

Alma College International Alumnae Association

Newsletter 2013



**Golden Days by Peter Robson
Limited Edition print**

Annual Reunion is June 7 - 9th, 2013
Four Points Sheraton London Ontario
www.AlmaCollege.20m.com
Find us on FaceBook at "Alma College"

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMNAE COUNCIL

I recall standing on the front steps of Alma College on a cold, fall night in 1997 trying to figure out why I was giving up so much of my personal time to clean out the College. At this point, I had already helped to box up the student academic records which were now safely in the care of the Ministry of Education. So what was it about Alma? It occurred to me that what was special about the College, was the role it played in transforming me from a teenager to a young adult.

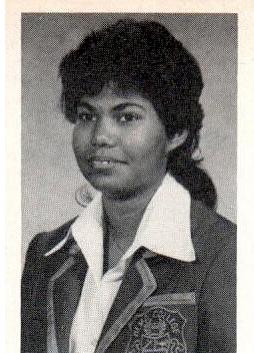
As the years have passed by, I have come to realize that Alma has a special meaning for many alumnae, not just me. At last year's reunion, we had the pleasure of listening to John Sifton, son of former principal, Flora Sifton, share his wonderful memories of growing up on the school property. As we reflected on his talk, we realized that John could have been telling any of our stories regardless of when we attended Alma College.

And so with this in mind, the reunion committee decided that this year's reunion will be a reflection back in time. We will be presenting a slide show of photographs through the ages and our entertainment this year will be our own stories.

So please send us a brief anecdote of your time at Alma -- we are looking for stories that are funny, sad, interesting, or just paint a picture of the bad girl you were! We cannot promise to read every story -- we will try!

I encourage you, no matter your age, to come out and share in our common experiences and join us for Reunion 2013. This is our 112th alumnae reunion.

"The bell will make an appearance" -- the bell from the old residence was found and donated to the Elgin County Museum in October 2012.



**LISA M.
JOHNSON**

(Remember the 'M') Lisa's favourite saying: The only thing you can't do is live forever and the only thing you have to do is die. What will she be in 10 years? An independent woman living life the way she wants to.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Reunion Committee members. Without them, there would be no reunion!

Toujours en avant!

Lisa M Johnson, 1985-86

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

Executive Officers

Term: 2012-2014

President	Lisa Johnson
Vice-President	Pat (Duncan) Meathrell
Secretary	Barb (Christie) O'Brien
Treasurer	Sandra (Irvine) Pearson
Past President	Donna Robertson

Reunion Committee

Lisa Johnson	Joni (Page) Pypka
Pat (Duncan) Meathrell	Sandi (Miles) McCaig
Barb (Christie) O'Brien	Barb (Corkill) McCallum
Sandra (Irvine) Pearson	Donna Robertson
Joyce (Murison) Skelding	

Branch Presidents

Term: 2011-2013

London Branch	Myfanwy Matthews
StThomas Branch	Joyce (Murison) Skelding

To contact any member of the Alma College Association Executive send an email to:

donnaro@rogers.com

ALMA ALUMNAE -- IN MEMORIAM

NAME	ADDRESS	ALMA YEARS	DATE OF DEATH
Margaret BANKS	Toronto, ON	1955-56	2011
Jean (Sweet) BISHOP	Oshawa, ON	1938-40	February 18, 2013
Bonnie (Park) BLACKBURN	Amherstburg, ON	1954-56	February 25, 2013
Helen "Terry" (Linn) BUCK	Ayr, ON	1951-55	June 8, 2012
Ruth (Hicks) CLARKE	Hamilton, ON	1936-37&1945 Staff	Sept. 23, 2012
Margery (Fennell) DAVIS	London/Glencoe, ON	1950-51	July 23, 2012
Helen (Sutherland) dePLESSIS	Gloucester, Ottawa ON	1953-54	November 11, 2012
Anne (MacDermid) FERGUSON	Peterborough, ON	1958-62	February 8, 2013
Susan (Shultis) GOUBAULT	Victoria, BC	1958-63	January 14, 2013
Carol Ina (Taylor) KENNEDY	Sudbury, ON	1961-64	June, 2010
Zenaida de Valencia LACOSTA	Bogota, Columbia	1958-62or1950-62	2012
Bettie (Barnes) PARKER	St. Thomas ON	1940-42	January 12, 2013
Monica PAUL	Alliston, ON	1956-57	Aug 9, 2012
Cathy (Morden) PRITCHARD	London ON	1979-80	Dec. 12, 2012
Mary Lou (Armer) PROCTOR	Ancaster ON	1956-58	April, 2011
Anke (Beck) SCHMITT	Colombia, SA	1958-60	Spring 2012
Shirley (Brooks) STEEL	Isle of Man, England	1940-42	2011
Carol Ann TAYLOR	Sudbury ON	1961-64	June, 2010
Marilyn (Housley) TAYLOR	London, ON	1951-52	May 14, 2012
Eileen (Stauffer) WOOD	Sarasota, Florida	1948-49	March 2, 2012
Irene (Harrington) YOUNG	London, ON	1948-49	April 12, 2012

THE IMPORTANCE OF DUES, DONATIONS, AND NETWORKING

DUES

Annual dues are \$25. If you belong to a Branch, the Branch keeps \$10 and \$15 goes to the Alumnae Association. If you are a Member at large - 100% stays with the Alumnae Association.

Dues are used to maintain the Alumnae website, pay the Post Office Box fee, subsidize reunion and get together expenses. It helps to cover the cost of the Newsletter printing and mailing. We have determined that mailing remains the most effective way to distribute the Newsletter. We mail out approximately 900 Newsletters annually.

This year we will mail to all Canadian, American, and Mexican Alumnae. We may also include some European Alumnae. In the future we plan to move to email for those who choose not to pay dues. In 2012, fewer than 115 members paid dues less than 2% return... not good!

Keep us informed of any changes to your contact information!

Attention: It is critical for an alumna in Bermuda to help us update the Bermuda Alumnae contact information. We recently mailed Newsletters to Bermudian Alumnae only to have over 30 of them returned. PLEASE, we need your help!

DONATIONS

Congratulations Alumnae! You continue to be generous by giving back to Alma College. The General fund received donations totalling \$3,215 of which \$2,500 was from an anonymous donor. Thank you!

The Scholarship fund continues to grow and now stands at \$2,757. Please remember to bring your gently used books for the sales table. Proceeds are donated to the Scholarship fund.

A special thank you to Pat Kirby who donated artwork for our fundraising auction. And to all alumnae who have donated their time to support the Association.

NETWORKING

The website: www.AlmaCollege.20m.com will have a networking page where alumnae can post information about their business, products or services. Maybe you make cakes, work at a spa, do massages, sell insurance. Are you a travel agent, realtor, plumber, doctor, lawyer, dentist or consultant? Perhaps you want to offer an Alma College Alumna discount for your (or your employers) service or product? Do you have a website?

Whatever it is, we would be more than pleased to get the news out there. Donna Robertson at donnaro@rogers.com or 519-471-0855.

Branch & Membership News

LONDON ALUMNAE BRANCH REPORT

September 2012 - A planning meeting was held at home President Myfanwy Matthews.

November 7th - St. Thomas Branch invited us to join them for lunch at St. Thomas Golf Club and tour of the renovated Wellington St. School which is now the St. Thomas Campus of Algoma College, the main campus of which is based in Sudbury.

November 15th - Met at Maple View Retirement Home and were treated to a complimentary lunch and tour of this facility.

December - We so enjoyed a catered Christmas Party hosted by Jean and John Dollar in their lovely warm and welcoming home. It was the best Christmas party ever!

March, 2013 - We celebrated St. Patricks Day for those of us who are Irish (and those who pretend to be) by attending a fashion show followed by afternoon treats at a nearby restaurant.

