

# Alma College International Alumnae Association Newsletter 2014



**113th Annual Reunion is June 13-15th, 2014**  
**Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London Ontario**  
**[www.AlmaCollege.20m.com](http://www.AlmaCollege.20m.com)**  
**Find us on FaceBook at "Alma College"**

# GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMNAE COUNCIL



Dear Alma Alumna

The Alma College Alumnae Reunion June 2013 was a tremendous success. Thank you for attending and keeping our association alive. Storytelling! Who would have thought our storytelling segment would be so successful. It was our first ever with five or six stories told to the attendees. With all the laughter in the room, alumnae were motivated to get up and tell a few more stories of their own. We had positive feedback and many of you told us "this is what reunions should be about". As alumnae, we can retell our times at Alma, to have a few laughs, and to reflect on what Alma meant to each of us as students and staff. I encourage you to come out to the next reunion and reminisce about your Alma days and more importantly, write down your Alma anecdotes and send them to us!

**The Bell:** Alumnae were thrilled when the bell rang to signal the start of the luncheon portion of the reunion weekend. Warm memories of Alma were stirred! Thank you to Mike Baker of the Elgin County Museum for bringing the school bell to our reunion. Mike also brought along the newly donated "international doll collection". During his update to alumnae, Mike commented that by attending the luncheon he now knew why Mary Virginia always requested use of the Sisk Trophy every June. The Sisk Trophy is used to honour the memory of those alumnae who have died over the past year(s).

**The Scholarship Fund:** As an alumnae group, we raised just over \$1,000 for the scholarship fund in 2013. Individual donations received through the registration forms totaled just over \$500, and on Reunion Saturday we raised an additional \$500 through a 50-50 draw, raffle prizes, and the book sale. Thank you to Pat Kirby, Evelyn Knight, and Bev Mustard for your generous donation of the raffle prizes. Thanks to Pat Meathrell and Pat Ruhl for organizing the book sale, and the volunteers, Barb O'Brien, June Cooper, and Barb McCallum, who sold 50-50 and raffle tickets.

**Bermuda 2015:** Pat Kirby provided an update about her upcoming art show in Bermuda scheduled for May 2015. Pat excited the group with a suggestion of an alumnae reunion in Bermuda to coincide with the art show. A number of alumnae have expressed an interest in returning to Bermuda. In 2009 twenty-two alumnae and their spouses/friends, travelled to Grotto Bay Resort in Bermuda for a spectacular alumnae trip. Let's make it happen again.

**Our Volunteers:** A special thank you to the reunion committee for your continued dedication and hard work ... without you, there would be no reunion!!! And thanks to Marnie Shore for taking the group photos.

**Reunion 2014:** The reunion committee has already begun to plan next year's reunion. Please put a hold in your calendars for June 13-15, 2014. See the details in the newsletter. I hope to see you there.

**Elections for 2014-16 term:** It has been an honour to serve as President from 2012-2014. This is an election year and the current executive is hoping to have new Alumnae step up to the plate in June.

Please consider allowing your name to stand for election this June. If you are interested in serving on the executive please contact Past-President, Donna Robertson at [donnaro@rogers.com](mailto:donnaro@rogers.com). It is a fun and rewarding experience. The future of our alumnae association depends on volunteers like you.

