

Simonds High Alumni Newsletter December 2013



Merry Christmas!!

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C is for Christmas at Simonds High

H is for Happy Holidays from the Alumuni

R is for Reaching out to help others

I is for Involvement and getting together

S is for Simonds students full of cheer

T is for Time we give them each year

M is for Meetings we hold every month

A is for Action and being involved

S is for Support from Alumni so bright

Merry Christmas to you and your families, from all of us on the Alumni Committee....and to all a goodnight!



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There is always something happening in the hive. We never seem to give ourselves enough credit, and with that in mind, this section of our newsletter will highlight those people who make Simonds better!



Valentine's Dance!!

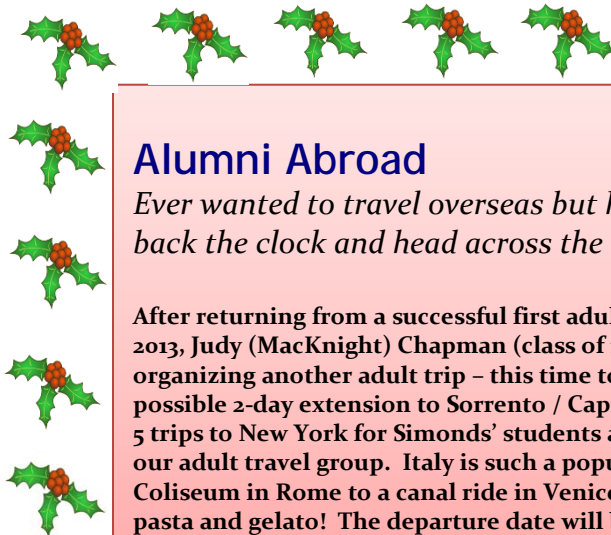
SAVE THE DATE: There will be a Valentine's Dance on **Feb 8, 2014** from 9PM - 1AM at Simonds High School in the cafeteria. The dance is open to alumni (over age 19) from all years, and music will be from a variety of years. Plan on bringing your partner, friends & family. A great time will be had reconnecting and dancing the night away. Tickets are \$10 per person and drinks will be very reasonably priced. Tickets will be available in January - online and at a location in Saint John (place to be confirmed). Details on when & where to pick up tickets will be available in January on the Simonds Alumni face book site, the Alumni tab of the Simonds High School website, and in various publications. Hope to see you there!

Retired Teacher?

There is still a lot to talk about! Why not get together with those you taught with for years?! Here is your chance!

The group of retired teachers from Simonds usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:30 PM for lunch and socializing. Lots of activities are planned and a great time is had by all. Be sure to call us and attend a few of the events. More information will follow in future newsletters!

If you are interested in further details, please contact Cathy MacDonald (ceileenm@nb.sympatico.ca).



Alumni Abroad

Ever wanted to travel overseas but had no one to go with you? Well turn back the clock and head across the ocean with your old classmates!

After returning from a successful first adult trip to London, Paris & Amsterdam in May 2013, Judy (MacKnight) Chapman (class of 1970) and long-serving Simonds teacher, is organizing another adult trip - this time to Venice, Florence & Rome (9 days) with a possible 2-day extension to Sorrento / Capri. Judy has organized 16 trips to Europe and 5 trips to New York for Simonds' students and is inviting any interested alumni to join our adult travel group. Italy is such a popular destination - so many icons from the Coliseum in Rome to a canal ride in Venice...and who doesn't LOVE the best pizza, pasta and gelato! The departure date will be early fall 2014. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Judy at chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca or 847-3241 for more details.

Old Yearbooks!

Still searching for that special gift for a friend, relative, or even yourself? The Simonds Alumni Committee still has yearbooks from most years (only a few years are sold out). What a memorable gift that would make! Where else can you get such a special gift for \$25 (no tax)?

For more information or to see if your year is still available contact Judy Chapman chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca or anyone on the Alumni!

