

Message from the President

Donna Robertson (62-66)

Dear Alumnae,

Another year has flown by... not to be negative but, our numbers are shrinking. The London Branch is no longer. Members are older now and we have not recruited any younger girls. I hope we will have a recruitment drive before too long and reconnect some 60s, 70s and 80s girls. The St Thomas Branch made the effort and their Branch is doing very well. Several of us from London went to their last meeting, thanks for that invite!

Facebook has become a major social media method for Alma girls. Our page name is simply Alma College, go there and ask to join. If you don't regularly get our newsletter, send me your mailing address, email and phone so that we can update our database. We have about 415 Alma girls on our facebook page.

Alumnae Contact Information:

www.AlmaCollege.20m.com (Check the guestbook, look at current reunion info and more)

Facebook: Alma College (request to join)

Elgin County Archives Search: <http://inmagic.elgin-county.on.ca/ask/advanced-search.aspx>

(follow instructions to find thousands of Alma pictures & documents)

International Past-Presidents



Back row: Donna Robertson, Laurie (Stewart) Pallett, Lisa Johnson
Front row: Evelyn Knight, Barbara (Corkill) McCallum, Jean (McKellar) Dollar, and Mary Virginia Towers

Association Dues:

Your dues and donations are critical to support Alumnae activities. The website and database have fees. It is expensive to produce the newsletter and mail it out, eventually we will have to mail it only to those who pay dues. Archives and Museum need support. The Scholarship Fund is growing, hopefully it will outlive us. A PO Box costs money.

Dues: \$25 a year. Mail to:

Alma College Alumnae, PO Box 8084,
London, ON N6G 2B0

Or e-transfer to donnaro@rogers.com

Membership:

Joni Pypka and I have the Alma College Database. If you move, change email address, phone number, please let us know. Also we may be able to help you find an Alma friend.

Joni Pypka - pagegirl@rogers.com. 519-681-6900

DonnaRobertson - donnaro@rogers.com 519-471-2113

Girls who attended in 1968, this is your 50th Reunion
Those from 1958, your 60th!! There is a push in the works by Brenda Nesbitt Kitching (68) & Doris Johnston McKinley (58) to have you attend the Annual Reunion in June.

Please support your Alumnae
Toujours,

Donna Robertson 62-66



Nine Years After The Fire, A Brick From Alma College Initializes Healing For Ivan Zinn, From an article written by Ian McCallum, City Scope

Vilified for his role in the blaze that hastened the demise of iconic Alma College in St. Thomas, nine years later a shadow has been lifted from Ivan Zinn's past.

On May 28, 2008, Zinn and a fellow Arthur Voaden Secondary School student scrambled through a back window into Alma College where they set fire to a mattress found under a stairwell, little expecting "all hell to break loose" as described by a member of the St. Thomas Police Service during a taped interview.

Just 15 at the time he and the co-accused were charged with arson and on September 24, 2009, Justice Donald Ebbs sentenced them to two years probation, the maximum allowed under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. In addition, they were to undertake 240 hours of community work.

Just days after the ninth anniversary of the conflagration at the former school for girls built in 1878, Zinn and his fiancée Melissa Da Silva accepted an invitation to speak at this year's reunion of the Alma College International Alumnae Association held in London. It was Da Silva who communicated via Facebook with Donna Robertson, President of the alumnae association, and then encouraged Zinn to accept Robertson's invitation to attend.

"It was for closure," stressed Zinn. "Both for the alumnae and myself. I felt a lot of anxiety for the first hour being there. But the whole time I was there I had many ladies come up to me and say how brave I was just for showing up. In a way, I never had any doubts about

doing this. It is something I needed to do and wanted to do. I just stuck in there and did it. "After he was done speaking, a lot of them stood up and gave him a standing ovation," Da Silva pointed out. "When they sat down, they were asking questions and everyone seemed so comfortable talking back and forth and I can't tell you how many women came up and told him how courageous he was and how thankful they were he came. They were beyond incredible. They were so loving, so understanding and so patient."

As a token of appreciation, the alumnae association presented Zinn with a distinctive yellow brick, engraved with the birth and death dates of Alma College.

