



ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Toronto)

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CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS !

Our Fundraising \$\$\$ at Work !

Newsletter No. 56

December 2005

A Light at the End of the Tunnel! During the years 2002 to 2004, the Toronto Chapter embarked on a joint venture with New York Chapter of our Alumni Association to establish a computer room at St. Rose's in Guyana. We also jointly funded repairs to the walkway and surrounding areas and the Computer Room was officially opened in October, 2004. At that ceremony, we were proudly represented by our committee member, **Maureen Webb**, and **Simone McBean** of the New York chapter's committee.



Unfortunately, we later discovered that the computer room was not in use. Apparently, St. Rose's was experiencing difficulties identifying and attracting qualified staff to teach basic computer courses. To say that we were dismayed would be to understate our emotion. The committee thus undertook a letter writing campaign expressing our frustration to all and sundry in Guyana. Subsequently, we learned that the Ministry of Education had announced a grant of \$9MM (Guyana dollars) to St. Rose's; a happy coincidence. We have also been informed that the Computer Room is currently staffed with a permanent teacher.



While the Computer Room was under construction, members of the Committee heard that St. Rose's was in need of cricket and basketball equipment and a decision was made to fund these items, in September 2003.



In October of the following year, appliances and equipment for the Home Economics Room, the Sports Department, and the Agricultural Department were purchased in response to needs identified by the St. Rose's teaching staff.

At our annual luncheon in 2004 an appeal for books was made by Marilyne Trotz, alumnus, who resides in Georgetown and who was visiting Toronto at that time. Thirty-two (32) boxes of books were delivered to St. Rose's this year, through the generosity of our Toronto alumni association members, Pixie Gomes, and the goodwill of Guyana Christian Charities Association (which took care of

the shipment), .



In the summer of 2005, in response to an appeal from the games teacher, we assisted with airfares for the cricket team representing St. Rose's at the Garfield Sobers Cup Competition in Barbados.

Then in a joint venture with the New York Chapter, we purchased a Risograph and a Sharp Photocopier for the school.

More recently, and in response to a request from the newly appointed Board of Governors, we have supplied 135 combination desk and chair units for St. Rose's classrooms, plus 90 chairs for the Assembly Hall.



This year, the Government of Guyana appointed boards of governors for a number of schools, including St. Rose's. The Toronto Chapter of our Association was pleased to welcome Marilyne Trotz, Chair, Board of Governors of St. Rose's High School, as guest speaker at our committee meeting in September. Marilyne explained that these governing bodies would be responsible for the overall operation of the school including the appointment of teachers. She stated that she had firmly advised the Minister of Education that the Board would not be responsible for structural refurbishment since that was the Ministry's job. The Board would assist with curriculum, enhance operations, and ensure that the students graduated with a high outlook on life, with high academic standards and an understanding of their national environment and identity. The goal of the Board is to restore St. Rose's to its former academic glory. Furthermore, Marilyne has asked the Toronto alumni to relate directly to the Board rather than any staff member. We are excited at this new turn of events in the unfolding history of our alma mater. We are especially thrilled to see the establishment of a governing body that will be responsible for creat-

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2006

1:00 p.m.

St. Leonard's
(Anglican) Church Hall
25 Wanless Ave.,
Toronto M4N 1V5

GAMES EVENING

April 2006

LAST LAP LIME

August, 2006



**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI EVERYWHERE**



Happy New Year

Do you know where these nuns are now?

1. **Sr. Jacqueline da Silva** is now the new Prioress in Caracas, Venezuela.
2. **Sr. Teresa Mary Fredericks** will be leaving Caracas to assume her new role as Prioress in Barbados.
3. In August of this year, **Sr. Mary Bernard Albertsen**, current Prioress in Jamaica, will be moving to Caracas.
4. **Sr. Valerie Ngui** will be going to Barbados and Sr. Sheila George to Guyana.
5. **Sr. Marie Therese Gomes** and
6. **Sr. Claudiet Jones** will remain in Jamaica.
7. The new Prioress of the Ursuline community in Jamaica will be **Sr. Barbara McLean** who will be going from Guyana.
8. **Sr. Shelly Jhetoo** is being transferred from Barbados to Jamaica.



Class of 1965

The St Rose's graduating class of 1965 celebrated 40 years since graduation. About thirty of these former classmates who came from Spain, England, the USA & across Canada had an enjoyable time.

Juanita Correia was very kind to open her heart & home to this group of phenomenal women, for an evening of total merriment.

On Sunday Sept 18 many of them met the larger St Rose's group at the Toronto Chapter's annual reunion which was a tea social this year. It was a weekend that no one would forget. They said they fully intend to have just as good a time when they celebrate 50 years !