All families have Christmas traditions that are unique and meaningful to them. Those traditions could be a special Christmas Eve service, a family or cousins' Christmas party, a city "Christmas light tour", a special Christmas dinner, a certain Christmas movie to watch, etc. As a community, a tradition that signals Christmas every year is, of course, the Empty Stocking Fund broadcast. Our community also has tree lightings, the Saint John Santa Claus Parade, the Saint John City Market decorated for the season, etc.

Well, the Simonds family of alumni have some Christmas traditions to reflect upon as well. For many years, Simonds had the Seabee Bear campaign. Hundreds of stuffed animals of all kinds were donated, washed, given new bows and shared with the Simonds Lions Club who, in turn, passed them along to needy children in the community. For several years, Mr. Josselyn's wife, Debby, knit numerous pairs of mittens to be shared along with the bears with needy families.

Another Simonds tradition has been the Christmas Cabaret (or Christmas dance, before cabaret times). This was always one of the best and best-attended events of the year. Decorations were always elaborate; most were done by the art teachers and their students in combination with the Student Council. King, Queen, and many years, other royalty, were crowned. Students dressed up in their best semi-formal attire to take pics with their friends and dance the night away.

One other Simonds Christmas tradition has always been Simonds float in the Saint John Santa Claus Parade. A couple of decades ago, teachers Dianne Cunningham and Kathy Dalling decided to have their enriched classes work together on the school's first entry into the parade. As this entry was just after football returned to Simonds, that was the theme of the float. The art department created a large paper mache football and there was an ongoing "game" between the Elves and Simonds students on the float. That was the beginning of many beautiful and elaborate Simonds' floats - most were organized by Mrs. Cunningham (Dianne Vincent Cunningham - class of 1970). In fact, since 1990 when they first entered in the parade, Simonds has won an award EVERY year they entered! The school has won most often for the best high school float...but, one year, our entry won three awards - best high school, best cheerleaders and best float in the parade. Every year, Saint Johners look forward to seeing the Simonds float as one of the highlights of the parade!

What was so wonderful about the Simonds Christmas floats was that students from all over the school cooperated to make it happen. Students from art classes, construction classes, etc. worked side-by-side to make a first-class entry. Many students, who perhaps were not sports-minded, found their niche working on the float, or dressing like an elf or present to walk along the parade route and bring smiles to Saint John families. Teachers such as Mike Boyle, Paul Mathieson, Sue Porter, Keith Armstrong, Derrick Sleep and others worked together on this project. Dianne Cunningham who continued to organize the floats for twenty-some years said she enjoyed every minute of it! Her favourite of all those entries was the Polar Express in 1998. (Does anyone remember that one?) Since she retired in 2011, the torch has been passed to her daughter, Heidi (Cunningham) MacLeod (2000), also a teacher at Simonds. Heidi, Sheilagh Gillis and Paula (Dalton) Yeo (2000) worked with their students this year to create another "best high school" float. (See picture below.)

The Christmas float has been a wonderful gift that Simonds has shared with the Saint John community. Seabees from all years feel the school pride each year when the Simonds float passes by. It is nice to remember the traditions of the Simonds family. At this time of year, may your own family traditions bring you much fun and togetherness and warm your heart! Merry Christmas one and all from the Simonds Alumni Committee!



Christmas Cabaret 1995



Seabees Home & Away (or Milestones) is compiled from submissions from our readers who have submitted items by letter, email or phone as well as various public sources.

These submissions will always refer to Simonds' alumni; they will generally be about family milestones (births, deaths, new job opportunities, marriages, moves, appointments, accomplishments, etc). We welcome your information for future newsletters. If possible, please try to include your graduation year with your submission.

Please address any entries to Judy Chapman (chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca) or Tammy Kilpatrick (tamkilp@yahoo.ca). Alternately, entries may be mailed to Simonds High Alumni, 1490 Hickey Road, Saint John, NB, E2J 4E7 or sent as a message through our facebook group, Simonds High School Alumni.