"That was the turning point for him," Da Silva observed. "On the way home he got pretty emotional talking about it. When Alma burnt down, a lot of his life went with it. When they handed the brick to him, it was like they were giving him his life back. And when I left it felt like my life was different. And that shadow that had been following him for nine years, it felt like it just left." "The way that I looked at it," reflected Zinn, "the moment I left the hotel me and another boy took a huge building away from the alumnae and all of St. Thomas – the historic value of it. The moment I received one small brick felt like it made up for it. It just went away. It was totally a token of gratitude and appreciation and respect for showing up and giving them (the alumnae) piece of mind.

"I had had nothing but negative thoughts about the impact of the Alma College fire and now I have this brick, it represents something totally different and positive."



Ivan Zinn proudly shows his Alma brick

Alma College Students 1957-58

It's been 60 years!

At the Alma College Reunion on June 8, 9, and 10, 2018, it will be our 60th year since attending Alma College, and this will probably be the last chance for us all to get together.

Send in your registration NOW and we'll see you in June!

Toujours en Avant!
Doris (Johnston) McKinley

Alma College Alumnae - In Memoriam

We take a moment to remember our alumnae

Alumna name	Resident City	Years at Alma	Date of Death
Marilyn “Lyn” (Bates) ALLEN	Aylmer/Toronto, ON	1946-48	August, 2017
Phyllis BARNWELL	London, ON	1920/30s	2012
Ann (Hanselman) HARE	Sarasota, FL formerly Delhi, ON	1954-55	October, 2016
Greta JONES	Pembroke, Bermuda	1949-51	June, 2017
Helena (Gallay) KOHANYI	Toronto, ON	1957-58	May 2014
Michele (Newton) LAPTISTE	Vineland, ON formerly Trinidad	1986-88	September, 2017
Kathryn (Jefferies) McNIVEN	Toronto, ON	1943-44	October, 2017
Cynthia (Stevens) POSTLEWAITE	Pembroke, Bermuda	1950-52	June, 2017
Marion (Robinson) RAMSAY	Walkerton, ON	1963-64	October, 2017
Rosita (Fernandez) RIVERA	Unknown	1957-58	October, 2017
Dorothy (Leboutillier) SAVOIE	Halifax, NS	1962-65	January 1984
Avery (Jones) SMITH	Pembroke, Bermuda	1949-53	May, 2011
Jean (Smith) STRUTHERS	Sarnia, ON	1938-40	October, 2017
Carol (Bellinger) TROTT	Madeira Beach, FL	1954-58	November, 2017

Message from the St. Thomas Branch

Barb (Corkill) McCallum

Greetings Everyone!

On Monday, March 6th, 2017, 21 ladies and 1 gentleman enjoyed lunch at the Bistro, in St. Thomas.

On August 28, 14 members attended a Pot Luck at the home of Jane Ann Tasker. The weather wasn't perfect, but the company was!

President Pat Meathrell spoke about the Scholarship Fund. This year's recipient was Erica Hickingham, from St. Joe's. Next year, the scholarship will go to a student from Parkside.

The Monday, November 13th meeting was held again at the Bistro and 24 London and St. Thomas members attended. We all enjoyed a lovely lunch and the visiting. We are all looking forward to the 2018 Reunion in June, at the Lamplighter.

We will meet again in April, and then we will see everyone at the Reunion!

Toujours en avant,
Barb McCallum, Secretary

St. Thomas Executive

Co-President, Pat (Duncan) Meathrell * Co-President, Sine (Loudon) Herold
Treasurer, Jane Ann (Macdonald) Tasker * Secretary, Barb (Corkill) McCallum



Alumnae Wall of Fame

Donor List 2017

Jean (McKellar) Dollar
Debra (Burr) Downing
Barbara (Turchan) Fender
Billie (Gough) Grainger
Robin Hamilton
Barb (Johnston) Hansen
Sharon (McKay) Kirby
Anne (Wasylyk) Koivu
Bernice (Daugherty) Kristoferson
Anne Leeson
Dinah (Dayus) MacDonald
Myfanwy Matthews
Barb (Corkill) McCallum
Doris (Johnston) McKinley
Dorothy (Woodman) McPherson
Patricia (Duncan) Meathrell
Holly (Utting) Montgomery
Laurie (Stewart) Pallett
Suzanne Parkinson
Sandra (Harrington) Peterson
Joni (Page) Pypka
Shirley (Kelly) Quinn
Marietta Roberts
Patricia (Elliott) Ruhl
Jane (Beatty) Rutledge
Joyce (Murison) Skelding
Sondra Stewart
Margaret (Webb) Warriner



Alma Alumnae Scholarship Fund

St. Thomas female student beneficiary

2017 Recipient of \$500

The 2017 recipient of the Alma College Alumnae Scholarship was Erika Hickingbottom, a graduating student from St. Joseph's Catholic High School. Nancy Kedzierski presented Erika with her scholarship on Thursday, June 29, 2017.

