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Volume 2, Issue 2

Minerva's Diary

The Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association's
Newsletter



President's Message



The weatherman tells us that this year, the summer started early. This spring, we've had so many days of warmer than normal weather and less than the normal rainfall ... so who's complaining? I guess I am, because, I can't find a

soul to contribute to this newsletter for the summer.

To our dear readers, I apologize that you will be subjected to the writings of me and my dear editor in this summer send-off edition.

In this issue, we will recall what had been accomplished this past year and then wander off into summer as our editor, Rachel, recounts her summers past and present. Maybe she may even share her wishes of

her summers to come in this issue's feature article.

I invite you to turn these pages and ask how you can contribute to the many stories and articles that will run through the many pages of Minerva's Diary from now onwards.

Finally, this summer, we will be conducting some website maintenance to better serve you ... so please note our new web address:

www.jarvisalumni.ca

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3rd Alumni Golf Tournament

Since the Jarvis Collegiate Bi-Centennial celebrations of 2007, the Alumni executive continues a new tradition of running a golf tournament for its members.

This year will be the Alumni's third year at this game held each year in September at Flemington Park Golf Course. Please visit our Upcoming Events section of our website for the registration form.

Once again, Marvin Pearl will be pairing everyone off, so make sure you get your name to him at MPearl@TheEx.com by using the golf registration form.

Flemington Park Golf Course is a nine-hole course, which is conveniently located in mid-town in parklands of Don Valley. Golfing here is like golfing in the

country without leaving the city.

With a nine-hole course, we can put in a quick game of golf and still be able to make it back to the school for a quick meeting for serious talk about what we can do to help the School.



From the Principal

Hello Jarvis Alumni,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the 2009/2010 school year, yet here we are! Therefore, it is with much pride that I extend my congratulations to our current students for successfully completing the school year with distinction in academics, the arts and sports.

With respect to academics, I'm extremely proud of all students who

applied themselves diligently this school year. No doubt many of Jarvis' students have reaped the positive fruits of your labour. And, I am particularly proud to announce that one of our own Jarvis students is the recipient of a \$70,000.00 university scholarship! Well done.

In realm of sports, Jarvis athletes participated and excelled in a variety of activities, including: archery, rugby, co-ed volleyball, soccer, softball,

baseball, track and field, and cricket. Congratulations to all! I also wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the staff that coached these teams and volunteered to be staff advisors for our many and diverse school clubs. Extra-curricular activities truly enrich the school experience for students.

Before I sign off for the summer, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association for hosting a

fantastic pool party on June 12. I saw many happy students enjoying a swim and a great barbeque. It is wonderful to see the school and the community coming together so wonderfully at Jarvis.

I wish you a wonderful and safe summer!

See you in the fall.

Elizabeth Addo

"Save the Jarvis Pool" Pool Party

No words can describe the joy and fun of a pool party ... not even the threat of rain deterred some of us from heading to the pool and just having fun together to then head on outside for a barbequed hot dog or burger.

Community Matters of St. James Town, a high-density residential complex just around the corner from Jarvis Collegiate Institute joined forces with the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association, the School Council and the Staff of Jarvis to come together to



"Save the Jarvis Pool" Pool Party (continued)

raise awareness of the plight of the Jarvis School Pool.

Jarvis is not alone in this plight. Every school pool in the Toronto Board is faced with the need to raise funding and programming to continue the life of the pool. Over the past 200 plus years, the current pool at Jarvis Collegiate is the third pool at the current school location. Jarvis was the first school in the Board to have a swimming pool.

With the onset of the hot and extremely warm weather, the pool becomes an instrument for both young and old to "cool off". But, to cool off, we must know how to swim to avoid the current incidents of pool death. We, as a group, must contribute in some way to keep the Jarvis pool alive to teach our children how to swim and to swim safely.

On this day, those who



could not afford to make a monetary contribution came out to inquire about programs that will be available to the community. Others, who were able, made monetary contributions to fund programming. To everyone that made his or her contributions, I thank you very much for your support.

I've included some pictures of this day's event, which brought graduates from the Class of 1946 with the future graduate of the Class of 2010 (picture shown above).

If you're not a math whiz like me ... that's 64 years!

Benita Ho

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meetings are a great forum for you to come out and to express your interest and/or support for the school. It is also a way for you to provide input on how we, in association, can contribute to give back to the school that has given us so much knowledge and of course, fun. Whether you were a student or staff or both at Jarvis, Jarvisites always has bond to one another.

Please come out to elect your executive personnel, or be an executive for the next period. The following positions are currently open for the next period:

- Secretary
- Vice-President

Dan Rusnell worked hard as the Association's Secretary to track objectives and to keep our agenda in line. Regrettably, due to personal reasons, he will need to forego his time with JCAA. His help and services will be sorely missed.

