



# Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association  
Volume XVIII • 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue • Spring 2003

## Tribute to Marion Meech

*Eric Toller (1947) spoke at Miss Marion Meech's funeral in Toronto, January 27, 2003:*

I am deeply honoured to speak of Miss Marion Meech — a remarkable teacher, a family friend, a special person who has had a profound effect on my life.

Let me carry you back to September 1943. The Second World War was entering its fifth year. Lisgar Collegiate Institute was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Principal John Dunlap had recruited Miss Meech from Markham High School, having met her marking Senior Matriculation exams in Toronto. She was 35, I was 15 and one of 35 chosen students for her Grade 11 class in Ancient and Mediaeval History. Two of my classmates were Ida Hundevad and Shirley Stotesbury (who is here today) and they remained close friends in Ottawa. With her inspired presentation of Roman and Greek history, she motivated me to reach for higher standards. I was able to achieve first class honours — a benchmark for Junior Matriculation.

Miss Meech was a key member of a strong teaching staff at Lisgar — Dorothy Bishop, Lorne Rentner, Isobel Brown, Walter Mann, to name a few. Their hours did not end at 4 p.m. They took extra time to assist students with problems, advised on Student Council matters, organized drama productions, concerts, cadet training, athletic teams, all with one primary objective: to provide quality education and strive for outstanding status in Grade 13.

Certainly, Marion more than

fulfilled these goals. I recall her warm presence and active participation when Lisgar celebrated its centenary in October 1943. She was greeted enthusiastically by former students at the 150th in 1993.



At the 150th: seated, Dorothy Bishop; standing l to r, Dorothy Krueger (Lashley), René Charron, Bernice McLaurin (Scheuneman), Marion Meech

A crowning achievement was the establishment of the Marion Meech Award in Senior History in the fall of 2001. With minimal publicity, over \$8000 was raised. The first scholarship was awarded in 2002. When she learned of this project, her reflection was one of humility: "How could I be so recognized?" However, she was elated to be saluted in her lifetime. Miss Meech enthusiastically supported the formation of the Lisgar Alumni Association in 1984, providing names and addresses of many former students. She turned over her mother's report cards from the Ottawa Collegiate Institute of the 1098s.

(Please turn to page 3.)

## Remembering René Felix Charron

*René Charron was a colleague, mentor and friend to Lisgar's Archivist, Joy Heft. She shares her memories with us.*

With the death of René Charron on November 6, 2002, the Lisgar

building a rapport with players which persisted in many cases well beyond graduation. Following his retirement in 1989, René served as vice principal of Hillel Academy for seven years; not surprisingly, he was a much respected member of that community as well.

It is for his human qualities, however, that René will be most remembered. Rev. Jim Beall, former Lisgar student and teacher, highlighted many of these during his eulogy at René's funeral. René was first and foremost a family man, a loving husband to Madonna McGee who predeceased him, and to Marena Charron, also a former member of the Lisgar faculty, a proud and nurturing father to Darlene, Alan (Annette) Chantal (Mark), Marc and Melissa, and grandfather to Jayden, and a role model to his many siblings. René's love of family translated into a genuine interest in the families of his colleagues and friends.

René loved to laugh, to garden and to spend time at his cottage. He was imbued with a self deprecating humour, was generous with praise, slow to anger, charitable. Jim Beall recounted two anecdotes that helped capture René's character: As a young student of 16, Jim was sitting among a group in the cafeteria when one girl described René as possessing "Gallic charm." Jim confessed to not knowing at the time exactly what "Gallic charm" was, but that it was made quite clear that René had it and the boys in the group didn't! Another enlightening story reveals René's love of hockey and particularly of a specific team. Upon learning that Jim's young son was interested in hockey, René showed up at the door with a copy of Roch Carrier's *Le Chandail de Hockey*; he wanted to make sure that this prospective fan chose the right team! René himself was an accomplished hockey player and he continued to play into late adulthood.