**Toujours en avant!**

Lisa M Johnson, 1985-86

President





## ALMA ALUMNAE -- IN MEMORIAM

NAME	ADDRESS	ALMA YEARS	DATE OF DEATH
Nancy ADAMS	Simcoe, ON	1950-53	December, 2013
Marjorie BEATTIE	Victoria, BC	1961-63	1998
Clare (Sloane-Seale) EASTON	Middleton, Ohio	1943-44	FALL, 2013
Heather FISH	Sparta ON	1962-63	Died in BC - 2013
Marguerite (Hastings) FYSH	Sarnia, ON	1942-44	January 1, 2014
Florence (Smith) KIPP	St. Thomas, ON	1970-80 Staff	January 13, 2014
Mary (Ballachey) Langan	Toronto, ON	1936-37	March 2007
Joan (Lazenby) McLANDRESS	Dutton ON	1949-50	March, 2013
Gwen (Jones) MORAWETZ	Peterborough ON	1945-46	September, 2012
Sonja (Burgess) O'MEARA	London, ON	1954-59	July 13, 2013
Barbara (Beattie) RYAN	Newmarket, ON	1958-59	2000
Anne Marie (Coates) SHUTTE	Ottawa ON	1962-63	June 18, 2013
Barbara Gail (Brown) SMITH	Welland ON	1951-55	2013
Diana (Rooke) VISE	Del Rio, Texas	1944-47	Dec. 2011
Dr. Ruth (Stark) WALSH	St. Thomas, ON	1970-88	Nov. 15, 2013

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DUES, DONATIONS, AND NETWORKING

### DUES

Annual dues are \$25. If you belong to a Branch, the Branch keeps \$10 and \$15 goes to the Alumnae Association. If you are a Member at larger - 100% stays with the Alumnae Association.

Dues are used to maintain the Alumnae website, pay the Post Office Box fee, subsidize reunion and get together expenses. It helps to cover the costs of the newsletter printing and mailing. We have determined that mailing remains the most effective way to distribute the newsletter. We mail out approximately 900 newsletters annually.

This year we will mail to Canadian and American alumnae. We may also include some European alumnae. In the future, we plan to move to email for those who choose not to pay dues. In 2013, fewer than 118 members paid dues which is just over 1% return ... not good!

Keep us informed of any changes to your contact information!

**Attention: It is critical for alumna in Bermuda to help us update the Bermuda Alumnae contact information.** In 2013, we mailed newsletters to Bermudian Alumnae only to have many of them returned. PLEASE, we need you help!

### DONATIONS

Congratulations Alumnae! You continue to be generous by giving back to Alma College. The General fund received donations totalling \$882. Thank you!

The Scholarship fund continues to grow and now stands at \$3,519. Please remember to bring your gently used **current** books for the sales table. Proceeds are donated to the Scholarship fund.

A special thank you to Pat Kirby, Evelyn Knight, and Bev Mustard for your generous donation of the raffle prizes. And to all alumnae who have donated their time to support the Association.

### NETWORKING

The website: [www.AlmaCollege.20m.com](http://www.AlmaCollege.20m.com) will have a networking page where alumnae can post information about their business, products or services. Maybe you make cakes, work at a spa, do massages, sell insurance. Are you a travel agent, realtor, plumber, doctor, lawyer, dentist or consultant? Perhaps you want to offer an Alma College Alumna discount for your (or your employers) service or product? Do you have a website?

Whatever it is, we would be more than pleased to get the news out there. Donna Robertson at [donnaro@rogers.com](mailto:donnaro@rogers.com) or 519-471-0855.

**Please take a moment to visit our newly revised website at  
[www.almacollege.20m.com](http://www.almacollege.20m.com)**

# Branch & Membership News

## LONDON ALUMNAE BRANCH REPORT

October 21 to 26, 2013

Private viewing of "TuEllys" Fall & Winter Fashions by Designer, Eleanor (Grimm) Graham, Alma - 1960-61.

October 22

Guests of St. Thomas Branch lunch/meeting at St. Thomas Golf Club followed by visit to Museum/Archives to view the "Alma Exhibit" featured until December. The exhibit moved to the Eva Brook Donly Museum & Archives in Simcoe on January 18th and will be featured until June 14, 2014.

November 6

A delicious luncheon and brief meeting was held at Aroma Restaurant. We visited, told Alma stories and wished a special Happy Birthday to Sandra (Irvine) Pearson.

