



Message from the President

Donna Robertson (62-66)

Hello Alma Alumnae

We have in the past mailed out about 800 newsletters each year. The average response / return per year has been about 125. Postage is a major expense. This year we went through the database and identified all those who have made a donation or paid dues in the last 3 years. Anyone who is not in that category won't get a newsletter mailed to them. We will adjust on a yearly basis.

The newsletter is available to read on our website at www.almacollege.20m.com. You can also see and print out the registration form from that site.

Alma Property

Finally! After a couple of years of negotiations, the builder has permission to proceed with his plan to develop the Alma property. The requirement to replicate the facade was waived. There will be three apartment buildings and numerous historical plaques around the area. Michael Loewith, the builder will attend the reunion to bring us up to date.

Scholarship Fund

Congratulations! We did reach our initial goal of **\$25,000** and that is now locked in as an Endowment. Of course that money will fluctuate with the stock market. We have invited the London Community Foundation to speak at the reunion and answer any questions.

Endowment Funds are made up of two components: a locked in portion (endowment) and a spendable portion (annual scholarship). Each year, the Association will decide how much of the current year's donations will move to the endowed portion. The spendable portion is used to pay for the annual scholarship. It is our goal to increase the annual scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000.

Thank you for your donations to date. Remember too that

you can gift money in your will. Your estate will get a tax receipt, which is a good thing.

Alma girls came through again! In 2009, it was just an idea of Pat Elliott Ruhl's. Ten years later, we have ensured that Alma's name will live on forever. Be proud!

Fundraising

This year at the reunion we hope to auction off a few gift baskets. If you or your group would like to donate a gift basket for auction we would be thrilled! Just let us know ahead of time. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The money will go to the scholarship fund.

Facebook

In addition to the website, we have a very active facebook page "Alma College International Alumnae Association". This is where we post news such as Obituaries, Alumnae Association news and events. We welcome new members, there are about 450 members currently. Join us and connect with old and new friends.

Database

We have a good database with about 800 current addresses. Alumnae often move or change phone numbers or email and don't let us know. We usually find out you have moved when your newsletter is returned. It's important to keep the data up to date. I am regularly asked for contact information from old friends looking for old friends.

Please join us at the June 2020 Reunion. Hard to say how many more reunions there will be!

Bring along a used purse or two, filled with items for women in a local shelter!

We very much appreciate your support.

Donna Robertson, 62-66

donnaro@rogers.com

Branch Reports

London and St. Thomas

St. Thomas Branch Report

On April 29th, 2019, 23 St. Thomas and London ladies met for lunch at The Bistro (in St. Thomas). We enjoyed good food and our time together. We agreed to meet at The Wayside next time, because of better parking and accessibility.

Our next official meeting was on October 8th, at The Wayside. 21 Alma ladies from St. Thomas and London attended. We enjoyed our time together, as we always do!

Smaller groups got together throughout the year, at the Buccaneer and the Union Golf Club.

We are looking forward to the Annual Reunion in June. Come out and join us, and reconnect with friends! See you there.

Barb (Corkill) McCallum, 67-68
Secretary, St. Thomas Branch

London Branch Report

The Alma College Alumnae/London Branch has again been active this past year. Last spring, ten of us went to the Grand Bend Theatre, to a high energy tribute concert, "One Stage-5 Legends" Elvis Presley (Steve Michaels) and four other incredible performers. On our way there, we stopped off at a small restaurant in Parkhill for lunch, where we enjoyed some delicious food before the show!

In the fall, the St. Thomas Branch invited us to join them at a couple of their lunch dates, and many of our group enjoyed meeting with them.

In October, a small group of us got together, to learn how to make personal greeting cards. Joni Pypka (1954-1955) was our ambitious teacher, and we had fun making, Get Well, Anniversary, Birthday cards, etc.! After each of us had finished our creations, we went to Fionn MacCool's Restaurant for lunch (a new one in the area), where we were joined by a few more Alumnae.

Then on December 7th, we had a good turnout at the Swiss Chalet Restaurant, for our Annual Christmas lunch, where we had great conversations, prizes, draws, favors, and lots of laughs, and of course delicious food! We were happy to have Marie Clark Nutt (1948-1950) and her daughter, Tammy, join us from Exeter (thanks to the weather). Everyone paid their Alumnae dues for the coming year.

