



Final Phase and School Opening

Gala: Friday November 20th, 2015



Dedication and Blessing of the Final Phase

On Monday, September 28th, the Final Phase of the School Building was blessed by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, C.S.B. and dedicated in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The morning began with Mass in the Alumni Hall. It was concelebrated with priests from nearby Parishes. In his homily, His Grace spoke of the



dedication and determination of those who worked so hard to accomplish what had begun as a dream. We would be remiss if we did not recognize the dimension the school choir added to the already festive and holy occasion. They, under the direction of Mr. Simon Isherwood, gave new meaning to the words, "Praise God".

Following the Mass, the Archbishop and his fellow priests, left the Auditorium to officially bless the new wing of the school. When they returned, the Principal, Mr. Roger DesLauriers, addressed the gathering, recognizing the commitment and vision of so many who today see their dream come to fruition. The final speaker was Mr. Bill McCarthy, who spoke eloquently of the journey he undertook as the representative of the Archdiocese and as the Project Manager. The ceremonies concluded, everyone moved to the Fr. Joe Cuddy Auditorium (the former gym) for a reception.

As a final note, there were a few Alumni present for this blessing who were also present when the original school was blessed by Archbishop James Carney in September, 1953. These hardy seniors



William P.J. McCarthy, architect of the new ND

were in elementary school at the time but can still remember all the excitement around a new Catholic High School in East Vancouver. The booklet given out for the present ceremony included a photo from those early years when the teaching staff was "The Sisters of Charity of Halifax". The only lay staff members were Mr. Cal Murphy hired as the coach for all teams, male and female and Mr. Martin Flynn who ran a woodworking shop in the basement. They were the beginning. They established the corner stone on which all future generations would build.

It was a day of pride; and a day of joy, one that will be a memory for the students presently in the school and for the many Alumni present who never left their memories of Notre Dame behind.

On behalf of the Alumni, we extend our gratitude to Archbishop Miller, to Mr. McCarthy, the Building Committee, to the Education Committee and the Staff and to all those who played any part in completing this much needed centre of education of our children, and grandchildren.

Thank You

As we celebrate the Blessing of the Final Phase of the School Building, we thank the many Alumni and friends that generously donated, both with their time and financially, to bring this dream to a reality:

1. The Alumni Foundation who raised over \$700,000.00 through their various fundraising activities.
2. Alan Charlton, whose walkathon raised \$45,000 to purchase a new school bus.
3. Armand Giroday '58 who donated all the crucifixes for the new wing.
4. The Class of 1965 who donated \$1,150 towards the school chapel. The money was raised at their reunion through an auction with some hilarious items.
5. The Class of 1975 who, from the proceeds of their reunion, donated \$676.20 to pay for a brick in the new structure.

As we get ready to go to print, we have learned of yet another act of generosity. At our last meeting, the Alumni Association decided to direct some of its limited funds towards the new Chapel. One of our members approached Mr. Claudio Corra from C&S Tile to see if, through his company, we could purchase one of the items under consideration. Mr. Corra had already donated the beautiful dark granite flooring that now graces the Chapel floor. Claudio instead immediately

offered to donate all of the items under consideration in the name of the Corra Family: Gianna '86, Leone '89 and Sara '93. This included the altar, the table on which the tabernacle would stand and the lectern.

SUPPORTING OUR JUGGLERS

The Archdiocese of Vancouver generously paid for the first phase of construction. This final, just completed phase, even with many generous donations already received, leaves the school millions of dollars in debt and this debt needs to be paid off as soon as possible. We ask all Alumni to please consider adding Notre Dame to your list of donations.

THE PLAYING FIELD

Many Alumni have rallied for a good playing field for many years but the truth is, a completed school building was necessary and this took precedence. The next step is to pay off the debt so that we can begin working on making our "Field of Dreams" a reality.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DEBT

We, each and every one of us who attended Notre Dame, whether on the day it opened in 1953 or a few years ago, owe a debt to the school which educated us; a school that taught us much more than the curriculum.

It doesn't matter whether you are from the first graduating class in 1956 or the most recent; whether you are a teacher or a student (often both); there is a

sense of belonging to the same family. You need only to attend a meeting of the Alumni Association to know this is true. Despite significant, and I mean significant age differences, we spend more time enjoying each other's company and laughing than we do working.

-- ND Alumni Association

Reminder to Grads

Please keep the Alumni Association advised about reunions, marriages, babies, important events in lives and please also advise us when you know that one of our own has died.

