

HAPPENINGS IN THE HIVE

Simonds High Alumni Newsletter December 2016

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!







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Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year!

From your Simonds High Alumni Committee

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

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!

Simonds Memorial Grove

Several years ago, the Simonds High School Memorial Grove was created as a partnership between the Simonds High School Alumni and the current school Environmental Club, Team Green. Donated trees are in memory of a student, teacher, group, friend or family member or to celebrate a certain grad class. Our Memorial Grove has been growing; it is located outside the gym and continuing down the entrance road by the playing field. Alumni donate the yellow maple trees which are planted by members of Team Green. As the grove matures, it is hoped to add some benches between the trees. Eventually there will be a backdrop of green climbing vines on the side of the school that will showcase our green and gold school colours. We invite individual alumni or classes who are planning future reunions to consider placing a memorial tree in the grove. What a beautiful way in which to remember a classmate/friend/family member. Inside the main entrance to the school, there is a plaque with name plates honoring those remembered. The current approximate cost of a tree is \$150. Thank you to all who donated trees in memory of friends and family. Please message Judy Chapman (chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca) or any member of the SHS Alumni Committee if you would like to make a donation and be a part of this worthwhile initiative to give back to your school. The next planting of memorial trees will occur in the spring of 2017. The deadline for ordering a memorial tree for this planting will be April 30, 2017.



Simonds Alumni Committee Needs YOU

Everyone who went to Simonds High School is automatically a member of our alumni. We also include all teachers, secretarial staff, custodial staff, etc. We are all part of the Simonds family. Our SHS Alumni Committee meets approximately once a month from September until June. Our aim is to provide some activities for alumni and to produce a newsletter to keep alumni in touch with each other and abreast of current happenings with alumni activities, class reunions and events at the school. We also are working on creating a better liaison with the school for former grads. We invite you to join us on the committee; we need your assistance and ideas. If you cannot commit to regular meetings, perhaps you would be willing to be on our call / email list and donate an hour or two to some event or project - perhaps an hour to decorate for an alumni dance or to assist with some project we are doing in collaboration with the school. We have several committees in need of assistance: fund raising, membership, PR, communications, events and newsletter. If you are willing to help out, please contact one of us listed on Page 1 of this newsletter or do a shout out on our facebook page. Even if you do not live in Saint John and surrounding area, you could contribute by sending an email or doing an enquiry for us. Thank you for your help and for giving back to your alumni and your school.

VALENTINE'S DANCE - FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Please note that the date of our Valentine's Dance has been changed. Our original booked date was the same date to which the Saint John Wine Festival (originally held at the end of Febnruary) was moved. As the wine festival is a popular local event, we have moved our Valentine's Dance date to Saturday, February 11th, 2017 at the Simonds High cafeteria. The dance will run from 8 PM until midnight with dance music supplied by the ever-popular DJ, Chris (Frick) Wetmore of Alpha One Studios. There will be music for people of all ages and musical tastes. Chris' excellent music choices always pack the dance floor! Dance tickets are only \$10 per person and bar prices are very inexpensive. Tickets will be available about a month prior to the dance - starting on January 11, 2017. They will be available at the school ofice and at another location to be announced (please check our face page page and the Simonds High website under the alumni tab in January). Also, feel free to send an email, message or text to anyone on our alumni executive (see page 1); they will gladly hold tickets for you at the door and you could pay for them with e-transfer. This dance is open to anyone over 19. (You do not have to be a Simonds alumnus to attend!) This is a great date night opportunity! People come out as couples, singles, groups of friends, etc. and just have a fun time socializing and dancing! Please mark the February 11th date on your calendar and join us!

Simonds High Scholarship Fund

The Simonds High Scholarship Fund has been in existence for many years. Money from that fund has been used to recognize numerous excellent Simonds graduates and offer them some funds toward their post-secondary education - whether it be a university, community college or another educational institution. Any assistance is appreciated by the students. As a student at Simonds, you may have even been a recipient of this funding. The Simonds Alumni Committee donates money each year to use for scholarships from this fund. Many people donate to the SHS Scholarship fund in memory of a loved one who has passed away; what a great way to "pay-it-forward"! If you wish to donate to this fund and "give back" to your school, you may send your donation to The Simonds High School Scholarship Fund, 1490 Hickey Rd., Saint John, NB., E2J 4E7. An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation. Thank you in advance for your support of your school!