We don't plan activities in the winter, but plans are already in the air for the upcoming spring.

If you are interested in joining us for some fun activities, please call me at (519) 673-3560, or contact me via e-mail at bd.mckinley@bell.net.

Doris (Johnston) McKinley, 57-58
President, London Branch



Alma Alumnae London Branch Christmas 2019 gathering at Swiss Chalet in London

Arizona February 2020

A reunion will be held in Arizona on February 28th. Thank you to Suzanne Hood Campbell 59-64 for organizing.

The following will be attending:
Lynda Mae (Prong) Jenner, 64-65
Kay (Greenhough) Roach, 55-58
Sharyn (Collie) Diamond, 60-62
Laurie (Schmalz) Hugill, 60-63
Susan Ann (Fearnside) Scholefield, 70-72
Mary Lee (Lendon) Knutson, 54-56
Elissa (Moscoe) Lyman, 83-86
Carolina (Gamboa) Adriani, 82-83

Alma College Alumnae - In Memoriam

We take a moment to remember our alumnae



Alumna Name	Resident City	Years at Alma	Date of Death
Ann Amy Dey	Mississauga	1963-65	July 4, 2019
Joan Murray Floyd	London	1947-49	October 3, 2018
Yvonne Uesson Gustanison	Sweden	1968-69	1993
Marjorie French Houston	Waterloo	1943-45	February 23, 2017
Susan Johnstone	Guelph	1965-66	December 6, 2019
Kathy Jewell Kurchak	Sudbury	1960-63	July 23, 2019
Eleanor Kimpton Leask	Waterloo	1963-64	April 20, 2016
Gwen Snelgrove Lee	London	1948-49	Unknown
Marion Lyle	St Thomas	1965-69	July 12, 2019
Shirley Edwards McCluggage	Midland	1947-49	May 30, 2019
Alice Affie Medema	London	1957-59	June 28, 2019
Karen Kersey Mulgrew	Winnipeg	1960-61	August 5, 2005
Barbara Murison	London	1964-75	Dec 23, 2019
Marilyn Blair Oliver	Toronto	1954-55	November 16, 2019
Rosita Rosado Priego	Mexico	1981-82	August 22, 2018
Maritza Higuera Ruiz	Boca Raton, Fla	1954-55	March 24, 2019
Inez Nicholson Shaw	Amhersburg	1953-55	December 2018
Dr. Etsuko Toguri	Aurora, ON	1942-45	November 30, 2019
Jessie Cowan Troyer	St. Thomas	1948-49	October 22, 2019
Evelyn Turner	Toronto	1944-46	October 28, 2019
Pat Mortimer Watson	Netherlands	1942-44	Fall of 2019

Reunion Years

We need hostesses for the reunion years listed below. If you would be interested in contacting people from any of these years, please let us know at donnaro@rogers.com. We can provide alumnae names and contact information. A good turn out from your years always makes for a better reunion experience.

40 years: 1979-80 ♦ **50 years:** 1969-70

Mari (Carter) Cole and Marion (Davidson) Jagger will be the hostesses for 1959-60, see their message below.

M.J. (Callender) Foster will be the hostess for the 64-65 group. Connect with MJ at m.j.foster@bell.net or (905) 935-2912.

Let's Celebrate Our 60th Reunion

Save the date and come for an hour, a day, or best yet the whole weekend! Mark your calendar now for June 5, 6 & 7, 2020 and come to the Alma College Alumnae Reunion to be held at The Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn, London.

Complete the registration form enclosed and come out to join us. Please call the hotel (519 681-7151) to reserve your room and ask for the special Alma College Group rate.

Let us remember the years when we were young (and foolish) and do it over a glass of wine! There is still an Alma girl inside of all of us – let us revive and celebrate her! Mari Carter Cole and Marion Davidson Jagger are excited to host the 1960 group as it is 60 years since we graduated. Help us celebrate that we are surviving! Tell your friends who may not be on our list. Please let us know asap if you are interested.

