



Notre Dame Alumni Newsletter

www.ndalumni.org

October 2019

Class of 1969 Reunion

The class of 1969 held their 50th reunion this past June 1st at the Italian Cultural Centre in the Osteria Bar. It was the perfect venue for the 44 attendees, 32 of which were grads of ND. This included two of our teachers, Alan Charlton and Al Blesch. Man, those two look great and full of youth still. It was great to have them share the evening together. Lots of fun and reminiscing was had by all. Not to be biased but I think this class is aging very well. Considering that we lost 10 of our classmates we had an outstanding 67% of our class attend. Thank you for all coming in from Edmonton, Canmore, Kelowna, Kamloops and Vancouver Island. It was great to see you all and I am sure everyone in attendance felt the same way. We will not be having another reunion in 10 years because it will be held in 5 years next time. At our age you never know!

Vince Zuccaro (1969)



ND Uncorked!

Tickets are now available for the ND Uncorked fundraising event on Saturday November 16, 2019 at Notre Dame. For tickets contact the school office at (604) 255-5454 or ldecotiis@ndrs.org

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI FOUNDATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

ND UNCORKED

WINE + FOOD + AUCTION

**A
FUNDRAISING
EVENT**

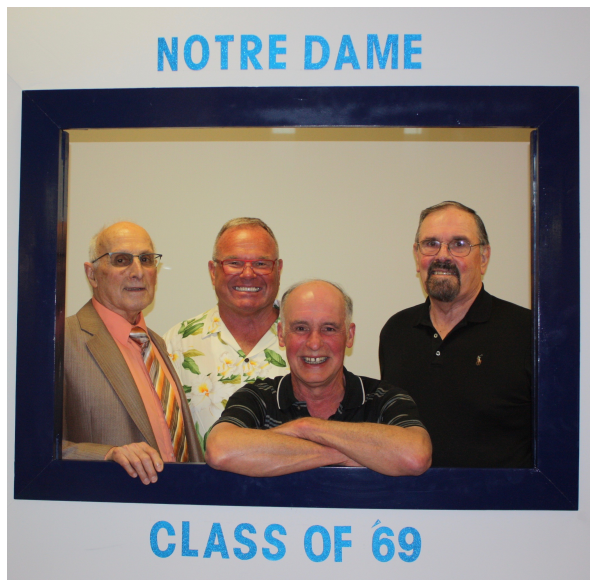
on SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2019
DOORS OPEN at 7PM

DJ & DANCING at 9:30PM
PSG CASH RAFFLE DRAW
WESTJET RAFFLE DRAW
AUCTION CLOSING at 10:30PM

at NOTRE DAME
2880 VENABLES STREET
VANCOUVER

for tickets, please contact
the school office
at 604.255.5454 or
email ldecotiis@ndrs.org

\$50
PER PERSON
includes
COMPLIMENTARY
WINE TASTING
FROM 7PM TO 9PM



Class of 1994 25th Reunion Coming up!

- Saturday, November 9, 2019
- 6:30 pm reservation
- Personas Restaurant + Lounge
- Grand Villa Casino, Burnaby
- ticket per person: \$10*

*all proceeds will be for a RESP contribution to the son of Maxine Martell (nee Vukic), in her memory

RSVP by October 25th

e-transfer to sperko@telus.net, or purchase at pop-up locations (dates & times TBA)

Class of 1972 turns 65

On Friday September 27th, 25 members of the Class of 1972 gathered at one of their old stomping grounds, the Admiral pub, to celebrate turning 65. Clyde Molley came all the way from Toronto, to join in the celebration and reconnect. The Class of 72 has held reunions every 5 years since graduating, but we have all decided that moving forward we will try to meet once a year!

CLASS OF 1972



Class of 1979 Together Again!

On September 20-21st and 22nd the Graduates of 1979 gathered to celebrate 40 years since we walked the halls of Notre Dame.

Friday saw a good crew attend the Homecoming Football Game and then headed back to the school for a tour and some burgers and beers.

Saturday more joined at Personas Lounge at the Villa Casino – and a few hardy members went back to the 5th floor where we only had one noise complaint!

Sunday finished off at the track. All in all a great weekend – prize to Brian McCann for coming from Australia! 40 years seemed to melt away as we all caught up. Thank you to Alan Charlton for joining us – everyone really enjoyed seeing him!

Sue Benedet (1979)

30 Years for Class of 1989

Long live Grad '89 ! 30 years seems so long ago, yet at the same time it passes in the blink of an eye... Back in '89 we were on the brink of a new decade, wondering whether or not we'd be taking with us our late-80's acid wash jeans, pleated pants, BIG hair coiffed nice and 'poofy' for the girls, and of course mullets for some of the guys... Fortunately that stuff only lasted a little while longer before being relegated to the past of "ewww--what were we thinking?". (Though some of us guys would probably be very happy to get all our hair back... and not to mention those loose fitting clothes might now come in handy again.)