Missing Previous Newsletters?

Are you just reading our Simonds Alumni newsletter for the first time? Or, perhaps you have missed a few of our past issues? Our SHS Alumni newsletter was started in 2012; since then, we have produced 3 - 4 issues each year. If you are seeking past issues...perhaps you want to see pics of people who attended reunions or to get caught up on the news of your Simonds classmates, you will find them posted on the Simonds High School website: http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/district8/schools/sh/Pages/default.aspx. Click on the tab for **Alumni** and enjoy! NOTE: Where possible, several issues have been posted on our Simonds Alumni face book page as well.

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 \$35 and up (no tax) for yearbooks up to and including 2014?

For more information or to see if your year is still available contact Judy Chapman

chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca or anyone on the Alumni!



WHAT'S GOING ON?





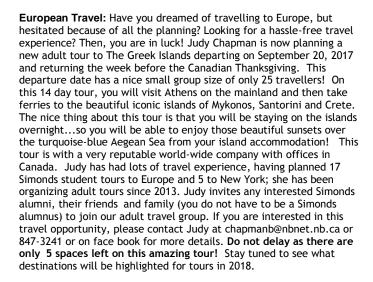
Retired Simonds Staff Members

Are you a former staff member - teacher, secretary, custodian - from Simonds? If so, we invite you to join us for a monthly lunch date

The group of retired teachers and other staff members from Simonds meet for lunch and socializing on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (throughout the school year) at 12:30 PM. Our lunch date locations vary each month. Be sure to email us and attend a few of our get-togethers. We are still an integral part of the Simonds family and enjoy reminiscing and keeping caught up. This group is still caring and compassionate about Simonds students; monthly, they donate funds to supply snacks and necessary school supplies for students in need. They work with the Simonds alumni on this worthwhile initiative. If you are interested in further details, please contact Cathy MacDonald (ceileenm@nb.sympatico.ca).

New Email Address?

Are you receiving this newsletter which has been graciously forwarded by a friend or family member? Why not let us add your name to our Simonds Alumni Distribution list so you may receive it directly? Please send your name (including maiden name), grad year and email address to Tammy Kilpatrick at tamkilp@yahoo.ca or Judy Chapman at chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca. If you have a new email address / changed internet providers, etc, don't forget to update us as well. Thank you.





















Countdown to Christmas Sale

Our annual Countdown to Christmas sale was held in the Simonds High cafeteria on Saturday, November 12th. This year, we moved to a larger venue to accommodate more vendors and to have a better shopping experience for our guests. We hosted 52 vendors with a variety of home sale businesses and handicrafts. The vendors offered many unique quality items for sale. In addition, this year the In Pursuit Clothing van was on site for those seeking a unique clothing purchase. The Parking Lot Pizza food truck was also on site; the owner had his biggest sales day ever as shoppers and vendors sampled his tasty and affordable pizza! It was wonderful to see many shoppers from the Simonds community supporting this sale. We really appreciated the support from fellow alumni, retired and current teachers and neighbours of the school! This event had become a good fundraiser for the alumni. All funds raised go toward student scholarships and various other initiatives for current Simonds students and for our alumni. Whether you are a vendor or a shopper, please watch for our sale next November. Thank you for your support.



SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



You Know Christmas Begins When ...

For many Saint John residents, especially those from the east side, certain uniquely local events signal the beginning of the Christmas season; one is the Empty Stocking Fund broadcast. The other is the Friars' sisters' Christmas concert at the Imperial Theatre. That is when members of the audience know they have the Christmas feeling in their hearts. The lady whose mellifluous voice is the centerpiece of this concert is Tracy Friars, a 1979 Simonds graduate. Tracy's strong beautiful voice is only surpassed by her even more beautiful generous heart!