2018 to be awarded

A graduating student from Parkside Collegiate will receive the next Alma College Alumnae Scholarship. The award ceremonies take place on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7:00.

Your generosity shines

Thank you for your continued generosity through your donations to the scholarship fund. We have also had great success fundraising at the annual reunion. Please consider sending in a donation with your registration form or participate in the fundraising (live auction & 50/50) planned for the upcoming reunion.

The high schools in St. Thomas wait in anticipation to be next in line for the scholarship award that benefits the young women in St. Thomas.

See you June!

For more information contact:

Patricia (Duncan) Meathrell (64-69)

meathrellpn@yahoo.com

Apartment buildings proposed for old Alma College site

By Laura Broadley, St. Thomas Times-Journal

<http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2018/02/20/apartment-buildings-proposed-for-alma-college-site>

It's been a harrowing last few decades for the site of the former Alma College, but things could be turning around as new developers have landed in St. Thomas.

Alma College closed its doors as a school in the mid-1990s, and was eyed by multiple developers over that last 20 years but ultimately many ideas were abandoned. It was left crumbling until a fire in 2008 kicked it off its last legs.

But it looks like the site may have a new lease on life if Michael Loewith of Toronto-based Loewith-Greenberg Communities gets his way.

Loewith presented to city council's reference committee Tuesday the idea to put three apartment buildings on the Moore Street site.

Loewith found the Alma College site last summer and fell in love with it. The history of the site had a lot to do with it, the self-described history buff said.

"When we saw the actual site we were intrigued by the beauty," Loewith said.

Loewith said he wants to meld history with modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

Loewith-Greenberg Communities specializes in large and luxurious suites with projects in many communities including Woodstock and Waterloo.

The middle of the three buildings would include a façade replicating that of the old college's. That apartment complex would be on the site of the old college building. "We think it honours the past, it honours the people that have studied there," Loewith said.

Loewith said he wants to develop the site while respecting and understanding the past.

There are 400 units in total with floor plans still in the works.

Loewith's company doesn't own the land, so his vision is still just that, a vision.

"It's happening if we get the approvals," Loewith said. "We need zoning approvals."

In line with the rest of council Mayor Heather Jackson voiced her support for the project. For 10 years the city has waited for a developer to come in with a proposal like this, she said.

Jackson said there was "no better use" for the former Alma College site than residential.

Donna Robertson, president of Alma College International Alumni, said she likes the plans for the site but she's skeptical of whether it will come to fruition.

"If it happens and something somewhat resembles what used to be there then I think it's great. But it's been so many years that different developers have said different things," Robertson said.

Robertson, who went to Alma College in the 1960s, runs the alumni group to keep the 800 or so active members connected.

Loewith-Greenberg Communities hasn't contacted Robertson about the developments but she's hoping they will let her group bring a little bit of history alongside the new complex, perhaps a corner somewhere or a piece of garden to pay homage to the site's past.

Reunion 2017

1940s



1950s



1960s



1970s & 1980s



Reunion June 2018

Weekend of June 8-10

Friday June 8, 2018

- 4:00 pm Check in at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London
4-6:30 pm Meet in the hospitality suite. Ask the front desk for the room number of the hospitality suite.
6:30 pm Group will dine together in the hotel restaurant, Shelly's Tap & Grill (pay as you go).

Saturday June 9, 2018

- 9:00 am Registration & Light Breakfast at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, Chelsea Room
10:00 am Annual General Meeting
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 the mall nearby, swimming, hot tub, giggling, general carousing or drive to St. Thomas
6:00 pm Dinner at the Mandarin (pay as you go)

Sunday June 10, 2018

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

Accommodations

Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Road
London, ON

519-681-7151
or 1-888-232-6747

<http://www.lamplighterinn.ca>

Room Rates

Standard Rooms double occupancy is \$139 plus taxes. Atrium view is \$149 plus taxes.
A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College".

Prices in effect until
May 25th, 2018.

We recommend you
book early!

Reunion Fee - \$50

(Includes light breakfast and
hot buffet luncheon)

Reunion June 2017

Group Photo of Attendees