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# Members' Forum

Doug Arrand received this note recently:

To update you on my latest whereabouts — after covering the Supreme Court and Justice Dept at the Parliamentary bureau of the National Post newspaper for the past few years, I had the privilege of



A 40s Reunion: Ellen Ellis (Atkinson, 1945), Elaine Christie (Burden, 1945), Rachel Rose (Cook, 1946) and Bernice Ridley (Reynolds, 1942)

receiving a Knight Journalism Foundation fellowship to pursue a master's degree here at Yale Law School. I will graduate this June ... Best regards and with very fond memories of Lisgar.

Luiza Chwialkowska

I really enjoyed Marvel Miller's column in the fall issue of *Alere Flammam*. Like her I did not join any clubs at Lisgar, and now years later, I wish I had! My excuse — too shy, afraid I might have to get up and say something! Also like Marvel, I came from Sandy Hill. Also like her, I am a graduate of Ottawa Civic Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1947.

I enjoyed my years at Lisgar — one of my memories is when Mr Meng, our science teacher (1938), digressed from this [science] often and discussed current events instead, which I found much more interesting! Also enjoyed the morning assemblies with the orchestra, speeches and sing-alongs. If Mr Dunlop, the principal, spotted anyone talking, he would invite them to come up on the stage and sit at the table with him.

Most embarrassing!

Sheila (Bowser) Creed (1942), Duncan BC

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Jean (Mulvie, 1943) Kapur, of Lawrenceville NJ, sent along a donation to the Honour With Books program, and says:

Congratulations for a fine job. ... As the donor, I wish to honour my late brother, Major David B. Mulvie (1941).

New Life Member Rick Sleeman (1964),

Stittsville ON, penned this note on his membership form: As I approach retirement I can longer stand to be a *deadbeat*. P.S. You may quote me if you feel it may help others get off their duffs!!

Former Head Boy Robert (Bob) Maudsley (1956) writes from Halifax: I write to advise you of my change of address and provide a brief update. I am a Life Member of the LAA.

I have recently completed 27 months as the Dean of Health Sciences (Medicine and Nursing), Aga Khan University, Karachi Pakistan and have returned to Canada (Halifax). I have spent nearly all of my professional career in academic medicine with professional appointments at McMaster, University of Ottawa, Queen's, Dalhousie and Aga Khan University. I spent eight years at Queen's as the Vice-Dean of Medicine. I was honoured by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as the year 200 recipient of the Duncan Graham Award for outstanding contribution to medical education.

I attended Lisgar from 1951 to 1956 and was the Head Boy and President of the Student Council in 1955-56 (Adrienne Poy Clarkson was the Head Girl). I captained two basketball and one football teams while at Lisgar.

In recent e-mail received at the Alumni office:

I attended Lisgar from 1977-1981. My e-mail address is [renn0318@comcast.net](mailto:renn0318@comcast.net). I would love to hear from former classmates and long lost friends.....drop me a line!!!!

Elizabeth Rennie, 6949 Autumn Woods Blvd, Naples, Florida 34109 USA

A recent letter from Gordon Henderson, living in Richmond, Indiana, read in part:

I am absolutely delighted to learn of the association's existence. I graduated from Lisgar in 1949 and in the past two years have been trying to get in touch with some of the people in

## In Memoriam

**Botterell**, Henry (1914) in Toronto at Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital on January 3, 2003, age 106. He is believed to be the last surviving World War I fighter pilot.

**Capreol**, Nora Margaret (nee Kirby, 1947) on March 29, 2003. She was the beloved wife of the late Monty; the loving mother of Margaret, Wendy and Bruce; and grandmother of nine.

**Clark**, Kenneth Skelton (1943) in Toronto January 2003. Loving husband of Patricia; caring father of Bruce, Clifford, Douglas and David; adoring grandfather of three; brother of George, Eleanor (McGinnis) and Peggy (Johnston).

**Corrigan**, Allan J.E. (1954) at home on February 3, 2003. Beloved father of Jeffrey of London, England, and Elizabeth of Ottawa, and the grandfather of four.

**Dover-Fireman**, Carrie Joy (1945) suddenly on May 10, 2003, leaving her beloved husband Harold, daughter Calla, sons Les and Jay, sister Mina and brother Martin.

**Guest**, Lloyd C. (1941) in Kingston, Ontario, on January 16, 2003, with his beloved wife Andy (Margaret) by his side. He was the devoted father of Bill, Heather, Nancy, Gordon and Barbara; the loving grandfather of three; and brother of Norman (deceased), Dorothy (deceased), Elaine and Alison.