Tracy says she did not really sing much until after high school. A new organist at her church, Park Avenue United, sparked her interest. This organist and another one, Alan Fawcett, ignited the joy of singing in Tracy's soul.

Growing up in the large Friars family with 7 sisters and 2 brothers was very fun! The siblings got along well and singing together has retained this closeness. The importance of family was instilled in them by their dear mother, Florence Friars. The significance of this relationship has been carried on through the generations.

If you have ever attended one of the Friars' sisters' Christmas concerts, you may have wondered how they started. After a bout with cancer, Barb, one of Tracy's sisters wanted to do something for the chemo room at the Saint John Regional Hospital. She approached Tracy and the other sisters about doing a concert to raise funds for that cause. The concert that followed at their church was an overwhelming success! The next year, it was suggested that they unite at the Imperial Theatre for another worthy cause. Those were the beginnings of what have so far been 13 Christmas concerts! All eight sisters (Bette Vincent, Darlene Friars, Heather Stillwell, Barbara Walker, Wendy Youden, Jane Dalton, Lynn MacDonald and Tracy) continue to be involved; as their families have grown, their children and grandchildren have joined the family choir. Each family member involved looks forward to the preparation and concert which unite them. Family members come from Moncton, Halifax and other places to continue this tradition. Although Tracy is the MC and does most of the solos at the concert, she is quick to point out that it is a combined family effort. Their concerts have three goals: to raise awareness about a chosen cause, to raise money for that charity and to build community. Each year a different local organization (usually one without other significant sources of funding) is chosen. The focus has often been on mental health or youthoriented organizations. At their 2016 concert, over \$56 000 was raised for the local Sophia Recovery Centre, a facility offering treatment and peer support for women in recovery from addiction. As the audience is educated about the organization during the concert, they become more aware of it and their desire to assist a group in their community brings them together. They leave with a good feeling of being able to give back to others. Recently, the Friars sisters also headlined with the comedian, James Mullinger, at a Christmas Extravaganza Variety Show at Kennebecasis Valley High School. Their goal was to raise awareness and funds for KV Outreach, which assists women and their families who have suffered domestic abuse. Tracy shares her musical talents in other ways too. She sings in choirs or solo at church events, at weddings and as part of the Treble Clef Singers. She enjoys singing Christian music, ballads and some pop music. Tracy is also a talented pianist.

Having retired from her 32-year career at Bell Aliant / Innovatia, she had gained much experience in Human Resources. Tracy was inspired to open her own consulting business 4 years ago. Always a strong leader and communicator, she has continued to be a consultant for business management and human resource issues, programs and marketing.

On a personal note, Tracy has come to love her cottage life at Grand Lake. She tries to live a life of gratitude – thankful for her family and friends, her profession and her music. If she could wish for anything special for Christmastime and the New Year, she would wish for peace, kindness and caring for one another. That peaceful, caring, sharing atmosphere permeates her annual Christmas concerts. We, in the Saint John area, are grateful for the gift of music and true Christmas spirit she and her family share each year with their community.







SEABEES HOME & AWAY

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.



Andrew Singh (2012) and Kaitlyn Goguen (2013) were married on October 1, 2016. Andrew works at Irving Wallboard and Kaitlyn is a 4th year student at Crandall University; she will graduate in May 2017 with her BA in Psychology. They are currently living in Hampton, NB.

Tanya (Dallon) Ripley (2007) and Harry Ripley were married on October 8, 2016. Tanya is a tax auditor with the Canada Revenue Agency in Saint John and Harry works as a diesel mechanic at Hertz Equipment. They reside in Willow Grove, NB.

Meaghan Flecknell (2006) completed her Master of Nursing degree through Athabaska University in 2016; her focus was Nursing Education. Prior to this, she earned her Diploma of University Teaching. In addition to her work as a registered nurse in cardiac surgery at the Saint John Regional Hospital, she has been enjoying teaching students in the Bachelor of Nursing program at UNBSJ since 2015. Meaghan wishes to thank high school teacher, Sebastien Lavoie for introducing her to hockey, which she not only avidly played in high school, but continues to play with passion. In fact, her high school coach, Jenn Cosman is now her hockey teammate (and fellow beer-drinker) and is still yelling at her to "get to the net Flecknell". Meaghan is an avid world traveler and resides in Quispamsis, NB.