December 14

Jean Dollar has hosted many Alumnae Christmas parties over the years and again this year, graciously welcomed us into her home. Potluck parties have turned into "catered" dinners which are guaranteed to be delicious and less work. Thank you Jean, your home was beautifully decorated and your hospitality, warm and welcoming.

New Year

Happy and Healthy New Year to all and Good-bye to Winter - We hope to visit with you at the June Reunion.

A hearty welcome to two Alumnae new to the London Branch. Kay (Howe) Sweetman from Sudbury, 1965-66 and Jill Hollands from Tavistock, 1958-59.

Submitted by Joni Pypka  
Myfanwy Matthews, London Branch President

## NEWS FROM ST. THOMAS BRANCH

On February 16th we held the "Valentine" meeting at the home of Jane Ann Tasker in Port Stanley with twelve members present.

June of course was the annual Reunion in London with many members attending -- great camaraderie and great food!

July 15th, a potluck dinner was hosted by Sine Herold. Seventeen "girls", including the London Branch, enjoyed the warm summer evening and a superb meal.

September 8th was a day well attended for a show of Alma's artistic talent at the Elgin County Museum. Evelyn Knight gave an interesting and informative talk of her work and her years at Alma.

In December, poinsettias were delivered to three shut-in members.

In 2014 we hope to have 4 or 5 meetings plus a joint London-St. Thomas Christmas meeting.

Hope to see you all there for the Annual Reunion in June!

Toujours en avant,  
Joyce Skelding, President

## BERMUDA TRIP, REUNION & ART SHOW

In 2009, 22 Canadian Alumnae boarded a plane heading to the beautiful island of Bermuda where we enjoyed a week at The Grotto Bay Beach Resort. Happy times abounded as we reunited with the Bermudian Alumnae on three formal occasions and many more times at their invitation. They were welcoming and wonderful! The trip was so successful and exciting, we are planning to do it again! The chosen dates are **April 27 to May 4, 2015**.

Alumna Patty (Coutts) Kirby (1967-70) will be featured in an Art Exhibit at City Hall in Hamilton, Bermuda from May 1 to 20, 2015. That will be exciting for Patty and also for us. At this time, prices have not been determined for 2015; however, a ballpark figure for group rate air fare and an

ocean view, superior room at Grotto Bay will be approximately \$1,400.00 (West Jet from Toronto to Bermuda and return).

I am still searching prices and, of course, will choose the BEST! A \$75.00 deposit now will hold a seat and guarantee your booking - the earlier a commitment, the cheaper the fare. Send \$75.00 cheque to me, please. Final details will be announced at the June Reunion. **PLAN TO LOOK FORWARD TO A WEEK IN BEAUTIFUL BERMUDA** now that you have the dates written on your calendar.

Joni (Page) Pypka,  
Phone: 519 681 6900, E-Mail: [pagegirl@rogers.com](mailto:pagegirl@rogers.com)  
602 Wilkins Street, London N6C 4Z4

## ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

### Executive Officers for Term: 2012-2014

<b>President</b>	Lisa Johnson
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pat (Duncan) Meathrell
<b>Secretary</b>	Barb (Christie) O'Brien
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sandra (Irvine) Pearson
<b>Past President</b>	Donna Robertson

**To contact any member of the Alma College Association Executive send an email to:**  
**[donnaro@rogers.com](mailto:donnaro@rogers.com)**

### Reunion Committee

Lisa Johnson	Joni (Page) Pypka
Pat (Duncan) Meathrell	Sandi (Miles) McCaig
Barb (Christie) O'Brien	Barb (Corkill) McCallum
Sandra (Irvine) Pearson	Donna Robertson
Joyce (Murison) Skelding	

### Branch Presidents for Term: 2011-2013

<b>London Branch</b>	Myfanwy Matthews
<b>StThomas Branch</b>	Joyce (Murison) Skelding

## Order Alma College LogoWare from "The Dip!"

Proceeds from all items support the Alma College Alumnae Association reunions and archives. Prices are in Canadian dollars. Shipping cost will be determined at time of order. To purchase and order items contact Sandra (Irvine) Pearson at [info@almacollege.20m.com](mailto:info@almacollege.20m.com) or 519-245-1118.

