

HAPPENINGS IN THE HIVE

Simonds High Alumni Newsletter June 2020



Facebook Milestone



As of early June 2020, the number of members following the Simonds High School Facebook page has topped 3000! We are thrilled that so many of our Simonds family are keeping up with their school in this way. New 2020 grads are starting to join as well. Simonds High pride is continuing through this social media platform.



Check it out under [Simonds High School Alumni!!](#)

Alumni Committee Contacts:

Jill (Vincent) Eckstone – jill.eckstone@nbed.nb.ca
Judy (MacKnight) Chapman – judychapman44@gmail.com
Colleen (Kenny) Nobles – colleen_nobles@hotmail.com
Tammy (Vautour) Kilpatrick – tamkilp@yahoo.ca
Kara (Nobles) McCann - nobles_kara@hotmail.com
Joleen (Searle) Elder - joleen.searle@unb.com
Mike Vincent - mav@nb.sympatico.ca
Chris Bartlett – gwensie@hotmail.com
Jeremy Furlong – jeremyfurlong5@gmail.com
Harold McInnis - mcinnis4@bellaliant.net
Sabra (Dallon) Howe - showe@nb.sympatico.ca
Caitlyn Robertson - CaitlinMRobertson@hotmail.com
Brianna Walton - brianna.alyssa@hotmail.com
Jane Buck - janebuck410@gmail.com
Molly Kilpatrick – mollyeileenkilpatrick@gmail.com

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WHAT'S HAPPENING??

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 High School
Home of the Seabees

Simonds Memorial Grove

In the Simonds High School Memorial Grove, trees are planted 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 school driveway by the playing field. Alumni have donated the Princeton Golden Yellow maple trees. In June, the trees in the memorial grove got some special care from two Simonds teachers. Peter Woytiuk and Harold Stewart made and installed stakes for each tree; in addition, they applied new mulch around each maple. For graduation day, these trees helped make the grounds of the Simonds campus look amazing! They provided a great background for grad photos.

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! To commemorate each tree, a plaque with name plates honors those remembered. In addition, a picture and short bio will be placed in our Wall of Remembrance along with the plaque. The display case for this remembrance is in the lobby across from the school theatre and on the way to the gymnasium. The current approximate cost of a tree and planting materials is \$180. If you wish to donate a tree, please contact Judy Chapman (judychapman44@gmail.com) or any member of the SHS Alumni Committee (on page 1). The next planting will be in the spring of 2021. **Please note: there will only be 3 - 4 more trees planted in the grove as we would like to leave plenty of room for the trees to grow and not be crowded.** Thank you to all who have donated trees in memory of friends and family. We appreciate your support of the grove, which also has served to beautify the Simonds' property.



Old Yearbooks!

Still searching for that memorable gift for a friend, relative, or even yourself? The Simonds Alumni Committee has yearbooks from most years up to and including 2014 (only a few years are sold out). What a special gift that would make! Where else can you get such a unique gift for \$35 (no tax)? Also, if you have any yearbooks with which you are willing to part and donate to the alumni, we would be happy to accept your gift. For more information, or to see if your year is still available, please contact Judy Chapman at judychapman44@gmail.com.

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!



WHAT'S HAPPENING??

Simonds



Travel Opportunities - Journeys with Judy

The current situation re the pandemic has caused most of us to press “pause” on our international travels. Safety and good health are paramount. This has made us appreciate our local treasures and the simple pleasures of family, friends and home even more. However, we can still add places and trips to our respective “bucket lists” and dream of where we will go when the world opens up again. Why not check out some of my tours?

Lisbon, Seville, Madrid & Barcelona departing May 22, 2021

Food & Wine of Northern Italy departing Sept 25, 2021
Budapest, Vienna, Prague and Salzburg departing Sept 16, 2022

Itineraries and pricing are available on my microsite: www.grouptoursite.ca/judychapman. Please be in touch if I can answer any questions: judychapman44@gmail.com or 506-847-3241.