Pass it Forward

We invite all of you who are receiving this online publication to forward it to any Alumni you may know. Encourage them to register online on our web site at: ndalumni.org (email list subscription form on the right hand side of the page) so that they can receive any future newsletters.

Archbishop's Mass

Thank you to those who attended our Archbishop's Mass and Blessing of the Final Phase, on September 28th, 2015. This event was well attended and our evening reception celebrated the outcomes of your efforts with our Building Campaign.

Notre Dame quietly surprised alumni and families with our new Parker Street Garden, as well as our Chapel patio, and the Grotto of our Mother Mary.

Please come by to visit our new facilities and take a moment to review our Mass Program, and images found on Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ndrsjugglers/>).

Special thanks to everyone involved, including our Grade 12 boys who planted our new gardens, and to Mr. William P.J. McCarthy for his generous support.





Class of 1965 50th Reunion

The Notre Dame Class of 1965 reunited on September 5th, 2015. It was 50 years to the day we first walked into Notre Dame in 1961.

It was held at a grander hotel, but on the site of the old Villa Hotel where we had our prom. I'll let attendees tell you about it!

Best party I've attended since 1965 grad night!!! I just think we are so fortunate to have spent our early years with so many fine people.

-- Rose Mewhort

People, nostalgia

-- Gerry Smith

Dick was excellent as MC. The Auction was a really good idea.

-- Ray Chouinard

When I looked into the Ballroom at all the happy faces, I couldn't help but feel the love. It was wonderful to be reunited with childhood friends from elementary school and pals who helped me through my teenage years. I feel happy all over!

-- Rita (Facchin) Smith

The best part was reconnecting with 'old' classmates! I didn't recognize a couple of them before seeing the name tags, but I'm sure they thought the same of me. Pat's little Retirement Survival package was really special and the auction was a lot of fun

-- Diane (Harrington) Boroevich

Had a wonderful time, great people, good venue, good food and lots of laughs!!!

-- Judy (Corbeil) Cyr

Yes - Very - Much - Anticipation - Hugs - Renewal - Reconnect - Stories - Blesch - Charlton - Oswald - Hugs - Thoughtful - Amazing - Journeys - Coincidences - Serendipity - Smiles - Old Pictures - Auction - Laughter - Hugs...

-- Richard (Dick) Taylor

People forgot years and remembered moments.

-- Roger Bourque

It was so much fun connecting with friends, sharing memories and laughing



about good times in bygone days and some not so bygone.

--Susan (Dowling) Allman

An evening of fun and camaraderie among old classmates.

-- Bruna (Genovese) Pizzolato

Alumni Scholarship

The 2015 Alumni Scholarship was awarded to McKenzie Hutchison and Alexa Luongo who each received \$250.

Class of '65 Reunion



Class of 1985 30 Year Reunion

The 30th anniversary of the grad class of 1985 was a huge success! We had over 40 grads attend; unfortunately this was not as many alumni in attendance as we had hoped for, but it was a good turnout. We hope to get updated contact information for more grads prior to future events. We were also blessed to have four of our former teachers attend and hang out with us.

It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends, and find out what has changed (and stayed the same!) in everyone's life. We are quite the successful bunch, and by successful, I mean content in where our lives and experiences have taken us.

A small group of eight hardworking individuals put the event together with input from a few others, and some help from spouses (who are also ND grads from other years). If I can speak for the group, we are all looking forward to the next event and are willing to do it again!

We met in the new auditorium which was once our gymnasium. We were grateful to have a tour of the new school, what a change from when we roamed those halls! Ralph Gabriele and Mr. Charlton gave us the guided tour, and pointed out all the wonderful

improvements. The youth attending ND today are very fortunate.

Our class got together not only to reminisce, but to honor two of our classmates who passed away recently: Michelle Dickie and Lucy Serena. Not only did we have fun and lots of laughs, but we also raised funds to donate a bench in their honor which will be placed at the school that they loved so much.

One of our group members put together a slide show with pictures of all of our classmates: grad photos and other pictures. Another alum put together a music playlist that was nothing but tunes from our time at ND. Both of these elements added to the nostalgia of the evening.

A great time was had by all, and the last people didn't leave until 2:30 am. We are now talking about doing this more often than every ten years, because it was fantastic to see everyone, and to remember where we came from.



We are all grateful to the community which helped us to become the people we are today.