Rachael Brownell will not be able to assist us for the following term as she will temporarily move to Shanghai to teach. What a lucky gal! Is there room in her luggage for all of us? Although she will not be able to fulfill her post as

Vice-President, she will continue to make her contribution to Minerva's Diary as Editor. For this issue, I have the pleasure of finding out how hard she works in putting our newsletter together as she packs for her new journey.

At this meeting, JCAA will also be looking for team leaders to head committees and volunteers to assist them. Areas requiring assistance are:

- Membership Services
- Alumni Museum
- Save the Pool
- Auditorium – Sound & Lighting
- Career Fair/Forum
- Auditorium – General
- Fund-raising

Our meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 6:00pm. Normally, this meeting is held in the School's auditorium; however, as we will be showcasing the Alumni Museum, it will be held in the library.

See you there!

The Halcyon Days of High School Summer Vacation

Feature Story by Rachael Brownell

When I walked out of the cafeteria at Jarvis Collegiate one afternoon in mid-June 1997 after writing my very last exam of my High School career the sun in the Courtyard was never warmer, the sounds of Wellesley Street never sweeter and the notion that I would never again feel torn between a beautiful spring afternoon spent on the front steps or 8th period English class was a magical and new sensation. At that moment I had endured five years of an annual countdown to the end of June that would

signal the beginning of summer dresses, sleeping late, warm nights and most importantly no more homework. For school aged children the summer months are precious; a time for us to recharge our little educational batteries, form lasting bonds with new friends and hopefully not forget how to add fractions or conjugate French verbs. Summer meant vacations, cottage trips, going to the movies on a school night and spending endless hours on the phone with friends. Those two months were sacred and plans for all

the summer fun to be had could be heard as hopeful whispers in the halls in January and by April were full out in class conversations. Looking back, I know now that for teachers the last week of classes before exams is nothing more than supervised torture as students would rather gaze out the window daydreaming than focus on last minute revision.

Where did it all go?

Had I known that last day would be the final moment where a summer off was a

certainty and not a privilege I might have spent less time napping in the afternoon and more time cherishing the freedom.

We all grow up, we all get jobs and families and responsibilities. I went on to University where 'summer' began in April but was usually over by May when summer classes began. My job now cares little that as the end of June approaches my desire is to once again have guaranteed vacation time approaching; the reality now being the

The Halcyon Days of High School Summer Vacation (continued)

necessity to arrive at work despite the millions of school children who are chomping at the bit of scholastic emancipation.

I recently overheard a conversation among some High School children on the subway. They were in full summer planning mode but their plans sounded more like well rehearsed military strategizing than teenage banter. They were mapping out work possibilities, to be juggled with extra credit classes, University preparation courses, and volunteer

work. I wanted to cry out, "What about your vacation? When do you get an actual summer break?" Thankfully one girl asked about time off. "Oh, I have three days at the end of August," was the reply. I was stunned. I'm all for teenagers having direction, goals and responsibilities but I wanted to tell them all that this was the last point in their lives where not having something to do was as important as a full schedule; that this was the last time that true freedom would be in their grasp and they should take full

advantage. I was no stranger to a packed schedule myself when I was younger, but the summer was the time to slow down, to reflect on the lessons I'd learned that year, to enter into the age old tradition of reinventing oneself while on summer vacation. The last of which is an important rite of passage; who doesn't remember the band geek leaving in June and arriving back the hot new athletic champion?

June, July and August will always technically be the

summer months, they will always be warmer than April, hopefully, they will always bring allergy sufferers to sneezes, and they will always have long sunny days stretching into breezy dusks. For me they will also hold the memories of my childhood where the past was sealed with the sound of the bell and the future stretched out into sixty days of endless possibilities.

The Jarvis Alumni Museum

Over the many years, 'stuff' gets collected over time. At Jarvis, we do not have an attic to store all those old and wonderful things that is the soul of Jarvis C.I.

At long last, we have obtained permission from the current principal, Elizabeth Addo, for a place that we can call home for these artifacts.

Pauline McKenzie, one of the School's past principal has been working hard to find and sort through some of these items, and, she will continue to spare us some of her

retirement moments.

Throughout the summer, we will attempt to get the furnishings in place and to showcase the space for you for the Annual General Meeting on September 16, 2010.

Volunteers have come forward from our call for help. Thank you for lending your support. Your help will truly be in need after the shelves are set up. If you wish to be part of this process, you can reach us at archives@jarvisalumni.ca.

A Year In Reflection

Since September 2009 to now, we have:

- provided \$1,500.00 for the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Scholarship
- played a round of golf at Flemington Golf Course
- helped the Class of 1980 form a class reunion
- Sponsored a pool party to save the Jarvis Pool

As the School is closed throughout the summer, we have established a mailing address for you to forward mail to. This summer address is:

1969 Weston Road, Suite 201, Toronto, Ontario, M9N 1W8

