

Minerva's Diary

The Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association's
Newsletter



President's Message



Dear Members,

It has been some time since Minerva's Diary published last.

As volunteers to the alumni association, this means we are victims to our work and their demands.

The good news is that the executive committee is busy with paid work; the bad news is that it leaves us with not as much time to spend with our members to which we apologize profusely.

For the last couple of years, the economy has not been the greatest and people are losing their life-long jobs or find changes to current employment situations. This hits close to home for dear old Jarvis Collegiate Alumni

Association. It's not just another name and another face that we do not recognize.

Dear Dean lost his permanent employment to become an outside contractor for the same job. David's company has leaned out its operations to stay competitive. Daphne's company had three lay-offs to which she survived all three. For me, I see that people are qualifying for mortgages again ... aaaaahhh!! A light at the end of the tunnel! Then, I see my niece who is attending post-secondary education full-time knocking on doors only to be not full-time employed for the summer as yet. It is truly demoralizing watching all of this.

Suddenly, I become charged to make time to write to our members, to remind ourselves of our struggles, or our success strategies as we look for work, keep our jobs, or make new pathways. Oftentimes, I recall that I thought I am the only one that struggled; I am the only one that

suffered. A month ago, I ran into an old classmate and found out that we all struggled. Then I recall my conversation with another classmate and realized that it really wasn't all roses for some of us.

Why do we always think that the grass is greener on the other side? Why do we always think that our neighbours are doing well and are much more successful than they really are?

Would you like to share some of your experiences to help lift the spirits of those of us who are "depressed" with all that is happening around them?

How do we tell our young members that the struggles they're experiencing are actually positive lessons to some future potential, success or opportunity?

How do we tell our older members that you're never too old to pick up new skills? or different skills? In fact, I am currently training a person

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President's Message (continued)

in her late 50's at the office to learn the computer and to take on office duties, a person who has resisted change for the last 5 plus years as her chosen career as a conveyancer was

literally decimated by automation of the industry.

Better yet, are we charged enough to help one another by setting up a forum for us to get

together to share these experiences and to perhaps pass on our life's lessons to those "youn'uns" that see no light at the end of the tunnel? Please let me

know. I'd like to hear from you.

Yours humble servant,

Benita Ho

Jarvis Museum Update

Pauline McKenzie has been hard at work on the museum. It's been a passion of hers since she was the principal at Jarvis from 1996 to 2004 and despite her hectic schedule with all the other activities she is involved with, she continues to preserve.

Currently, Pauline is working on consolidating the artefacts we have on-site at Jarvis. She has

also been updating the files we have collected over the years in our museum.

Her next task will be to complete a first index of the files on hand (these files include records, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.). Once this is complete the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) can provide us advice on how to create a cross-referencing

system which volunteers can be trained to use.

Recently we've had a visit from a researcher from Ottawa who is working on a book about student reaction and activities during the two world wars. It's very satisfying to know that our museum and archives is being visited and consulted.

The school librarians have given a lot of

positive feedback about the museum and the momentum Pauline has built on this project can only be helped with your support. If you wish to contribute a few moments of your time to volunteer, please contact Pauline at:

archives@jarvisalumni.ca

Who's Who!

Did you know ...

- Olivia Chow, NDP Parliament Member, class of 1975
- Susan Eng, former chair of the [Metro Toronto Police Services Board](#), class of 1970
- Chris Makepeace, actor (movie: *My Bodyguard*, 1980), tv producer/director, class of 1983

- Matthew Teitelbaum, Director for the Art Gallery of Ontario, class of 1974
- David Common, journalist, CBC, class of 1995
- Catherine Herridge, journalist, FOX News, class of 1983
- Victoria Elliott, Economist, The World Bank, class of 1969

Call for Volunteers

In our July 2010 issue of this newsletter, we made a call for directors, team leaders to head committees, and for volunteers to assist them.

We had hoped that the AGM would have attracted more than just 2 people to act as a pool to fill these positions, but as our previous AGMs have shown, alumni

participation is quite minimal to almost non-existent.