We do love to get together and are looking forward to seeing everyone at the June Reunion.

Joni Pypka & Myfanwy Matthews, London Branch President

NEWS FROM ST. THOMAS BRANCH

The first meeting of 2012 was luncheon and Valentine's Day meeting on Feb 14th at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. It was well attended with 14 members present.

March 7th, several London and St. Thomas members assisted at "Newsletter envelope stuffing day".

Of course, June 8,9,& 10th was 2012 Reunion. A great time was had seeing and visiting with old acquaintances.

October 12th, 2012 was a reunion committee meeting at Sandra Pearson's home to discuss, plan and make arrangements for the 2013 Reunion.

We had a joint meeting on Nov 7th at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club with 7 London members and 9 St. Thomas members in attendance. After lunch there was a tour of Algoma University, St. Thomas campus (formerly Wellington St. Public school in St. Thomas) Also announced, there hasl been a new printing of "All The Girls Have Gone". Order your copy through the Alumnae Association.

We will be having a Pot Luck Valentine Lunch in February!

Toujours, Joyce Skelding, President

Return of bell rings good news for Alma alumnae

It will never ring again to stir sleepy students or summon legions of exuberant young women to the dining hall, however the return of a truly iconic form of primitive communication is being welcomed by the Alma College community. The bell disappeared some years ago, likely commandeered by a former Alma student in order to provide a safe home as the

FUTURES COMMITTEE

This Committee was formed in 2011 - its purpose is to look at Future issues such as frequency and location of Reunions, social media issues, newsletter improvement, how to increase membership, anything related to changes, improvements in the Alumnae organization. How to keep the Alumnae relevant.

Members of the Committee consist of the Executive and 2 Alumnae members from each decade. We meet once a year. It is very useful to get feedback and new ideas, from all the decades.

If you wish to participate, we would be happy to have you - let any of the Executive know.

ALUMNAE / MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES 2013

Reunion & Get Together Summary

June 7th 9th, 2013

Annual Alumnae Reunion in London, ON

All decades are welcome to attend this weekend come & contribute to the meeting and see the good ol "Bell" which will pay us a visit!! See details on back page.
Contact: Donna Robertson at donnaro@rogers.com or 519-471-0855

July 21st, 2 5pm

70s & 80s Casual Garden Party in Woodbridge, ON

Contact: Sondra Stewart at s.stewart180@gmail.com or office: 905 265 8116

The 3 Groups below, will all meet at the same time in Toronto. The 50s and 60s will each have their own Hospitality Suite, across the hall from each other and we expect to all have dinner together on Saturday evening. Lindas Group and the 50s Group will share the 50s Hospitality Suite.

September 20th 22nd

50s Get Together in Toronto, ON

Contact: Joni Page Pypka at pagegirl@sympatico.ca or 519-681-6900 or Sandra Irvine Pearson at sjpbp@sympatico.ca or 519-245-1118

September 20th-22nd

58-63 Alma Group 3rd Get Together in Toronto, ON

Contact: Linda McClatchie Walsh at clatch@sympatico.ca or 905-845-9848

September 20th 22nd

60s Get Together in Toronto, ON

Contact: Donna Robertson at donnaro@rogers.com or 519-471-0855 or Barb Christie O'Brien at kjobrien@sympatico.ca or 519-663-9979

college faced the spectre of demolition by neglect. In October of this year, the owners of the Alma College property, George and Jill Zubick of London, received a call from a St. Thomas resident wishing to return the much-travelled bell to them. See full article from "Ian's City Scope Blog" at <http://ianscityscope.wordpress.com/2013/01/05/return-of-bell-rings-good-news-for-alma-alumnae/>

1958 to 1963 Reunion Group

Hello all 1958 to 1963 Alma girls. Get on your bobby socks, white bucks and Poodle Skirts and join our reunion in Toronto September 20th, 2013 weekend. This will be our third reunion and such enthusiasm we had for past reunions. This year again we will be based out of the Delta Chelsea downtown. We will be joining ranks with the earlier 50s and later 60's groups with two hospitality suites to hold all the excitement.