Lisa Harlow (2003), hubby Matt Carvell and 1-1/2 year-old son Caden welcomed a new arrival, Jaxon Harlow Carvell to their family on October 28, 2016. Lisa is employed by Irving Oil and Matt works for Irving Blending and Packaging in Saint John. Congratulations! Another avid football player and fan!

Leanne (Titus) Moore (2011) and Clayton Moore (2011) announce the arrival of their son, Trevor Cayden Lee, born on December 15, 2016. Trevor has a 2-year-old big brother, Jacob "to show him the ropes". Leanne and Clayton recently returned to New Brunswick from Alberta and are enjoying being back home with family and friends. Clayton works at Irving Wallboard in Saint John.

Theresa (White) Polyakov (2000), her husband, Slava, and son, Bohdan, recently added to their family with daughter, Zoryana Margaret, born October 26, 2016. Theresa works for a non-profit organization, the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. The happy family resides in the Toronto area.

Shawn Godwin (2003) and his wife, Mary Lynn have a new son, Mason Daniel, born on September 29, 2016. Now, Mya, age 2, has a sweet baby brother. Shawn is employed with Investors Group Financial Services and Mary Lynn is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital. They live in the Saint John area.

Lauren (Eckstone) Watts (2006) and husband, Greg are excited about their early Christmas present, new arrival, Dean Bedford born on December 16, 2016. Lauren works at Fundy Bay Organics and Greg works at ADM Systems Engineering in Saint John.

Derek Dobson (1983) is Leisure Time RV Center's VP / General Manager and has served as Chairman of the Board of Recreation Dealers Association of Canada. He was recently inducted into the RV Center Hall of Fame in Elkhart, Indiana. Derek is a member of the Board of Directors of the John T. McMillan Jr. Memorial Foundation. He, his wife, Kelly and children Jenna, Gillian and Gregor live in Quispamsis, NB.

Geoff Armstrong (2006) and Emily Dumville wish to announce the birth of their baby boy, Harrison Kevin Armstrong on December 16, 2016. Geoff works at Irving Oil, but also has his own business, GD Fabrication, building race cars.

Devon Hanson (2006) and Mary Beth MacInnis were married in Playa del Carmen, Mexico in November 2016. The happy couple reside in Calgary, Alberta where Devon is a mechanical engineer for SNC Lavalin and Mary Beth is a senior engineer in product development at ATCO Global Pipelines and Liquids Canada.

Cheryl (Carson) Smith (2006) and Sam Smith (2006) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a 7 lb 12 oz baby boy Isaac Matthew born on November 14, 2016. Cheryl works at Home Depot and Sam works for NB Power at Point Lepreau. They live in Black River, NB.



OBITUARIES

Mary Jo-Anne (Blizzard) Langlais (1963) passed away on October 23, 2016. Jo-Anne was a life-long resident of Loch Lomond. She was very involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and, in recent years, with breast cancer awareness. She taught for many years at Simonds Junior and Bayside Middle Schools and was well-loved by her many students. Family will remember her homemade crafts and artistic creativity with fondness. Jo-Anne is survived by sisters Sue Coughlan, Kathy Hackett and Janet Daley as well as her children Ted, Pat, Andrea and Jamie and five grandchildren.

Robert Revie (1964) passed away on May 17, 2016. After attending UNBSJ, Bob pursued a career in banking in Montreal and Toronto. Then he returned to Saint John to work at Centennial Pontiac Buick. Bob is survived by his daughters Heather Hundley and Michelle Revie of Ontario as well as two granddaughters. Also surviving him are brother Greig Revie of Ontario, sister, Mary Anne Griffin of Moncton and sister Catherine Chandler of Chamcook, NB.

