

Alma College International Alumnae Association

Newsletter 2015



The 40s Group



The 50s Group



The 60s Group



Photos from the 2014 June Reunion



The 70s & 80s Group



114th Annual Reunion is June 12-14th, 2015

Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London Ontario

www.AlmaCollege.20m.com

Find us on FaceBook at "Alma College"

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMNAE COUNCIL



Dear Alma Alumna

As I write this message to you, I am reminded of the strength of the alumnae association and friendships we have forged over the decades. Most recently we lost two well-loved, active alumnae, Mary Ann Neely and Lois (Foster) Drinkwalter. In addition to her years as a teacher at Alma College, Mary Ann played a pivotal role in preserving the student records, archives, and relics of Alma when the school closed. Mary Ann volunteered to help with many annual reunions. Lois was president of the International Executive and we could always count on Reverend Lois to say grace at the many alumnae events she attended -- even without warning. Both of these women represent the devotion to a much loved association by their support to Alma, their continuous attendance at reunions and events, and their extra alumnae community efforts. They will both be missed and will remain in our hearts. Please take a moment to remember those we have lost over the past year by reflecting on the "In Memoriam" section.

The Scholarship: As an alumnae group, we raised almost \$800 for the scholarship fund. Individual donations received through the registration forms totaled \$375, and on Reunion Saturday we raised an additional \$425 through a silent auction, raffle prizes, and the book sale. Thank you to the many alumnae for your generous donation of the raffle prizes. Thanks to Sandi (Miles) McCaig for running the book sale, and the Alma Girls who volunteered at the sales table. We are planning another silent auction and raffle to raise money for the scholarship fund. If you have any items you would like to donate, we would appreciate it.

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 News: The Alma College Alumnae Reunion June 2014 was a great success. Thank you for attending and keeping our association alive. I encourage you to come out to the next reunion, spend time with your old roommate, make a new alumna friend, and reminisce about your Alma days. More importantly write down your Alma anecdotes and send them to us to share with everyone at the reunion! Planning for the next reunion is already underway. Please put a hold in your calendars for June 12-14, 2015. See the details in the newsletter. I hope to see you there.

Toujours en avant!

Lisa M Johnson, 1985-86
President



ALMA ALUMNAE -- IN MEMORIAM

NAME	ADDRESS	ALMA YEARS	DATE OF DEATH
Jean (Sutherland) BOGGS	Ottawa, ON	1937-38	August 22, 2014
Jean CARR	St. Thomas, ON	1979-88	January 25, 2015
Doris (Dyke) COUPLAND	Petrolia, ON	1943-44	June 18, 2014
Theresa CUTLER	St. Thomas, ON	1937-40	November 26, 2014
Lois (Foster) DRINKWALTER	London, ON	1953-55	December 22, 2015
Barbara (Cawthra) HELSINGA	Port Rowan, ON	1954-55	2013
Jean (Cook) HOLLINGSWORTH	Strathroy, ON	1943-45	November 24, 2014
Margaret (Gander) HUNTER	St. Catharines, ON	1944-46	August 23, 2014
Peggy (Hanna) GRIFFITHS	Toronto, ON	1934-36	August 26, 2014
Jane (Bower) HYMEL	N. Vancouver, BC	1970-72	May 18, 2014
Romaine (Howden) JONES	Hamilton, ON	1934-35	1983
Mary McClINTOCK	Barrie, ON	1962-63	June 13, 2013
Jane (Sifton) McPHEE	London, ON	1951-53	1988
Mary Ann NEELY	St. Thomas, ON	1949-50	January 12, 2015
Carol Ann POWELL	Copper Cliff, ON	1952-56	20 years ago
Betty Ann (Fox) SALTUS	Barbados	1954-56	October 8, 2014
Ginger (Robbins) SIVERNS	Essex, ON	1953-55	December 19, 2014

THE IMPORTANCE OF DUES & DONATIONS

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 2014, 98 members paid dues which is just over 10% return.

