colussi '90) Pizzolato - girl

Karmen Cibelli '00 - twins, boy & girl

Justin '00 & Lisa-Maria (Machado '01) Ruge - boy

Dean Gazzola '86 - girl, that's #5

Tami (Gazzola '91) Comuzzi - girl, that's #5,

Anna (Muehling '98) Del Rio - girl

Nina (Mercurio '99) Sudar - boy

Shawn '00 & Jennifer (Dente '00) Rennie - girl

Nancy (Sherer '95) Turner - girl

Monica (Lovato '98) Barichello



## WOW! 25 YEARS! Class of '86 Grad Reunion

What a night! On Saturday, September 10th at the Shark Club Downtown, comments such as, "Are you sure it is 25 years? It only feels like 10!" could be heard throughout the evening. And from the 'youthful look' of the girls from the ND Grad class of 1986, one would agree that it could not possibly be that long. The guys looked great, too!

Thanks to the hard work and organization of Dennis Ripoli and Dino Geremia, about 40 grads gathered to reminisce about the past, share life in the present and look forward to the future. Grads came over from Nanaimo and from as far away as New York to reunite with fellow 86ers.

Several photos were taken which can be viewed on Facebook and any profit generated that evening was donated to the Notre Dame New Building Fund. But most of all, many old friendships were renewed and a good time was had by all! Looking forward to our 30th

*Lisa Bond (Gabriele)*

## Notre Dame Alumni Annual Trivia Night

**Friday February 3, 2012  
Our Lady of Sorrows Hall**

**555 S. Slocan St., Vancouver**

**Dinner at 6:30 pm**

**Games start at 7:30**

**Price \$25.00 (including pasta dinner and salad!). No host bar.**

*for tickets e-mail either:*

*Lana Tesan:*

*ltesan@gmail.com or*

*Alan Charlton:*

*acharlton@ndrs.org*



## Help!

We need your help to keep this newsletter up to date. We depend upon the members of the Alumni to notify us of births, marriages and deaths. The information we have currently comes from just a few people. So if you know a grad who had a baby, or know someone who has passed away, please let us know.



Over the past months, we have lost two beloved Alumni.

A very young Jeremy Chen '98 who leaves behind his wife and a new baby boy.

Rita (Harrington '66) Sherer '66, was an active member of the Alumni Association, lending a hand to a variety of activities and to this newsletter. She leaves behind her husband Jim, and her two children Nancy '95 and Steven.





## The Notre Dame Alumni Association

Invites you to

### "An Evening in Paris"

on Friday, November 18, 2011

at The Italian Cultural Centre

Tickets \$75

Dinner Dance, Live & Silent Auction, No host bar

For tickets or for information call: Lucia at 604-255-5454

or email: ldecotiis@ndrs.org



**WE NEED PHOTOS** for our display at the Gala, of you, ND Alumni in Paris. If you are one of the lucky ones who have enjoyed an "Evening in Paris" (or a great day), please email your favorite photo to: ldecotiis@ndrs.org

### "I GRADUATED FROM NOTRE DAME & THIS IS MY LIFE"

After graduating, I backpacked throughout the world, until on Feb.14, 1997, I saw this tiny advertisement in the Toronto Globe and Mail: "KUWAIT: Experienced special needs teachers required for students with Down syndrome & autism. Private English school. Starting Sept. '97. Salary, airfare & housing..."

I responded in a flash, was hired and 14 years later, I am still in Kuwait. My first school had 30 Kuwaiti children with special needs. By 2007, there were 270 students, 140 staff, and I was the Director of Programs and Curriculum.

The Kuwaiti owners built a second school for children with mild disabilities and I was selected to lead the start-up phase there. This school now served 200 Kuwaiti children with special needs with a staff of over 100. Student fees at both schools are generously paid by the Kuwait Ministry of Education.

Today, I am in my second year of assisting in the establishment of yet a third school, this time 25 km. south of Kuwait City. This school has 100 students and like the other two is served by a wonderful multicultural

We are happy to welcome the **Graduates of 1979** who are celebrating their 50th birthdays at the Gala this year. Email [guidolin@shaw.ca](mailto:guidolin@shaw.ca) if you want to join their party!

staff from Egypt, India, Kuwait, China, and the Philippines. So far I'm still the only Canadian but I hope this will change. If you know of any qualified SPED teachers interested in working in Kuwait or in Cairo, Egypt I'd love to hear from you! [alresala.academy@gmail.com](mailto:alresala.academy@gmail.com)).