Upcoming Simonds' Reunions:

Class of 1974 - The Class of 1974 reunion committee is currently working on finalizing the plans for their 40th Reunion. The tentative date is June 28th, 2014 at Simonds High School on Hickey Rd.

Please email Cindy (O'Keefe) McDevitt at cindymcdevitt@rogers.com your current mailing address and those of any classmates with whom you have kept in contact who do not access social media. A memory board will also be posted for those classmates who have passed away; please include the names of any of whom you are aware so that no one will be missed. For those who access social media, there is a special facebook page called "Simonds High School Class of 74 Reunion" and the administrator is Lori Degrace-Burnside.

Class of 1979 – The Class of 1979 is planning on having a 35th reunion in 2014. More details will be forthcoming soon from the committee. Please join their group (Simonds High School Class of 1979) on face book and stay tuned on the Simonds High School Alumni face book page.

Class of 1984 - The Class of 1984 is planning their 30th reunion for Saturday, June 21st, 2014. Grads from 1984 are invited to join the face book group Simonds High School 30th reunion...2014 so they reconnect with their classmates and find out more reunion details as they become available.

If you know of any other SHS reunions planned this year, please email the details to someone on the Alumni Committee and / or post on the Simonds High Alumni face book page. We will help you advertise your reunion and connect with your classmates.

Harold Steele (1972) passed away on August 13, 2013. Harold was employed as grain broker with Parrish and Heimbecker. He was a member of the 527 Simonds Air Cadet Squadron in his youth; he served the squadron as a civilian instructor before eventually becoming Commanding Officer with the 1691 Saint John Army Corps. Harold was also a founding member of Delancy's Brigade and a widely-respected historical re-enactor. He is survived by his wife, Wendy Steele, and sons Alex and Rob.

Pat (Forrester) Beyea, a former Simonds High School teacher, died on July 22, 2013. Originally from England, Pat was employed as a physical education / health teacher at several schools (Vocational, Simonds High, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph's and Beaconsfield Middle School) in the Saint John area. She also served on the council of the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. Pat was passionate about fitness and enjoyed skiing, coaching and exercising. She is survived by her husband, John, 5 children and 9 grandchildren.

Stephanie (Driscoll) Woods (2002) was married in September 2013 to **Jack Stevens** (2006). They reside in Moncton, NB

Erin (Cooper) Fraser (2000) and Brad Fraser were married in August 2013. Erin is a speech therapist and Brad, an RCMP officer, in Plaster Rock, NB.

Matt Creamer (2001) and **Krista Lamont Creamer** (2001) celebrated their 1st anniversary in October 2013.

Sarah McRae (2001) and Matt Henneberry were married on September 14, 2013.

Ross McLean (2005) was married on September 14, 2013 to Sharidan (Kierstead) McLean. Ross is an electrical engineer, a Network Provisioning Manager, at Bell Aliant. Sharidan is a supply teacher in the Anglophone South School District. They reside in Saint John.

Sean McGrath (2000) and Carrie Bielli McGrath welcomed a new son, Jack, in the summer of 2013. Sean is a very well-known and widely respected engagement, wedding and commercial photographer in the Saint John/Quispamsis area. A recent home shoot gave him his first magazine cover on East Coast Living! Check out his face book page: Sean McGrath Photography. Jack will give Sean a new subject to photograph.

Julie (Edwards) Rocca (2004) ran in the Edinburgh Rock 'n Roll Half Marathon in April 2013 in memory of her late husband, electrical engineer Robin Rocca who passed away from leukemia. All funds raised for the marathon were donated to Leukemia & Lymphoma Research. Julie continues to reside in the Saint John area with her son, Valentino. She is a licensed real estate agent working for Exit Realty.

