



St. Stephen High School

Alumni Newsletter

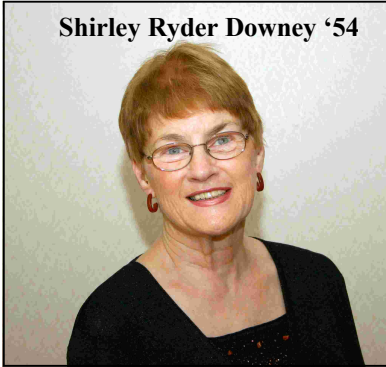


Issue 7 - October 2009

St. Stephen, NB Canada

The purpose of the association is to strengthen the membership through a strong network of alumni and to award scholarships to deserving graduates.

Shirley Ryder Downey '54



Shirley Downey is an outgoing, proud New Brunswick resident who has spent a great deal of time and effort to ensure children in the province receive the kindness, compassion and love that they deserve.

In 1991, Mrs. Downey was a Royal Bank of Canada employee, avid church participant, and local community volunteer, with a busy schedule - yet she decided to pursue an education program for newborn babies with the help of her local chapter of the charitable women's organization, IODE. Mrs. Downey heard of a program in Quebec called "Born to Read" where a bag of books was presented to new parents with information on the importance of reading to children from birth. After researching this topic she became convinced that this program could be of great value to the children in our province.

Since the program began, Mrs. Downey has spent considerable effort expanding and strengthening the program through fundraising, partnerships with the provincial government, libraries, hospitals, and Literacy NB, and now each year close to 8000 families receive "Born to Read" bags in either French or English. The program has been province wide since 1998 and has been a remarkable accomplishment that has also served as a model for other provinces to implement similar programs.

As an active IODE member, Mrs. Downey has also led numerous chapter committees, and led fundraising and sponsorship ideas such as annual golf tournaments. In 2006, Mrs. Downey began an annual used jewelry sale to raise funds for the IODE Bursary Fund which has totaled over \$10,000 in the last few years. Her skills in fundraising and organizing major events have earned her the respect, admiration and support of many organizations and charities.

Mrs. Downey is also an accomplished author, penning four children's books entitled "Mud, Muddelicious Mud," "Puddle Jumping," "Snuggle Bug" and her latest "Fishes in the Seas: Poems for Maritime Kids." She has written a program for children in Kindergarten to Grade Five called "Way To Go" for School District Ten which teaches healthy life style through rhythmic poetry. She has also partnered with the Early Childhood Centre at the University of New Brunswick to provide books written by New Brunswick authors for the "Born to Read" bags. Mrs. Downey does workshops in schools to entice children to have fun with words. They always begin with talking about the "Born to Read" bag they received as a baby.

After retiring from the Royal Bank of Canada in 1991, Mrs. Downey has continued to provide financial planning assistance and advice to families, young and old, in her community and serves on several community organizations in St. Stephen and Charlotte County. She also is involved at the Provincial level in Lit-

eracy Forums and Committees in regards to Early Childhood and Family Literacy.

Shirley Downey is receiving the Order of New Brunswick for visionary work in the field of social programs for children, and her specific work in fostering reading as a component of early childhood development.

In 2002 Shirley was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. The Medal was awarded to Canadians who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to their communities or to Canada as a whole.

Diane Ganong, a charity organizer, business leader and retired nurse from St. Stephen, will receive the Canadian Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian Award for New Brunswick, while the Young Humanitarian Award will go to St. Malachy's Memorial High School student Leah Secord. The two Red Cross awards, based on nominations from the public, celebrate the humanitarian accomplishments and leadership of recipients, said John Byrne, Atlantic director-general of the Canadian Red Cross.

Diane Simpsons Ganong '66



"Diane Ganong has demonstrated a spirit of humanitarianism through her nursing career, global involvement with UNICEF Canada, and engagement with many projects and organizations that improve the quality of life for others," Byrne said. "Thousands of people throughout New Brunswick, across Canada and around the world are probably not even aware of the extent to which they have benefited from her generosity and kindness."