Committees that require your assistance include:

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

- Fund-raising – General
- Newsletter – advertising space sales

Currently there are 3 active members of the alumni association and as advised by our accountant, we currently aren't collecting enough donations to be a self sustaining charity (our good works far exceed the revenue we generate).

We would encourage you to be socially responsible to your alma mater by volunteering to your alumni organization. Without your support we will not be able to help the school that has given us so much and has moulded to what we are today.

Please contact us volunteers@jarvisalumni.ca if you wish to participate.

Alumni Profile: Amy Sedgwick – Class of 1997

By David Seepersad



Benita and I have been discussing how we can reach out to more alumni and have the newsletter be a venue for our alumni to give back. This is a new feature I hope to keep going which is an Alumni Profile. In this issue we feature Amy Sedgwick, who went to Jarvis for 5 years and graduated in 1997. Here are the questions I posed to her for this profile.

Since Jarvis what have you done?

After leaving Jarvis I went straight to the University of Guelph to do a B.A. in Psychology and English. I originally wanted to be a Psychologist. A year or so in I realized I wasn't going to be up for doing ten or so years of university in a row so I started to think about other career options. I decided to pursue Occupational Therapy. I was admitted to the program at U of T after my second year at

Guelph. I requested a deferral so I could take a year off to travel and regain my enthusiasm for education. I then attended U of T and completed my B.Sc. in the department of Rehabilitation Sciences. When I graduated I went straight to work in the community before quickly transitioning to a program development role as Coordinator of Patient and Staff Wellness at Bridgepoint Hospital (the former Riverdale Hospital). When I left on mat leave in 2005 I developed a personal interest in reproductive health and alternative approaches to health care and disease prevention. I enrolled in a private training program to become a Holistic Reproductive Health Practitioner. I opened my business, Red Tent Sisters, with my sister in 2007. Soon after I did some life coach training and another private training in the Arvigo Techniques of Maya Abdominal Massage. My education is an ongoing work in progress!

Tell us a bit more about Red Tent Sisters?

Red Tent Sisters was born out of me and my sister's desire to create a safe space for women to explore issues of femininity. We took the term "red tent" from the bestselling novel of the same name to signify a space where women

could come together during female rights of passage to provide wisdom and support to one another. Although the business is an integrated whole that reflects the mutual and separate passions of my sister and I, it is roughly grouped into three branches - a physical retail storefront where women can purchase fertility, sexuality and contraceptive products, a clinic and wellness centre where I see women privately for fertility and reproductive health counselling as well as where both Kim and I run group workshops, and an online store - ecosex.ca which focuses on body and environment friendly sexuality and fertility products.

Did you ever think sitting in Biology class that you'd be doing something like this (being an entrepreneur/educator)?

Ironically enough, I never even took biology in High School! But the answer is yes and no. I think I always knew I had an interest in sexual health, feminism, advocacy, and education. And I think in the back of my mind I always envisioned being my own boss (mostly because I am stubborn and don't like being told what to do or how to do it!) The reproductive health interests and entrepreneurship interests

came later.

What's one piece of advice you'd give to a Jarvis student today you wish was given to you back when you were there?

Well, some parents may hate me for saying this but my big piece of advice would be to take time off between High School and post-secondary education if you can. Work, travel, do an internship, figure out who you are. There are so many more career options available to you than what you can possibly conceive of in High School and the economy is rapidly shifting so the old paradigm of go to university, get a job, move up the career ladder and retire with a good pension is just not the norm anymore. Practical skills, passion, creativity and ingenuity are really your biggest assets now.

If people want to find out more how can they contact you?

Lots of ways to contact me. You can "like" my professional page or the Red Tent Sisters page on Facebook, follow me on Twitter (handles are [uteruslover](https://twitter.com/uteruslover) and [redtentsisters](https://twitter.com/redtentsisters)), follow our blog Amy and Kim: In conversation (www.amyandkim.com), e-mail me at amy@redtentsisters.com, or drop by the store to say hi at 810 Danforth Ave.