Alumni News

Congratulations to Alumnus **Shelley (Cheong) Carew** on the birth of her first grandchild. Baby Ariel Anastasia came into the world on December 11. Her parents Sheldon and Cathryn are ecstatic.



Congratulations to **Rashaad Bhyat** (doing his residency in Family Medicine in Newfoundland) and **Kate Lourdán** (from Cork, Ireland) on their marriage which took place on August 5, 2005 on a beautiful day on Signal Hill, St. John's Newfoundland.



Rashad is the son of **Alice (Sweetnam) Bhyat (Alumnus)** and Zaheer Bhyat.

The High Tea in September was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed. Thanks to everyone who wore hats, which created a colourful display. Check our website for pictures from the Tea Party.

Pictures from this year's Last Lap Lime will be posted to www.lastlaplime.com shortly.

Our dance in November was very successful—Elizabeth Solomon's decorations embellished the room beautifully. We don't know how she is going to top herself in 2006. Check our website for pictures from the dancecoming soon.

Annual General Meeting

This year we have to call a General Meeting of the Association on **Sunday, January 15, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.** in St. Leonard's Church Hall, 26 Wanless Avenue, Toronto, M4N 1V5 .

Our Treasurer, Alice Bhyat, will present the financial statements and answer any questions you may have. The business of the association is usually incorporated into the annual reunion brunch, however, since the 2005 reunion took place in New York City, we still need to comply with the regulatory requirements.

Members in good financial standing are urged to make the effort to attend this meeting.

Directions to St. Leonard's Church are as follows:

From East:- Take 401 west to Yonge Street. Exit south and continue past York Mills to Wanless which is the last street on the east side of Yonge before Lawrence. Fire station is on the corner.

From West: Take 401 east to Yonge Street. Exit south and continue past York Mills to Wanless which is the last street on the east side of Yonge before Lawrence.

From Allen Expressway: Use Lawrence Avenue exit. Turn east on Lawrence to Yonge Street. Turn north on Yonge Street to Wanless. First street on east side of Yonge.



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ing a vision for the advancement of St. Rose's and responsible for prioritizing its needs. Their vision will help us avoid the trap of pouring funds into the greasing of the nearest or loudest squeaky wheel that rolls into our path. It will help us to have the impact on the school that we would like to have. Our goal continues to be to support the needs identified by the school!

Plans for the future include the following commitments which have already been made to the Board:

- Installation of water supply in the area of the computer room and library;
- Home Economics Room;
- Library (this latter project is to be jointly funded by both the New York & Toronto chapters.

As we look forward to the future, it seemed fitting to take stock of our accomplishments to date. **This has been an attempt to recount the 'what', 'when', 'where' and 'why' of our achievements. The 'how' we've been able to do all this is, of course, through YOU** our members and friends.

We thank you for your valuable financial support in the past and in confident anticipation of your continued support as we strive to make our annual Pre-Christmas Dance and the Last Lap Lime successful events both socially and financially.

Sheila De Gannes
Treasurer 2001-2004.



From the Editor's Desk

Margaret Levy

Our Editor is on vacation—but wanted to share this tribute to a former headmistress of St. Roses.

Sr. Ignatius O'Flynn who passed away on 14th March at the Woodside Clinic in the Barbados and was buried on 17th March—the feast of St Patrick. Many alumni will remember Sr. Ignatius fondly. She was the eldest of Roman Union Ursulines in the Caribbean. She was born in Grand Falls Newfoundland on September 27th, 1918. On March 8th 1938 she became a novice and she made her final profession at Forest Gate in 1943. She taught there for ten years before she went to Georgetown, Guyana in 1954. For four years she was Headmistress of St Roses High School in Guyana.

After an interval of five months in Venezuela, Sister came to Barbados and taught Biology and General Science until her retirement in 1989. During her stay in Barbados sister completed her Masters and Doctorate in Biology at Notre Dame University in the United States. As a scientist she respected nature in all its aspects, plants and animals and she knew a great deal about mosquitoes. As an Educator, she was someone deeply interested and concerned in what would make every student under her care grow in appreciation of Christian values. The devotion and interest in her subject inspired her pupils to strive for a high degree of excellence in their undertakings.

Sister Ignatius's death occurred just thirteen days short of 65 years of religious profession. We pray that she is already enjoying the fullness of the Presence of the One she loved and so happily served for so many years.



