



Notre Dame Alumni Newsletter

www.ndalumni.org

March 2024 Gala Edition

Newsletter Gala Edition

The Notre Dame Alumni is devoting this edition of its newsletter to coverage of the highly successful Notre Dame 70th Anniversary Gala Evening.

First of all, we would like to recognize the outstanding work of the organizing committee. Our thanks go out to Andrea McBride, Eva Zanotto, Sue Cirillo, Jessica Isherwood, Sonia Erickson, as well as to administrators Dennis Pavan and John Tagulao. We also wish to thank the following for their enormous assistance in making the event possible: Brian Briones and Justin Rugge, Sandra Crema for taking photos; and Mrs. Nicole Tan who spent countless hours scanning photos for the superb display.

We also wish to recognize in a special way the Guest of Honour, Sister Bernice Vetter, who flew



Diane Boroevich with Karin (Eckfellner) Kinkradtt ('58) at the Gala

in from Edmonton to represent the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, without whom there would be no Notre Dame. Sister Bernice taught at the school in the 1970s and early 1980s; and many of her former students were delighted to welcome her and share the evening with her. Another most welcome guest was Karin (Eckfellner) Klinkradt, a member of the class of 1958, who came all the way from Santa Monica to attend the Gala. Over the last several years, Karin has been extraordinarily generous in her support of the Alumni. It was wonderful that while she was here in Vancouver as a guest of Diane Boroevich, a Committee member of the Alumni, she was able to revisit her old haunts in Vancouver and Surrey.

We also wish to thank all the 315 attendees. Their enthusiasm, their delight at renewing old acquaintances, and their recognition of all that the school has meant to them made the evening a truly memorable recognition of all that Notre Dame has achieved in its 70 year history.

It was truly a night to remember.

First Alumni Soccer Tournament May 25th

Calling all soccer Alumni! Notre Dame will host its first Alumni Soccer Tournament on **May 25th, 2024!** If you have the team, we have the field! The tournament is open to all – coed teams are welcome! This is the perfect way to add a little extra to this World Cup Season, not to mention major Bragging Rights! Please contact Mr. Pavan dpavan@ndrs.org to register or for more information.



ND 70 Year Celebration

Saturday, November 18, 2023, will be a day for the ND family to remember for decades to come. Not only did Notre Dame Regional Secondary School celebrate its 70th Anniversary in amazing fashion on that date, but it also presented a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award to the one and only Alan Charlton.



What a well-organized, well-executed evening it was! From historic photos and delicious food to sparkling entertainment and a welcoming ambiance, it was certainly a first-class event. A hearty “Congratulations!” to the organizing committee for a job well done!

As we entered the hallway outside the gymnasium, we were greeted with a display of yearbooks and large posters featuring students and staff from each decade of the school’s existence. There was even a “guest book” in which we could record our thoughts about Mr. Charlton. Another nice touch was the display of flowers at the efficiently run registration table. And let’s not forget the fact that student musicians provided background music in the hallway!

In the gym, the venue was completely transformed into a lovely ballroom by white wall curtains, white linen tablecloths, covered chairs, and beautiful centrepieces.

And, of course, the food was second-to-none. Generous helpings of antipasti were available for self-service along the sides of the gym—an offering so rich that, judging by how high some



ex-football folks piled their plates, was being mistaken for the main course!

But more was to come, as we enjoyed plated service of a salad, pasta dish, main course, and a dessert. What a feast!

The evening wasn't only about a great meal, of course. It offered a chance for us to catch up with old friends and make new ones. At our table, for example, we were able to connect with a group of alumni that were, ahem, a generation or two younger than we are. And that was fun!

It was great to see so many alumni and staff from across ND's seven decades and to have the new superintendent of Catholic schools, Sandra Marshall, in attendance. Also attending was guest of honour, Sister Bernice Vetter of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, the religious order that founded the school in 1953.

Co-emcees Piero ('89) and Rina ('83) kept the evening well-paced and flowing with their banter. The dinner entertainment featured ND's talented music students singing jazz standards and Broadway-musical favourites,

And then came Mr. Charlton. Piero and Rina introduced him with a snappy rendition of the title song from the musical "Hamilton," adroitly replacing the original lyrics with "Char-l -ton"-specific lines. What a hoot!

Mr. Charlton's ensuing speech was most memorable. Reviewing his 50+ years of dedicated service to the school, he highlighted the great many positive and enduring relationships he developed with ND families. He also graciously acknowledged by name dozens of people who,

over the years, contributed to making ND the fine school it is today. These included parents, colleagues, support staff, and custodians, each of whom were at least as worthy as he of special recognition, he said.

Of course, Mr. Charlton being Mr. Charlton, he wrapped up his speech with a pointed list of the several ways he believed ND and the Catholic school system could and should be improved! Those of us who had Mr. Charlton for a teacher know only too well that he was never one to keep his opinions to himself!

But the evening wasn't over yet. There were raffle and door prizes galore, and the DJ's choice of music brought many to the dance floor, as the older generations turned the evening over to the younger ones.