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 assist with the breakfast program there. They work with the Simonds alumni and the school on this worthwhile initiative. If you are interested in further details, please contact Cathy MacDonald (ceileenm@nb.sympatico.ca).

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.

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.

Address any entries to Judy Chapman (judychapman44@gmail.com) or Tammy Kilpatrick (alumnisecretary@outlook.com). 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.

During the past few months many weddings were postponed due to pandemic guidelines. Thus, there are few weddings on this list. Expect many next year!

Christy Reardon (2000) and partner Russell Smith welcomed son Adler Patrick Smith on September 20, 2019. Older brother Crawford age 3 has a new "partner in crime"/ best friend. Christy works at Irving Oil and Russell is a Senior User Interface Designer at Cvent. This lovely family makes their home in Millidgeville.

On June 15, 2019 **Erica (Craft) Fairweather (2008)** and **Chris (Hachey) Fairweather (2008)** wed. They are the proud parents of daughter Sadie age 6. Erica works at Belfor Property Restoration and Chris works at Lexus of Saint John.

Mercedes Peters (2012) was awarded the Governor General's Medal for academic achievement in Humanities and Social Science at the Dalhousie University 2019 graduation. She is currently doing her PhD in History in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia. Her focus is on the Impact of Colonial Structures on Indigenous Movements in Canada.

Jani (Brown) Ryan (2008) and husband Jamie Ryan added to their family with son Rhodie James, born on February 14, 2020. Rhodie has older siblings Hattie, age 1-1/2, and Jack, age 3. Jani is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital and Jamie is an electrician at Gardner Electric. The happy family calls Titusville, NB home.

Justine (Butler) Bailey (2002), husband Frank and son Reid age 4, have a new family member. Baby Ella was born April 22, 2020. Justine is a teacher in Anglophone School District South and Frank is a surveyor / P.Eng for A.D. Fiander Associates. The happy family makes their home in Noonan, NB.

Rene Aleman (2004) and his wife Nicole announce the birth of their second child, daughter Jane Lenor born December 28, 2019. Jane is sister to 2-1/2 yr old William. Rene is a research assistant at the Horizon Health Network.

Tanya (Dallon) Ripley (2007) and husband Harry Ripley welcomed twin boys George Parker and Jack Harrison on January 20, 2020. Older sister, Gracie, age 2, loves her baby brothers. Tanya is an accountant with Canada Revenue Agency and Harry works at Kathron Construction. The family lives in Willow Grove with their fur babies Casey, Penny and Sage.

Shawn Gallant (2012) and partner Geena Curran have a new son, Jack Stephen, born on April 5, 2020. Shawn is a millwright at local 2262 while Geena is a hairstylist at Urban Spa / Urban Salon.

Wayne Beresford (2011) and wife Brittany are overjoyed with their new baby girl, Callie Louise born on February 4, 2020. Wayne is currently stationed in Tacoma, Washington, USA with the Canadian Forces.

Emily (Moran) Brown (2012) and husband **Hallie Brown (2012)** have a new family member. A baby girl, Lauren Emily Andrea, was born on February 10, 2020. Emily is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital and Hallie is an electrician at Ramsay Electric. The happy family resides in St Martins.

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.com/>

SEABEES HOME & AWAY

Darlene Friars (1965) and Bill Harrington (1965) were married on March 14, 2020. Best wishes to the happy couple!

Kirk Carlson (2005) and fiancée Ashley Armstrong welcomed baby girl Everly Reign on March 20, 2020. Kirk is the Director of Diagnostic Imaging at Horizon Health Network in Saint John. Ashley is employed by Irving Oil.

Andrew Singh (2012) and his wife **Kaitlyn (Goguen) Singh (2013)** have a new son, Robert Martin, born March 6, 2020. Robert has an older brother David, age 2. Andrew works at Irving Wallboard and Kaitlyn works casually at Horizon Health's Centracare facility and at Anglophone South School District. They reside in Hampton, NB.