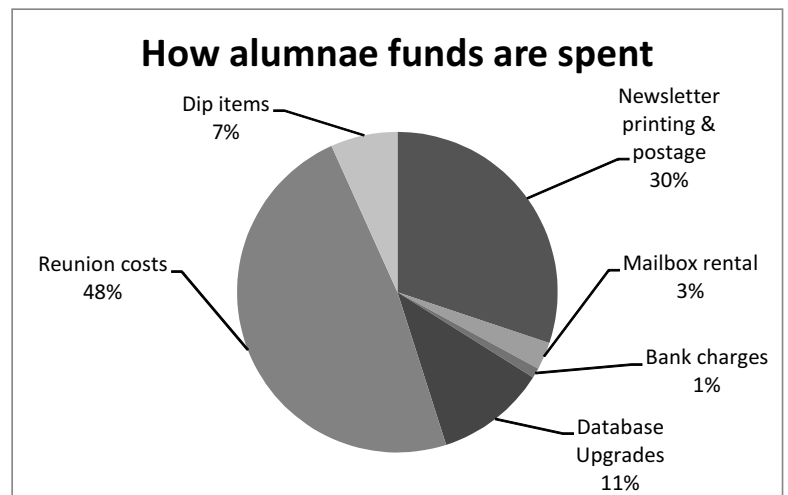
Keep us informed of any changes to your contact information!

DONATIONS

Congratulations Alumnae! You continue to be generous by giving back to Alma College. The General fund received donations totalling \$750. Thank you! The Scholarship fund continues to grow and now stands at \$3,811.

A special thank you to Pat Kirby, Evelyn Knight, Kay Howe Sweetma, Susan Goodwin Vorobel and Bev Mustard for your generous donation of the raffle prizes.

And to all alumnae who have donated their time to support the Association.



**Please take a moment to visit our newly revised website at
www.almacollege.20m.com**

Branch & Membership News

LONDON ALUMNAE BRANCH REPORT

Greetings to all Alumnae from London Branch members.

We do try to keep in touch with each other (lots of lovely lunches) and enjoy being a Social Group. Members were invited to President, Myfanwy Matthews' home in September to plan for the months of 2014-2015. In November, a lunch meeting and movie was planned at Henley Place, a long term care facility (opened Nov. 2013). Jill Hollands (1958-59) would be included with our visit. Unfortunately, that meeting was cancelled; but, will be re-scheduled in the spring.

As invited guests, St. Thomas Branch and London enjoyed a delicious Christmas luncheon at River Bend Golf Community. Jean (McKellar) Dollar's daughter, Margaret, travelled all the way from Burlington to entertain us as a "storyteller". She read two touching stories and was teary-eyed herself as she came to the end of the second story. Sally (McLorn) Ruffell has planned a February luncheon at "Saffrons", Fanshawe College's fine dining restaurant. We are happy when St. Thomas ladies can join us; here's hoping the weather will co-operate. Following the April meeting at Henley Place, we hope to see you in June!

Welcome to: Velma (Williams) Stover, St. Thomas, Student 1944-45 & Teacher, is in respite care at Grandwood Park Retirement Home and is recuperating from a cracked tail bone. She has decided to make this a permanent move. Sine Herold, St. Thomas, Teacher, 1960-65, has moved to River Bend Community, London. She will be a co-Branch member, St. Thomas and London. Janet (Moffat) McCulloch, 1940-42. I met Janet playing Bridge who informed me her sister, Nancy (Moffat) Trumper also attended Alma - 1940-42.

Other Alumna news: We are sad to say good-bye to Lois (Foster) Drinkwalter, 1953-55 and Mary Ann Neely of St. Thomas, student, 1949-50, office, teacher at Alma. Lois died on December 23, 2014 and Mary Ann on January 12, 2015. They were wonderful women!

We may well envy Marilyn (Anderson) Collyer in Florida for five weeks and Jean Dollar (John) spending three weeks of February in the Bahamas. Lisa Johnson is spending a

month in Trinidad to be with her mother who is not well. Lisa, we send our prayers for your mother's improved health and a safe journey for you.