Canada Votes 2011 -- May 2nd, 2011!

Story by David Seepersad

On May 2nd, 2011 Canadians will go to the polls to vote for their next Federal Government. All the pundits say that that we'll just end up with the same Parliament and Stephen Harper has even said if that's the case, we'll just be plunged into another election

So as part of my attempt to engage the current

alumni, I've taken the time to summarize the key points that I believe are key issues in this election in the table below. Each party's platform ranged in size. The Green Party's platform was the smallest, at just 12 pages long, while the Liberal platform came in at 98 pages in length which was the longest. The NDP and Conservative platforms

being somewhere in-between in length. I've included the Bloc Quebecois platform since they are a federal party and will have influence on Parliament, so it's important to know what they're offering. Unfortunately all the platforms are quite verbose (so there's a lot of paraphrasing to condense it), so I apologize for not

including everything, but hopefully it will aid you in making your choice if you haven't made up your mind already. And even if you have made up your mind, it'll give you insight on where the parties stand regarding the hot button issues in this election. To learn more all the policies are available online on each party's website.

Party/Issue	Bloc Quebecois	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that federal policies promote development of industries that have a strong presence in Quebec's regions, such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and a tax credit for young graduates who decide to work in a rural region - improved infrastructure with a greater federal contribution and greater investment in infrastructure located in Quebec City (such that it can be a National Capital) - support Montreal's role as an economic, financial and cultural centre - withdrawl of the federal project to create a pan-Canadian securities commission, which would weaken Montreal's role as a financial centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring credit for small businesses by giving a one year EI break - enhanced work-sharing program - Skill-Traing Oppourtunities for students (tax credits, loans and grants) -Increased free trade (Europe & India) - decongest border crossings - when government creates a new regulation must eliminate one -more tax credits for businesses - Federal Tourism Strategy - Long-term plan for infrastructure renewal - Canadian securities regulator - Support for Aboriginal Entrepreneurship and skills development - balance budget by 2014-2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green jobs through investment in renewable energy, expanding passenger rail and modernizing freight, retrofitting thousands of buildings to high standards for energy efficiency - Smart economic stimulus by expanding EI to those paid into it and protecting the pensions of retired Canadians. Reduce EI and CPP contributions for businesses - Fair Global Trade – reform, revise and rethink trade agreements, such that sustainability is considered. -Cut Wasteful Subsidies - Get Prices Right - help local governments with sustainable long-term funding for infrastructure - Make poverty history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the Investment Canada Act - Goal to make Canada the leader in three key sectors – Clean Resources, Health and Biosciences, and Digital Technology - Help Small business with tax credits, such as EI holiday for new youth hires - Invest in Science, Technology and Basic Research - Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy which includes highways, major roads, local and regional transit, rapid transit and commuter rail, Municipal Infrastructure, and High-speed rail - Balance the Federal Budget - introduction of a family care plan which includes a proposal to give six months of EI benefits on compassionate leave and a new Family Care Tax Benefit for those who don't contribute to EI (and thus can't collect EI) -Balance the Federal Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving Family and Maternity Leave Benefits - Lowering Household Costs on Energy Bills and Renovations - Cracking Down on Excessive Credit Card Rates and Bank Card Fees - Re-instating the Federal Minimum Wage - Help Lift Childern and Families out of Poverty - Ensureing your EI Benefits are There When You Need Them - Establish a Job Creation Tax Credit of \$4500 per new hire - Extend Tax Credits for Job-Supporting Investment - Ensure Foreign Investment Delivers Quality Canadian Jobs - Investing in Critical Infrastructure - Protecting the Family Farm by providing access to business risk management programs for farmers that costs less; reduce railway tarrifs; sustainable agriculture practices; cutting accounting fees. - Balance the Federal Budget

