



Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association
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Remembrance Day at Lisgar with Gib McElroy

Labour Day week-end 1939. Germany invades Danzig and Poland, England and France declare war on Germany. Canada will follow in a week. I was 15, attending Lisgar. My biggest worry was that the war would be over before I could get into it.

The spring of 1942, on my 18th birthday, I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force to be a fighter pilot, but the RCAF rule was that if they thought you could not fly a plane solo in two hours, they would not spend any more time training you – it was mass production. I re-mustered to air gunner so, with a four-month course, I would be overseas. I went overseas in June 1943 and was immediately put into a crew, seven of us ranging in age from 18 to 23. We spent four months training together on different aircraft, sleeping, eating, living together.

The last night of training, our pilot crashed on landing and this necessitated a little more training, but just one week later he crashed another Lancaster. We never saw that pilot again; poor Fred had lost his nerve and developed what the Air Force called LMF or “lack of

moral fibre.”

We quickly got another pilot, but we had to go through another four months of training for him to get accustomed to the various aircraft and crew. When I met Max Dowden, our new pilot, I asked how old he was and he answered, “28.” My face went white, I thought, my God, he is too old; we will never finish a tour with this old man – he is too old to be flying; he should be on a ground job. This was a young man’s war.

We finally arrived on a Squadron in March 1944 and started flying on operations. Our fifth trip, 30th March 1944, was to Nuremburg. This raid was a catastrophe. The RAF suffered its heaviest losses of the war, 106 out of 850 aircraft sent out in eight hours. We barely made it back to England before we ran out of gas and crash landed just north of London. I was the only casualty on this trip. I had frozen my face. It was 50° below at 20,000 ft. and I had the perspex (glass) cut out of the back and sides of my turret to allow better vision of the German night fighters.

Time does not allow mention of our other operations, except the night of May 21, 1944. We had bombed Duisburg and we were on our way home, over Belgium when we were hit from the port bow down, that is the left side, front, lower. Port engines were shot out and tracers were shooting over my head. The pilot radioed “abandon aircraft, abandon aircraft.” When I finally managed to centralize my turret and open the doors to get into the fuselage

for my parachute, the whole port side of the aircraft was on fire. I snapped the chute onto my harness, opened the side door and rolled out. While descending, I was swinging from side to side and I thought, I hope I don’t tip upside down.

I landed in a field and ran till I found some trees; it was 1:30 A.M. I curled up and slept till dawn. I wandered for about three or four days until I was picked up by a Belgian quisling and turned over to the Germans who quickly put me into a Prisoner of War

(POW) camp. This was a brand new camp and I was the 87th man to enter. We slept in small huts like rabbit huts. There were few Red Cross parcels about one per man in three weeks. The Germans did not have the transportation to get the parcels to us. We were always hungry.

January 18th, 2:30 in the morning, blinding snow storm, the Jerrys woke us up and onto the parade square and informed us we were going on a forced march immediately.

[See Remembrance Day, page 5.]



The Manuel Medal, presented to Miss M.C. Payne, for proficiency in Modern Languages on June 15, 1901, found in an antique shop in Montreal. See story on page 8.

Alere Flammam Inside

Members’ Forum	2
In Memoriam	2-3
Lisgar Archives	5
Golden Memories	6
Lisgar Fund	7
Reunion	8

Treasurer’s Report

A Few Words on Responsibility to the Unresponsive

The Post Office now charges us \$.65 for each piece of returned mail. This has raised to \$.89 the unit cost of publishing the newsletter. You, 3200 at last count, who are not paying your dues are shirking your responsibilities while reaping the benefits of membership. In the style of Edward Lear:

To stay long and pay up no rent
'Tis ever the deadbeats' intent.
They only attest
“To hell with the rest!
I want free entry to every event!

Don’t start off life being a
deadbeat – life is not a free ride.
Start your personal reformation
now – pay your dues!

John D. Barclay (1952)
LAA Treasurer and Official
Curmudgeon.

Members' Forum

Reunion

In a recent note from Neil Alder:
For the last 14 years, a group of "old Lisgarites and friends" have been holding a mini-reunion at the home of Neil Alder in Smiths Falls, Ont. This group attended Lisgar between 1947 and 1953. The gathering is always held on the second Saturday in August. Our group has now swelled to between 30 and 40. Any "old alumni" who would be interested in attending are urged to contact Neil Alder, phone (613)283-7615 or e-mail: <nalder@recorder.ca>.

[Editor's note: see picture, p. 8.]

OOOPS!!

We received the following letter from Millie (Bilsky) Mirsky (1961) telling us that she was definitely alive and well. Mea culpa . . .

Thank you for forwarding a copy of *Alere Flammmam*. It was a little disconcerting to learn that my name appeared as "deceased" in the fall issue of the newsletter. Perhaps you would consider publishing a limerick prompted by the phone calls I received about my unexpected demise:

A few of my friends have been calling
With news that's a trifle appalling
It seems I am dead
For that's what they've read
So what is the truth, they ask,
"dawling"??
The truth is I've not yet departed
In fact I am just getting started
My hubby is new
('Twas long overdue)
So let's stay the course I have charted.

