

Alma College International Alumnae Association Newsletter

... the main college building

a pleasing adaptation of the Gothic style of Architecture. The corner stone was laid on May 24th, 1878.



Sketch by Elsie Yen 1974-76

Annual Reunion 2009
June 5th, 6th & 7th
Four Points by Sheraton London

www.almacollege.20m.com

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMNAE COUNCIL



The June 2008 Reunion was a great success with about 115 attending the event in Port Stanley. Of course there was a sad undertone with Alma having burned to the ground shortly before the reunion, but what was and is most important are the memories.

A group of St Thomas citizens took it upon themselves to clean up the overgrown Amphitheatre and donated plants and flowers. Much of their motivation came from the fact that the Alumnae would be coming to town. It really was touching and unbelievable how much they did in a short time.

There was also a memorial service held on the Sunday afternoon at the Sifton Gates attended by Alumnae and citizens of St. Thomas.

“May we ever look back upon her glory”

As far as we know, the future use of the property is as yet undecided.

There was an election in June and Lois Drinkwalter was elected President. In November she was not able to continue her responsibilities and offered her resignation. So, we need nominations for the President position for a one year term 2009-2010. There is also a vacancy for a Reunion Chair. Are you willing to volunteer your time? Please contact me at 519-471-0855 or donnaro@rogers.com.

Reunion 2009 will be held June 5th to 7th at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, located on Wellington Road near the 401. The Executive and Reunion Committee decided to try London this year after some feedback that Port Stanley was more difficult to access and accommodations are off site resulting in more driving. London has easy car, train, bus and air access.

In order to thrive, the Alumnae needs to be able to keep in touch with its membership. We do our best to keep the database updated and we need your help with that. Please keep us informed as to any changes in your address or contact info and that of any other Alumnae. Contact information for the Alumnae Association is provided on the back page of this newsletter.

Do you have a favorite recipe or 2 or 3? Send them to donnaro@rogers.com in MS Word, a text file or just type them into an email message. Include your maiden name and years attended. If we get a good response we may have a recipe book for you in 2010!!

Our website is: www.almacollege.20m.com. Please visit the website for updates and to see who has signed the Guestbook! The registration form will also be available on the website. Sign up on the reunion page and let your friends know that you are planning to attend the June Reunion.

The proposed new Alma College International Alumnae Association Constitution will be posted on the website. Please review it before the Reunion. We will be voting on it at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6th. If you can't access the website, please contact Barb McCallum, 519-773-5241.

We are trying to save on postage costs and trees. If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Joni (Page) Pypka at pagegirl@sympatico.ca.

Check out the Alumnae and friends trip to Bermuda April '09 in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Donna Robertson (1962-66)
Alumnae Vice President
519-471-0855
donnaro@rogers.com



LONDON BRANCH PRESIDENT NEWS

Four meetings were held during the 2008 year. February was a luncheon meeting, April at the home of Jean Dollar, and for October we joined the St. Thomas girls for lunch at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club and later visited the Elgin County Museum to view a video on the history of Dear Old Alma.

On December 6th, we held our annual Christmas party at West Haven Golf Club with St. Thomas members joining us. A donation to the Salvation Army Christmas fund was offered. In spite of the snow and cold weather approximately 35 alumnae joined in the festivities.

The London Branch plans to have meetings in February and April 2009.

The annual reunion is planned for June 5th, 6th and 7th and will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel on Wellington Road in London. Hostesses for the 40's grads are Jean Dollar and Mary Finkbeiner and we hope as many as possible will plan to come. Rooms have been reserved for anyone coming from a distance and arrangements can be made to meet you at the airport or train station if needed. If you have lost contact with a former Alumnae friend, please let one of us know and we will try to locate them for you.

Looking forward to seeing you in June!
Mary (Keith) Finkbeiner (1943-45)
London Branch President

ST. THOMAS BRANCH PRESIDENT NEWS

On March 18, 2008, a luncheon meeting was held at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club at which "ALMA" was discussed and the current state of affairs. The year 2008 will surely be remembered as one of the most unforgettable for the Alumnae, and for the City of St. Thomas. On May 28th our beloved Alma burnt to the ground. Still unbelievable! I drive down Wellington St. but can't bear to look down Moore St. towards where Alma once majestically stood. All the years the Alumnae fought to save Alma were in vain. What a tragedy!