Ganong's nursing career included work in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Maine. She chairs the innovative Extra-Mural Hospital, a New Brunswick-wide project enabling patients to remain at home longer rather than entering nursing homes, or returning home from hospital sooner.

Ganong is a former provincial chairwoman and national president of UNICEF Canada. Her interest in world development issues prompted her to acquire a degree in international development studies from McGill University in Montreal.

Ganong remains active in the voluntary sector with the New Brunswick Adoption Foundation, Alzheimer's Society of Canada, Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation, Chocolate Fest, the Charlotte County Civic Centre fundraising campaign and the Families First Campaign in support of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation. She is also a director of Ganong Bros. Ltd., a chocolate and confectionery manufacturer based in St. Stephen.

(Email from Fundy Community Foundation to Association Secretary)

Dear Norma,

I received another donation today in the amount of \$100.00 so that makes the total here \$1660.00. We truly appreciate the support and commitment of the St. Stephen High School Alumni in providing funds for the scholarships.

Thank you,
Sandy

Donors:
R. Keay Halstead
Allan Casey
Shirley Labrecque
Shirley Downey
Don Orr
Donna Cameron
Mary E. Savoy
Gerald Scott

Arlene Parks
Norma Vandevander
Kenneth Williams
Betty & David McBride

In Memory:

Gary Hay, Alice Hyslop Raymont, Valerie Knox
Cruickshank, David Morrow, Carl McCoomb,
Michael McBride

Sandy Thurber, Executive Director
Fundy Community Foundation
PO Box 3902
St. Andrews, N.B., E5B 3S7
Tel:(506) 529-4896
Fax:(506) 529-4898
E-Mail: fundycf@nb.aibn.com
Website: www.fcf.nb.ca

Class of 1945 Reunion

Another year - another reunion of the Class of 1945. On August 1, eight graduates and four guests gathered for dinner at a local restaurant. The attendees were Charlotte (Stuart) Gowan, Mary (Sinclair) Gibson, Mildred (Pierce) Linton, Margaret (Essensa) Estabrooks, Louise (Russell) Corning, Donna (Crompton) Cameron, all from New Brunswick, Dorothy (Andrews) Roy of Ottawa and Dr. Nancy Williams of Toronto. Our guests were Anne and Ellen Wiliamson, Ron Estabrooks and Dr. Ken Cameron.

We have been getting together every year during the New Brunswick Day Weekend since our 60th reunion. 2010 will mark our 65th reunion, so we are hoping there will be a large turnout of our 24 remaining class members. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next August. For any further information, please call Charlotte at (506) 466-1618 or contact her by email at chalotte.gowan@nb.sympatico.ca

Donna Cameron

Class of 1959 - Reunion

On August 1, the Class of 1959 met on a beautiful summer night at St. Timothys Hall for our 50th reunion! From an original class of 50, we had 33 classmates ready to meet and greet old friends; for our last reunion was 25 years ago. We have lost 10 classmates, so with only 40 left we had a great turnout. With spouses and friends we had 52 attending plus Dunc and Flo and Doug Doherty who reported to the Courier for us.

We started planning last fall with a great local committee; with Margie (Blanchard) Miernicki, Louise (Downey) Samms, Grace (Young) O'Brien, and Margie (Gullison) Brooker organizing the Hall and the meal; to decorating and rounding up old photos. Anything that the committee needed was arranged by the hard working, Frank Irving. Anita (Stevens) Chisholm even brought her Grand-daughter Ayla, who wore Anita's prom dress and it still looked right in style!

On Friday, Tracy and Joyce Burns, Victor and Barbara Rouse and Carol (Speedy) Moore and Bill Francis spent almost five hours burning up the St. Stephen Golf Course. All agreed it was a draw, but a good time and some fine golf shots remembered. We made plans to meet again in 5 years, and many stories were told and remembered. Overall a wonderful night.