Erica (Forward) Tibbo (2008) and husband Chad Tibbo are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son, Weston James, born on May 7, 2020. Erica and Chad are both dentists and enjoying being new parents.

Suzanne (Beaulieu) McKinney (1990), owner of A-1 Bookkeeping Services, was awarded the Lady of Leadership award in March 2020 at the Ladies of Influence Inaugural Gala in Saint John. This is part of the Ladies of Influence Networking Group. She was also nominated for the Women of Influence award from the Royal Bank of Canada (Canadian Women of Influence). Suzanne and her husband Mark McKinney (1987) have two adult children, Tiana (2016) and Ben (2018).

Justin Stewart (2006) and his wife Beth welcomed son Edward Laurence on December 12, 2019. Justin is an engineer at Irving Oil and Beth works as a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

Bodhin Michael Bennett was born to parents **Michael Bennett (2004)** and wife **Alyssa (Irwin) Bennett (2005)** on May 1, 2020. He will be spoiled by not only his parents, but also sisters Bernice, age 2, and Brooke, age 3-1/2. Allie is an auditor / consultant at the Office of the Comptroller for the Province of New Brunswick and Mike is a shaft miner at Oyu Tolgoi Redpath Mongolia LLC. They make their home in Grand Bay, NB

Tim Denton (2006) married Tina-Marie (Cyr) Denton on December 21, 2019. They have three children - daughter Ashlyn, age 13, daughter Lilly, age 4 and son Timmy, age 2-1/2. Tim works at TD Insurance in Saint John.

Aaron Barker (2014) and Abigail Keilty were married on May 15, 2020. Aaron is a delivery person for UPS and Abby is a teacher in Anglophone South School District.

Shannon (McLaughlin) Ramsay (2012) and Dylan Ramsey's new daughter, Estella (Ella) Barbra Norah was born on June 22, 2020. Dylan works at JDI. The happy family resides in the Saint John area.

Courtney (Thompson) Beitz (2010) and husband **Craig Beitz (2006)** have a new son, Deegan Erich born on June 19, 2020. Their daughter, Maddie, age 16 months, has a new playmate. Courtney is an accountant (CPA) with Irving Oil in the Consolidations Group and Craig is an electrician and firefighter at the Saint John airport. Courtney was recently named in the top 10 Women's Basketball Players of all time in celebration of Dalhousie University's 100th year of university basketball!

Baby girl Quinn Louise Parkhill was born to **Luke Parkhill (2008)** and wife Teanna on March 12, 2020. Luke is a Clinical Engineering Technologist at Service New Brunswick and Teanna works at Sussex Farm Supply. The lovely family resides in Norton, NB.

Maggie (Roy) Boyle (2007) and husband Alex Boyle added to their family with daughter Kate Brianne on January 22, 2020. Big sister, Emma, age 4, will be a great help with the new baby. Maggie is a nurse with Extra Mural in Saint John and Alex works for Synoptek.

Peter Dalton (1997) and wife **Tiffany (Hamilton) Dalton (2005)** welcomed a son, John Peter, a brother for their daughter Ellie, age 3 yrs 4 mo. John was born on January 15, 2020. Peter is a teacher at Simonds High School while Tiffany works at JDI as Human Resources Director in the IT Department.

Julie Edwards Rocca (2004) and partner Chris Grannan are thrilled at the birth of their daughter Angelina Laura Edwards Grannan (Lina) on February 28, 2020. Big brother Valentino (Tino) is such a great help. Julie works at Saint John City Hall and Chris is the owner/ operator of the Grannan Hospitality Group. They live happily in Rothesay, NB





Alumnus Gives Back!



Simonds alumni have always been great - supportive and compassionate. When a need has arisen and a post is made on facebook or by email, there is always an excellent, timely and compassionate response. For that we are truly grateful. However, not often does a member come to us and just ask how they can help. IE. What does the school need? What can be done to help out the school? their school? This happened in late winter when Mark Hughes (Class of 1980) approached the alumni to ask how he could help. (Mark owns Atlantic Window Ltd, a business offering window, doors, garage doors, and more for residential and commercial purposes. He has had an inspiring story as a local businessman.) A decision was made to redo the landscaping of the bed beside the gym / theatre entrance of the school. It was in need of refurbishing and often grad pictures are taken in that spot.