Toujours en Avant,

Submitted by Joni Pypka
Myfanwy Matthews, London Branch President

NEWS FROM ST. THOMAS BRANCH

Hi to everyone from the St. Thomas Branch

Our usual February 2014 (valentine) meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and illness of many members.

However on April 24th a meeting was held at Union Golf and Country Club with 11 members in attendance. We held a "Spring Thaw and Draw", Also enjoyed a great day and a delicious lunch.

The next big event was of course the June Reunion held in London. Many members from far and wide were able to attend and enjoy a memorable time.

In December, Christmas poinsettias were delivered to 4 shut-in members in County residences or hospital. Also, In December, the London Branch hosted their annual Christmas party/luncheon. A few St. Thomas members were able to attend and enjoy the meal and a lovely afternoon at the RiverBend Community Centre in London.

During 2014 we were shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Louise Sifton's husband, Lyle. Also Teresa Cutler passed away in the Fall. As I write this in January 2015 we were very surprised and upset to hear of the death on January 12th of Mary Ann Neely.

Hopefully during 2015 we will be able to have more meetings and social times together. Also hoping to see many old friends and acquaintances at the 2015 Reunion.

Until then.....London-St. Thomas Christmas meeting.

Toujours en avant,
Joyce Skelding, President

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

Executive Officers for Term: 2012-2014

President	Lisa Johnson
Vice-President	Sandi (Miles) McCaig
Secretary	Barb (Christie) O'Brien
Treasurer	Sandra (Irvine) Pearson
Past President	Donna Robertson

**To contact any member of the Alma College
Association Executive send an email to:
donnar@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

London Branch	Myfanwy Matthews
StThomas Branch	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 the time of the order. To purchase and order items contact Sandra (Irvine) Pearson at 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.

**Peter Robson Limited
Edition prints - "Golden
Days" will be available for
sale at a discounted price
of \$50.00**

If you are interested, please contact:

Donna Robertson at 519-471-0855 or donnaro@rogers.com

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

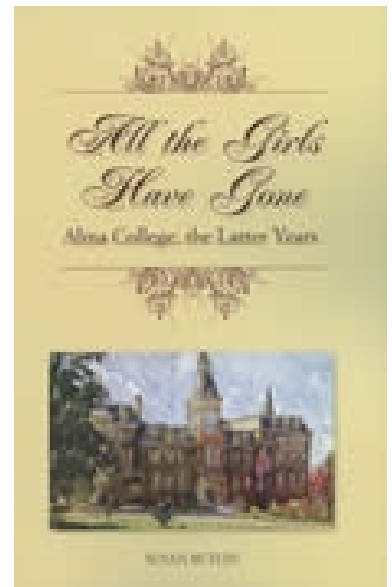
Excerpt from the London Free Press

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.

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 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 for \$30 plus shipping. If you are interested, please contact: Elgin County Archives at 519-631-1460 or Donna Robertson at 519-471-0855 (donnaro@rogers.com) or Sandra Pearson at 519-245-1118



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

Find us on Facebook -- Group "Alma College"

Alma College Alumnae Scholarship Committee

In October 2014, Alyssa Dimbleby, a graduating student from Parkside Collegiate Institute, was chosen to receive the Alma College Alumni Scholarship in the amount of \$500. In June 2015, a graduating student from Arthur Voaden Secondary School will receive the award. Their award ceremonies take place on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

It has been an exciting five years of watching deserving young women receive our Alma scholarship and know that we are continuing to keep Alma College alive in the city of St. Thomas. Some of the Alma scholarship winners have taken the time to learn a little more about Alma College while others are more aware of Alma through their family. This is reflected in the thank you notes we receive and it is nice to know that these young women appreciate the award they have been given.

As you know, one of the ways our committee raises money for the scholarship is through your generous donations and also through the sale of the used books that you bring each year to the annual reunion.

Last year, we started something new with our Silent Auction. This was very successful and we will do this again at the Reunion in June. If you have an item for the Silent Auction, please make sure it is ready to place on the table, as we will not have time to wrap items for you. There is \$3,811.58 in the Scholarship fund as of January 2015. See you in June.