**Hetherington**, Mary (Porter, staff, 1958-1961) on March 30, 2003, in Ottawa. She was the widow of Morley, and beloved mother of Brian and Mark, and grandmother of one.

**Hopson**, Frank Gilbert (Gill) (1932) suddenly on April 8, 2003, in Ottawa. He is survived by his wife Vida, his daughter Carol, sons Gil and Mark, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; predeceased by his brothers Edward and William. He was a pharmacist in Kempville for 23 years, following which he served as town councillor, Rotarian, hospital fund raiser and volunteer.

**Liberty**, Carol Alice (Low, 1951) Peacefully, at the Hospice at May Court, June 20, 2003, surrounded by her family. Carol is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Laurie, her children Sharon, Randy and Jonathan, five grandchildren, and her siblings Jessie (Marion) Swain, Ron (Jean) Low, David "Mort" (Barbee) Low, Ken (Janice) Low and Eric Low. After returning to nursing and training with Dr Balfour Mount at the Royal Victoria Hospital in

**In Memoriam**

Montreal, Carol started the first functional Palliative Care service in Ontario at the Roverside Hospital. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.

**McDowall**, Robert J. (1940) suddenly at home in Guelph on May 17, 2003. He was the loving husband of Marjorie (nee Speer, 1942) and father of Barbara, Rosalynne, Melissa, Robert Christopher and Mark, and grandfather of eight. [Editors' note: see picture this page]

**Meech**, Marion A. (staff, 1943-1970) at Shepherd Village in Scarborough on January 24, 2003, in her 95th year. Graduate of Victoria College University of Toronto. Remembered as a remarkable teacher. "Sister, aunt, friend, educator, Marion enriched the lives of all who knew her." [see tribute on page 1]

**Rankin**, Allan (1946) suddenly near his home in Leysin, Switzerland, on March 22, 2003. He leaves his children Scott, Kira and Kevin, and their mother Carol.

**Swerdfager**, Ronald M. (1958) suddenly at home on March 26, 2003. Husband of Doris Goodwin, loving father of Kyle, Neil, Lorna Duncan and Trevor, grandfather of seven. He was the brother of Lynda Wagner, Janet Jones and the late Betty Mount.

**Vollmer**, Alice Mary (nee Ringrose, 1939) suddenly at home in March 25, 2003. She was the beloved wife of Harold, loving mother of Brian, Robin and Chris, and grandmother of four.

**Watson**, Joan Caroline (nee Stephens, 1943) peacefully on January 7, 2003, in Ottawa. Beloved wife of Gerald; loving mother of Pamela, Michael, Stephen, Wendy and Robert; grandmother of nine and great grandmother of seven; survived also by her brother Nigel and sister Daphne.

**White**, R.P. (Dick) (1933) at home in Ottawa on November 20, 2002, surrounded by his family. He retired as president of the British American Bank Note Company in 1985 after 52 years of service. He was in the Royal Canadian Navy in World War II, and active in the Ottawa community (former chairman of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires and the Ottawa Civic Hospital Foundation, past director of the Perley Hospital and the RCN Benevolent Association, past president of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and the Maganassippi Fish and Game Club). ■

my class. I have succeeded in finding five which I think is not exactly a high rate of success. Don Ivison was one I found but I have to concede that it's a good thing I'm not in the tracking-down-people business.

*Two newsletters were dispatched to him by mail; an e-mail reply to his letter informed him of this fact and also included a brief history of the Association. This resulted in not one, but two, return e-mails:*

The two newsletters arrived about 30 minutes ago and I devoured both of them immediately. Thanks for sending them. I will be sending you an application form and a check shortly.

Just one more item. I note Don Mills' statement that he won the English prize in 1949 and I'm ever so tempted to tell him that he won it despite in one paper he wrote on Shakespeare being unable to resist a typical high school temptation: using 25¢ words. The offending sentence? "Hamlet was an introverted procrastinator suffering from paralysis of analysis." I daresay he would not be keen to be reminded of that.