Of course, we all looked forward to the 2008 Reunion weekend; the first weekend in June. What a bittersweet Reunion it turned out to be. Many from far and wide attended at the Kettle Creek Golf Club in Port Stanley. Some were brave enough to venture to the College grounds, but for many it was just too painful. The memories and camaraderie are what keep us joined together, and "We" are now "ALMA", cemented together over time by our friendship and memories, which unlike the "physical" Alma, will endure.

On August 19th, we held our annual summer BBQ at the home of Jane Ann and Jack Tasker in Port Stanley. Always great food, a great time, and wonderful hosts. October 20th, eight St. Thomas members plus eight London members enjoyed lunch at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club; then on to the Elgin County Museum for an Alma presentation by the McNaughtons, owners of Dog and Pony Productions Inc.

Our last get together of the year was held on December 6th. Six Alumnae members and one brave husband (Lyle Sifton) drove through a blizzard to join the London group at their Christmas party at West Haven Golf Club.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 2009 Reunion. Toujours en avant!
Joyce (Murison) Skelding (1955-56)
St. Thomas Branch President

ALUMNAE NEWS PAGE

ARIZONA: Hostess Susan (Fearnside) Scholefield (1970-72) has indicated that she will be hosting a get-together for alumnae in the sunny southwest this coming year. For details, contact Susan at sfernen@cox.net

CALGARY: Hostess Debbie Stocking (1986-87) will soon be issuing invitations to the Alberta alumnae for a February Valentine's lunch. She may be contacted at chelsebeagle@yahoo.ca

TORONTO: On October 19, 2008, Hostess Brenda Sears (1974-78) welcomed alumnae from the 70s and 80s decade who live in the Greater Toronto area to a lovely brunch at the Brazilian restaurant Casa Mendoca. Friendships were renewed and memories relived as alumnae chatted the afternoon away. It is hoped to extend an invitation to the London area alumnae from the 70s to 80s decades to join this group this coming fall.

VANCOUVER: Our contacts and co-hostesses out west, Sylvia Shiell (1976-79), smshiell@yahoo.ca and , Lisa Bancroft (1972-74), ebancroft@sd43.bc.ca, are planning a spring luncheon for the Alma girls in British Columbia. They will be contacting the girls shortly.

MEXICO: Claudia Baca (1981-82) hosted Kristan (Law) Clark (1980-85) from Canada and several of the Mexican alumnae at her home during the Christmas holidays. It has been suggested that another get-together might be arranged in 2009 in Acapulco for a larger group.

HONG KONG: Alma girls have been meeting in informal gathering in recent years. Sharifa Leung (1984-86) has been asked to host a larger gathering for all those who attended Alma in recent decades.

TRINIDAD: No formal get-togethers have occurred since the January 2005 semi annual when the Trinis hosted a Canadian contingent who visited Trinidad and Tobago. That was a super fete that should be repeated again.

ALMA ALUMNAE RECIPE BOOK

A Collection of Canadian & International Dishes

During the year 1983-84, the Prefect Society at Alma College produced a recipe book of favourite international recipes. Many of the contributions came from staff and students.

Like many recipe books, sections were salads, main dishes and desserts. In the appetizer section, Fornita Man from Hong Kong submitted "Spring Rolls", Christine Folberth of Germany contributed "Beef Tartar" and Susannah Daugharty of London Ontario gave us "Butter Tarts".

Do you have a favorite recipe or 2 or 3? Send them to donnaro@rogers.com in MS Word, a text file or just type them into an email message. Include your maiden name and years attended. If we get a good response we may have a recipe book for you in 2010!!

Tin Roof Pie

Mix 2 cups honey nut corn flakes and 1/4 cup of peanut butter together in a Pyrex bowl. Add 1/4 cup of corn syrup.

Blend these ingredients thoroughly and place in an 8" pie pan and flatten. Place in the refrigerator. 30 minutes before serving, fill the pie shell with vanilla ice-cream and place in the freezer. Remove and cut the pie. Pour chocolate syrup over pie filling.

To each piece add a dab of whipped cream, crushed nuts and cherry.

*The late M E "Betty" Bone
Principal (1970-86)*

RECAP OF REUNION JUNE '08

The Reunion week-end had perfect weather for the 107th gathering of The Alma College International Alumnae Association based this year in Port Stanley.