It's just a matter of time before we will all say, here comes summer and our third reunion. Sincerely plan to reply "I'll be home for the September 20, 2013 reunion". We will surely have moments to remember as we all rock around the clock. So don't be cruel, just tell us that'll be the day when you come back because rock and roll is here to stay.

Email or call Linda McClatchie Walsh and let her know you will be attending. clatch@sympatico.ca or (905) 845-9848.

Second 1960s Decade Get Together in Toronto

Our first Toronto Get Together was in September 2011 and what a wonderful time it was. There were close to 70 of us and many had not seen each other in 45 years!! We enjoyed wine & snacks and a Saturday evening buffet. We hope that this 2013 60s Get Together will be even bigger & as much fun as 2011.

Please consider joining us September 20th 22nd at the Delta Chelsea Hotel Toronto 1-800-243-5732 or 416-595-1975.

You should have received a letter or email by now, asking that you 'Hold the Date' and let us know if you are considering attending. That way we can make up a list and we will let you know who may be attending. Encourage your Alma friends to come, that's what works best!!!

Are you on Facebook? Join us at the 'Alma College'

facebook group over 300 members! Do we have your email address?

Organizers:

Barb Christie O'Brien 64-65, 519-663-9979,
kjobrien@sympatico.ca
Donna Robertson 62-66, 519-471-0855,
donnaro@rogers.com

First Ever 1950s Decade Get Together in Toronto

This is our first Toronto "Get Together". The details are the same as the 1960s Toronto gathering.

1957-58 Alumnae, It's our 55th Reunion in June 2013

There will be a 55th Alma College Reunion in June, for the students who attended Alma College in the year 1957-1958! We had about 45 former students at our 50th Reunion in 2008, and hope for an even better turnout for our 55th Reunion during the weekend of June 7, 8, and 9, 2013! If you attended Alma College in 1957-1958, please plan to attend a great week-end of fun, conversation and renewing old friendships from 55 years ago at Alma College! Hope to see you all there!!! Doris McKinley, 1957-58
bd.mckinley@ns.sympatico.ca or (902) 893-8018

Garden Party for 70s & 80s Alma Alumnae

Sondra Stewart (1982 to 1987) is hosting an informal garden party at her home in Woodbridge, Ontario (20 minutes northwest of Toronto), on Sunday, July 21, 2013 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sondra's (and her husband John's) gardens are a veritable jungle in the city! Sondra will be sending an email blast around to all those who are in the database in early April. She will be asking for a prepaid small contribution of \$10 towards some yummy summer snacks from one of their local awesome establishments. The event is posted in the 'Alma College' facebook alumnae group. If you aren't on Facebook and don't receive an email invite, you can reach out directly to her at s.stewart180@gmail.com or 905 265 8116 (office)



1957-58 Alumnae attending their 50th Reunion!

Front-Left to Right on Floor Sondra (Silverstein), Rebeca (Posner), Doris (Johnston), Joanne (Pearce, Betty (Woods)
Second Row Kay (Greenhough (kneeling), Carol (Phippen), Susan (Goodwin), Mary Jane (Finlay), Luisa (Salas), Mary Lou (Armer) Standing Carol (Dumaw), Ruth Ann (Greenbury), Jane (Beatty) (behind), unknown (not in our year), Wendy (Standfield) (dark glasses), Anne (Shepherd) (in behind), Mary Lee (Jeffrey), Mary K. (Shepherd), Vivien (Wilson) (in behind), Jane (Davis) (in blue), Elizabeth (Weir) (behind with glasses), Mary (Dunker) (in white), Norma (Wilson), Mary Lou (Mason), Lynne (Denison) (behind), Margareta (Koraen), Laurie (Stewart) (behind), Carol (McKone) (in white), Sonia (Glottman), Marilyn (Martin), Cathy (Buffam) Standing on chairs at the Back Grace (Cooke), Nora (Neill)

Order Alma College LogoWare from "The Dip!"