*The late Bob McDowell (see In Memoriam) and Harold Jost in Guelph, February 2003.*

**Correction**

*We apologize to brother Ronald (not Robert) and sister Beth-Anne for errors in their names:*

**Gibson**, Warren (1950) in Ottawa on September 5, 2002. He leaves his brother Ronald (1954) and sister Beth-Anne (1954) Exham. Predeceased by his youngest son, Andrew, he was the father of Bob O'Reilly, Dan Gibson and Erin McFarlane, and grandfather of five. ■

**Wanted!!**

Julian Bridal to attend the 160th Reunion.



**Where Are They Now?**



*1972 Mini-Reunion: Lynda Hodgins, Vivian McCaffrey, Fran (Kaplansky) Cohen, Jenny Carver, Anne McRuer, Ann McNamee.*

Ann MacNamee, currently music director at Trinity United Church in Ottawa and of the Bytown Voices. She plans a five month sabbatical in Jamaica next year but will be back in time to help with and participate in the 160th. Ann and a number of her Lisgar contemporaries had a reunion in Toronto recently. As many of them are of the fifties vintage, they got together "to remember their young youth as they head into their middle youth." According to Frances, upon graduating from Lisgar, the group had promised to meet every 10 years on the Rideau Canal, but have had only one reunion before now at Jenny Carver's place in Toronto. Besides the Lisgar connection, all but Lynda Hodgins were members of the Ottawa Youth Orchestra. She writes: *We called ourselves "The Hens" in the Lisgar days. We were part of the string music program, and played in the Lisgar Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Hursti. Lynda resides in Peterborough; Vivian, Annie and Fran live in Toronto, Ann still lives in Ottawa, and Jenny lives north of Toronto.* ■

**Miss Meech**

*continued from page 1*

In many ways, her larger family was former students who kept in touch with visits, letters, wedding photos, grandchildren. A recent issue of the Alumni newsletter contained 14 letters of tribute to Marion. With her enthusiasm and friendly spirit, she touched the lives of hundreds of students during her 27 years at Lisgar.

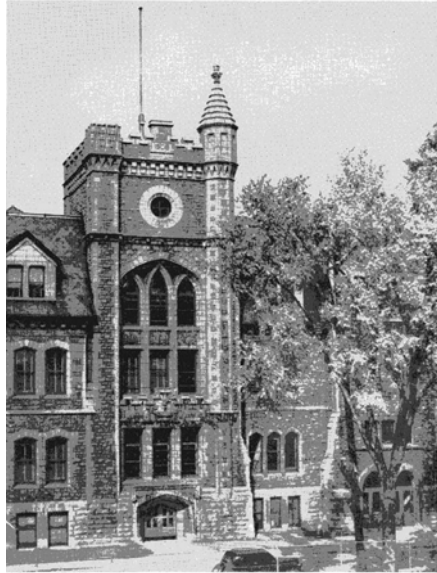
During her sojourn at Shepherd Village, I was fortunate to have short visits. Flowers were always appreciated under scrutiny of Bonnie, her cat. Latterly, she would be lying down and I would hold her hand. She would describe her exercise program, displaying a sharp memory reminiscent of early days in Aylmer, Quebec, and knowledge of my family. Her farewell was a "thank you for coming," and a wonderful smile. What finer celebration of her life! ■

In less than a year, many of us will be wandering the hallowed halls, greeting long lost friends and making new ones. While our official birthday is in the fall, we will celebrate 160 years in May of 2004. In this issue, we hope to pique your curiosity about former classmates and challenge your memory. In this spirit, we also publish an excerpt from the *Vox Lycei* of 1943, Lisgar's centenary year.

### A Brief History of Lisgar Collegiate Institute

1826—Bytown founded by Col John By.

1843— May, Thomas Wardrope sailed down the Rideau Canal from Kingston to found the Dalhousie District Grammar School. The first school building was a new two-story frame house on the east side of Waller Street, a few yards south of Daly Avenue.



LISGAR COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE 1943

In 1843 Bytown was a little garrison town of five thousand people. Society was made gay by the presence of red-coats. There were very few houses south of Sparks Street. There was no Centre Town and Lower Town scarcely reached to Sandy Hill. Daniel McLachlin's gristmill and sawmill were the industrial foci of the little community. The dock labourers and lock keepers on the Rideau Canal were busy because all traffic between Montreal and the Great Lakes was sent up the Ottawa River and through the Canal to Kingston.