Party/Issue	Bloc Quebecois	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - greater economic development in the St. Lawrence River region does not mean the destruction of its unique ecosystem, must be managed on an integrated basis. - reduce Quebec's dependence on oil by providing tax incentives for home heating systems and energy efficiency retrofits in their homes, measures to support electric cars, and development of a biofuels sector (and other renewable fuels) - fight climate change with a credible green house gas reduction plan - increased support for research and development and an end to the Conservatives' severe cuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create two national parks (Mealy Mountains National Park in Newfoundland and Labrador and The Rouge Valley in the GTA) - ecoEnergy retrofit program (for one year) - Support for research and development in clean energy and energy efficiency (only support economically viable clean energy projects and Lower Churchill hydro-electric project) - continue gas tax transfers to provinces for public transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthen and enforce decisions made in the 2010 climate negotiations (COP16) to bring in the urgent and aggressive measures required globally to avoid catastrophic climate impacts and adjust and adapt to impacts we can no longer avoid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Become a World leader in Clean Resources - Green Renovation Tax Credit (tax credit of up to \$13,500) - Develop Renewable Energy Resources - Cleaner Oil Sands Development - Stewardship of our natural resources through conservation of natural spaces, development of a Canadian Freshwater Strategy, expand protected areas in the oceans, develop a World-Leading Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Halting New Leasing and Oil Exploration in Arctic waters, formalizing the existing BC Crude Oil Tanker Moratorium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopting the Climate Change Accountability Act - Ensuring Canada Becomes a World Leader in Renewable Energy - Establishing Green Bonds to Fund Research and Development - Strengthen Public Transit for Livable Cities by maintaining and expanding public transit across the country, with a clear mechanism for sustainable, predictable funding - giving another cent of the gas tax to cities and tax exemption for employee workplace-based transit passes
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancing transfer payments? (couldn't find anything specifically addressing health care) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - renew health care accord (doesn't say much else) - forgive a portion of federal student loans of those who agree to practice in under-served rural or remote areas - Double child fitness tax credit - Adult Fitness Tax Credit -ecoEnergy Retrofit-Homes program (one year extension only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not addressed specifically in policy document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health promotion, Sport and a National Food policy to ensure Canadians are healthier, foods are better labelled, local foods are promoted, and better food inspection - A Canadian Brain Health Strategy which is to address dementia which is an increasing burden on the health care system and families - Pan-Canadian Collaboration on Quality Improvement, Innovation and Best - new incentive to get health care professionals in rural areas - Better coverage of Prescription drugs across Canada through bulk purchasing to reduce the cost of drugs as one of the initiatives - commitment to the Canada Health Act and funding it adequately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen Health Care with new 10 year accord - Invest in More Family Doctors and Nurses (1200 new Doctors over the next 10 years and 6000 new training spaces over six years for nurses, in addition to increasing training spaces for other health professionals) - recruit and support low-income, rural and aboriginal medical students - Making Medicines More Affordable through bulk purchasing, public administration, aggressive price review, eliminate kickbacks, and moving towards publicly funded research and development, driven by public priorities, not commercial profits. - Keeping Kids Health and Safe in Sports - Improve food safety