Addressed to Marg Pippy at the Alumni office:

Delighted to see the photo and read the tributes to Miss Meech. You asked the whereabouts of former Head Boys and Head Girls. I would like to ask that some reference be made to those who are not around to respond. Of course I am thinking of Betty Mount (Swerdfager). Betty passed away at the birth of her second child in 1963 or 1964. She was Head Girl in 1952-53 when I was Head Boy. Not only was she a great support to a youngster who probably didn't have the maturity for the office, but I got to know her as a friend. She was also my wife Joan's (Herbert) best friend. Joan, Betty and Maureen Roque (Gunter) were quite a trio and were instrumental in our successful concert that year, "The Roaring Twenties." Remember! As for Joan and me, we are well settled in Toronto (Don Mills actually) I am about to retire from [my] business, Benchmark Performance Inc. I hope to do the odd project from home and will continue as Chairman of the Board, but gone will be fighting the traffic every morning and evening. Our two boys are now established in middle age and we have two grandchildren close by. We will be off on our annual vacation in Barbados in January for the 25th time. As you can see, we are sort of in a rut, but a nice one. Before I go, it was great to see the photo of [Marg Pippy] and Evelyn Greenberg. If you see her, say hello for me; she was one of my favourite Lisgarites. Cheers.

In Memoriam

BLAKE, Barbara Jane, M.D., D.P.H. (nee McCallum, 1943) died peacefully, February 17, 2001, at North York. Beloved wife of the late James Desmond Blake; mother of Barbara, Catherine and Patrick; grandmother of Christopher Sibbald and Yumi Blake. Barbara graduated from the University of Toronto (Medicine, 1948) and served as School Health Physician in Newfoundland; Lecturer in Preventative Medicine, Ottawa University; Chief of Medical Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Service, Ontario Ministry of Health; and for 10 years as Director, Public Health Branch, Ministry of Health.

BOYLE, Gloria June (nee MacPherson, 1953) died January 29, 2002 at Ridge Meadows Hospital (BC). Known at Lisgar as "Skippy." Her love knew no boundaries and all who knew her loved her. Survived by husband Peter, daughters Debbie Quon and Diane Alex, sister Joyce Wilson, four grandchildren and many friends who will miss her dearly. "A Legacy of Love."

CHAPUT, Catherine, Ethel (Johnny) (nee Phelan, 1936) died suddenly in hospital on December 14, 2001 at the age of 84. Beloved wife of the late Hector Chaput; mother of John, Katie, Margie, Mary, Jannie and Jerry; grandmother of 11; dear sister of Eleanor Wisking; predeceased by brothers Michael, Manning and Newman.

HALLENDY, Clara (nee Cardillo, mature student) died peacefully at the Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus on February 1, 2002. She is survived by daughters Angela Hallendy-Roy and Andrea Hallendy-Mallon, grandson Nicholas, sisters Edith and Louise.

OSBERG, Edith (nee Spencer, 1935) died peacefully at the Elisabeth Bruyere Pavilion on November 2, 2001 in her 85th year. Dearly loved wife of Lawrence (Larry) Osberg; loving mother of Lars, Peter and Zeila and grandmother of nine; sister of Elvins Spencer and Hope Spencer.

Bill Thorsteinson (1953)

I was Head Boy 1946-47, when Sheila Lamke was Head Girl. J.J. Dunlop was Principal. I graduated from Queen's 1951, in Commerce. I married Margot Winters (Lisgar Head Girl 1947-48). I was employed with General Electric Canada and Guaranty Trust. We live in Mississauga, and are active in downhill skiing, music and the Presbyterian Church. We have two children and six grandchildren. Outstanding teachers would include Lorne Rentner, Earl Thom, Isobel Brown, Marion Meech, Stewart Felker, and Wright Neil, who was later to become Principal. Eric Toller (1947).

This is just a short letter to tell you how many memories the last issue brought back, with that photo spread on the back page. I well remember writing my "matrics"

(junior, I think) on a hot June day in a room facing the construction site of the gym. Watching all those guys toting the wheelbarrows of concrete up the ramps, and the bronzed shirtless bricklayers delicately putting all their bricks in place made us wonder about the possibilities of earning their princely wage of, I think, \$1.25 or \$1.50 an hour. (Despite the daydreaming, I aced the exams!) I would graduate before the gym was finished, so I wondered what it would be like to play in a gym without those posts in the middle of the basketball floor. If I'm not mistaken, the head peeking over the wall is Jimmy Dunlop, and to the right, that is "Fifi" Lalonde, my French teacher, and Mr. Felker, the Chemistry teacher. It is great fun to read the letters from the alums with all their reminiscences.

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In Memoriam

PICKERSGILL, Jane (1959) died on December 24, 2001, in Johannesburg, South Africa, following a brief illness. Jane was the beloved wife and dear friend of William Baird, loving mother of Tom and Allen Baird, and the daughter of Margaret and the late J.W (Jack) Pickersgill. She is also survived by brothers Peter and Alan, and sister Ruth (McKane). She will be missed by family, friends and colleagues.

REID, Mavis A. (nee Grant, 1921) died peacefully on April 18, 2001 at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre. She was predeceased by her husband Edward S. (Ted) Reid, her brothers Nairn, Clyde and Ainslie Grant, and by her sister Lois McDonald (Stroud). She is survived by her daughters Alison Reid, Judy Dunlop and Nancy McGruer and their families; by sisters Winsome Foran and Gwenth Fenton; by brother Ronald Grant; and by sister-in-law Mildred Grant. She was the grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 22 well-loved children.

SCHWERDFAGER, Harold, Arthur (c.1930) died suddenly at the age of 85, at the Montfort Hospital on June 14, 2001. He leaves his loving wife of 58 years, Wilma (Joan) Dymond, son Lance (Shirley), granddaughter Alana, brother Bruce (Mary) and sister Marjorie Cockell.