It's been said, "that which we celebrate, we encourage." With this in mind, it's safe to conclude that ND's remarkable 70th anniversary celebration can and should serve as an encouragement to the school community to keep up the great work in the decades to come!

Mary O'Neill, Class of 1972





students of the school most remembered about their experiences, in the end I was able to offer only an inadequate summary of that period of the school's history. To the earlier Alumni: I wish to express my regret that I could not do justice to their years at the school – years in which they laid a solid and important foundation for the growing school community. I wonder, while it is still possible, if an effort should be made to complete a full history of the school – after all, it is a history worth preserving.

Thank you from Alan

When first I received notice of the Gala evening to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, I quickly marked the date on my calendar and eagerly began to look forward to attending the celebration of an institution at which I had taught for 52 years. However, to my consternation, I was then notified by the Committee organizing the event that they had chosen to mark the occasion by honouring me with a Lifetime Achievement award. The Committee in every other respect did a superb job of organizing that Gala, and we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. However, I think they were decidedly mistaken in choosing to honour me. Flattered as I was to be singled out for such an award, I recognized at once that I had played only a small part in the school's achievement and that there were many others who had laboured long and hard to promote and foster the school's remarkable growth since its foundation. Many are far more deserving than I of such recognition. Despite my reservations on the subject, I was, however, eventually persuaded to agree to accepting the honour offered to me.

Then came the hard part. I came to realize that I would have to speak for everyone present about the past the present, and even the future of the school. The first of these requirements was difficult in that I had only a vague knowledge of the first ten years of the school's existence. While I made every effort to find out what the first

When it came to what followed the early years of the school's development, my difficulty was that I could remember too much, especially as the Committee first asked me to keep my remarks to eight minutes! That quickly became clearly impossible. So I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to those present for having bored them for no fewer than thirty-five minutes! I hope that my too lengthy remarks





didn't completely ruin the evening for the attendees.

With those remarks, I endeavoured to mention as many people as I could who contributed to the school's foundation, growth and development – most especially the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, whose sacrifices made the whole venture possible. Indeed, it was a special joy for us to be able to welcome Sister Bernice Vetter as a Guest of Honour and representative of the Sisters. But, as I also made clear, the Sisters are among the many others whom I mentioned (as well as some I overlooked) who are indeed far more worthy than I to receive the school's lifetime Achievement Award.

Despite my lengthy address, I know that I omitted mention of many who made vital contributions to the school – and to them I also apologize.

On a more personal note, I also ventured to offer suggestions as to ways in which I think the school might meet challenges in the future. That some might take exception to those suggestions, I am not surprised. For years, most of my suggestions with regard to the school were rejected - generally my offerings were dismissed with a condescending, "Oh, well, that's Alan", and completely ignored. So it was that I got used to people dismissing my ideas as nonsensical, though it didn't stop me from voicing them. I have always felt that it is only by people clearly stating their views that any progress is possible.



Though I doubt that anything I said at the Gala will have any real impact on the school's future, my hope is that my comments will sow the seeds for a harvest of much fuller discussion as to how





the school will meet the inevitable challenges of the future.

What does remain for certain, beyond all this, is that the evening for me was gratifying in a multitude of ways.

It was truly wonderful that over 300 people think highly enough of the school to gather to celebrate its history. Furthermore, it was an unalloyed pleasure for me to be able to reconnect with former colleagues and students. After all, as I stated in my speech, Notre Dame in a very real sense has become my family. To know that people generously bothered to greet me personally and to voice flattering and largely undeserved compliments on the role I have played in the school's history, is indeed a memory I treasure. The evening made me realize more than ever, how blessed I was to have been able to interact with so many fine students, their parents and former colleagues – and to know that they have been magnanimous enough to forgive me for the horrors I imposed on them! By contrast, the enormous pleasure I derived from my Notre



Dame experience is something that I will carry with me for as long as I live.

And, of course, that is going to be a short period. At 89, I know that there is little time left to continue to enjoy the friendship and amazing support I have received and still receive from many in the Notre Dame community. That community has indeed made my life rich beyond anything I deserve or am able to express. But, despite my age, I am still hoping that five years from now, I will be able to attend another Notre Dame Gala and applaud the next recipient of the school's Lifetime Achievement Award. Whoever that person is, he or she will undoubtedly be far more deserving of it than I – but will not be able to cherish and value that honour anywhere nearly as much as I did.

Thank-you Notre Dame community for the Gala, the Award and everything else you have given to me!

Alan Charlton

Upcoming School Events

Mark your calendar for these school sponsored events!

Notre Dame Homecoming Football Game

Saturday September 7, 2024

Come cheer on the Jugglers Saturday afternoon for the Annual Homecoming Game vs St. Thomas More. Food Trucks and Beer Garden on site. Tickets sold at the Gate for \$5.00. Letterman Jackets Strongly Encouraged!