Bytown boasted no paved streets, no sidewalks, and no street-lights. People bold enough to venture out on a dark night carried lanterns with tallow candles in them. Brawls and drunken riots were frequent in early Bytown. Many a bobbing body was fished out of the deep, dark Ottawa by the overworked Sheriff.

In the District Grammar School across the Canal the boys sat on long hard benches behind long desks. They wrote with quills, sharpened frequently with a pen-knife. After school they played pallet, which has since developed into base-ball. In the winter they played shinny, a primitive form of hockey without skates.

1851—The school was moved to a frame building intended for a wholesale store on the north-west corner of Elgin and Albert Streets. There were seventy-five pupils. Through the Albert Street window was seen the common where the crack shots of Bytown shot partridge in the autumn.

1854—Florence Nightingale was nursing the wounded in the Crimean War.

1856—The Grammar School moved to a carpenter shop on Queen Street near Metcalfe.

1858—Ottawa was created capital of Canada.

1859—The school was moved to Metcalfe Street. Eighteen girls attended an English class from four to six.

1861—American Civil War began.

1861—The Grammar School moved to the north-east end of Queen Street.

1867—Confederation.

1872—The present site of Lisgar was bought for three thousand dollars.

1873—The Dalhousie District Grammar School had the honour of being one of the seven Grammar Schools in Upper Canada to become Collegiate Institutes.

1874—June 4, the corner stone of the new building was laid by His Excellency Lord Dufferin. The Collegiate was then on the city limits.

1885—Riel Rebellion.

1892—Jim Corbett beat John L. Sullivan.

1893—Fire at O.C.I. For ten months classes were held in the Normal School and George Street Public School.

1895—Four rooms were added to the south end of the school.

1897—Klondyke Gold Rush.

1899—Collegiate boys fought bravely in South Africa.

1902—East wing of Collegiate was built.

1903—O.C.I. celebrated Diamond Jubilee.

1908—West wing with Assembly Hall was built.

1914—Ex-Collegiate boys flocked to the colours as the First Great War began. Many of the hundreds of former students who fought heroically in France, gave their lives for Freedom.

1918—The Students' Council was begun.

1922—Glebe Collegiate was built.

1939—Former Lisgar boys joined the Canadian Air Force, Army and Navy to fight in the Second Great War.

1943—Lisgar Collegiate Institute celebrated [its] Hundredth Anniversary. ■

### From the Archives

Notes from "down under" Joy Heft

My first term as archivist at Lisgar has been interesting to say the least! The Archives were indeed "down under" this year. Not only are the alumni/archives headquarters in the basement of the school, i.e., "down under," they were literally under water for a brief period when the boiler burst and flooding occurred in many parts of the school. You might call this "baptism by fire" if it hadn't actually *been* water.

There are two happy footnotes to this occurrence: most of the archival material that was moved out while renovations were completed survived intact; the necessity of replacing the material on the shelves allowed me to become better acquainted with our holdings and to catalogue their whereabouts. I wish to acknowledge the help of Tristan Heft (2001) who (quite willingly) assisted in replacing several boxes of books on the shelves, and of Elizabeth Smith (2001) who volunteered with typing of the records of this material. Elizabeth displayed an obvious interest in, and appreciation of, the many objects in the archives, and it was a pleasure to have her enthusiastic assistance.

Archival material will figure prominently in displays during the 160th for which preparations have already begun. We frequently receive donations of memorabilia in terms of photos, programs, rings and other items, as well as newspaper clippings of articles featuring Lisgar graduates. All donations are gratefully received. The archives are a work in progress, and these donations enrich the collection.

I wish to thank Dave McGougan, our former archivist, for his encouragement and moral support over the last months. ■

#### More mail:

Neville Poy sent a beautiful tribute to Miss Meech which has been posted to the Web site.