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Party/Issue	Bloc Quebecois	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
Senior Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve guaranteed income supplement and support for affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - top up benefit to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (up to \$600 per year for single seniors and up to \$840 per year for couple seniors) Note: This applies to seniors who make less than \$2000 in income other than OAS or GIS or couples that make less than \$4000) -implentation of Pooled Retirement Pension Plan - crack down elder abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure secure pensions and provide programs that address health – both physical and mental – and ensure dignity by stopping elder abuse and respecting living wills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gradual increase of the defined benefits under the Core CPP and the ability to supplement it by contributing to the Secure Retirement Option (basically self contribution to the CPP) - Protect people's pensions from companies which go bankrupt by creating a stranded pension agency -Boost the GIS benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening Pensions and Retirement Security - increase pension benefits, gradually doubling them and increase the GIS to lift every senior out of poverty immediately - allow for voluntary contributions to the CPP - move pensioners and long term disability recipients to the front of the line of creditors during bankruptcy proceedings - Expanding Health Care for Seniors including home care, keeping seniors in their homes, and ensuring seniors are treated to the same standard no matter where they are
Taxes and Program Cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure everyone contributes their fair share to federal tax revenue by eliminating tax havens, imposing a surtax on very high incomes and bonuses for corporate executives, and abolish tax give-aways for oil companies - no program cuts mentioned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keep corporate taxes low -Family tax cut (about \$1300 a year through income splitting up to \$50,000 for couples with children under 18) - Support for family caregivers - double tax-free savings account limit - \$11 billion in unspecified cuts over 4 years - Note: Mentioned in budget but not in policy, but tax relief/credits contingent on deficit reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fix the tax system through lower income taxes and full income splitting to reduce the tax burden on married couples and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting targets and spending money more wisely (estimates \$7 billion could be freed up) - Keep corporate tax rate at 18%. - There are no plans to increase GST, personal income tax or small business tax rates - Spending Dicipline by reviewing all federal program spending and cut wasteful spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the Small Business Tax Rate from 11% to 9% - Setting Corporate Tax Rate at Below the USA's (that's combined federal/provincial Coporate Tax Rate is below the US' Federal corporate tax rate) - No Tax increases mentioned
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By adopting a results-oriented approach rather one focused on an ideology of retribution - Keep gun registry - make rehabilitating young offenders and reintegrating them into society a priority - get tougher on organized crime, street gangs and white collar criminals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crack down on human smuggling and trafficking - deport foreign criminals - increase law enforcement investigative powers - put all bills on law and order into one and pass it within 100 days of office - abolish long gun registry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not addressed specifically in policy document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger and Safer Communities through - Affordable Housing - Fighting Poverty - Supporting Police, Firefighters and other First Responders - Keep gun registry and improve it to address concerns - Better controls on RCMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring More Police to Protect Your Community

Party/Issue	Bloc Quebecois	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
Defense and Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by advancing a foreign policy that favours cooperation, peaceful conflict resolution and protection of civilians - implement a credible plan to bring Canada's international development assistance up to the UN target of 0.7% of GDP - give priority to multilateral institutions for international cooperation - include clauses in trade agreements to protect culture, workers' rights and the environment - pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - buy F-35 jet fighters (cost not mentioned) - Ship building procurement strategy - Establishing new air expeditionary wing at CFB Baggotville - Strengthen the Canadian Coast Guard - extend the security infrastructure program to prevent hate-motivated crimes - completing the Dempster Highway - Defending religious freedom abroad - continued focus of post-combat efforts in Afghanistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to a peaceful solution in Afghanistan by refocusing the Canadian mission to poverty alleviation and development, strengthening governance and civil society institutions, and supporting the training and development of the Afghan military and police force, particularly in the area of upholding and protecting human rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Military Procurement policy of cancelling the F-35 program and ensure money is redirected to the equipment our forces need - Trade agreements with China, India, Europe and renewing Partnerships in North America - Address Canada's North and International Arctic Region - Marshalling Canada's Strengths in Human Development through peace, order and good government, overseas development assistance, returning to Africa and Middle East Peace - Return Canadian Military to Peace Operations - Future Engagement in Afghanistan to be coordinated by a special envoy to the region and be substantive diplomatic and political in nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review F-35 purchase - Leading the world in Response to Climate Change - Ensuring our Troops are Brought Home from Afghanistan - Increasing the Promotion of Health, Development and Human Rights - Chartering a New Course for Canada's Defense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide the forces the best equipment to do the job with, proper support and benefits - provide consular services to all Canadians in distress and create an independent ombudsperson's office for monitoring government performance and prevent political interferences in these matters. - ensure we buy Canadian - Fulfilling Commitments to Honour our Veterans
Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wants to serve as a watchdog of public funds, namely by proposing improvements to the Access to Information Act - support whichever party or coalition of parties that proposes initiatives that are beneficial to Quebec - fight against ideological, partial and antidemocratic leanings in Ottawa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allow for fair representation in parliament due to growing populations, but Quebec will retain a minimum 75 seats regardless of population and will remain proportionally represented (about 24% of the seats) - pursue allow provinces to select senators and when provinces don't participate, the current practice of the prime minister appointing senators will continue (as long as they support his agenda) - open government initiative - end direct subsidy to political parties (\$2 per vote subsidy that replaced corporate and union donations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hold national discussion on health of our democracy - address growing and undemocratic power of the Prime Minister's Office - Review "first past the post" electoral system and determine if a better system can be implemented such as proportional representation - Address access to information and corporate influence in journalism - Ensure that citizenship is equal by starting with implementing the spirit of the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore Court Challenges Program - Open Government through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for all departments and agencies to release information to the public, both proactively and responsively - All access to information requests and responses will be posted online - online database for grants, contributions and contracts - Modernize the voting system to allow for an online voting option - limit the prime minister's power to prorogue - Reform question period and add a People's Question Period - Make Standing Committees work more important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting a new Tone in Parliament (actually cooperate with other parties instead of against them) - Restricting the Prime Minister's Power to Avoid Parliament - Making your vote count by electoral reform, abolishing the senate (and in the mean time bar failed candidates and political insiders from being appointed and ban senators fundraising from fundraising for political parties) - Building a New Relationship with Civil Society