Then the pandemic hit. Schools were closed. Businesses were shuttered. It was thought that graduation would not take place and also that this offer would be gone. However, not so, in the mind of Mark Hughes. Mr. Hughes and his employees rose to the occasion. The old bed was completely demolished. A new bed was created - complete with rocks, shrubs that are gold-tipped, flowers etc. In addition, they offered to replace the badly worn Gym & Theatre sign and to have a new sign made with the Simonds crest and Home of the Seabees. Those two signs are a fantastic improvement! The entire area near that entrance had a complete redo and looks wonderful! Nestled in one corner of the bed in front of a lovely yellow / gold flower is a painted rock (similar to ones many people have found along trails as they walked during the pandemic lockdown). The inspiration on the rock is "You Can Move Mountains". That simple but inspiring message to all brings a smile to one's heart!

On behalf of the alumni and the students and staff of Simonds we would like to sincerely thank Mark and his employees who created such a lovely garden area, installed new signs and did a complete redo by one of the most used school entrances. We are very touched by his inspiring story of how his life and business unfolded since he was among the Simonds grads 40 years ago. He has "paid it forward" to the Class of 2020 (who really needed a lift) and to those classes that follow. His pride in his school has increased ours!

Thank You



2020 Reunions

Class of 1970: As a precaution in the unprecedented times of COVID-19, the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1970 has been postponed until June 26, 2021. It will be held from 6 PM - midnight at the Riverside Golf Club in East Riverside. A grand celebration in honour of their 50+1 years will take place at that time. For more information, please contact simondsclassof70@gmail.com or join their facebook page **Simonds High School Class of 1970**.

Class of 1980: Due to the pandemic, the 40-year reunion being celebrated by the Class of 1980 has been rescheduled to July 3, 2021. For updates, you may check their facebook page: **Simonds High School Class of 1980**.

Class of 1984: A 40-year reunion will take place on August 10, 2024.

Class of 1990: The Class of 1990 has rescheduled their 30-year reunion for next year. Details will be announced once they are available. You may follow the facebook group **Simonds High School Class of 1990 (30th Reunion)** for more information.

Class of 2000: Due to the current pandemic, the planning committee for the Class of 2000 has decided it would be logical and safer to postpone their 20-year reunion until next year. Further details will be available later. You may follow that class in the facebook group **Simonds High School 20th Year High School Reunion**.

Questions have been asked re reunions in 2021 for the classes of 1971, 1981, 2001 and 2011. To date we have not received any details re plans for those reunions. At this time it has been difficult for reunions to be planned; everything is tentative. As soon as details become available, they will be advertised in this alumni newsletter and on our facebook page **Simonds High School Alumni**.

Past Reunions

Five of the seven Simonds reunions held in the summer of 2019 were recognized in our last issue. Two other classes also had get-togethers last summer. The Class of 1974 celebrated their 45-yr reunion with the Classes of 1973 and 1975 at the Simonds Lions Auditorium last July. Over 100 people attended and it was a fun time of reconnecting.

The Class of 1984 celebrated their 35-year reunion at the Call Box on Charlotte Street in SJ. A good time was had by all.! They have set a date for their 40-year reunion; it will be August 10, 2024!



Simonds High, Class Of 84, 35th Reunion



Class of 1973 - 1975



OBITUARIES



Marilyn (Watson) Whittaker (1956) passed on September 22, 2019. She was a woman of great faith, and served as a Sunday School teacher, pianist, choir member, Pioneer Girl leader, treasurer and financial secretary for many years in her church. Marilyn was also active with the Fundy Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She will be missed by sons Paul and Leighton, daughter Dawn, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, siblings Phyllis, Donna, Lois, Carol, Charles, Brice, Daryl and Trevor.