STILLE, Patricia Mary (nee Pitman, 1947), died peacefully on May 19, 2001 at Elisabeth Bruyere Health Centre in her 71st year. Patti was the loving wife of James Graham Stille, mother of Kevin, Stephen and Randy, grandmother of six.

van HARLINGEN, Patricia (nee Beament, 1949) died peacefully in hospital in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 29, 2001 in her 71st year. Dear wife of the late Robert vanHarlingen,

In answer to the request for more info on Fuzzy (never knew his first name) Irwin, I too remember some great times in his science/physics class, but [especially] his demonstrations of static electricity with the pith balls where we all thought he had a lisp, and his advice to us for writing exams, that is, to not eat breakfast before coming to write an exam, as "man thinks better on an empty stomach."

Doug Burns (1952) Beaconsfield, QC

Britt Thurston (1944) phoned from Almonte to pass on a couple of his memories of "Fuzzy" Irwin. There was a water fountain in the hall outside the door of his science lab, and Britt remembers that students often would get up unannounced and go out for a drink, seemingly unnoticed ... Mr Irwin also had a habit of letting a sentence hang in

mid-air, and the kids would finish it out loud for him, much to everyone's amusement.

I heard about the newsletter from John Mothersill and from Stirling Ross. I see them about once a month at luncheons. A visit from Neil Johnstone netted me a copy of the membership form. You asked for stories about Fuzzy Irwin. Fuzzy taught me science in Grade 10, 1944-45. There was little ditty going around that year. I think it went like this:

Fuzzy was a chemist
Fuzzy is no more
What Fuzzy thought was H₂O
Was H₂SO₄.

Keep up the good work, it brings back many memories.

Gary Hammond (1948) Victoria

News from Vancouver Island, now home to quite a few Lisgar alumni:

Anne (Tolmie, 1955) Wood tells us that Peter Chance (1939) has just self-published his memoirs, A Sailor's Life. (A couple of years ago Peter sent along a draft of the chapter containing his Lisgar recollections, which made interesting reading for those of us in the Alumni Office fortunate enough to see it.)

Wendy (Bruce) Dobbie (1984) sent along this note from Victoria BC, with her Life Membership:

... so that I won't ever miss the newsletter and the potential upcoming 160th reunion (I missed the 150th!!). I have many fond memories as a profoundly deaf student and a twin sister of Heather (1982) at Lisgar (1980 to 1984). I was born deaf and had been mainstreamed since I was eight years old. I entered Lisgar with hopes and uncertainties about whether I would ever graduate or not. With perseverance and hard work, I even got an honour award in Grade 11. That was one of the best accomplishments I've ever had. Since graduating from Lisgar, I studied Biology at Queen's University until 1987 when I moved to BC. Paths changed and I ended up married with two hearing children. I have changed my identity as a culturally deaf person who uses sign language and TDD (and of course, e-mails!) primarily for communication now but I still use my speech and lipreading (just what I did at Lisgar). For those who knew me, I am still "Wendy" who loves sports (I played basketball and volleyball for Lisgar) and life. I am now working for the federal government and teaching American Sign Language, the third most used language in Canada. I want to tell Lisgar I am proud being a Lisgarite, and Lisgar will always be a part of my life.

In the Fall 2001 issue, I noticed that you had no date for the death of Irma Macadam. Her maiden name was Hogan until she married my Uncle Jack Macadam. She died on November 23, 2000, at age 89. I

also know Grace Chapman Davies, as we all lived in Ottawa East, and attended Wesley United Church where Grace was the organist and I sang in the choir, along with many other friends. My husband, John Ogilvie, and I were married at Wesley United Church in September 1954, and are still married! John graduated from Ottawa Tech. My brother, David Dempsey, also attended Lisgar and still lives in Ottawa. ... I am very happy that I get the Lisgar News. Ethel (Dempsey, 1947) Ogilvie, Guelph ON

Dear Friends,
I am submitting my renewal ... I taught French, Latin and Spanish at Lisgar from September 1956 to June 1959. I am also enclosing [a donation] for the Marion Meech Award. I am pleased that she is being recognized in this way. We were very good friends while I was at Lisgar but unfortunately I have not seen her since the last Lisgar anniversary.

Kathleen McCrimmon, Dalkeith ON

[Editor's note: Our Miss Marion Meech celebrated her 94th birthday on April 15, 2001.]

It is a pleasure to contribute to the Marion Meech Award in recognition of such a fine teacher. I still vividly recall learning about the drama of sea battles among the Greek city states in Miss Meech's ancient history class. She made those long ago events live again in my imagination, to such an extent that I received a grade of 100% on a test. I think that impressed my mother more than any other thing I have achieved in life! Enjoyment of the great narrative of human activity has stayed with me while I pursued professional goals as an editor and visual artist, providing an enrichment to every other experience. In addition, an interest in understanding the historical context for technical and conceptual developments has been a constant resource for my work.

Now, as a faculty member in

Members' Forum

the Craft and Design Program at Sheridan College, I find myself trying to convey this possibility to my students. My job would be so much easier if all of them had spent time in Miss Meech's class!

In an educational climate that seemingly reveres technology above all other achievements, an award that celebrates the value of understanding history is especially important. I hope the Marion Meech Award becomes a significant academic recognition at Lisgar, while acknowledging the lifelong contribution of this wonderful teacher.