As mentioned by President, Donna Robertson, newsletters will only be mailed to those who have paid dues or made a donation within the last 3 years. Please continue to pay your dues and make donations.

Mari Carter Cole, mari_cole2000@yahoo.ca, 519-380-0225 or Marion Davidson Jagger, marionjagger@shaw.ca, 250-594-6616.

Alumnae Wall of Fame

Donor List for the Alma College Scholarship Fund

Kate Pollock Baty, 58-59
Ileana Suarez Berthoty, 46-48
Ann Dobson Bowman, 62-64
Christine Folberth Bultmann, 82-84
Judith Harvey Burgess, 61-62
Janet Bond Butler, 63-67
Rose Pitt Cole, 53-55
Carolyn Newman Collier, 50-51
Marilyn Anderson Collyer, 50-54
Barbara Cross (Aylmer)
Nancy Mitson Dickson, 54-57
Jean Mckellar Dollar, 43-50
Wendy Irvine Ens, 61-63
Barb Ramsay Evans, 63-66
Stephanie Cosser Farnsworth, 57-59
Barbara Turchan Fender, 48-53
M. J. Callender Foster, 64-65
Barb Lamb Jinkerson, 64-65
Sharon McKay Kirby, 69-71
Evelyn Smith Knight, 45-47
Anne Wasylyk Koivu, 41-44
Ruth Lewis Londry, 63-68
Gerre Lynch Loveless, 64-67
Susan McClatchie Mackenzie, 64-66
Barb Corkill McCallum, 67-68
Doris Johnston McKinley, 57-58
Dorothy Woodman McPherson, 58-59
Judith Neale Holtzhauer, 53-56
Laurie Stewart Pallett, 57-62

Sandra Irvine Pearson, 53-55
Sandra Harrington Peterson, 63-66
Lesley Dodwell Pierce, 63-64
Shirley Kelly Quinn, 67-68
Kathleen Greenhough Roach, 55-58
Donna Robertson, 62-66
Patricia Elliott Ruhl, 64-66
Laurie Schmalz Hugill, 60-63
Ann-Louise Stevens, 54-60
Joanne Nixon Stover, 51-52
St. Thomas Alma College Alumnae
Mary Virginia Towers, 51-53
Evelyn Turner, 44-46
Catherine Snyder Vallee, 67-69
Margaret Thom Wakefield, 61-66
Margaret Webb Warriner, 55-56
Diane McCrady Wastle, 66-67
Christina McLachlin Watkins, 62-65
Bonnie Woudstra, 63-66

At the 2019 June reunion, a motion was passed to transfer funds from the Alma College International Alumnae Association's general funds to achieve the goal of \$25,000. The transfer was completed after the reunion.



Journey Down Memory Lane at Reunions
During the 2019 June Reunion, Marie (Clark) Nutt, 48-50, is seen pointing to a photo of her younger self.

Our guest speaker, Gina Dewaele, Elgin County Archives, showed old photos and a restored home movie taken by the father of a 1949 Alma student during May Day and graduation.



Alma Alumnae Scholarship Fund

St. Thomas female student beneficiary

2019 Recipient of \$500

The 2019 recipient of the Alma College Alumnae Scholarship was Emma Huston, a graduating student from Arthur Voaden Secondary School. Sandi McCaig Miles presented Emma with her scholarship on Thursday, June 27, 2019.

2020 Recipient to be awarded

A graduating student from Central Elgin Collegiate Institute will receive the next Alma College Alumnae Scholarship.

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 greatly appreciate The Alma College Alumnae Scholarship award that benefits the young women in St. Thomas.

Alma College Scholarship Fund Donations

As the Alma Archives and Relics at the Elgin Museum recently received a substantial donation, we would like to encourage alumnae to donate towards the Alma Scholarship held at London Community Foundation. You will receive a tax donation for \$20 and over.

5th Annual Alma Alumnae Purse Project

For Homeless Women

The past four years, we have collected purses for homeless women in the London area. Each purse was generously filled by alumnae with a variety of practical items. The Purse Project has been very popular, and the homeless women loved the purses. Thank you for the kindness that you have shown these women.

We would like to make this the 5th year for the purse project. We ask that you please bring any used purses filled with items for homeless women. We will collect the purses at the reunion in June and they will be delivered to two shelters in London.