David Curran (1961) passed away on November 20, 2019. He was employed by the Irving Refinery for 32 years and continued to socialize with his colleagues for many years afterwards. Dave enjoyed cars and was a member of the Saint John Sports Car Club. He played badminton and tennis and loved camping and hiking with his family. When he was not volunteering with Meals on Wheels, he loved to spend time with his 6 grandchildren. Dave will also be missed by his wife Berta, and sons Robert and Matthew.

Stanley Kirkpatrick (1966) fought a courageous battle with cancer until December 20, 2019. Stan worked for many years at Baxter Dairies and more than 30 years with Vachon. He is survived by his son Troy, daughter Kim, one granddaughter and sisters Nancy, Barbara and Lois.

Harriett (Craft) Savoie (1968) lost her battle with cancer on December 24, 2019. She dedicated 35 years to the Girl Guides of Canada where she inspired girls and women to live their best lives. Harriett was a school volunteer and later, an Educational Assistant. She was passionate about camping, hiking, biking, beach combing, kayaking - generally everything about the outdoors. Harri will be missed by her husband Roger Savoie (Simonds High School teacher), sons Gus and Moe, daughter Marie-Claire and 7 grandchildren. She will also be missed by brothers David, Douglas, Gary, John, George, Peter and Clarke as well as sisters Patricia, Elizabeth, Cathy and Mary Jane.

Donald Clements passed away on February 14, 2020. Don had retired as a dedicated employee of Irving Oil. He was an avid fisherman and very much a family man. Don is survived by his wife Anne, his daughters Lesley and Lori, brothers Danny, Robert, and Richard, sisters Judy, Dale and Roxanne and two grandchildren.

Michael Ward (1983) fought a valiant battle with brain cancer, but passed away on February 9, 2020. Mike was a conscientious employee at Centracare and then Rocmaura. After that he worked with the Department of Transport and in the service industry before returning to health care at the Saint John Regional Hospital. He was happiest outdoors - cycling, beachcombing, kayaking, hiking, hunting or snowshoeing. He also enjoyed pool, snooker and woodworking. Mike will be missed by his partner Shauna Doucette, sons Kyle and Taylor, brother David, sister Christine and mother Lillian.

Ille (Mang) Kaglik (1986) passed away on May 10, 2020. Ille lived in Salt Spring Island, BC and had been involved with Harlans Chocolate & Gelato (Salt Spring Island Chocolates) and the local SPCA.

Zoe Nicoles (1993), born in Athens, Greece, passed away on March 3, 2020. Zoe is survived by her husband Mark Eldridge, sister Maria, brother Spiros and both of her parents.

Mark Winchester (1996) died unexpectedly in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic on February 5, 2020. He lived in Onslow Mountain, Nova Scotia and owned his own conveyor belt business in that province. He is survived by his wife Penny, son Mark, step children Grady, Maddie and Charlie, sister Connie and brother Donnie.

Kelly McKiel (2006) died in an accident on May 3, 2020. Involved with army cadets from age 12 to 17, she then joined the Canadian Forces and was based in Ottawa from 2006 - 2013 as a Communications and Intelligence Officer. Kelly completed 3 tours of service for her country. She lived her life to the fullest and was very proud of her artistic talents. She is survived by her mother Davina Hill, father James McKiel, sisters Jamie and Krista.

Michel Beman (2015) passed away unexpectedly in Kingston, Ontario on January 29, 2020. Following high school, he graduated in Electrical Engineering from NBCC and then enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces. At the time of Michel's passing, he was training to be a line technician at CFB Kingston. He is mourned by his parents Robert & Natalie Beman, sister Evelyn and brother Adrien.

OBITUARIES...cont'd

Robert Metcalfe (staff) passed away on February 7, 2020 following a struggle with several cancers. Bob was an educator in the Saint John area for 33 years beginning as a teacher and moving on to many years as an administrator at several schools including more than two decades at St. Joseph's School. He was also a reporter and editor with the Telegraph-Journal. Bob was a keen outdoorsman who loved to fly fish and hunt moose. He served in the RCAF Reserve for years, with stints in various places during the summers; in the winter months, he served as a shooting instructor and public information officer for the Simonds 527 Squadron. He is fondly remembered by his four children and five grandchildren.