Lawrence McCaskill (1966) passed away suddenly in Saint John on October 8, 2016. Larry was an electrician and proud member of IBEW Local 502; he retired in 2012. As a car buff, he enjoyed collecting Hot Wheels, models and pedal cars; he also had fun building cars. Whenever Larry was not tinkering in his garage, he was spending time with his family. He is survived by wife, Terry, son Rick, daughter Dorianne Palmer, two grandsons, one granddaughter, and brother, Blair McCaskill.

Hugh Hicks (1970), of Tavistock, Ontario passed away on October 8, 2016 after a short illness. Hugh studied Engineering at UNB, followed by architecture at the Technical University of Nova Scotia (now part of Dalhousie). After marrying and having his family, he moved a few times to Fredericton (2x), Montreal (2x) and then settled near Waterloo, Ontario. As an architect and property developer, Hugh renovated the Provincial Legislative Building in New Brunswick and renovated beautiful old historical properties in Vieux Montreal. He designed and built several homes for his family. Hugh was an active member of the Family Campers and RVer's group for over 20 years. He held several administrative roles in the organization and was an active traveler and RVer. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen (Camy) of 40 years, his daughter Sarah and husband of Toronto and son, Gregory and wife of Elmira, Ontario, as well as two grandsons. Hugh is also survived by sister, Susan (Hicks) Herrington of Toronto and brother, Gary of Quispamsis, NB.

Bernard Dallon (1988) passed away unexpectedly on December 6, 2016. Bernie worked as a foreman at the Saint John airport for many years. He enjoyed hunting, camping, country music and especially his Sunday night drives listening to the Country Jamboree. His children were his pride and joy and he enjoyed spending time with his family. Bernie is survived by his wife Juanita (Mackenzie), sons Kyle and Jordon and daughter, Hannah of Willow Grove. He is also survived by brothers Kenny (Willow Grove), Stephen (Edmonton), Luke (St. Martins), and Patrick & Grattan of Saint John. Sisters surviving him are Sabra and Charlotte (Saint John), and Ellen and Tanya of Willow Grove.

Lisa Dawn (Clarke) Christian (1995) passed away unexpectedly on December 1, 2016 in Saint John. Lisa volunteered with the Crescent Valley Community Centre and Tenants' Association and truly enjoyed caring for the children. She always saw the good in people and put others before herself. In addition to her parents and husband, Josh, she is survived by her son, Sean, daughter Abagail, step-son Kodie and step-daughter Cloie, sisters Andrea Joy Keenan and Amanda Lynn Clarke, step-sister Karen Girouard, and step-brothers Collin and George Lucas.







Remember When....

In each issue, we will include a couple of pictures from years gone by at Simonds High School. For this section, we would like you to submit some of your favourite memories in pics from your high school years. Please send your pics to Tammy (Vautour) Kilpatrick at tamkilp@yahoo.ca or Judy (MacKnight) Chapman at chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca.

The Christmas Cabaret has long been a highlight of the year at Simonds. Each December, it is a huge event! The Student Council decides on a theme and the gym and gym lobby are decorated accordingly. There are always lots of neat backdrops for group pictures. The theme for cabaret December 2016 was Masquerade. Just a mention of the Christmas Cabaret brings back lots of great memories for Simonds grads. Some pics of our alumni at their cabaret follow.



2009



2010



Megan Ougler, Pam Cummings

2008

1995



2004



Jasmine Clarke, Nicole Howe, Kendra Foster, Taylor Davis, Natalie Baxter

2008

2010



The Work Room Your Career Resource Centre

Simonds High Musical 2017

In the spring of 2017, Simonds High School Drama Club will be presenting the musical **DISASTER!!!** This musical parodies and pays comedic tribute to the 1970s disaster movies. The larger-than-life characters remember the earthquakes, tidal waves, infernos, swarms of killer bees and many other kinds of disasters protrayed in the movies of that decade. They also pay homage to an era of bell bottoms, snappy shoes and the hustle. This hilarious musical comedy has fun, witty dialogue and features some of the most unforgettable songs of the 1970s. Do you remember the tune or lyrics to I am Woman, Hot Stuff, I Will Survive, Hooked on a Feeling, Three Times a Lady, Never Can Say Goodbye, Ben, Sky High, When Will I be Loved, You're My Best Friend and other songs of that decade? If you do, and are already humming or dancing along to these songs, then this will be the perfect night out for you! Please stay tuned to our alumni face book page, the Simonds High website and our spring edition of this newsletter for details on dates, times and tickets.