Susan Warner Keene (1965),
Ward's Island, Toronto

Thank you for sending me the *Alere Flammam*, with the writeup about me. I was so pleased with it, and many friends have called me since I received it, and it was so good to chat with them again. By the way I did do better in my Latin!! I was very naive when I first went to Lisgar and I had to write a Latin exam on my birthday Nov. 27. I didn't realize then how important the exam results were and since it was my birthday and at that time I hated Latin I only answered two questions and said to myself since it's my birthday I don't have to finish this!! [However] I made up what I lost in marks at the next Latin exam! Latin is the basis of other languages and it certainly helps understand many of the words I come across in English.

Grace (Chapman) Davies (1939),
Ottawa

I received the Alumni newsletter today. Interesting as always! A special thanks to Doug, Pat and Margaret for keeping this going!

What a nice idea to honour Miss Meech. She was a sweet teacher and is a lovely lady! I especially remember her as a teacher but also at the 150th reunion where she remembered "all of US"!!

Barbara (Brennagh) O'Brien (1959), Halifax NS

The enclosed reminiscences from my days as a student at Lisgar Collegiate in the years 1927-32 are somewhat similar to those of John Edwards. I was not an outstanding athlete like him, nevertheless I hope my stories will be of interest to some alumni. I graduated from Queen's (1937) as a mining engineer, and later received a masters degree in geological engineering from McGill (1940). My war service was as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Engineers, in Italy and North West Europe. Following the war I worked as a mine geologist for 23 years for Noranda Mins Co., then left to be a consultant. I am now fully retired. Richard C.E. Bray (1932), Kingston ON

[Editor's note: we received several pages of information and may publish it in future issues.]

More e-mail:

From Vincea ("Vinny")
McClelland-Cousté in Rueil-
Malmaison, France via e-mail

<mccllelland.couste@wanadoo.fr>

I have just printed out the latest issue of the newsletter (thank goodness for the Internet!) and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. (I'm also very honoured to see my letter on the Lisgar.net Web site!) I was very saddened to read of the passing of my beloved English teacher, Mr. (Pat) O'Brien who taught me English for at least four of the five years I attended Lisgar. His kindness and enthusiasm will stay with me always... He could bring a play by Shakespeare to life like no other and, thanks to him, I obtained some very good marks in this subject (91% in Grade 13!). As for "Where are they Now"? – I was undergrad editor for the *Vox* in 1972 and would very much like to know where our editor Timothy (Tim) Stowell is now. Contributing to the *Vox* was one of my favourite Lisgar experiences...

With thanks and warmest wishes
[Editor's note: see O'Brien
Scholarship Fund story, page 7.]

From Ivan H. Cohen, also via e-mail
<viltoronto@hotmail.com>:
I graduated from Lisgar in 1972.

About five years ago, I found in my archives a reel-to-reel recording of a Lisgar Orchestra performance from the spring of 1970 at Vincent Massey Public School, under the fine direction of Mr. Hursti. At that time, the board was considering cancelling Lisgar's Music Program and the purpose of this concert was to encourage Grade 8 students to sign up for [the] music program. I guess funding issues haven't changed much. I have had the tape transferred to CD, and as well, the technician cleaned up the audio quality. It sounds great! If anyone from the orchestra from that era wishes a copy, have them drop me an email (or snailmail).

[Editor's note: his snail mail address is available through the Alumni office.]

From Michael Rasminsky
<michael.rasminsky@mcgill.ca>:

The last *Alere Flammam* had a query about the whereabouts of Graeme Low. He is alive and well, practicing as a psychiatrist at the Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Ave, Montreal QC, H3G 1A4.

Jeanette Fooks (1988) found us on
lisgar.net, and e-mailed from
Kitchener <J.Fooks@ec.gc.ca>:

... in case anyone is interested, I have been working at the Water Survey Division of Environment Canada after graduating from Waterloo with a Master of Science in Engineering Geology and a Bachelor of Appl. Sci. in Geological Engineering. My work gives me lots of time to enjoy life, including amateur downhill ski-racing in winter and boating on Georgian Bay in our 12-foot Zodiac in the summer. I am still with my partner of eight and a half years – Shaun Dugan. We really enjoy our house in Kitchener, which needs lots of fixing up, and right now needs a new roof, if anyone [wants] to help remove three layers of shingles!

From Gerald Conger (1947)
<geraldconger@comnet.ca>:

I would like to know the

whereabouts of Joyce Erskine who graduated about 1945 or 1946. She lived on Stanley Avenue.

Another "where are they" query came from Ward Pointen (1969) in Kingston. He is looking for classmate Steve Waxman, also a 1969 graduate.

We received a letter from Joan Sugrue (1947) with a whole column of memories of Fuzzy Irwin and where have the couples gone in one! Here is part of her letter – and see the feature "Golden Memories," elsewhere in this issue.

Sixteen years have passed since I last wrote to the Alumni Association. Back then, the newsletter was typed and photocopied – how times have changed!

I had marked the Spring 1999 issue to answer the query on page 2 *Where Are all the Lisgar Couples Now?* I never did get my reply written, but when the Fall 2001 issue carried a request for reminiscences about Alfred (Fuzzy) Irwin, I just had to reply.

This notice was sent in by e-mail: Christina Jutzi, (1997) graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on June 2, 2001, with high distinction in her Honours Political Science and French Minor degree. She was awarded the gold medal for her achievement in the Political Science Department.

[While at university, she enjoyed] a summer internship at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC, a term as an exchange student in Tours, France, and an academic program in Rotterdam, Brussels and the Hague with the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution and Erasmus University.