Alumnae booked into a local St. Thomas motel and B&B establishments and Inns in Port Stanley. Alumnae visited Port's boutiques and art shops, but most of all rekindled friendships and reminisced about the days when they were students at Alma College. This year a large number of Alumnae who graduated 50 years ago (Golden Girls) were reunited for the first time with their former classmates and friends. This was surely the highlight of their week-end. They came from as far away as Sweden, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, different parts of United States, Maritimes and across Ontario. Over 100 Alumnae attended the annual reunion week-end which included an opening Friday dinner and closing with Sunday brunch at the Wharf in Port Stanley.

Saturday was mainly spent at the Kettle Creek Golf Club, Alumnae enjoyed an archival slide presentation of Alma photographs. At the fine luncheon a message was delivered on behalf of Honourable Steve Peters, MPP expressing his condolences. Steve was Alma's first archivist.

The Alumnae held a silent auction; sold Alma souvenirs and displayed numerous news items and decade photographs of students from bygone days. The Elgin County Museum opened their doors for the visiting Alumnae to peruse the special Alma display.

Following the evening buffet dinner there was musical entertainment by GERAL Billingham on violin with David McCormick on keyboard and Karen Baracat Bonasso singing with Marc Pillon accompanying. Alumnae came as they always do because of the memories of their years at Alma. The weekend concluded with Sunday brunch at the Wharf in Port Stanley.

Submitted by: June (Anger) Cooper (1952-53)
Alumnae and Member of the Reunion Committee

ALMA LIVES ON

Thanks to Alumnae Donna Robertson (1962-66) and Joni (Page) Pypka (1954-55), Alma lives on. Donna and Joni retrieved 120 bricks from the Alma College property days after the fire. Each brick was inscribed with the date of the laying of the corner stone on May 24, 1878, to the date of destruction May 28, 2008. Bricks were sold at the June Reunion 2008.

Bricks may be available at the 2009 Reunion for \$25. See registration form for details and ordering.

Mini Reunion in Toronto Sept '08 for 1958 to 1963 Alma girls

Linda (McClatchie) Walsh organized a mini reunion for Alumnae who attended Alma between 1958-1963. Of the alumnae planning to attend, only two could not come at the last minute due to other circumstances.

We did spend a substantial amount of time Friday evening at Cindy's going around the room of 33 people, telling out stories of our lives, but we did not have a tape recorder and should have. Some Alma Girls have lead very interesting lives. We have become a very talented and diverse group; from public service, fund raising, music, nursing, teaching, career business women, politics and many other careers.

One of the Alma girls Laurie Schmalz, sailed across Lake Ontario from the states to the Toronto Yacht club to get to Toronto.

The funniest meeting was Friday evening Monarch's pub, when we walked in and some girls were there already. Oh my god, who is that person? It was scary. Donna Brearley had her graduation picture 5 x 7 hanging around her neck. What a brilliant idea!

The weekend was way too short and we did not have enough time to spend quality one on one with everyone. All in all it was very successful, lots of memories and lots of tears. Can hardly wait to do it again. Toronto was a perfect place.

We plan on having another reunion in September of 2010. Everyone was excited to attend and many who did not attend want to come to the next one.

The group would like to acknowledge the sudden death of Alumna, Lesley Kennedy. Lesley flew from the United Kingdom to attend this mini reunion, and passed away one week after returning home. A memorial service was held for Lesley in Ottawa.

Linda (McClatchie) Walsh, Hostess Extraordinaire, worked for over a year on this effort and wants to thank all who helped to discover the whereabouts of so many girls.

Attendees: Mary Jane Brinkos, Bea Laurie Eden, Ann Graham Rooney Calderisi, Judy Coates Jewell, Cindy Wiley Williams, Beth Helmer Stewart, Pat Moore Buckland, Candy Tisdale Ross, Laurie Stewart Pallett, Lesley Kennedy, Bonnie MacLean Anderson, Beverly Ellis Anderson, Linda McClatchie Walsh, Mary Ann Coyle Morton, Donna Brearley Kleiman, Ann MacDermid Ferguson, Vivian Wilson Johnson, Wendy Stanfield Chisholm, Jennifer Macfarlane Wray, Peggy Dean (Maggie) Tillett, Laurie Schmalz Hugill, Suzanne Hood Campbell, Marjorie Montano Short, Wendy Irvine Ens, Ruth Whiteley Wells, Carolyn Lee Davies, Connie Amy Boone, Judy Hahn Kocher, Marcia Schram, Judy Miller Scheifele, Jane Mitchell Moore, & Eleanor Grimm.

REUNION JUNE 2009 EVENTS

Friday June 5th

Check in at Four Points by Sheraton London

6:30 pm Meet in the Bentley's Lounge. Group will leave together for dinner.