You are welcome to The Work Room!

Located across from the main office at Simonds High.

The Work Room is a state-of-the art career resource centre open to all members of the public.

We are here to assist you in all phases of career planning and job search.

The Work Rooms can help you:

- Explore Career Fields
- Internet Access for Job Search and Online Applications
- Resume Writing and Cover Letters
- Refine your Interview Skills / Mock Interviews
- Assistance with Student Loan Applications
- Find Job Opportunities
- Fax Machine and Photocopier Service Available

The Work Rooms are open to everyone in the community - FREE OF CHARGE!

8:15am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday. (Open on inservice days)

Visit us at www.careersthatwork.ca Or Give Us a Call! - 506.643.7422











Santa Claus Parade 2016 - Simonds High Float



On Saturday, November 19th, Simonds High participated in the 64th Saint John Christmas Parade. The Simonds High School float was awarded the Chairman's Choice award. Simonds High was also awarded the Best Cheerleaders in the parade. Congratulations to all the students and staff! Well done Seabees!!

SIMONDS' SWAG!

Several alumni have been asking for T-shirts, toques, hoodies, sweatpants, etc. with Simonds logos on them. You are now in luck! The school recently opened an online shop for all your Simonds clothing. If you wish to have your spirit wear say "ALUMNI", you can customize it for just \$4 extra. There is LOTS of selection for men's, women's and youth clothing with several brand names. Shipping takes 4 - 7 work days and is FREE if sent to anywhere in Canada. Best of all, 10% of all purchases goes directly back to the school. Log in to the site, create your own account and pay for your purchase using a credit card. Receive 10% off your order with bonus code ENTRIPYSHOPS10. Check out the online site at:

http://simondshighschool.entripyshops.co

Happy Shopping!





Merry Christmas to all SEABEES and their families!

We have had a great year and looking forward to 2017!! Lots of new and fun things are coming up in the new year! We hope that you will help support all the SHS Alumni's efforts in fundraising and being a part of the Simonds community! Our current students need and appreciate all our efforts and without you, our efforts would be meaningless.

Thank you for all your support in 2016 and may you and your family be blessed with a very Merry Christmas and all things great in the new year!

Sincerely, Your Simonds High Alumni



REUNIONS...

Class of 1977

The awesome planning committee for the Class of 1977 has been hard at work for a few months now planning to make their 40-yr reunion the best ever! On Friday night, July 14, 2017, there will be a grad-only night (also open to people who would have graduated with them) at O'Leary's Pub from 7PM onward. This will be followed by a grad and spouse / friend dance in the Simonds cafeteria on Saturday, July 15th from 8PM until midnight. Music for the dance will be supplied by DJ Chris (Frick) Wetmore of Alpha One Studios. If you graduated in 1977, please send your name and email information to simonds1977grad@gmail.com. In February, an invitation email will go out to grads; this will be accompanied by a short survey requesting your favourite song from this era, favourite memory of Simonds, etc. As well, names will be taken of those who would like to order a commemorative mug. Details re cost / person have not yet been finalized. So, book the vacations, start the diets, pass the word along to your high school friends and anything else you need to do...just plan to be there to celebrate and reconnect with your fellow grads! As more details are forthcoming, they will be posted in subsequent alumni newsletters and online in the Simonds High School Alumni face book page.

Class of 1992

The Class of 1992 will be holding a 25 year "Meet & Greet" in July 2017. Stay tuned for more details!

If any other classes are planning reunions, could they please send details and dates to Judy Chapman at chapmanb@nbnet.nb.ca or Tammy Kilpatrick at kilpatrick.tammy@sourceatlantic.ca, or post or send us a message on our alumni face book page. It is always good to get information out early so grads can book their vacations and make plans to attend.