[Last] summer, Christina worked at CIDA in Hull, Quebec. In September 2001, she began a 12-month (MA) graduate program in International Affairs and Conflict Management at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton U. She is living in Sandy Hill.

From the Archives

by David MacGougan

My association with Lisgar began in September, 1959 when I joined the teaching staff. Since 1992, when I retired, I've been coming in to the Lisgar alumni office (infrequently, I'm constantly reminded!) to work on the archives. I'm now retiring from this role as of August 31, 2002. Joy Heft, a teacher of French at Lisgar, has graciously accepted to continue as archivist as of September 2002.

I've enjoyed my years at Lisgar, including my role as archivist. The archives contain many rare and precious artifacts and materials, both in our small quarters in the alumni office and in the City of Ottawa archives. All have been catalogued and are in safe keeping. I'm hoping to have a complete written list of all our items in the alumni office completed by the end of the summer. A catalogue of all items in the city archives is available in the alumni office collection. My thanks to all the teachers, students and alumni who have contributed materials over the years and are still continuing to do so. The archives wouldn't be as valuable without your generosity

Archivist, Dave MacGougan, has resigned from his position. We thank him for his huge contribution to organizing the Lisgar archives. Fortunately for us, he has agreed to stay on long enough to train his replacement.

and thoughtfulness. My thanks to the secretarial staff's support for allowing me to use the photocopier and the laminating and fax machines. Thanks, also, to the administration for their financial and moral support. I've always had full cooperation and understanding from the principals and vice-principals since the archives' inception. To all the members of the Lisgar Alumni Executive Committee, past and present, a big thank you! Your appreciation has played an important role in my deciding to carry on with the archives after 1992.

And last but not least by a long shot, I want to thank my colleague, Doug Arrand, who has always been a driving force in the creation and continuation of the archives right from the beginning. His enthusiasm and knowledge of Lisgar's history constantly amazes me! Whenever I needed help in identifying an item (which was quite often!), he was always able to come to the rescue. My debt to him is legion.

Best wishes to Joy Heft. I know she will do an excellent job.
Alele Flammam

Remember When??

The gently falling snow outside our old alma mater sent George Toller into reverie. As we filed into the library for a recent executive meeting, he recalled regular sleigh rides when he was in grades 9 and 10. "The sleigh pulled up to the very doors of Lisgar on what is now the mall. The air was full of romance as we drove slowly through the snow, all the way out to Tesky's at Hogs Back." He mentioned the song, "I don't want to set the world on fire" and muttered about Betty Wright being the prettiest girl that evening....

Remembrance Day

(continued from page 1)

The Russians were advancing and Hitler had given orders: no POWs to be retaken. By now the camp had grown to 1700 men. You can imagine 1700 hungry men walking out of the camp on a dark cold snowy morning. We walked for about a month, sleeping in sheds, barns and deserted factories with occasional slices of black bread, cabbage soup and what we could steal.

Eventually we came to a rail yard and we were herded into box cars; 65 squeezed into a French box car. The doors had barely closed and the train moving, when I felt I was going to be sick. I ... squeezed my way to a small opening in the far wall. Standing on someone's shoulders I was sick to my stomach, and at this moment my bowels let loose. I was in this box car three days and nights.

Eventually, we reached our destination, but we had about a

five-mile walk to our new camp, Luckenwolde, 30 miles south of Berlin, where we were greeted by 40,000 POWs: Russian, Polish, Norwegian, American, English. By the time we reached Luckenwolde, many of us were lousy and had diarrhea.

Sometime in April, the Russian army, on their way to circle Berlin, liberated us. About one month later, they allowed us to make our way to allied lines, England, and home.

It was a wild experience, but I am proud to be a Canadian and a veteran.

[Editor's note: This is the text of the most recent veteran to speak in the Alumni Association's series of speakers to the Lisgar student body for Remembrance Day 2001. Gib McElroy left Lisgar in 1942 to enlist. Thank you for letting us share your story with the rest of the Lisgar family.]

Where your dollars go

Alumni supports new technology for Lisgar students!



The staff and students of Lisgar are extremely grateful to the Alumni Association for their generous donation of an In-Focus Projector. The Chair of the Lisgar Alumni Association, Rod Haggelund, took time out of his busy day to make the presentation to staff at the December staff meeting. The projector, used in conjunction with a laptop, computer is invaluable in allowing students and staff to

create slide presentations that are becoming the norm in both business and professional settings. The projector allows more students to use the technology at a time when our resources are being stretched to the limit. Virtually every department of the school can use of this equipment. Many thanks to all who made this possible!

[Above, Rod Haggelund making presentation to Principal Spence.]

Oxford on the Rideau
In *Ottawa City* magazine, Feb/Mar issue 2002, Lisgar is noted as the top-ranked Ottawa public school in the Fraser report. Its 1087 students come from 60 different ethnic backgrounds. About 40 percent are in the gifted program, but as Principal Angela Spence says, it doesn't matter if students are gifted or not, all are expected to push themselves. Latin is still taught and math student win many prizes, placing fourth in the 1999 American Mathematics Contest.