Party/Issue	Bloc Quebecois	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
Other planks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring French language is the working language of companies under federal jurisdiction - ensure the Canadian Multiculturalism Act does not apply to Quebec - opposing any decrease in the political clout of the Quebec nation. - propose changes to the Canada Labour code to allow the precautionary cessation of work and ban scabs - by defending women from attacks on their rights, such as the right of control their own bodies, by instituting federal pay equity and re-establishing the Equal Oppourtunities for Women Program and the Court Challenges Program - by being a true partner of Aboriginal nations by establishing nation-to-nation relations and providing better support for development initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue support for developing countries and for maternal, newborn, and child health - strengthen property rights - expand snowmobile trails - relocate the head office of Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions - allow import of fertilizers, pesticides, and veterinary drugs available on the market by making them equivalent to Canadian Standards - support farmers, forestry and fishing industries - publication of the salaries and expenses of First Nations chiefs and councils -volunteer firefighters tax credit - Children Arts tax credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No other information for this category 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education is the other major plank, with their Canadian Learning Strategy which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Childhood and Care fund - The Learning Passport - Aboriginal Learning - Expanded Language Training for new Canadians - Veterans Learning Benefit - The International Dimension of Canadian Learning - Ensure 100 percent high-speed internet connectivity in Rural areas - communities Heroes Fund - Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit - Dealing with Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women - Valuing Volunteerism - Ensure Corporate Responsibility - Implement a Canada Service Corps for Youth to participate abroad - Renew Federal Government Capacity for operations abroad - Equality of Oppourtunity for Canadians with Disabilities - Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving Access to Child Care and Post-Secondary Education - Delivering Affordable Housing to Canadians - Building a New Relationship with First Nations - Ensuring Canada's Arts and Culture Thrive - Building Home-grown Film and TV Production - Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit - Hero's Benefit which will pay a benefit of \$300,000 to the families of fallen firefighters and officers - Fast-Tracking Immigration and Family Reunification - Strengthening Canada's Official Languages - Action Plan for the Rights of the Disabled - Moving Forward on Women's Equality - Promoting Equality Rights in Canada - Ensuring all Canadians Have Access to Broadband and a Robust Digital Economy - Restoring the Long-Form Census - Fair Treatment for the Provinces

Why are we having this election anyways?

Story by David Seepersad

The main reason we're having this election is because the Conservative Government and Bev Oda were possibly in Contempt of Parliament.

This means that the governing party was obstructing the function of parliament which is not allowed. This resulted in

a motion of confidence being brought about which the Government did not win. In Canada, our government runs under what is called a Parliamentary Democracy.

This means we don't vote for a Prime Minister, but we do vote for members of parliament who will represent us. The Prime

Minister is the person who can command the most votes in parliament. Usually this is the leader of the party with the most seats in the house, but in reality (and in the past) it can be any member of parliament.