Bill Francis



In Memoriam

Downey, Perley R. '47

Downey - Perley Ronald - Peacefully at the Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg ON on Monday, July 6th, 2009, Perley Ronald Downey at 77 years of age. Cherished husband of Joy Downey nee Selfe.

Murray, Miriam Frances '42 1926-2009

MURRAY- At Kings Way Care Centre Quispamis, NB September 19, 2009, Miriam Frances Murray of St. Stephen, NB beloved wife of the late Rudolph Murray. Born on January 20, 1926, she was the eldest daughter of the late Wallace and Louise Hyslop of Tower Hill, NB.

PORTER, Katherine (Tish)

Katherine (Tish) Porter passed away on August 5, 2009, at home, surrounded by family. She was born in St. Stephen, NB the daughter of Norval and Charlotte Dennison.

Class of 1960

Well, the time has come and another overall reunion is again in the making, "Together again in 2010". Also, 2010 will be the 50th for the class of 1960. I am planning a get-together for this class during the weekend of the big reunion at my place. I am getting as many of the local people to help in arranging this event and would certainly appreciate if any one in the class has address of our classmates. I have quite a few but am missing some so please send them to me at robe-sylv@nb.sympatico.ca so I can email the information to all. Hoping to hear from all those who were or would have been in the class of 1960.

Yours, Sylvia Jobson Lowery

In Memoriam

MacMillan, Kenneth Gordon (Buster) 1951-2009

MACMILLAN-at Charlotte County Hospital, St. Stephen, NB, June 17, 2009. Kenneth Gordon (BUSTER) MacMillan, of St. Stephen, NB. Son of the late Clare C. and Beatrice A. (O'Brien) Mac-Millan.

McGLINCHEY, Dorothy Elizabeth '54 (1936 - 2009)

Dorothy Elizabeth McGlinchey died peacefully at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Cambridge, ON, on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009.



Together Again in 2010

I was hoping to have some new info regarding the reunion plans for next year, but that didn't happen. When plans are finalized I will get them out. The high cost of postage makes it impossible to do a large mailing, so we are relying on people like you to help us out. Please forward this newsletter to any alumni that you have an email address for, or if you are a class president do a mail out for your class. I will keep you informed. Thanks - Ken D '54

An Adventure that Spans Australia

This is the description the brochure gives of the Indian Pacific Railway that crosses Australia from ocean to ocean, coast to coast joining Sydney, NSW, in the east to Perth, WA, in the west a distance of 4,352km. The Canadian, CPR's trans-Canada version, travels 4,466 km from Toronto to Vancouver.

The Indian Pacific's emblem is the Wedge-tailed eagle, the largest eagle on earth, making a comeback from near extinction. Across the outback old disused telegraph poles have been left for nesting sites. We were lucky to have seen the poles supporting huge nests as well as some birds circling looking for food – rabbit no doubt!

It takes 2.5 days to complete the journey. Leaving Sydney at 2:40 pm on Monday afternoon, we travelled through hilly bush terrain overnight passing through small towns whose early existence relied upon mining as well as pastoral holdings used for grazing sheep as well as fruit and mixed farming. At 8:20 Tuesday morning, we arrived at Broken Hill for a 50-minute stop. Broken Hill's beginnings can be traced to 1883 when one of the richest lead, zinc and silver deposits were discovered. The mines now produce 2 million tonnes of ore per year. The early morning walk to a coffee shop, passing the always present souvenir shops, reveals a tidy city of 23,000. The "Silver City," as it is sometimes known, is the outback base for the famous Royal Flying Doctor Service as well as for the School of the Air, providing schooling for children in the remotest reaches of the outback. The teachers use the Flying Doctor Radio Network as a two-way radio classroom that broadcasts to an area the size of Britain.