The evening of September 21st in the upstairs private room at Joey's Burnaby was a long-overdue reuniting of a great group of classmates, whose connections instantly re-kindled in person. It seemed as though it was only yesterday we were all together, closing the formative high school chapter of our lives, and moving on into the future that lay before us. Indeed, this "post-grad" was almost as much fun as all those pre-grads used to be... just without quite as much drinking... well, for most of us anyway.



About 60 or so of our class were in attendance, and all (or most) were instantly recognizable --- a very GOOD thing! Some made a special effort and came from as far away as Alberta... (next followed by Washington State... and next after that might be ...Maple Ridge) but whether coming from near or far, we all had a fantastic time.

Trivia Night 2020

The ND Alumni Association presents its ever-popular Annual Trivia Night SATURDAY April 4, 2020! Mark your calendar.

Pasta and salad dinner will be served, snacks included with \$25.00 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 previous years it will be held at ND. 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 website, newsletter.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 4th
- **Location:** Notre Dame (of course!)
- **Registration:** 6:00 pm
- **Dinner:** 6:15
- **Games:** 7pm sharp!

Many, many door prizes as well as prizes for the most successful teams. Teams size: 8 players, but smaller groups can be merged. Contact Lana Tesan: ltesan@gmail.com or Alan Charlton: alancharlton@telus.net

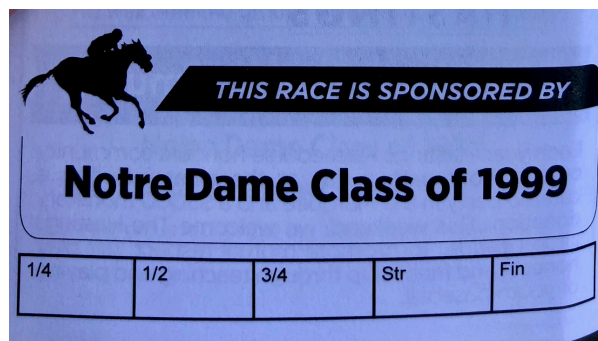
Amidst the great food, great drinks, was the most important element of all: great company. As we did our rounds trying to have some time with each of our classmates, it was so hard to leave one conversation for the next. There just seemed not enough time. Even good old (but not "old") Mr. Charlton was in the house to add the sense of Notre Dame *deja vu*.

The night went by in a flash and when we reached the curfew in our event room, we took the party downstairs to the bar until closing. Amidst all the talks of "how've you been" - "what are you up to" - ", "how many kids do you have" - and "wow you look great" - there was plenty of laughter to bring us back to the good old days. We all resolved to do it again (and not wait 5 years the next time) especially for those who sent their regrets and couldn't make it.

Special thanks in particular go out to Joe Traversa and Cristina Unti for all their efforts in organizing and bringing everyone together, and all the best to the Grads of '89. Reunions to go here

Pierro Feronato (1989)

Class of 1999 Reunion



Dear fellow Notre Dame Jugglers and Alumni,

This past weekend, with the sun shining and smell of fresh brisk air, the class of 1999 celebrated their 20 year Grad reunion at the Hastings Racecourse.

We had a good gathering of people show up to exchange stories from the past while betting on some ponies and enjoying a couple beverages trackside. The racetrack was the perfect venue to move away from stereotypical pub nights and try



to enjoy some quality time with even those who needed to or wanted to bring their families along for the afternoon.

One question that came up on repeat was "has it really been 20 years?" - You would not guess it as we all aged quite well over the past 20 years.

It truly seemed like yesterday when we were focused on homework, dating, getting our driver's license and when the next school dance was. Now twenty years later the focus turned to gas or electric vehicles, changing diapers, where to pre-register for school 5 years in advance, buying expensive real estate far from where we grew up, all while holding down a job instead of a career with the changing landscape in the economy.



We had many who couldn't attend due to child sporting commitments, baby showers and holidays, such as Mike Tempesta and Jessica Gibson, both '99 grads, who were celebrating their wedding while away on the Amalfi Coast in Italy. True love does find its way back around and they are just one example of '99 grads who stuck in out through their High School young love days.

It was a pleasure working with Lana (Manderscheid) Piovesan getting this get-together planned as she was instrumental in getting people involved! Lana had to work some serious social media/computer stalking magic! We have already been tasked with suggestions for a 25th and 30th reunion, which sounds like it could be more of an all-night party.