### New Alumnae Rings:

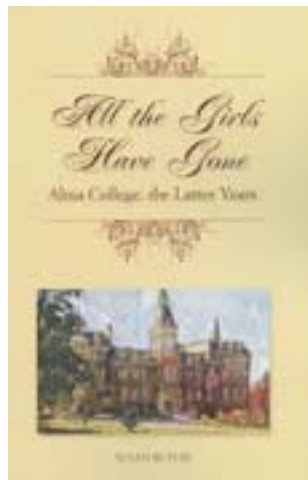
A local (London) custom jeweler will make the Alumnae sterling silver ring. The style is a simple oval signet ring with the Alma crest in the center. Above the crest Alma College is engraved & the years it stood are engraved below the crest all silver in a school ring style. Sample shown.

The rings are available to order for \$236.00 which includes tax and shipping in Canada. Please send an email to Donna Robertson if you are interested. We had our own metal die made and there is some profit for the Alumnae built into the ring cost.

If you are interested, please contact:  
Donna Robertson at 519-471-0855 or [donnaro@rogers.com](mailto:donnaro@rogers.com)



**COVER PHOTO:**  
**Peter Robson Limited Edition prints - "Golden Days" (newsletter cover picture) will be available for sale at a discounted price of \$50.00**



### All The Girls Have Gone: Alma College, the Latter Years by Susan Butlin

*Excerpt from the London Free Press*

Published by the Elgin County Archives, in partnership with the Alma College International Alumnae Association, Butlin's book tells of the international private girls' school in St. Thomas. It operated from 1877 to 1989, before enduring two bleak and confusing decades.

The old school was destroyed by fire on May 28, 2008. (Two teenage boys, 15 and 16 at the time, were later convicted of arson in Alma's destruction.) An earlier author's book, published in 1977, celebrated Alma's centennial. Given "carte blanche" by the Alma Book Committee for her work, Butlin found a way.

"I didn't want this book to be like a little caboose that wasn't related to anything, just trailing along and picking up the last few years," Butlin said. All The Girls Have Gone is no caboose. Butlin is on track, full of purposeful fire, on a powerful and fascinating ride into Canadian women's history. "I accepted the book commission because I felt that Alma College was a place where women could get education at a time when we were encouraged to lead very circumscribed lives," Butlin said. "Alma College offered a path to higher education for women."

Books are available at \$30 plus shipping.

**Other Alma College LogoWare items will be available at the June reunion. Be sure to check out the sales table.**

## ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Help us keep the Alumnae database up to date. To notify us if your contact information has changed, please email Membership Chair, Joni (Page) Pypka (54-55) at [pagegirl@rogers.com](mailto:pagegirl@rogers.com) or call Joni at 519-681-6900.

Please include your first name, maiden name, surname, current mailing address, phone number, and email information and remember to add the years you attended Alma College.

**WEBSITE:** [www.AlmaCollege.20m.com](http://www.AlmaCollege.20m.com) ✦ **MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 8084, London ON N6G 2B0

**Find us on Facebook -- Group "Alma College"**



# Alma College Alumnae Scholarship Committee



Pat Meathrell, Sameera Hasan, and Sandy Miles

The 2013 recipient of the Alma College Alumnae Scholarship was Sameera Hasan of St. Joseph's High School in St. Thomas. Pat Meathrell presented the award on June 27, 2013.

This year's scholarship will be awarded to a female student from Parkside Collegiate in St. Thomas.