Proceeds from all items support the Alma College Alumnae Association reunions and archives. Prices are in Canadian dollars. Shipping cost will be determined at time of order. To purchase and order items contact Sandra (Irvine) Pearson at info@almacollege.20m.com or 519-245-1118.

New Alumnae Rings:

A local (London) custom jeweler will make the Alumnae sterling silver ring. The style is a simple oval signet ring with the Alma crest in the center. Above the crest Alma College is engraved & the years it stood are engraved below the crest all silver a school ring style. Sample shown.

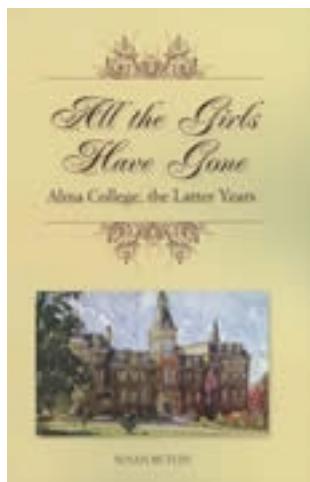
The rings are available to order for \$236.00 which includes tax and shipping in Canada. Please send an email to Donna Robertson if you are interested. We had our own metal die made and there is some profit for the Alumnae built into the ring cost.

If you are interested, please contact: Donna Robertson at 519-471-0855 or donnaro@rogers.com



COVER PHOTO:

Peter Robson Limited Edition prints - "Golden Days" (newsletter cover picture) will be available for sale at a discounted price of \$50.00



All The Girls Have Gone: Alma College, the Latter Years by Susan Butlin

Excerpt from the London Free Press

Published by the Elgin County Archives, in partnership with the Alma College International Alumnae Association, Butlin's book tells of the international private girls' school in St. Thomas. It operated from 1877 to 1989, before enduring two bleak and confusing decades.

The old school was destroyed by fire on May 28, 2008. (Two teenage boys, 15 and 16 at the time, were later convicted of arson in Alma's destruction.) An earlier author's book, published in 1977, celebrated Alma's centennial. Given "carte blanche" by the Alma Book Committee for her work, Butlin found a way.

"I didn't want this book to be like a little caboose that wasn't related to anything, just trailing along and picking up the last few years," Butlin said. All The Girls Have Gone is no caboose. Butlin is on track, full of purposeful fire, on a powerful and fascinating ride into Canadian women's history. "I accepted the book commission because I felt that Alma College was a place where women could get education at a time when we were encouraged to lead very circumscribed lives," Butlin said. "Alma College offered a path to higher education for women."

Books are available at \$30 plus shipping.

Other Alma College LogoWare items will be available at the June reunion. Be sure to check out the sales table.

ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Help us keep the Alumnae database up to date. To notify us that your contact information has changed, please email Membership Committee Chair, Joni (Page) Pypka (54-55) at pagegirl@sympatico.ca or call Joni at 519-681-6900.

Please include your first name, maiden name, surname, current mailing address, phone number, and email information and remember to add the years you attended Alma College.

WEBSITE: www.AlmaCollege.20m.com ✶ **MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 8084, London ON N6G 2B0

Find us on Facebook -- Group "Alma College"

REUNION JUNE 2013 EVENTS

Friday June 7th

Check in at Four Points Sheraton, London

6:30 pm Meet in the Hospitality Suite. Group will go together for dinner in the hotel restaurant, Tuscany. Ask the hotel desk for the hospitality suite number.