GOLDEN MEMORIES

by Joan Sugrue

In September 1944, World War II was raging on in many parts of the hemisphere, but to students just entering the hallowed halls of Lisgar Collegiate Institute our minds were mainly centred on this great adventure – our first year at high school! Along with several of my chums I found myself assigned to Class 9-D, with Homeroom teacher, a Mr. Irwin, on the third floor. Once at our desks, we glanced around to see who else we might know in this strange looking Physics Room. There were several students from grade school, and a few neighbours as well. I recognized a boy from Glashan that a friend had pointed out to me, as a “cute” guy. (Today’s kids read: *hottie*.) I did not agree with her then, but after a summer spent in the sun, tanning his now more muscular frame – I thought to myself – he IS CUTE!

Mr. Irwin told us that as well as being our Home Room teacher, he would be teaching us Physics. He encouraged us to elect good class officers, and get the most from our high school years by taking part in extra-curricular activities and thus widen our friendships. After the first few awkward days of having to introduce ourselves to each of our teachers, I learned the “cute one” had a name – **David Sugrue**, and soon he was elected vice-president of our class. After some re-arrangement of seating, he appeared at the desk in front of mine! I shared a three-seater physics table with Ruth Stewart and Norma Finnigan, and it wasn’t long before “Finn” was poking him in the back, and blaming it on me! Mr. Irwin caught David turning around to protest these pokes, and threatened to pour one of our glass inkwells over his head. When he looked squarely at Norma, Ruth and I, and asked if he should do this – we giggled and said “Sure.” What ensued was an impromptu physics lesson: if you turned these glass inkwells over quickly enough, the ink would not come pouring out! David’s clothing and his pride were left intact, and “Fuzzy,” happy with this little diversion, spared us all a trip to Mr. Dunlop’s office.

It was not a good idea to be caught disrupting one of Fuzzy’s classes. A few times during that first year, a blackboard eraser would be hurled at the instigator – sometimes finding its mark! Often a student ordered out into the hall would be totally forgotten about, and would trot off to the next class unrepentant and unpunished.

Class 9-D with Paul Hudson as President, and David as Vice-President, planned and enjoyed many social activities during the year. Some minor niners in other classes wanted desperately to transfer into our “socially active” enclave. Our first, a wiener roast, was held on



the outskirts of Eastview (later Vanier), and the entire class bicycled there and back. We had a great time roasting wieners and marshmallows, and playing a rousing game of *Truth or Consequences*. I didn’t protest, but it seemed to me there were many well-planned consequences where David had to kiss Joan and vice-versa! We had a Hallowe’en Party in October, and a super sleigh drive followed by baked beans and dancing to the juke box at the Ranch House. Our first year at Lisgar flew by, and in May of 1945, we celebrated VE Day, then VJ Day, and finally the end of the war! Students from all the high schools converged on Parliament Hill in a great state of euphoria, waving flags and cheering wildly.



Grade 10 found David and me in different classes, but we walked back and forth to school together; there were Football Fridays, dances in the gym to the music of

the Lisgar Blue Notes, skiing in the Gatineau Hills, movies and hanging with our friends. Grade 11 found us back together in the same class, and our “steady” friendship did not go unnoticed by some of our teachers. Mr. Neil and Mr. Nichols in particular always had little witticisms at the ready, and back then, girls really did blush when teased about their boyfriends! So life at Lisgar went on until I left for a newly introduced, special one-year Commercial course at the High School of Commerce. Several Lisgarites were in that class – Phyllis Silcox, Jean Stoneham, Monty McGuire and Pat McLellan come to mind. After graduation, it was off into the working world with our newly secured diplomas as our passports into prosperity and security!

David finished his studies at Lisgar and then was hired by the Royal Bank in the Glebe. After several years there, he switched to R. L. Crain Printers where he worked for 40 years until his retirement in 1994. During those years, I worked at the Bank of Canada, Nepean Hydro and at Boy Scouts of Canada for 26 years until retiring in 1993.

And yes, the romance that began in Fuzzy Irwin’s class in 1944, culminated in a wedding which took place just up the street at Knox Presbyterian Church on April 19th, 1952 – **fifty years ago!**

To celebrate this Golden Anniversary we were joined by our two children Linda (Ashfield), and John, along with our seven grandchildren, family and friends. Ruth Stewart (Wood) who has been a special friend since kindergarten days, and was one of my bridesmaids, travelled from Maitland. While they hold special memories for us, somehow I doubted that the menu would include roasted wieners!

Make Your Contribution

Designate where the money you donate goes: to scholarships, athletics, equipment, etc. One Lisgar family purchased and donated gym equipment and got a tax receipt for the amount from the Lisgar Fund.

From the Ottawa Citizen

December 28, 2001

The family of a Lisgar graduate, Dr Art Mackey (1942), hit the news recently as Good Samaritans when they saved a deer trapped in the icy waters of Constance Bay. The animal was struggling to reach shore when Mackey’s daughter, Kim Johnson, woke other family members including husband Graeme, son Fraser and brother Bill. Jim Mackey and vet Karen Mackey were also involved. Art Mackey, captain of the Lisgar Senior basketball team, the 1942 Ontario provincial champions, scored 113 leading points that year (according to the *Vox Lycei*, 1942).

Response to the Gym pictures!!

See the letter from Doug Burns . . . Dave Pinhey agrees that M. Lalonde is surveying “zee road to hell,” but he thinks that’s Fred Shultz down the hole. Dave also says “The ‘post grads’ are our basketball players waiting to play on a post-free gym floor (post grads, get it?). I believe I recognize the late Gary Logan, who got killed in a flying accident, training on the Canadian Navy Venture Plan of the late 1950s, and further right, Ernie Zoppa, another great Lisgar athlete. Could be Chris Wells and George London on the lower steps, can’t make out the rest. A very interesting issue all in all. Thank you contributors.”