For more information contact co-chairs:  
**Patricia (Duncan) Meathrell** (1964-69)  
meathrellpn@yahoo.com

**Pat (Elliott) Ruhl** (1964-66)  
bucktoothisland@gmail.ca

**Please bring your gently used current books to sell at the June Annual Reunion!**

## Alma College Influence on Canadian Culture Explored in New Exhibit at Elgin County Museum

"In assembling "The Fulcrum of the Arts: Canadian Culture and Alma College, 1881-1939" guest curator Susan Butlin and the Elgin County Museum brought together an exhibit rich with evidence that Alma College, especially in the years 1881-1939, was "much more than just a high school". Drawing from public and private collections, it also reunites many art works formerly in the Alma College art collection. They are shown alongside little before seen work by Alma art graduates, guest artist lecturers and teachers, and St. Thomas artists to narrate a story of the growth of the Alma College Fine Arts Department.

In the Sept/Oct 2013 edition of Relish Elgin, Susan Butlin wrote about the evolution of the exhibit and invites others to discover Alma's central role in the development of the Canadian Arts community.

At the exhibit's opening on April 8th, Elgin County Museum curator Michael Baker noted that it was 1 1/2 years ago when the museum had hosted Susan's talk on her book "All the Girls Have Gone" which brought the story of Alma to a close. That work led to discussion of taking a closer look at the college's contribution to culture in our region. Susan was on hand at the opening to highlight some aspects of Alma's role as a locus for the arts in the years before the advent of the Massey Commission. Several Alma alumnae were also

present - among them was **Evelyn Knight** who spoke about her experiences as an Alma day student and later art teacher, and the focal point the college was in her life."

<http://www.relishelgin.ca/20/post/2013/09/alma-collegeinfluence-oncanadian-culture-explored-in-new-exhibit-at-elgin-county-museum.html>  
**09/08/2013**



*Alma Alumnae in attendance at the exhibit opening*

*Back row l-r: Jackie Dawdy, June Cooper, Sandra Pearson, Donna Robertson, Jennifer Rush, Lisa Johnson, Alma Roberts.  
Front row l-r: Jean Dollar, Evelyn Knight, Mary Anne Neely, Mary Virginia Towers, Joyce Skelding*

# REUNION JUNE 2014 EVENTS

## Friday June 13th

Check in at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London

6:30 pm Meet in the Hospitality Suite. Ask the front desk for the number of the hospitality suite. Group will dine together in the hotel restaurant, Shelly's Tap and Grill (pay as you go).  
After dinner gather in the Hospitality Suite

## Saturday June 14th

9:00 am Registration & Coffee at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, Chelsea Room

10:00 am Annual General Meeting and Election - Chelsea Room

11:15 am Reunion photos

12:15 pm Buffet Luncheon - Chelsea Room

2:30 pm Social Time: Visit with alumnae in the hospitality suite, shopping at mall nearby, swimming, hot tub, giggling, general carousing or drive to St. Thomas.

5:30 pm Dinner at Mandarin located nearby (pay as you go)  
After dinner gather in the Hospitality Suite

## Sunday June 15th

10:00 am Breakfast at Shelly's Tap and Grill located at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London (pay as you go).

---

## REUNION JUNE 2014 ACCOMMODATIONS

### Best Western Lamplight Inn, London

This year, Reunion June 2014 will be hosted at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London. The hotel is located at 591 Wellington Road, London, Ontario, call them at 519 681-7151 or 1-888-232-6747. Directions are below.

If you are arriving in London by plane, bus, or train, please indicate this on your registration form and we will arrange to meet you.

### Room Rates

Standard Room double occupancy is **\$129.00 plus tax**

A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College". Prices are in effect until May 7th, 2014 unless the rooms are sold out. We recommend you book your room before April 30th, 2014.

**Hotel Website:** <http://http://www.lamplighterinn.ca/>

### Directions:

**From East:** From Toronto take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn north onto Wellington Road and the hotel is located within 4.0 kilometers on the left side.