Ma salama,

*Trudy Willis (nee Schoolkate '65)*

Ed. Note: *We hope this will be a regular column in our newsletter. Please send us your stories.*



(Right) Graduates (1976 -2011) from families Cusati, Moretto, Van Hombeek, DiScianni unite with teacher, Alan Charlton, to celebrate the graduation of graduate Francesca Cusati (2011).

**THE GALA** has always been successful because of the generosity of many individuals and many companies that have shown support in the past and we thank them. We ask for your support again this year. Donations to the AUCTION portion of the evening impact greatly on the success of the Gala. Donations can be big or small; can be anything from a bottle of wine for a gift basket to tickets for a trip. Donations will be acknowledged on the program; donations of cash over \$20.00 or product over \$50.00 receive a tax receipt. An invoice is needed. For those who own companies or have corporate contacts we are offering an advertising opportunity at the Gala & in the Spring Newsletter

**CONGRATULATIONS** are in order for Patti Lombardo, whose restaurant at "Il Mercato" (Commercial) & 1st Ave.) celebrated its 25th Anniversary this summer. Patti has turned the enterprise into a flourishing family-friendly restaurant, serving the best pizza in town. She has managed to do this while traveling frequently, raising 3 daughters, all N.D. Alumni, the youngest in this grad class, while retaining her characteristic humour. Patti has been a loyal and frequent supporter of many N.D. activities and remains an enthusiastic alumna. Here's to the next 25 years, Patti!



**Thank you** to those who generously donated to the Female and Male Sports Locker Program in the new school. They are installed and will shortly have the donor plate on each. There are still some lockers available for naming rights. A \$250.00 donation will commemorate your family name in perpetuity allowing the history of ND to remain intact for future generations. Contact jgarcea@ndrs.org for more information.

## Fall Classic Golf Tournament

Once again the Notre Dame Fall Classic Golf Tournament, held September 23 at Northview Golf and Country Club, proved to be a great success. The day was filled with food, fun, prizes and an amazing day of golf. The sun shone on us again this year, blessing us with a glorious day. We wish to thank all our golfers and a special thanks to all the community businesses that sponsored this event. The generous contributions in the form of donations, gifts and sponsorships, from parents, community businesses and alumni make this tournament possible. We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed and especially those who have supported us for the last two years. We would like to give special recognition to our \$1000.00 Platinum Sponsors; Vancity Credit Union and C & S Tile. We are grateful for your generosity these past two years. We appreciate your support



*Golf Tournament Winners: Joe Guzzo and Lincoln Lee, Jeff Mattsuta and John Guzzo.*

and generosity. A big thank you to our hard working Golf Tournament Committee who worked tirelessly over the summer to ensure this tournament would be an enjoyable experience. We look forward to your participation at our next tournament and will keep you updated with dates in future Alumni newsletters.

## Class of 1981 Thirty Year Reunion

The graduates of 1981 gathered at the Sheraton Villa, excuse me, The Grand Villa Casino, for their 30th reunion. The building name had changed which seemed appropriate, given the other changes seen over the last 30 years.

Truth being stranger than fiction, a number of us received our invitation through Facebook. Considering the fact that the ND computer program was literally in it's infancy in 1981 and that the internet wouldn't exist for another decade, it was hard to deny the fact we may be getting older. Stranger still was the number of attendees texting family members or taking pictures that night on their cell phones. Phones that contain more processing power than Mr. Vogel had in that whole lab in the

old convent. The convent of course is no longer there.

Approximately 45 Alumni arrived at the Scala Lounge to see who had changed the most. There were many fibs told regarding the lack of physical changes in the group. Once again modern technology dealt a heavy blow with power point slide show using photos from the Year Book. The claims regarding the effects of time were a great deal more difficult to support from that point on.

The night was an enjoyable one due in part to the manner in which the old group fell into a familiar sense of ease with one another. The Glory days were relived and produced much laughter. I think it fair to say that having over half the class there 30 years later, which when you include the regrets sent in, is an indication of the closeness of this class. Three marriages came from the ranks and all 3 couples made an appearance.

Probably the most telling sign of our age comes from the somewhat morbid



conversation that sprang up mid-evening as several of us attempted to determine if we had lost anybody from our class. Some names are missing so it is hard to be sure, but we think the class has been very blessed. Although, Facebook pictures indicate Phil Cervi tried to change that a few weeks later in a biking accident. His son I'm told, took the pictures at the Whistler hospital on his cell and uploaded them to the Internet.

Given my age I may miss someone, but thank you to Adele (Russo) Ciaccia, Annette Durante, Eve Dedinsky, Patty (Frigo) Liguori, and Sandra Roberts, who I think did most of the organizing.

*Chris Blesch Ed. Note: Thanks to the class of 1981 for the donation.*