You can use your old purses or buy inexpensive purses at the Goodwill. Feel free to fill several purses if you

We did it! Our goal is to accumulate at least \$25,000 to allow for an annual scholarship in perpetuity was achieved last June. Your continued donations to the scholarship fund will allow us to achieve our next goal of increasing the scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 each year.

To make a gift to the Alma College Scholarship Fund, please send your donation by cheque to: **London Community Foundation** and indicate it is for the "Alma College Scholarship".

Their address is:

Covent Garden Market
130 King Street
London, ON N6A 1C5

You can also donate online at www.lcf.on.ca by selecting 'Donate' and follow instructions.

If you have any questions, you can contact:

Diane Silva, Director, Philanthropy
at 519.667.1600 ext. 207
or via email at dsilva@lcf.on.ca.

See you in June!

For more information contact:
Patricia (Duncan) Meathrell, 64-69
meathrellpn@yahoo.com

can. If you can't get a purse, use a backpack or simply a bag. Do not put cash in the purses, a Tim Hortons Card or other type of gift card is a better option. Any personal care items such as soap, toothpaste/brush, deodorant, lipstick, notepad & pen, socks, snacks etc. are welcome. Use your imagination and check out the Dollar Store.

The homeless women are so appreciative. Thank you in advance for participating.



The Future of the Alma College International Alumnae Association

Lisa Johnson (85-86), Past-President

Intent

The reason for this document is to express my concerns about two aspects of the longevity of the alumnae association: Its future, and ongoing communications.

The Future

Over the past 25 years, members of the Alma College International Alumnae Association have dedicated their time to preserving the history of Alma College and what it stood for. A list of accomplishments is included later in this article.

The school is physically gone but Alma's legacy lives on through the establishment of the annual scholarship fund and the preservation of the archives and relics. Recently, alumnae also supported the construction of apartments to be erected on the Alma property. The developers have promised the City of St. Thomas that they will recognize the history of the College by incorporating images of Alma within the buildings and grounds.

I have been an active member of the alumnae association since my graduation in 1986, dedicating many hours to keeping Alma alive. Over the past few years as my personal obligations and career commitments have changed, and with age as I have less energy, I have begun to struggle with keeping up and setting Alma volunteer work as a priority. As a result, I have also questioned the purpose and future of Alma College's alumnae association.

What is the future of the Association and what is our strategy for achieving that future? What are the next goals of the Association especially as we have purposefully ensured protecting Alma's heritage with the archives and the scholarship? What's left to do? Are we just a reunion committee with the same individuals doing all the work? Do we still need to be accountable to the group specifically for the management of the bank account? We are not attracting younger alumnae and it is obvious that alumnae from the 80s and the late 70s are not going to come to reunions, and do not intend to keep the Association going. Is there even a reason to modernize communication to appeal to those decades?

Recommendation

As the population of the active alumnae ages, a strategy for the future of the Association can help guide decisions. I recommend that a small committee

is struck to develop a future strategy plan to include the management of the bank account, frequency of reunions, communication, and a mechanism for decision-making related to the investment and spendable portions of the endowed scholarship fund.

Communications

Keeping in mind that the future strategy for the Association might impact the current forms of communication, their current purpose has been to keep alumnae informed about the status of the Alma property, communicate details about the reunions, and to encourage alumnae to stay connected. Effective communication is important in keeping alumnae connected.

WEBSITE: Originally created to attract younger alumnae but this demographic is more likely to interact using Facebook and Instagram. The website is still a good tool for alumnae news including annual reunions.

In order for the website to be effective, it needs to be regularly updated. It is currently static as I do not have time to make frequent changes. Today's challenge is the Guestbook that is continuously hacked. Even after much investigation, we cannot guarantee that it will not be hacked on a daily basis. What is the goal of the Guestbook? Is there a better platform to achieve the goal?

NEWSLETTER: The annual newsletter is always well-received and the alumnae enjoy reading about what's happened over the past year. On many occasions, we have discussed moving from printing hundreds of newsletters to an electronic format available on the web and distributed via email. However, with the current demographic of the Association, the preference is still paper format. Donna does a great job of compiling the newsletter content.