Vera's Smile

by — Elizabeth Solomon

A smile can make a world of difference
It can topple walls and scale fences.
T' was so with Vera's Smile. It had pizzaz.
A style of its own, full of razzamataz.
This smile started in the eyes
And always, you, it would beguile.
It travelled down her friendly face
And to her mouth it would race.
Then, warm hand clasp, or genuine hug
Would reach heart strings and give a tug.
Swiftly came the often witty comment
To which Vera's brand of humour lent.
A joke a bit off coloured too
With her own special kind of blue.
Vera's Smile lit up many places
Wherever she was there were smiling faces.
With great conviction this I say
She always found a most unique way.
A life lived filled with vim and endless vigour.
Her light shines on, it won't grow dimmer.
For, in her children's welcoming style
I can often see 'Vera's Smile'.

Written in memory of Vera Lopes, one of our oldest alumni, who passed away in September, 2005.

ACADEMIC RESULTS — ST. ROSE'S

St. Rose's students do well at this year's Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). St. Rose's High School performed well this year with their top two students recording much success. Padmawattie Sanichand topped the school with 4 distinctions, 2 grade ones and 2 grade twos; coming in a close second is Nial Welch with 2 distinctions, 4 grade ones and 2 grade twos. Welch stated that he is proud of his achievements even though he did not expect to pass all of the subjects he had written, adding that this year students have done fairly well and there have been great improvements as compare to last year's results. Other students of the school claimed that this year the exam was very difficult and challenging since, most of the time they had to work on their own while preparing. According to them extra lessons and evening classes were major contributing factors to their success.

From....Guyana Chronicle Wed. Aug 31/05

In the Mailbag

From Sr. Valerie Ngui.

— Thanks for the last newsletter. It was most interesting and cheerful especially the news about the re-birth of St. Rose's! Let's hope the Board will have the stickability to see the clean-up through and then have enough energy left to begin to rebuild again. Thanks to all of you "old" folk who are always bubbling over with enthusiasm and encouragement for them and us in our various fields. May God bless you all and keep you ever young!

Sister Valerie, OSU





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Newsletter No. 56



Your 2005 Committee

- Tessa (King) Ng-See-Quan** – President
- Cheryl (Surrey) Braz** – Past President
- Alice (Sweetnam) Bhyat** – Treasurer
- Maureen (Cheong) Webb** – Secretary
- Lynotte Cruickshank – Director
- Sheila (Georges) DeGannes - Director
- Marilyn (Edghill) D'Ornellas – Director
- Pixie (DeLima) Gomes – Director
- Terry Kim Katchay – Director
- Karen Lewis – Director
- Elizabeth (Gobin) Solomon – Director
- Jennifer (Dummett) Welshman – Director

OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT -

To Alumni, **Barbara Jean (Lopes) Man-Son-Hing, Carol (Lopes) Chung,** and **Alice Lopes** on the loss of their mother, **Vera Lopes, Alumnus,** who passed away on September 14, 2005 here in Toronto.

To Alumni, **Margaret Dalgetty-Smith and Cameil Dalgetty-Jarvis** whose mother, Lucille Dalgetty, passed away on November 13th in New York.

To Alumnus, **Lorraine Croft-Farnell,** on the passing of her mother, Constance Croft, on Monday, September 5, 2005 In New York.

To the relatives of Alumnus, **Barbara (Muss) Morrison,** who died on December 9 after losing her way in extreme temperatures in Nova Scotia. She appears to have left her car in an effort to reach the main road on foot, but sadly didn't make it. Barbara is survived by her husband, David, three daughters —Jacqueline, Frances and Andrea —and 12 grandchildren. She was also the sister-in-law of Fr. Andrew Morrison.

May all of their souls rest in peace.



**E-mail us at
srhtoronto@yahoo.ca**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

— TESSA NG-SEE-QUAN

As I come to the close of my first year as your President, I wish to thank my committee and you all for your support and commitment to our Alma Mater.

A special thank you, to those of you who so willingly participated in a volunteer capacity towards our many events. Events such as our Games evening, Last Lap Lime, Annual Brunch and Pre-Xmas dance, are not possible without your continuous contributions and support. We appreciate your time and effort.

This has been an exciting year for us all as Sheila DeGannes reported earlier in this Newsletter. Next year we should see even more progress in getting St. Rose's back on its feet. I look forward to working with you in 2006.

Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy, Healthy New Year to you all!

The Wolves Within

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 "wolves" inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



**Annual Dues 2006
and Newsletter Mailings**

Annual membership dues of \$15.00 become due January 1, 2006. Please try to mail your cheques at the start of the fiscal year, instead of waiting to pay at the time of the annual Reunion in September

As a courtesy, non-financial members have been receiving newsletters at least once a year. It has been decided that from hereon in, due to the escalating cost of postage, we will only mail Newsletters to members in good financial standing.