After dinner meet for cocktails in the Bentley's Lounge

Saturday June 6th

10:00 am Registration and Coffee at Four Points by Sheraton - Balmoral Room

10:30 am Annual General Meeting - Balmoral Room

12:00 pm Buffet Luncheon - Balmoral Room

1:45 pm Reunion photos

2:30 pm Social Time: Visit with alumnae in the hospitality suite, shop at White Oaks Mall across from Four Points, drive to St. Thomas.

5:30 pm Cocktails and Dinner with friends at a local restaurant

After dinner meet in the Hospitality Suite

Sunday June 7th

11:00 am Brunch at Tuscany Restaurant in the Four Points by Sheraton

Dinner on Saturday night will depend the number of alumnae who indicate their interest on the registration form. Options include Tuscany's restaurant in the hotel, The Manchurian Chinese/Canadian buffet next door or numerous other nearby restaurants.

REUNION JUNE 2009 ACCOMMODATIONS

Four Points by Sheraton London

This year, Reunion June 2009 will be hosted at Four Points by Sheraton London. The hotel is located at 1150 Wellington Road South, London, Ontario N6E 1M3. Directions are below.

If you are arriving in London by plane, bus, or train, please indicate this on your registration form and we can arrange to have an alumna pick you up and take you to your hotel.

Room Rates

Standard Room double occupancy is **\$118.00 plus tax**

A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College". Prices are in effect until May 15th unless the rooms are sold out. We recommend you book your room before May 1st.

Hotel Website: www.fourpoints.com/london

Directions:

From East: From Toronto take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn right on Wellington Road and the hotel is located 0.5 kilometers on the right hand side across from White Oaks Mall.

From West: From Windsor take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn left on Wellington Road and the hotel is located 0.5 kilometers on the right side across from White Oaks Mall.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

Executive Officers

Term: 2008-2010

President	vacant
Vice-President	Donna Robertson
Secretary	Barb (Corkill) McCallum
Treasurer	Sandra (Irvine) Pearson
Past President	Lara (Masur) Leitch

Committee Heads

Membership Committee	Joni (Page) Pypka
Web Correspondent	Donna Robertson
Archive Committee	Mary Virginia Towers
Reunion Committee	vacant
Branch Promotion	Lara (Masur) Leitch

Branch Presidents

Term: 2007-2009

London Branch	Mary (Keith) Finkbeiner
St. Thomas Branch	Joyce (Murison) Skelding

REUNION HOSTESSES

Decade	Hostess & Contact information
1930s & 40's	Mary (Keith) Finkbeiner 519-438-2767 email: Marykeith45@rogers.com
	Jean (McKellar) Dollar 519-673-0273 email: jjleo@rogers.com
1950's	Joyce (Murison) Skelding 519-769-2626 email: g.skelding@sympatico.ca
	Mary Ann Neely 519-631-1783 email: maryann@sympatico.ca
Golden Girls 1958-59	Jill Hollands 519-537-3204
1960's	Donna Robertson 519-471-0855 email: donnaro@rogers.com
	Barb (Christie) O'Brien 519-663-9979 email: kjobrien@sympatico.ca
1970's & 80's	TBD

Alma College Updates

Archive & Relic Report (Committee)

Work continues with the two Alma College Collections (Records & Documents and Alma College International Alumnae Association Archives) owned by the Elgin County Archives and permanently housed in a climate controlled environment, located in the Elgin County Administration building, St Thomas. The Elgin County Museum is located in the same building as the Archives and is managed by curator, Michael Baker.

The Digitization Project of over 1,500 photos of Alma College including students, staff, interior and exterior was completed in 2008. Prints can also be ordered. Check out the website at archivist@elgin-county.on.ca.

Alma College's Archival, Artifacts, and Relic History lives on to be preserved for present and future generations of members of the Alumnae, residents of St. Thomas and Elgin County, Ontario and all Canada as well as our global village.

Additional artifacts, relics and documents donated by Alumnae, their relatives, and the general public continue to be gratefully accepted and catalogued. Monetary donations for the preservation of Alma's historical Archives would be gratefully appreciated by forwarding your

cheque payable to:
Elgin County Archives (Alma College Collection)

Elgin County Administration Building
450 Sunset Drive, St Thomas, ON N5R 5V1
519-631-1460 Ext 138
archivist@elgin-county.on.ca
www.elgin.ca
(You will receive a tax receipt)

Alumnae Memories tie us together. It is Alma's legacy to all her former students: Lest We Forget!