FACEBOOK: This form of media appears to be a great forum for alumnae communication and interaction. It is current and active. The drawback is the quick drop off of messages as new ones are added.

Recommendation

I recommend that a small committee be struck to develop a communications strategy that incorporates the goals determined for the future. The plan should outline

Future of Association

Continued

and confirm the purpose and intent of communications from the various sources.

I also recommend that we outsource the work associated with the website and newsletter, to achieve these benefits:

- Ensure the dedicated time required to meet timelines and keep fresh and active
- The website would be managed on a daily/weekly schedule to monitor the Guestbook and to add new and current information
- Dedicated management of the website will address concerns about privacy and cyber security
- Individual / small business can respond to requests in a timely manner, in particular those looking for fellow alumna
- The newsletter can be converted to a format that is more user-friendly for electronic distribution and adapted for all platforms: mobile devices, tablets, laptops, etc.

Alumnae Association Accomplishments over the past 25 Years

- Student records and transcripts transferred to the Ministry of Education, and school archives removed and placed with the Elgin County Museum
- Alumnae records were digitized to support communication to alumnae
- Creation of an alumnae website
- Modernization of the annual alumnae newsletter
- Updated the Bylaws to ensure the purpose of the Association remains relevant after Alma College ceased operations and the buildings were destroyed
- Establishment of a fund to disburse an annual scholarship award
- Transfer of the management of the scholarship fund to the London Community Foundation and the formation of an endowment fund
- Continuation of annual reunions held every June Alumnae
- Transferred the alumnae database to a web-based platform for easier access and updating
- Rescued half of the front gates, which will be incorporated into the new development
- Supported the development of the property (underway) by attending public meetings and committee meetings at City Hall
- Keeping the Facebook page active via posting Archive photos, news, deaths, accomplishments, put old friends in touch etc.

Upcoming Elections 2020

Please consider standing

At the June 2020 Reunion, a new slate of officers are needed for the Executive Committee. There are four official positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. With the bylaw change in 2018, the new term of office is four years. The Executive Committee meets 2-3 times per year to plan the annual reunion. Fill out the Proxy, we need new alumna to join the Executive!

Duties of Each Role

PRESIDENT: Represents the Association, chairs all meetings including the annual reunion, gathers the information for the annual newsletter, collects the mail, and attends meetings related to the Alma College property. Currently held by Donna Robertson.

The President becomes the Past-President to provide support to the incoming President.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Assists with reunion planning, helps during the reunion weekend, and backs up the President. This role is currently held by Sharon (McKay) Kirby.

TREASURER: Maintains the financial records of the Associations, issues cheques for expenses, collects reunion revenue, tracks all revenue and expenses, and oversees the inventory for the Dip. Position is currently held by Sandra (Irvine) Pearson.

SECRETARY: Takes minutes at all meetings including the annual general meeting. Held by Barb (Christie) O'Brien.

Other Unofficial Roles

NEWSLETTER: Draft annually, add articles and photos into the newsletter, update the registration form, download alumnae mailing data and complete mail merge, update proxy form every four years, and provide files to printer.

WEBSITE UPDATING: Update information at least 2-3 per year, more often if required to keep website current.

MEMBERSHIP: Keep database updated as new information on alumna is received. Once per year, compile a list of deceased alumnae and provide to person drafting annual newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP: Contact the school who is designated for the annual scholarship to determine name of current year's recipient, work with London Community Foundation to arrange scholarship payment, and attend the graduation to present the award and take photo.

Reunion June 2020



Friday June 5

- 4:00 pm Check in at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London
- 4-6:30 pm Meet in the hospitality suite, Room 101.
- 6:30 pm Group will dine together in the hotel restaurant, Shelly's Tap & Grill (pay as you go).

Saturday June 6

- 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 7

- 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 \$149 plus taxes. Atrium view is \$159 plus taxes. A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College".

Prices in effect until
May 26th, 2020

We recommend you
book early!

Reunion Fee - \$50

(Includes light breakfast and hot buffet luncheon)

Reunion 2019 Photos

1940s



1960s



1950s



1970s & 1980s