We still miss the days of walking the halls and getting to see your friends on a daily basis. Now it's more along the lines of planning 2 months in advance around sports, work and children schedules just to get together for a BBQ in a 3 hour window. Regardless of the work involved, the time delay, the effort to get together, don't stop trying to make it happen. Friends are the most important things in your life along with your family, you should treat them as such.

Lastly, some fun facts from 1999 and 2019.

Gas was .35/.40 cents instead of \$1.50/1.60. Throwing \$2.00-\$5.00 in your beater car got you to school and around at lunch almost all week.

We primarily used pagers but few had Nokia's or Motorola flip phones instead of the iPhone/Galaxy used today.

We called stationary house phones to hang out after school hours, quite different today with kids in Elementary school having their own mobile phones.

Taking pictures consisted of buying film and using an actual camera, then developing them to see how they turned out.

Recycling and environmental care happened back then, but not even close to how it does today. Hopefully this gets even better as time goes on.

The Sedin twins from the Canucks got drafted in 1999 and this year in 2019 get their jerseys retired as two of the all-time greats in Canuck history.

American Pie was our grad of '99 movie and Fast and The Furious just came out that summer. Now today there have been nine 'Fast and the Furious' and eight 'American Pie' movies.

You could eat any meal at McDonald's for under \$5.00 tax included, plus save even more on specialty days. Now today it's about double that price.

Same thing can be said for .05 cent candies from the store, which don't exist anymore under .15-30 cents each.

Gas powered cars tended to top out at about 250-275 horse power back then, now they reach and sell off the lot with up to 600 horse power. Electric vehicles staying surprisingly comparable with the Tesla, putting out a whopping 503 horse power — "that isn't no sewing machine".

Lastly, buying a detached home in Vancouver/Burnaby went for about \$350,000, now today worth about a million dollars for the same house without many upgrades. My one tip, ***BUY REAL ESTATE NOW***

Hope you all enjoyed the read as much as I enjoyed reliving some old memories. Onto the next chapter, see you all sooner rather than later!

God bless! Go Jugglers!

Johnny DeFazio (1999)

John Brassington Endowment Fund

My brother Nick and I set up an endowment fund last year. Both of us attended Notre Dame for our high school education. I graduated in 1969 and Nick in 1971. If it weren't for a scholarship provided by Father Steven Gatafoni at St. Francis of Assisi Parish I probably would not have been able to attend Notre Dame. Nick, who would have followed, probably would not have been able to attend Notre Dame either. It is for this reason that Nick and I have started this Endowment fund to help one or two students per

year stay at Notre Dame who otherwise would have to leave because of financial need. The fund was named after John Brassington. John was a classmate and a teammate of mine – that famous 1968 team that just got inducted into the BC Football Hall of Fame in 2018. John taught and coached at Notre Dame for 40 years and was taken away from us in 2016 in an unfortunate car accident.

Nick and I have done well over the last 50 years and we have to thank in part the years we spent at Notre Dame. We thought that helping a student or more every year attend Notre Dame would give them the same opportunity we had 50 years ago.

We started the fund with \$50K and would like at least that amount to continue for many years. With investment income of about 5% and about \$4K from fundraising events like this one we can maintain the principle amount. Last year we were able to fund the tuition of one student who had another sibling start at Notre Dame who otherwise would have been taken out of here and gone elsewhere.

It would be great to get this fund up to \$100K. That would give the endowment fund the ability to provide funding for 2, 3, or 4 students per year for many years to come.

It is to this end that I urge everyone here to donate to the John Brassington Endowment fund every year. No amount is too small. In order to get a tax receipt from the Alumni Foundation the minimum is \$20. But if you can afford to put in \$50, or \$100 or more per year that would be fantastic.

Any amount would be appreciated. This can be done on line. Please donate to the Notre Dame Foundation and earmark it for the John Brassington Memorial Endowment Fund. This can be done through the ND Alumni website through the donate button and making a note that the donation is for the JB Endowment fund.

Vince Zuccaro (1979)

In Memoriam

Charlotte (nee Westwell) Joseph, class of '68, passed away November 17, 2018 after a brave battle with cancer. Please pray for her and all cancer victims.

Subscribe and Donate!

The Alumni has set up an electronic payment using PayPal on the website. Click on the yellow "Donate" button on the home page at <http://ndalumni.org>. This will take you to PayPal where you can pay your registration or donate to the Association. Thanks in advance!

We need to reach more people! Please persuade your alumni friends to send in their email addresses if they're not already receiving the online newsletter. And please support us by paying the annual fee. It only takes a few minutes - and you'll be helping keep the communication flowing.

Notre Dame Alumni Association Membership Form

Address:

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 \$20.00 cheque:

Name _____

Grad Year _____

Address _____

Province/State _____ Postal/Zip _____

Country _____

email _____