Mary Virginia Towers (1951-53)
Chair of Alma College Archive & Relic Committee

"Golden Days" by Peter Robson

Limited Edition print of Alma College, 15" x 20", numbered, signed colour prints are available for purchase. Prints can be shipped to you and they will also be available for purchase at Reunion 2009.

Cost:

Alumnae who have paid dues: \$125 + shipping.
Alumnae who have not paid dues and to general public: \$150 + shipping.

Call Mary Virginia Towers at 519-631-9923.
Cheques are payable to: The Alma Project.

A PIECE OF ALMA COLLEGE

By Suzanne (Manning) Wallis (1959-60)

To be precise, it is a small piece of atmosphere surrounded by four walls and labeled "Room". However, this is no ordinary room. Upon entering it the eye is first captured by the tired grey walls, pockmarked by a thousand tacks which have held up glossy movie-idols and long-forgotten boyfriends. The floor protesting, creaks in remembrance of the many which have both pounded and worriedly dragged across it. The furniture, which was highly fashionable a few decades ago, is now battered, scared and perhaps a little warped from absorbing tears of homesickness and frustration. The curtains on the long tapering fingers of dusty glass are slightly askew and faded, remembering the floods of sunlight which have often transformed the room from barren desolation into a golden honeycomb cell. The ceilings are lofty, which seems so necessary to hold the ghosts of the dozens who knew this room as a temporary and often inadequate home. I am not merely one more inhabitant of my room:- I am custodian of a museum of hopes, ambitions, sorrow and youth.

Suzanne Manning Wallis died in Guelph on February 5th, 2008. She won the First Place Award in the Literary Competition at Alma for this piece.

DANGLES TWEENY FUNDRAISER

Do you remember back in the 50s, 60s and 70s, Alma had a mascot called Dangles Tweeny. This



reunion we will raffle a new version of Dangles Tweeny, the Monkey in her uniform.

Raffle Tickets will be on sale during the Reunion. Ticket prices are three tickets for \$5.00.

Go to the alumnae website to see a colour photo of Dangles Tweeny.
www.almacollege.20m.com/logoware

BERMUDA TRIP

April 23-30, 2009 -- Book Now!!

Grotto Bay Beach Resort at www.grottobay.com

Our Alma Bermuda friends are working with us to make the week absolutely perfect. A reception get together will take place on our second day. During the week, Dame Pamela (Gordon) Banks (1972-73) has offered to entertain at her home (she said she can seat 100 at tables of 10 on her porch). The evening prior to returning home we will gather with the Bermudians at a dinner at Grotto Bay Resort.

Don't miss this exciting trip. Call your Alma roommate or invite your spouse or a friend to register with you. Hurry, space is limited.

Accommodation Meal Plan (breakfast & dinner), double occupancy for \$1,629 US per person, including taxes, service charges and gratuities.

For further information on accommodation and air fare, and to register call Denise at

Going Your Way Travel Inc.,
90 Front Street, Strathroy, ON N7G 1Y7
Attention: Denise Routly at (519) 245-0700
or email: den.way@on.albn.com

Alumnae Trip Co-ordinators

Joni (Page) Pypka (519) 681-6900 pagegirl@sympatico.ca	Sandra (Irvine) Pearson (519) 245-1118 sjp@webgate.net
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As of the printing of this newsletter, the following alumnae have confirmed for Bermuda:
Mary Virginia Towers, Pat (Finlay) Leavens, Sandra (Irvine) Pearson, Wendy (Irvine) Ens, Joni (Page) Pypka, Donna (Durham) Barton, Harold and Sharon (McKay) Kirby, Jill Hollands, June (Anger) Cooper, Marilyn (Anderson) Collyer, Laura Collyer (daughter), Joan (Rogers) Shipman, Evelyn Turner, Helen (Wall) Capson, Barb (Johnston) Hansen, Mary Ann Neely, Bev (Bell) Mustard, Mary Lee (Lendon) Knutson, Shirley Scarrow, Patricia (Coutts) Kirby & Margaret (Webb) Warriner.

ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Help us keep the Alumnae database up to date. To send in a change of address, please email Membership Committee Chair, Joni (Page) Pypka (1954-55) at pagegirl@sympatico.ca or call Joni at 519-681-6900.

Please include your first name, maiden name, surname and the years you attended Alma.

WEBSITE: www.almacollege.20m.com

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 8084, London ON N6G 2B0