Dr. Shelley (Holland) Doucet (2001) has been recognized in medical circles as a talented researcher who is changing the face of medicine in New Brunswick. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health at UNBSJ, an Adjunct Professor with Dalhousie Medicine in Saint John and an Affiliate Professor in the College of Health Disciplines with the University of British Columbia. Since beginning her nursing studies Shelley has amassed over 40 awards, recognitions and professional credentials including perfect GPAs in both undergraduate and graduate studies,

over \$200 000 in studentship funding and \$375 000 in research funding. She has published and made presentations at the national and international level. She has been recognized and saluted by various universities and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation for her knowledge, research and professional practice. She is also the proud mother to a 1-year old daughter and 3-year old son...a very busy & talented mom!

Jake Rose (2011) began his post-secondary studies at Champlain College, CEGEP located in Lennoxville, Quebec. He was a starting O Line player this year for an offense that was described as explosive. The Champlain Cougars won the Bol D'Or in Chicoutimi, QC on November 17, 2013 defeating Vieux Montreal Spartiates 20-7. This would be equivalent to a provincial championship. It had been 13 years since the Cougars won this trophy and the town has been celebrating ever since. His football skills have led to multiple full scholarship offers from several Canadian Universities. Jake has signed a Letter of Intent with Bishop's University and will be playing for their varsity Gaitor's football team next year. This scholarship will cover his tuition for four years. Jake has continued helping the Simonds Football Program by volunteering during the summer of 2013 to help train the boys.

Theresa (White) Polyakov (2000) along with her husband Svyatoslav (Slava) happily welcomed their first born Bohdan Morgan Polyakov on July 31st, 2013 at 9:47pm. The bouncing baby cossack weighed in at 10.1 pounds and stretched to a long 22.5 inches. He is the younger brother to his fur-sister Molly.

Jonathan Ryan (2001) passed away on July 17, 2013. Jon had a passion for all things technical (especially computers) and had a sense of humour second to none. He is survived by his parents and two sisters.

Brian Hunter (2007) was married to Kelci (Hebert) Hunter on July 6, 2013. They reside in the Saint John area.

Lee LaRocque (2003) was married in July 2013. Working in the Canadian Forces has given Lee an opportunity to have lots of travel adventures.

Katharine (Armstrong) Cavan (2004) and her husband, Justin Cavan, have a new family member. Their daughter, Violet Ryan Cavan was born on September 17, 2013. Katharine works in the Accounting Dept. at Dobson Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Saint John while Justin works in the Saint John Fire Department.

Donnie Searle (2000) and his wife Katie (Bates) Searle welcomed their second child, Savanna, into the world in the summer of 2013. Savanna is a sister to brother, Charlie, who is 3. In addition to working, Donnie enjoys hunting, fishing, watching hockey and helping out on his father-in-law's farm.

Rene Aleman (2004) married Nicole (MacKnight) Aleman on August 24, 2013. The newlyweds live in Saint John where Rene is involved in Clinical Data Management at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

Art Pottle, a former teacher at Simonds High School is one of 175 surviving members of the Devil's Brigade, a First Special Service Force in the Second World War. In honour of the unit's battlefield heroics and sacrifices, the U. S. Senate approved that its members receive the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. This American recognition follows an honour bestowed by the Canadian government earlier this year when the then-Defense Minister, Peter MacKay presented Mr. Pottle and other brigade veterans with the Minister's Award for Operational Excellence at a ceremony on Parliament Hill.

Laura Campbell (1999) and fiance, Paul Cormier, announce their new arrival, a beautiful baby girl, Aubree Marie May on October 2, 2013. Laura, Paul and Aubree live in the Saint John area.