Peter Salmon (staff) passed away on March 18, 2020. He was a well-known artist, cartoonist, theatre set designer, painter, music lover and singer. Peter taught art at Simonds, and then Harbour View High School. He not only taught art but was a practising artist with several local exhibitions. He was a member of many choirs in the Saint John area. Peter is survived by his wife Rinske, children Tineke, David, Eleanor and Gillian as well as 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

John Shanks (1978) passed away on May 7, 2020 in Biloxi, Mississippi. John last connected with many of his Simonds classmates when he attended the 40-year reunion of his class in 2018. He is survived by his wife Donna, mother Esther, sister Jacqueline and step-children Andrew, Ashley and Adam.

Marilee Price / Cunningham (staff) fought a long courageous battle with cancer until February 6, 2020. She had a natural talent for music - especially singing. While teaching at Simonds she organized a school choir. After Simonds, Marilee taught music at Millidgeville North for several years. She was a very bubbly person. Her greatest pride was her sons Logan and Duncan. Marilee was also survived by her parents and brothers Michael and Mitch.



Irene Michaelson



Nancy Ryan-Henderson



Edmonde Cormier



Pearl Mattson

Simonds Retirees

This year, four experienced staff members are retiring from Simonds High. Pearl Mattson has been a very patient Educational Assistant. Irene Michaelson has taught primarily Grade 9 French and History, finishing up her career in the Resource Department. Nancy Ryan-Henderson taught History and Co-Operative Education. Edmonde Cormier, a French Immersion teacher and French Department Head (SPR), was also well known for organizing the school trips to New York and Europe for the students. A sincere thank you goes out to these experienced staff members for their fine teaching and service to Simonds students. They will be missed. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

SIMONDS 2020!



Aiden Timmons Vautour - Salutatorian



Lewie Kernighan - Valedictorian

Valedictorian, Salutatorian & Scholarships 2020

For the 2020 grad class, the Valedictorian was Lewie Kernighan. Lewie, the student council co-president and president of the New Brunswick Provincial Student Council, was awarded the Lord Beaverbrook Scholarship, a UNB entrance scholarship of \$40 000; only six are awarded per year. He will pursue engineering at UNBSJ. At graduation, Lewie also received the Governor General's Medal for the highest standing.

The Salutatorian, Aiden Timmons Vautour, Simonds Tech Guru, was awarded the Hugh John Fleming Memorial Scholarship from UNB.as well as a UNBSJ campus scholarship. Ryan Machum received the Colin B MacKay scholarship for UNB. Abby Caldwell will pursue her BA at Mount Allison University from where she was awarded a renewable scholarships and a bursary. At the Simonds graduation, Abby received the Birks Medal for outstanding leadership. Randon Isaac received a UNBSJ campus scholarship and the Karl Land Fiddes Memorial Scholarship in Science. Emily Ingersoll was awarded a St Thomas University Student Leader Scholarship, a St Thomas Achievement award and a residence award. Mia Greene, also heading to St. Thomas, received an Achievement Award from them.



The Imperial Theatre will be congratulating all Simonds grads individually on their marquee from June 29 - July 3 (except for Canada Day on July 1st). Each grad's name will be displayed 4 times. We thank the Imperial Theatre for this opportunity!