So is this election unnecessary? Based on

what's happened the answer is no. On May 2nd 2011 I encourage you to vote, since the question at hand is whether we believe in our form of democracy or do we want to rewrite the rules? That's the choice being presented, so make your vote count!

Who is the JCAA?

Story by Benita Ho republished from the Jarvis Jargon

My name is Benita Ho, and I am a graduate of Jarvis Collegiate Institute in 1980. My son is currently attending JCI as you are and is experiencing life in the school pretty much the same as myself and my peers at the time. Today, I am a full-time mom to a teenage son, a self-employed Paralegal/Law Clerk and I volunteer my time and my energy as the President and Treasurer of the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association.

While time has passed and things change, I find that students, student behaviour and student attitude remain pretty much the same. In fact, in speaking with students that graduated before me, I find they were much naughtier than the students of today ... can you imagine that!!!

When I left Jarvis, I did not know that there was an association for Jarvis grads. This is because in 1980, the group was just starting. It was started by Charles (Chuck) Carr who formed the association with a group of his friends to do what any alumni associations are supposed to do ... to keep the spirit of the school alive. Their first task was to coordinate and to organize the school's 175th Birthday celebrations and reunion of its staff and students.

Over time, as our adult lives become busy, we endeavour to pass the baton onto another graduate to keep the association going and to keep the school spirit going ... to give back in some form to the school that has

moulded our impressionable teenage lives. After all, was it not within the walls of Jarvis where you met your first love or had your first date, had your first cigarette, got drunk, found a cause to fight for, or better yet, you found yourself and what you liked or not want with life.

But before Chuck passed on the baton, he took the proceeds of monies raised from the 175th reunion and created a Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Scholarship wherein one boy and one girl from each grade is provided a sum of money from the scholarship for their contributions to the promotion of the life of Jarvis.

You may ask ... why do I not know of this Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association and what it stands for? This lack of knowledge is due to the fact that the Association had been dormant for a fairly long time period. "Out of sight" often leads to "Out of mind". In the early 2000 decade, a group of students from the 70's gathered with the principal at the time to revive the Association and to plan for Jarvis' Bicentennial Reunion. The planning committee for the reunion comprised of graduates from the 70's, the 80's and the 90's and some teachers.

As we move forward, it is important that we, as the graduates of Jarvis Collegiate Institute, do not forget the school that has helped us develop into the man or woman that we are

today or will be tomorrow.

The Alumni Association does not want to go dormant again as it did in the late 80's. In the process, we have neglected our social responsibility to give back to Jarvis.

We can each give back by giving a moment of our time to help another. We all did it with peer counselling during our school days at Jarvis. I think that it is important that as we grow up and learn our hard lessons, we should share these new learned experiences/knowledge to those who graduate behind us. We should treat everyone that comes through Jarvis as if they were our very own brothers and sisters.

As in the 175th reunion, the Bicentennial Reunion had raised monies that is destined to help the school and we require the assistance from not only the current student body to provide us with some indications as to what it is that the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association can assist with, but also from its membership. It should be noted that whatever plans that may be approved must benefit the bulk of the student body.

Who are the members of the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association (JCAA)? Anyone who has spent a minimum of one full school year at Jarvis automatically becomes a member of JCAA. This includes the teaching

staff, the administrative staff and the support staff.

Once a member, you can choose to participate in the organization of the Association. If you are a writer, you can choose to express yourself in its newsletter, Minerva's Diary. If you like to organize social events, you can be an event planner. If you like history, you can always help us realize our goal for our very own Alumni Museum and bring back historical artifacts that rightfully should belong in the school which are currently stored off-site. Or, if you like to meet people, we have thousands that you can tap into. If you are a computer whiz, you can always tinker with our website. Regrettably, you may not wish to have anything to do with JCAA and that's perfectly alright too.

I invite you to contact me to discuss what and who the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association is and what we can do for one another.

Finally, I invite you to stay in touch with us through our website www.jarvisalumni.ca for details to come for the Jarvis' 225th Birthday Reunion Bash ... 2032.