Off to the next stop, Adelaide, for a 1H 35 M stop. The time was probably needed to change the placement of the engine. Up until then our seats in the roomette sleeper were facing backward and I was a bit concerned as I would rather see where I am going than where I've been! All was well. Not much time to see the "City of Churches" but stopped there on the flight back for a few days and did a

wine tour of the Barossa Valley.

The dining car of the train had been refurbished in Edwardian style – red velvet, stained glass, brass, and gold fittings. Dinners enroute included pork in filo, salmon in pastry (entrée); chicken breast in filo with mango, bbq lamb (main); fruit salad and banana gelato, strudel, strawberry bread pudding on coulis (dessert). Breakfast: mixed grill and scrambled eggs; omelette, sausages and bacon. Lunch: ham and pea soup, cannelloni, chicken with hollandaise sauce, strawberry gateau; quiche and salad, rhubarb and apple flan. With great Aussie wines where appropriate. Just like at home!

The bar car had been done as well but was not on this train due to some technical problem. Anyway, white wine is good anywhere, as was the duty free gin snuck into the room to go with the tonic bought at the bar.

The vast outback starts at Port Augusta, South Australia. The Nullarbor Plain (Treeless Plain) stretches 1,200 km across southern Australia. From Ooldea to Loongana is the longest stretch of straight railway in the world - 478 km. Spinifex and mallee shrubs dot the landscape. Guess who was up at dawn trying to see critters of the outback? I was lucky and saw emus, kangaroos, rabbits (those who escaped the Wedge-tailed eagles), some dingoes as well as wild camels. Australia's wild camel population is the biggest in the world. They were introduced as beasts of burden in the 1860s, being well suited to the desert conditions of Australia. They were released in the 1920s when no longer needed and have become feral pests. Cook is a refueling station and where supplies are taken on board. It's the only place on the Nullarbor Plain where you can leave the train. Into the scorching heat and flies you can sample the delights of the one general store/souvenir shop and one-man prison cell – the only buildings. I don't know where they keep the "supplies." Back to air-conditioned splendour – not too soon.

More vast rolling desert, like prairies here. Then into Western Australia. And a few hours later, Kalbarrie, a city of 27,000, the centre of Australia's

gold mining industry, on the western fringes of the Plain and the Great Victorian Desert. Gold was discovered in 1893. Even at 8:15 p.m., the city was bright and vibrant with smart cafés, bars, shops, discos and magnificent old hotels and buildings. The architecture ranges from classical to Australian colonial, from Moorish to Italian Renaissance.

At 7:00 a.m. Thursday, we arrived in Perth, Australia's most remote city and one of the most isolated capital cities in the world. Closer to Singapore than Sydney, it is nestled on the Swan River, named after the black swans which still dot the water. This compact modern city is best viewed from King's Park, 400 hectares of bushland reserve featuring native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. An interesting day trip out of the city is the Swan Valley Wine Tour featuring some of the best Western Australian wines, such as Evans & Tate and Houghton, among 20 other wineries. A thing about wine?

At the mouth of the Swan River, 20 minutes from the city centre, lies Fremantle. Much of the original Victorian and colonial architecture was built by 19th century convicts. Fremantle was spruced up for the America's Cup yacht race in 1987, which Australia won to the chagrin of the U.S.A., and now boasts a modern waterfront still in keeping with its past.

A week in Perth was not enough, so after a few years we went back in 2008 and found the city as charming as ever.

After 20 or so hours flying time to Sydney from Toronto, the trans-Australian train trip was instant unwind – nothing to do but relax, read, talk and enjoy the scenery and fine dining. One way by train was enough so we flew back to Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney.

A rail trip yet to do is the Ghan between Adelaide, Alice Springs and Darwin. The journey takes 48 hours to travel the 2,979 kilometres. Still may do it. Will keep you posted!

David Gilmore '55