**From West:** From Windsor take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn north onto Wellington Road and the hotel is located within 4.0 kilometers on the left side.



## Decade Gatherings

### Garden Party for 70s & 80s Alma Alumnae

In the summer, a dozen Alma girls from the 70's and 80's, together with Lara Leitch, Dawn Doty (honorary) and Sandi McCaig, our 60's ambassador and bringer of Alma memorabilia, gathered for fun and eats in Sondra Stewart's garden in Woodbridge, north of Toronto. Sondra and Kim Kelly got the fun going (and the neighbours amused) by decorating a "Maypole tree" on her front yard with much gusto. And dizziness. And giggling.

Sondra's garden was soon in full swing with homemade sangria and lots of comfy seating. The crew enjoyed great eats from a local Italian venue and all received special commemorative keepsakes made by Gaby Ruiz Alcazar. A few lucky girls even took home homemade Alma pillows made from Lara's kilt! Awesome times with new and old friends. Alma lives!

*Submitted by Sondra Stewart*



Back row l-r: Helen (Vaughan) Cedeno, Sharon (McKay) Kirby, Monica (Boone) Figuero, Jennifer Chinell, Sondra Stewart, Kim Kelly, Sylvia Shiell, Gaby Ruiz Alcazar  
Front row l-r: Lara (Masur) Leitch, Judy Nicholson, GERAL Billinghamurst, Yvonne Bassoon-Meyer, Dawn Doty (honorary), Brenda Sears

### The 1950s and 1960s Decade - A gathering of two groups in Toronto September 2013

This year the 50s girls had their get together at the same time as the 60s girls. We had a wonderful time, seeing friends we hadn't seen in over 50 years and meeting new friends. Each group had their own hospitality suite side by side so plenty of cross hall visiting. During the day on Saturday, some went shopping, to the movies, a city tour or just hung out in the hospitality suites looking at old pictures and sharing memories. Wine, juice and snacks were plentiful.

A 50/50 draw was held in support of the Scholarship Fund and won by Pat Moore who donated her share back to the Fund ... thank you Pat!! There was also a good selection of Alma items, including

pashminas, Tshirts, history books etc etc. We had a small silent auction including an old Alma candelabra, a drawing of Dangles Tweeny and a Wedgewood Alma plate with profits to the Scholarship Fund.

We all (about 50 of us) had dinner together on Saturday night at Bangkok Gardens where they prepared a wonderful Thai buffet for our group. After dinner it was back to the suites where we watched a video of Alma which sparked much conversation about those school days.

It was decided that we would aim for another get together in 2016 as the PanAm games will take over the city in 2015. So save the date 3rd weekend in September.

Organizers for 2013 were: Linda (McClatchie) Walsh, Barb (Christie) O'Brien, and Donna Robertson.

*Submitted by Donna Robertson*



**1950s Decade**

Ruth Whiteley, Pat Moore, Nancy Stormes, Marjorie Montano, Linda McClatchie, Stephanie Olsen, Suzanne Hood, Bonnie Maclean, Beth Helmer, Bea Laurie, Barb Johnston, Helen Wall, Judy Coates, Joni Page, Wendy Irvine, Sandra Irvine, Mary Jane Finley, Janet Pugsley, Sue Parker, Sue O'Hara, Rose Pitt



**1960s Decade**

Donna Robertson, Patricia Elliott, Barb Christie, Cecelia Whicher, Sandra Whicher, Margot Dennison, Christina McLaughlin, Janet Conklin, Diane Black, Marianne Sussex, Mary Wood, Molly Meuser, Laurie Stewart, Beth Shouldice, Toni Galbraith, Sandi McCaig, Carol Wilson, Jean Verity, Janet Bond, Mary Spencer, Sallie Winnett, Daphne Harker, GERAL Billinghamurst, Diane Ishida, Aline Groves, Lois Groves, Susan Bryson, Mary Gibb, Debbie Collie, Debra Burr