Hannah MacDonald - Grad Class President

Graduation Day 2020

Graduation during a pandemic provides a lot of challenges and opportunities. After 3 months of schools being closed and online instruction, graduates and their families were unsure what, if anything, would take place to celebrate this milestone. Strict rules re social distancing, no handshakes and numbers limited to 50 had to apply even if an event were to take place outdoors. After a student and staff committee brainstorming session, it was decided to have 11 mini-graduations of 14 grads each (plus two guests). This all-day event took place on June 18th. Glorious sunshine on that day made this event truly memorable! There were several beautiful areas outside on the huge Simonds campus that were perfect for pictures of graduates, their friends and family. Some attendees felt this outside venue was even better for a graduation than a crowded gymnasium. (However, not having the entire grad class together was a drawback. Also, on a day when the weather didn't cooperate as well, an inside venue would have been preferred.) The entire ceremonial day was live streamed and watched by many; this was later posted to YouTube. In a separate virtual ceremony, all the grads were named and all the speeches took place. (You may watch this on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-ByrjFLQwI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1KLIar-XCSxGN-I7RGEBQ275sWhWColdpCK9aAIFHe0uy8wyhuOZsk3gM>.) There were of course many different behind-the-scenes things to put together to make this celebration happen. A sincere thank you goes out to the administration and staff of Simonds for making this event outstanding! Also, thank you to all the graduates for coming together and making this event the success that it was. Your resilience during the past few months is admirable. We wish you success in whatever you pursue in this next chapter of your life. We proudly welcome you to the Simonds High School Alumni!

End of Year Awards - Covid-19 Style

It was not possible to have the typical ceremonies for either the Sports Awards or Social / Spirit Awards during these unprecedented times. Instead, virtual awards ceremonies for both events were held and then released to the students and anyone else interested. If you would like to view the ceremony for sports awards, please check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unQNSy9o3Gk>. For the ceremony for the Simonds Social / Spirit awards (which includes the Superlatives voted by the grads), you may view https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp1D4R8WKw4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3jQY6Er8bZ_54PW0eoHxPxXOTMKVqoZVOf6U6X86J7m19hvUwiBmdeIAg. Congratulations to all those students who received sport or social awards! Well done to everyone involved in organizing these virtual ceremonies!

SIMONDS 2020!

Graduation Signs

Without the usual fanfare, prom and typical formal ceremony, grads turned to other ways to celebrate this milestone. With the organization by teachers Ms. S. Gillis and Ms B. Rinehart, grad signs were ordered; some had signs they displayed in their house windows, while others had signs they proudly held for pics and later displayed on their lawns. On the alumni face book page, a call went out for assistance in covering the cost of these signs for some grads. Simonds alumni - individuals and even grad classes - came through with generous donations. This was much appreciated! The signs were beautiful! A sincere thank you goes out to Flewelling Photography for the generous use of their grad photos. Some pictures of the signs are shown below.



2020
Class of



This year is certainly one for the history books! Covid-19 turned every one on their heads as schools, businesses, malls and more shut down. We quarantined, wore masks and did our shopping online all the while missing family and friends. Simonds High School Staff released many videos to their students indicating how much they were missed and advising everyone to stay home and stay safe. Slowly but surely, fewer and fewer cases of Covid-19 were being diagnosed and the province began to open up a little with a few less restrictions. Teachers went back to work without their students but it gave them plenty of time to get the Hive ready for graduation. And that is where the Alumni comes in....

We simply could NOT have had the successful graduation we did without our amazing Simonds High Alumni. Mark Hughes, a Seabee Alumnus and owner of Windoor, is owed a HUGE debt of gratitude for making our school look absolutely amazing! He dedicated his time, his money, and his effort to make things work and the BUZZ around the Hive was all about Mark! THANK YOU. Special thanks to each of you who donated money to purchase a lawn sign for one of our graduates or donated towards scholarships. You made them smile when some of them felt they had little to smile about! You made a difference and we thank you for that sincerely. But we also want to thank all of you who took time, to like, share or post about our school. It means so much to every single student, teacher, staff member and administrator to know we are supported by our Alumni.

I want to wish each of you a healthy, happy and safe summer. We look forward to a new school year, albeit a little different, but with renewed energy and enthusiasm! We are ALWAYS looking for new ideas and suggestions and of course YOU are always welcome to join our team!

Sincerely,

Jill Eckstone

Class of 1986
SPR Humanities Simonds High