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

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

Toujours en Avant.



Sandy Miles McCaig, Principal, and Alyssa Dimbleby

Archives

Composites

Do you remember the large group pictures that hung in the front hall and other walls at Alma? The Archives has put all the available Composites online, starting with 1918. In the 90s a number of these large Composites were sold. There was no place to store them at the time. A number of them have been donated back to the Archives where they make a digital copy of the large picture. After that they are taken apart and each student photo is scanned and is available online as well.

You can go online to
<http://inmagic.elgin-county.on.ca/ask/>
and filling in the search alma & composite & complete (including the &) and then pressing the green go button. This search currently gives you quick access to all the composites we have from 1918 to 1982-1983.

You can order a printed copy of a Composite through the Archives. There is a cost involved roughly \$30 I think but to confirm the availability of your year and the cost. Contact: Stephen Francom, Elgin County Archives, 519-631-1460, ext. 127 sfrancom@elgin-county.on.ca

Almafilians

The good news is the Archives have digitized all of our Almafilians and published them online for all to enjoy. You can browse (and print if you wish) any Almafilian by:

1. going online to <http://inmagic.elgin-county.on.ca/ask/>,
2. entering the search term "Almafilian & 1985-1986" (without the quotation marks) and pressing the green Go button,
3. at the next screen click on the link marked "Click to view details and more images",
4. at the next screen scroll down and click on the link marked "View Linked PDF",
5. enjoy browsing through the yearbook - you can also search the file by using the Ctrl-F function and typing in a name or other search term.

Donations to Archives Bequests

There are many thousands approx 6,000 Alma photos online in addition to those above. All this work costs money and the Alumnae is happy to help out whenever possible. There are about 50 boxes of documents from Alma which the Archives has catalogued and there is a cost to properly store all that. If you would like to make a donation to the Archives, that would be appreciated. You can do it through the Alumnae or if you send it directly to the Archives they will send you a tax receipt (for a \$25 or larger donation).

Think of Bequeathing to the Archives in your Will at some point we Alma girls will be gone? Through the Archives, Alma will live on.

Stephen Francom, Archivist/Manager
519-631-1460, ext. 127
sfrancom@elgin-county.on.ca
450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON, N5R 5V1

REUNION JUNE 2015 EVENTS

Friday June 12th

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 Room 101

Saturday June 13th

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

10:00 am Annual General Meeting - Chelsea Room

11:00 am Reunion photos

11:45 am Buffet Luncheon - Chelsea Room

Entertainment to follow lunch

3:00 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.

6:00 pm Dinner at The Mandarin (pay as you go)

After dinner gather in the Hospitality Suite Room 101

Sunday June 14th

9:00 am Breakfast at Shelly's Tap and Grill located at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London (pay as you go).

REUNION JUNE 2015 ACCOMMODATIONS

Best Western Lamplight Inn, London

This year, Reunion June 2015 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**. Rooms on Atrium are **\$139.00 plus tax**. A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College". Prices are in effect until May 30th, 2015 unless the rooms are sold out. We recommend you book your room before April 30th, 2015.

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.

Bermuda 2015 - Join us!

BERMUDA TRIP, REUNION & ART SHOW

Please join us from **April 28 to May 5, 2015** for a memorable Alma Trip (Reunion) to Bermuda where we will stay at the Grotto Bay Beach Resort.

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, we are excited about going to Bermuda again!

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.

If you are still interested in joining us for a marvellous time on this beautiful island and meet with Bermudian Alumnae, please call our Group Travel Specialist, Susanne Cook at Robert Q Travel, 105 Wharnccliffe Road, South, London ON N6J 2K2 Phones: 519-672-9020; Toll Free: 1-800-265-5972. E-Mail: scook@robertq.com

If you have questions I will be happy to respond enthusiastically.

Joni (Page) Pypka
Phone: 519 681 6900
E-Mail: pagegirl@rogers.com

Enjoy the photos below from the 2009 trip to Bermuda! It is obvious how much fun the Alma alumnae had.