Sports Schedule for Simonds

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 JVG @ SJHS VIG @ SJHS	4 JVB vs SJHS VVB vs SJHS	5 JVB vs KTHS VVB vs KTHS	6	7
8	9	10 JVB vs St. Mar's VVB vs St. Mar's	11 JVG @ Rothesay Hig JVB @ OHS	12 Christmas Cubaret	13	14
15	16	17 JVG @ Sussex VIG @ Sussex	18 JVB @ Sussex VVB @ Sussex	19 JVG vs St. Mar's VIG vs St. Mar's	20 JVG @ HYHS VIG @ HYHS	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 JVG vs SJHS VIG vs SJHS	8 JVB vs HYHS VVB vs HYHS	9 JVG @ St. Stephen (7-15)	10 JVG vs HYHS VIG vs HYHS	11
12	13	14 JVB @ SJHS VVB @ SJHS	15	16 JVG vs Family High JVB vs JHS	17	18
19	20 Exam.....	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 JVB @ KTHS VVB @ KTHS	29 JVG @ KTHS VIG @ KTHS	30	31	

Simonds High School on Twitter!

The annual Movember campaign was extremely successful this year, as it has been in the past. This year, under the direction of Mr. Pat McDade, we joined twitter and ran a #SHSFIT trend! All students who participated in mental or physical health activities tweeted their experience using the hash tag #SHSFIT. Seabees far and wide took part and it was a huge hit! We have decided to extend the activity to December with a #SHSPIF campaign. We would love for our Alumni to join us in "Paying it Forward". In this season of giving, we want to share with the world all the ways in which they can help to pay it forward. Happy Holidays everyone and we hope you will join us in paying it forward in your community! Don't forget to share it with us at #SHSPIF

Jill E. Eckstone - Vice Principal
Simonds High School

SHS Musical: Are you a musical fan? If so, you will probably want to see Simonds High School's production of Grease which will take place from April 9 – 12, 2014 in the school theatre.



Join the Alumni

Take a moment and be certain you register your email address with simondshighalumni@gmail.com Be sure to include your full (maiden if applicable) name and the year you graduated. This email and the Simonds High Alumni Facebook page will be the primary way we will communicate information and events with you. Don't delay, send the email and join our Facebook group today and get your name on the list.

Always looking for new members of our Alumni Committee! If you can volunteer some of your time, we would love to have you onboard!



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We're on the Web!
sh.nbed.nb.ca



Message from the Alumni President

My Fellow Seabees...

It's the time of year that we all get so busy and shout out a 'Merry Christmas' to everyone we meet. It's also a time that we take a count of the many blessings that are in our lives.

The Alumni wants everyone to have a safe & exciting Christmas with a New Year that only improves it all.

With the New Year in mind, I would like each and every one of you to think of what spare time is. That it wouldn't take much of your spare time to get involved in something that you would get fun and enjoyment out of. I'm of course talking about the Alumni. Our committee is struggling to get the Alumni functioning to a caliber for our School to be proud. That we work to get something done is difficult because we are small. Remember when you graduated or were in the halls of Simonds...there were wall-to-wall students, and teachers. Our membership is growing but we need the bodies to make this work. In all the years of Simonds, all the graduating classes and the teachers who worked and taught here....there are only a handful of volunteers trying to get some Alumni action going. This is so important for the success of our school. It is not a huge commitment but it does take a bit of time.

If you have children, you know how high school impacts your life decisions. If you see a teen, think of what their choices are. Would you want them to come to Simonds? Would you want their experience to be the greatest? Well of course. By being involved with the Alumni, YOU could influence the future of a student. Or participate in enriching the school in some way that will influence the future of our School? THIS IS IMPORTANT PEOPLE! Our school needs the Alumni to work, to be all it could be, just like when we were in high school....To make Simonds the very best!!

We meet 1 hour a month 8 - 10 meetings a year. We are trying to get a few things going for the New Year, like a Valentine's Dance. If you want to be involved or just come to have fun, the committee will be meeting on Jan 6th at 7:00pm, B building main floor, Alumni Room. Think of what you might like to do for the School and bring your ideas. Hope to see many of you there.

Green & Gold Forever

Erin McPhee '76
SHS Alumni President