Carol Garceau (1979) is looking for classmates from 1978 to 1980. Her e-mail address is <carolgarceau@yahoo.ca> and her mailing address is 2 - 58 Harmer Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1Y 0T6. ■

# Who the heck was Marvel Miller?

Part 2 of Marvel Miller Evelyn's "Where are they now?"

Over the years, I met other Lisgarites in a variety of circumstances. When I was the Director of the University of Calgary (U of C) Health Services, I participated in the evaluation of the School of Medicine. Who should arrive from Queen's University Faculty of Medicine, to chair the Evaluation Committee, but Bob Maudsley!

Like many Lisgarites, I fondly remember Dorothy Lashley. [See picture, page 1.] One day, in a refresher course in bedside nursing, before entering U of C, I

heard a vaguely familiar voice behind the curtain. As I approached the bed, hypodermic in hand, I blurted: "Are you from Ottawa?" Dorothy replied: "Yes. You're Marvel and you used to sit in the fourth row. You were very shy." Dorothy's husband was a professor at the University and later Vice-President, Academic. When I graduated from U of C and walked across the stage, there in the front row was Dorothy, giving me a one-person standing ovation! When I took on the Student Health portfolio at U of C, I saw her on campus and we exchanged Lisgar memories. She remembers every student she ever taught and has somehow kept track of many of them. We both had a great laugh recalling the day she called on Nobby Welch to take over her English class. He did a masterful "take off" of her and she enjoyed it then ... and even now.

About 1964, Sheena (McGibbon) Davidson came to Calgary, with her husband, Park, who had just taken a position as a psychology professor at the University. Later Sheena joined me on the Faculty of Nursing at the Foothills, and Park taught Psychology to first-year nursing students. Sheena and her husband were killed a few years later, in a head-on collision in their van, leaving three young children without parents.

I have been in Calgary now for 39 years and have watched this magnificent city grow from 100,000 to 800,000. The Rocky Mountains still fill me with awe and I cannot imagine living anywhere else. I am married to Bill Evelyn, from Halifax, a retired Commander in the Canadian Naval Reserve. Some Lisgar UNTD veterans may remember Bill from their navy days. He flew with the

Fleet Air Arm out of Shearwater on the east coast, and Pat Bay on Vancouver Island, as an engineer/test pilot. I have three impressive, grown, step-children, five superb step-grandchildren, a 98-year-old mother who is an early Alberta pioneer, and a 20-year young calico cat.

Because of our connections to Calgary's military community, we attend a number of events at the Museum of the Regiments. I was overcome, the first time I saw the PPCLI exhibit there with Alex Gray's name engraved on the Memorial to members of that regiment killed in various wars. I'm sure all of us in that morning assembly remember when it was announced that Alex had been killed in Korea. It certainly came back to me recently, when four members of the PPCLI were killed in Afghanistan.

In retirement, my love of Canadian history has led me to volunteer with Fort Calgary, which commemorates the arrival of the NWMP in 1875. Since 1994, I have been doing research, writing, story telling and interpretation there. I have just completed a term as President and Chairman of the Board. We have reconstructed both the 1875 Fort and the 1888 Barracks on the site. Over 14,000 children each year attend our School Programs. Our vision is to make Fort Calgary the focal point of community activity, as it was in the early years of Calgary.

Those of you from the class of '55 who haven't attended the Calgary Stampede, think of coming out some time. We generally don't have snow in July, but it can happen. Bring some warm clothes. You can get your white Stetson after you arrive.

For those of you with a 1954 *Vox Lycei*, I am the uncomfortable-looking one, standing with Class 12E on page 50, between Eleanor and Ann, just down from Barbara and in front of Dave Pinhey. [Editor's note: see also the Fall 2002 issue of *Alere Flammam*.]

You can reach me at (403) 247-3192, at <cdrbillevelyn@aol.com>, or by dropping a line to 6003 Dalcastle Crescent NW, Calgary, Alberta T3A 1R7.