Oktoberfest & Beer Tasting

Saturday October 19th, 2024

Break out the lederhosen and be ready to enjoy an evening of good food – good music and a beer tasting garden. This is a 19+ event and all are welcome! Details TBA if you have any questions please contact Sue Cirillo scirillo@ndrs.org



Host Your Next Gathering at ND

Notre Dame welcomes all Alumni who would like to host their reunions or any family events at the school. Our Multi-purpose room, with access to our Grotto and kitchen area, is ideal for a gathering. Special pricing for Alumni of Notre Dame. For more information you can contact scirillo@ndrs.org

Reaching Out to a Member of the Notre Dame Community

The 70th Anniversary Gala was, above all, a celebration of the Notre Dame Community. As part of that celebration, one member in particular was recognized: Gavin Kamoschinski. The life of this young man, an athlete and a star member of the Juggler football team, was tragically changed by a life-altering accident in the summer of 2022. To help him and his family meet that challenge, a Go Fund Me account has been set up. We earnestly appeal to all members of the community to contribute to that Go Fund Me campaign in Gavin's name as he goes through the process of recovery and rehabilitation. Gavin prepares to join his classmates for Graduation this June.

Gavin was a transfer student from Kelowna, enrolled at Notre Dame in September of 2022. Being a keen football player, he was anxious to play for the Jugglers but was ruled ineligible for a year as per B.C. School Sports rules. He nonetheless attended and participated in every practice during the 2022 season, honing his quarterback skills in preparation for game action in 2023.

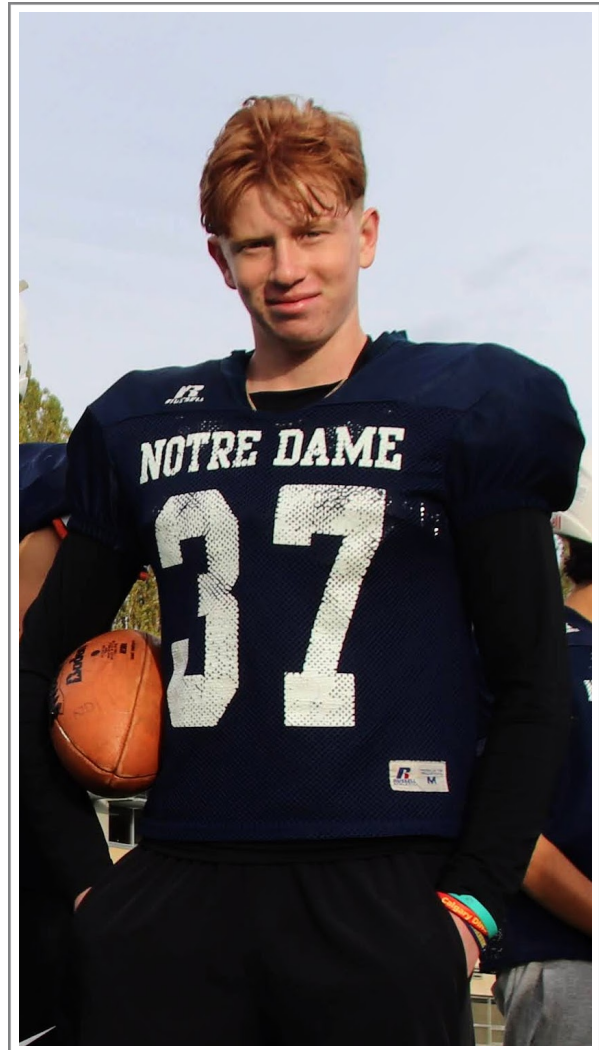
Gavin worked extremely hard during the spring and summer of '23, attending several football camps and impressing college recruiters. His impact on the Varsity team was such that he was an automatic selection as a team captain.

A tragic swimming/diving accident in Kelowna on August 2nd changed everything for Gavin. He suffered a severe neck injury, resulting in

significant paralysis. Gavin has had the benefit of an outstanding support system. His courage and resilience have been remarkable. His teammates rallied around him and dedicated the season to him. The entire football community of B.C. showed their heartfelt support and sympathy. His parents have especially remarked how grateful they are for the caring, loving, response shown by Notre Dame.

Gavin's status as team captain remained, as the Varsity team welcomed him to the sidelines for our first league game against Kelowna Secondary. At the wrap-up banquet at season's end, he received the Inspirational Award.

Currently Gavin is finishing his rehabilitation at G.F. Strong in Vancouver. Very fortunately, he has been accepted to a very specialized spinal injury clinic in Philadelphia, run by the Shriner's organization. There he will receive state of the art treatment and continued rehab. We pray for Gavin in his recovery and hope to see him back at Notre Dame in the near future. We know that you will be generous in your response to this appeal to assist this worthy young member of our Notre Dame family.



Gavin Kamoschinski



**NOTRE DAME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance forward as of December 2021 **\$8,474.13**

REVENUE

Donations	\$1,966.00
Registrations	\$834.88

\$2,800.88

EXPENSES

ND Alumni Scholarships (2022/2023)	\$2,000.00
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Bank Service Charges	\$206.00
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Doriana Temolo Mass card and donation to BC Cancer Society	\$123.00
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\$2,329.00

BALANCE as of December 2023 **\$8,946.01**

**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 _____