After dinner gather in the Hospitality Suite

Saturday June 8th

9:00 am Registration & Coffee at Four Points Sheraton, London Room off main lobby

10:00 am Annual General Meeting - London Room off main lobby

11:00 am Reunion photos outside front and bell will visit

12:00 pm Buffet Luncheon - London Room off main lobby

1:30 pm Reflection in Time Slide Show and Storytelling

2:30 pm Social Time: Visit with alumnae in the hospitality suite, shopping at mall nearby, swimming, hot tub, giggling, general carousing or drive to St. Thomas.

5:30 pm Dinner at Tony Roma's located beside the Four Points Sheraton, London
(pay as you go)

After dinner gather in the Hospitality Suite

Sunday June 9th

10:00 am Breakfast at Tuscany located at Four Points Sheraton, London
(pay as you go)

REUNION JUNE 2013 ACCOMMODATIONS

Four Points Sheraton, London

This year, Reunion June 2013 will be hosted at Four Points Sheraton, London. The hotel is located at 1150 Wellington Road South, London, ON N6E 1M3 · Phone: (519) 681-0600 · Hotel Reservations: 866-716-8133 Directions are below.

If you are arriving in London by plane, bus, or train, please indicate this on your registration form and we can arrange to have an alumna pick you up and take you to your hotel.

Room Rates

Standard Room double occupancy is **\$109.00 plus tax**

A block of rooms is reserved under "Alma College". Prices are in effect until May 7th, 2013 unless the rooms are sold out. We recommend you book your room before April 30th, 2013.

Hotel Website: <http://www.fourpointslondonontario.com/>

Directions:

From East: From Toronto take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn north onto Wellington Road and the hotel is located within 2.0 kilometers on the right side.

From West: From Windsor take Highway 401 to Exit 186 (Wellington Road). Turn north onto Wellington Road and the hotel is located within 2.0 kilometers on the right side.

Alma College Alumnae Scholarship Committee



"Thanks you so much for the scholarship money you gave to me. I am enjoying University very much and I can't thank you enough for helping me with the cost." 2012 Scholarship winner, Shannon Gosnell above with alumna, Jane Ann (McDonald) Tasker.

The 2012 recipient of the Alma College Alumnae Scholarship was Shannon Gosnell of Central Elgin Collegiate Institute. She was presented with her scholarship in October 2012.

The Scholarship Committee also received a letter from Liz Brown, the Executive Director of "Violence Against Women, Services Elgin County", dated January 21, 2013. This is also a letter of thanks for the books we donated at our last Reunion in June. These were the left-over books from our sale. The letter will be available at the 2013 reunion for everyone to read.

This year's scholarship winner will be from St. Joseph's High School in St. Thomas. Their graduation is on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 7:00PM. Pat Ruhl will be presenting the award this year.

For more information contact co-chairs:
Patricia (Duncan) Meathrell (1964-69)
meathrellpn@yahoo.com

Pat (Elliott) Ruhl (1964-66)
bucktoothisland@gmail.ca

Please bring your gently used books to sell at the June Annual Reunion!

Alma College Archives: Elgin County Archives Report

This Fall, 2013, September 9th through December 20th, go "back to school" at Alma College as the Elgin County Museum celebrates the cultural impact of this private ladies College with the exhibition, "Alma College and the Forging of Canadian Culture 1880-1939". Paintings by artists such as W.M. Bell-Smith, William "St. Thomas" Smith, Lila McGillivray Knowles, and George Reid will feature alongside archival photographs, work by graduates Eva Brook Donly and Carolyn Curtis, and memorabilia tracing Alma College's evolution from a provincial Ladies College in 1880, to a vibrant centre of arts education and cultural life for the region.

Mike Baker
Curator, Elgin County Museum
519-631-1460 ext. 159

Archives facilitated a second printing of the Alma College History book "All the Girls Have Gone" It can be purchased through the Alumnae or at the Elgin County Archives or Museum for \$30 plus shipping. Profit goes to the Alumnae.



Work by WM Bell- Smith
Frederic Marlett Bell-Smith, Alma College Art Students, Eva Brook Donly, Marilla Adams, and Cornelia Saleno at work in the college's art studio.
STEPAC