Marg P. concurs with the Lalonde ID, and certainly Felker is “who dat dere,” but she would have said Baz Clark is the guy down the hole. Wonder if Neil Alder would agree?

Lisgar Fund Update

Lisgar Fund Directors wish to keep alumni, our most generous supporters, up-to-date on our activities. On page 5, you read that an In-Focus Projector was presented to Lisgar by the Alumni Association. With current funding levels, the school cannot buy such specialized equipment. The money for this projector came from non-designated Lisgar Fund donations. In reality, you, the Alumni, though your generosity gave Lisgar teachers and students state-of-the art instructional equipment. For this we thank you!

Your largesse does not end here. Many alumni have been very generous in supporting various programs. The music program has received hundreds of dollars made up of small individual donations from alum over the years. The Library through our Honour With Books program has received much needed funds. The mathematics, and the physical education and athletics programs have also benefited. A lesser known aspect of the Fund is that we can issue of tax receipts for equipment donations to the school. We have received such musical instruments as violins, pianos and brass, and gym equipment as well as modern computer and related equipment.

However, the largest donations by alumni have been directed to scholarship funds. The Lisgar Fund now issues between \$1,500 and \$2,000 annually to grads entering college, university or other post-secondary studies. This amount represents annual earnings less 10% from the invested capital amount. The hold-back is added to the principal each year so that the value of the annual prizes will keep up with inflation. We now have in excess of \$40,000 from your donations. The Isabel Brown Buchanan Award in Classical Studies, donated by her estate, was designated to "sunset" in 10 years, meaning it is decreasing annually by approximately \$1,000. The most recent award, honouring Marion Meech, has reached almost \$9,000. (We would love to see it reach the \$10,000.) The first Meech Award will go to a 2002 graduate in History and the Social Sciences. Other scholarships include the Dorothy Bishop, Walter Mann, Wallace Showman, Rene Charron, Harry Monsour, Isobel Brown Buchanan, David Lamperd (current chairman of the Fund's Board of Directors), Larry Wade, Joe Shenkman and A. Gazal awards. They cover all major subjects and some special areas such as students with special needs and good citizenry. All of the monies in the Scholarship Fund have been donated during the last 10 years. We hope that you will

continue to make donations to this fund as the cost of post-secondary study has been sky rocketing.

Another area we ask you to support is in the old traditional awards which have been given out at Lisgar for generations. When they were established, annual prizes were adequate to the times, but some of these awards only provide prizes of \$10 to \$25 annually. For example, the Issac Couch award is only \$10. And the Thomas Wardrope (Lisgar's founding Headmaster in 1843) produces \$25 annually.

The Alumni Association appeals to you to send in designated donations to the "Ancient Awards" so we might honour them by giving the recipients a more realistic prize. Many of you may have received an award in the name of C.P. MacArthur in history, Isaac Couch in English, William Aird Ross in mathematics, Betty Mae Swerdfager Mount Memorial Prize, Thorburn Prize (Lisgar Principal 1864-1881) or the Thomas Wardrope Scholarship in classics while at Lisgar. Some of you may be able to give something back. So remember your days at Lisgar and how it felt to win one of these prizes! (This writer having heard a myriad of stories about the famous L.W. Rentner and "Johnny" Dunlop has often wondered why no prizes were established in their honour?)

Finally, we appeal to all who have not taken the time to make a donation. Lisgar is unique in having a tax receiptable charity fund. Lisgar, for as long as we can remember, has always been underfunded. Our school was the only one in Eastern Ontario, I believe, to have a gymnasium with posts in the middle of its playing floor. Our equipment, whether in the gym or science lab was always out of date. Not withstanding, we still miraculously produced the finest prepared students who did the school proud. However with the very severe cutbacks in funding, our alma mater really needs support, particularly in such areas as the library, music and various resource books. For example, the annual grant to the library has dropped from over \$10,000 to under \$2,000. A single computer resource package can easily cost that much. We believe that charity begins at home. (And I am always impressed with the fund raising by parents and alumni of local schools such as Elmwood and Ashbury in spite of their reputation for serving families that can well afford the fees.) Our Lisgar Fund, established through the foresight of parents, teachers and alumni, can recognize each donor with a tax receipt.

To all who have donated, thank you! Keep up the good work. To all who have not yet, please take a moment to consider making your first donation to the Fund. The money will be thankfully received and wisely spent.

Pat O'Brien Scholarship Fund

Former colleagues, students, and basketball players will have fond memories of Pat O'Brien, who taught English and coached basketball at Lisgar from 1967-1973, before moving on to Carleton University. As most of you know, Pat met an untimely end last September. A number of his former players, colleagues, and friends from Lisgar and Carleton have decided to establish a scholarship at Carleton to honour his memory. Lisgarites who would like to contribute to this fund may log on to www.carleton.ca or contact Margo Thomas at Carleton University Alumni Services at (613) 520-2273.

Some of you may wish to be a part of the first annual Pat O'Brien Golf Classic, at Ottawa Hylands Golf Club, Monday, July 8th, with a 1:30 shotgun start. After the tournament, a dinner will be held at 7 PM at the club. Cost for golf and dinner (including a cart) is \$95 a person; dinner only is \$45. Space for golf is limited to 144 players and is expected to fill up rapidly, so register now to avoid disappointment. For further information about the golf tournament, contact Bill Fraser at (613) 722-7477 <coachf@cyberus.ca>, Pat Stoqua at (613) 836-2965 (home) or (613) 738-9181 (work) <stoqua@sympatico.ca>, Paul Armstrong at (613) 730-1942 (home) or (613) 520-4482 (a t w o r k) <paul_armstrong@carleton.ca>.

Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

Joe Zelikovitz (Lisgar graduate, 1933), former Ottawa Rough Rider, was inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame. He was in the starting lineup for only one game in 1938, the sixth and final game for the Big Four (predecessor of the Canadian Football League), but what a game as he rarely left the field! In the second game of the six-game regular season, he had made seven interceptions against the Hamilton Tiger Cats, a feat never matched by another player in Canadian senior football. What a feat!



Smiths Falls Reunion (see Member's Forum page 2, for Neil Alder's letter) If you want to join

the group (about 1947 to 1953, contact Neil at the address shown in his note.

Medal Found in Montreal Antique Store

Lisgar grad Tim Shearley (1981) was strolling through antiques stores in old Montreal on a recent visit. His wife, Janet Fraser, had taken her visiting niece to see the Biodome. Imagine his surprise to discover a silver enamelled medal which had been presented to a Lisgar student in 1901 (to see it in full colour, visit the Lisgar Web site <www.lisgar.net>). The keen-eyed grad spotted the medal which even the proprietor of the Notre Dame West shop believed was from Ottawa University because it had OCI on it, and realized he'd found a piece of history. He immediately bought it (having to make a dash for a cash machine, too!!) and donated the piece to the Lisgar Archives.

According to the inscription, the medal was presented by John Manuel to Miss M.C. Payne. Doug Arrand checked the *History of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute 1843-1903*, and reported that the Governor-General annually presented a silver medal for Classics and gold one for Mathematics. Lumber baron Allan Gilmour, "a very staunch and steady supporter of the school" added a gold medal for English, raising the status of that department to that of Classics and Mathematics. In later years, he contributed two silver ones instead, the second going to Modern Languages. These he continued until his death. At that

point, John Manuel who was heir to a large part of Gilmour's fortune, was asked by the current principal to continue the awards.

Lucky for us that Tim went antiquing in Montreal! And thanks from all the alumni for your generous gift to your alma mater.

[Editor's note: Tim's wife Janet Fraser and his brother Christopher (1976), provide cooking tools by mail order, through their company, Ashton Green.]

For more pictures, and previous issues of Alere Flamam, go to Lisgar's Web site at www.lisgar.net.

To Reunion or not to Reunion. . .

Your Alumni Association needs your help if we are to realize the 160th reunion. First of all, we need your suggestions as to the types of events you, the members, would like to attend at a weekend reunion. Would you want to attend a dinner and dance held in the school or its precinct, either indoors, or on the Mall or the grounds of the city hall under a canopy tent? Perhaps something more formal at the Congress Centre, for example? Would you like to see old boys' sports events, an open house with decade rooms and displays? Or a meet and greet pub or BBQ? Would you attend mini-concerts by current student orchestras and concert bands? We really need your guidance with regard to the style of this event.

And finally, we need your assistance to organize such a reunion. We need volunteers immediately to take on the following tasks. Among the positions for which we need bodies are the publicity committee, treasurer and finance committee, registration

committee, various special events committees such as pub, athletics, decade rooms, dinner/dance, assembly program committee, etc. As a volunteer, you would have lots of assistance from the current members of the Executive Committee as well as lots of resources from the archives covering the last four reunions, along with budget details, etc.

And since the program committees cannot be finalized until we determine the weekend program, this is your chance to get in on the ground floor and to help shape the reunion – right from concept to the actual week-end reunion. Fresh faces and new ideas are highly valued. Lisgar is putting out the call. We hope, as in the past, Lisgarites will respond.

Please let us know as soon as possible, by e-mail (to darrand@lisgar.net, or phood@lisgar.net) or by mail c/o the Alumni Office at 29 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0B9 **Attn: 160th Reunion**. By your response we will know whether you *really* want this reunion to happen.

Where Are They Now?

Major New Achievement for Lisgar Grad of 1970

by Erik Spicer

Margaret Law (1970) became President of the Canadian Library Association (CLA) at the Annual Conference in Winnipeg, June 2001. Margaret, currently Associate Director of Libraries (Science/Technology and Health Sciences), University of Alberta, Edmonton, has had a distinguished career.

Since graduation from UBC in 1986 with a Master's in Library Science, she has been in Alberta as a Library Consultant, Parkland Regional Library in Lacombe, Director of the Leduc Public Library, a Branch Manager of the Edmonton Public Library and Director of the Parkland Regional Library.

A 1973 BA graduate of Carleton, she also has a 1979 BEd from Dalhousie, a 1998 MBA from Athabaska and a 1994 Certificate in Local Government from the University of Alberta.

In addition to being a member of CLA, Margaret is also a member of the Library Association of Alberta (of which she was second VP, President and Past President, 1994-97) and the American Library Association.

The mission of the Canadian Library Association is "to promote, develop and support library and information services in Canada and to work in cooperation with all who share the organization's values in order to present a unified voice on issues of mutual concern." Though membership has fallen to roughly 3000 from its peak 5000 (when I was President in 1979-80) CLA is the major national library association in Canada and Canada's major representative in the international world of librarianship.

Until I met Margaret at the meeting of the Canadian Caucus during the meetings of the International Federation of Library Associations I was unaware of her Lisgar connection, and am happy to share it with you.