-- Ralph Gabriel 1985

In Memoriam

We ask you to include in your prayers the souls of former Grads and their families:

Mario Ghislieri - 1958
Carol (Storrow) Matusicky - 1958
Agnes (Bach) Vankuyk - 1960
Caroline Saban - 1962
John Mozell - 1969



Homecoming 2015

This year's Homecoming began with the Notre Dame Football game against Mission. It has been many years since I was able to attend a football game. (and what a game to come back to). It was exciting and at times intense but in the end it was a Notre Dame victory. On a personal level, Al & I were so proud to see our grandson, Anthony, exemplify leadership as the quarterback of the team. And, while I am still on the subject of the game, I have to give a shout out to the spectators from Notre Dame. They were really loud and really involved, among them many men and women whom we knew when they were kids, acting just like kids again.

After the game, everyone was invited to the Homecoming in the newly renovated auditorium. The party was also very loud with students, parents, grandparents and teachers all enjoying the moment. The bond we all share was evident by the spirit in the room.

Finally, I can't write about Homecoming without at least mentioning Notre Dame Secondary, the building. (The Final Phase) Phase two is complete and the whole complex is beautiful. If you love your old school and its memories, you must come for a tour.

Congratulations to the Football Team and to the fans and thanks for

making this Homecoming so great for all of us to come home to.

-- Steppie Blesch '59



ND Gala

Notre Dame invites you to our 13th Annual Gala, "Winter Wonderland" on Friday, November 20th, 2015 at the Italian Cultural Centre. Tickets are \$75, and include dinner, dance, no-host bar, and live and silent auctions. For information please email Mrs. DeCotiis. This is a great opportunity to meet people in our community. "Grad Reunion Tables" tables are also available!



Photos from the Class of '65 Reunion



THE NOTRE DAME ALUMNI FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO OUR

Winter Wonderland Gala

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2015
6:00PM, ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

DINNER | DRINKS | NO-HOST BAR
LIVE AUCTION | SILENT AUCTION | DJ
\$75 PER PERSON

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
MRS. LUCIA DECOTIIS: LDECOTIIS@NDRS.ORG
604.255.5454 EXT. 2152

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

WEST JET

Vancity
Make Good Money.

FIAT RAFFLE

DRAW DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2015
AT THE NOTRE DAME ANNUAL GALA

TICKETS \$10



1ST PRIZE

2015 Fiat 500 Pop - 5 speed
Value - \$17,690
Trade in Value - \$14,890



2ND PRIZE

iPhone6
Value - \$940



3RD PRIZE

Sutton Place Hotel Package
Value - \$500
**date restrictions may apply*

****No Cash Value****

Brought to you by the Notre Dame Parent Parent Support Group
For tickets or more information, please contact or visit the school office - 604.255.5454

Chances are 1 in 7,000 (total tickets for sale) to win a grand prize. BC Gaming Event Licence #76213.

Problems Gambling Helpline 1-888-795-6111
www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca

Know your limit, play within it.

19+

Fiat Raffle

We have launched our annual Fiat Raffle! Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the school office. These funds help offset costs related to extra-curricular activities and other costs pertaining to our new building expansion. We will draw the winners

Thank You

Thank you for your kindness and for a great day on Sunday September 21st. My family and I will never forget your generosity and support.

-- George Oswald



Class of '65 Reunion

at the Notre Dame Annual Gala on November 20th, 2015. First prize is a Fiat 500 Pop, second prize is an iPhone 6, valued at \$940, and Third prize is the Sutton Place Hotel Package including one-night stay, parking and a dinner gift certificate valued at \$500.

ND Alumni Membership

ND Alumni Association
Notre Dame Alumni Association
C/O Notre Dame Regional
Secondary
2880 Venables Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5K 4Z6

Please provide the following information with your \$10.00 cheque:

Name _____

Grad Year _____

Address _____

Province/State _____ Postal/Zip _____

Country _____

email _____

Mark your calendars!

Trivia Night 2016

Friday, February 19th

6:30 pm

Admission is \$25.00

includes:

**Pasta and salad dinner,
snacks and admission.**

**No host bar with beer and
wine.**

This is a fun social evening with great food, prizes, and trivia about facts and music you won't remember that you remember! Like last year it will be held at the new ND school. It is the main fundraiser for the Alumni Association to provide a small scholarship, assist the school with purchases, and cover the cost of our web site, newsletter.

Thank you very much for the generous gift on my retirement. My wife Lynn and I are very grateful to be a part of such a close knit school community. I am not an alumnus of ND but some may remember my sister, Mary Gacek (Whalen) '65.

May God bless you and the Association for all you do to make Notre Dame such a close knit family.

-- Richard Whalen