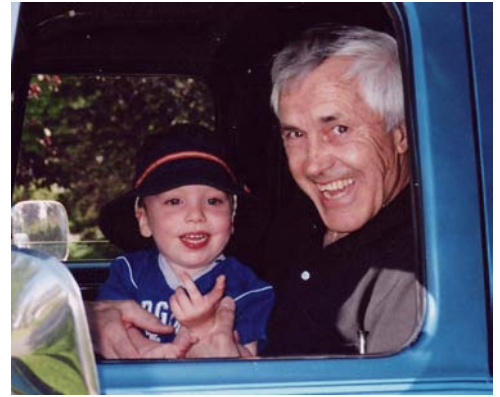
I am no longer shy. ■

Above picture shows Marvel Miller Evelyn on the right, volunteering at Fort Garry.



## Rene Charron

continued from page 1



Jim described René as gracious, explaining that grace is an authentic quality which cannot be produced, which contains within itself authority and integrity, qualities demonstrated by René in what he said and how he lived. René's, he said, was a friendship to be treasured. Indeed

We extend heartfelt condolences to the Charron family. ■

Above photo: Jayden, Papi and "Big Blue"

## Recognize anyone here?



Our ubiquitous Marg Pippy caught some '50s grads during a recent visit to the old Alma Mater: Bonnie (Holmes) Loewen (now living in British Columbia) was visiting Ruth (Pitman) Douglas when they ran into former classmate Wayne Pointen who was doing a bit of supply teaching this spring.

Which Alum Exec Member is a former Miss Aggie??



## Remembrance Day 2002

*As part of a continuing tradition, Lisgar's Remembrance day ceremonies include a speaker with both a connection to the Lisgar family and a desire to help current students understand this part of our history. Last fall Robert McMichael took up the challenge. He taught Mathematics at Lisgar from 1952 to 1958, was Vice Principal here from 1961 to 1964, and was the 13th principal of Lisgar 1972 to 1976. He trained as a navigator in the RCAF and served with the RAF in India, the Mediterranean and North Africa. The following is reconstructed from the story he told fascinated Lisgarites.*

**November 11, 1941** After an overnight train trip, a group of 26 potential aircrew from a Northern Ontario community arrived in Winnipeg to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Of these, 21 were just out of high school, and six were older. He was one of the older ones, as he had been teaching in an elementary school.

He then time spent in the Manning Pool and basic training in Brandon, Manitoba; on guard duty at Port Albert, Ontario (near Goderich) with the February gales blowing off Lake Huron; on tarmac duty at Camp Borden and had the thrill of a first flight in a Harvard; studying in the training school in Toronto where he had to decide whether to be a pilot, navigator, wireless operator or air gunner – navigator won out; and finally in navigation school at Malton, Ontario. His class of 35 navigators was posted overseas.

### November 11, 1942

Bournemouth, on the south coast of England, was one of the holding areas. Ground defence training took place at Filey, on the Yorkshire coast; advanced navigation was at Dumfries in Scotland, and operational training and crewing up occurred at Hixon in Staffordshire. His class of 35 navigators became part of the RAF bomber crews, some staying in the UK and others going to the East. He went to Harwell in Berkshire and was assigned to a Wellington X (HE948) for delivery somewhere in the East. The symbol painted on the nose would tell them where – his symbol meant India.

Following familiarization flights, they moved to Hurn and a final briefing. Then began the flight over the Atlantic to Morocco, North Africa and on to Egypt. At Ismailia on the Suez canal, they stopped for servicing and maintenance. He mailed off five Air letters to classmates left behind in the UK. He commented on the remarkable postal service – two weeks later, all five letters caught up to him stamped “Missing on Operations – Presumed Killed.”

On they went to India, Calcutta and Jessore to the 215 Squadron RAF, about 80 miles north of Calcutta, and flew 30 operational flights over Burma.

**May 23, 1943** Emergency! Brigadier Ord Wingate had numerous columns fighting behind enemy lines in northern Burma. The 117 Squadron RAF desperately needed help in dropping supplies to them. Fifteen of their crews were sent to Sylet in Assam, did a quick conversion to DC3s (Dakotas) and flew between one and three flights a day – weather permitting. There were 34 operations for their crew in six weeks! Finally an RCAF squadron arrived to assist, so that was the end of the operational tour for their crew and several others.

**October 10, 1944** Transport Command, Cairo West, RAF 216 Squadron was an amazing mix of nationalities. All flying personnel had completed operational tours. In his squadron, the Squadron commander was South African, and his pilot a New Zealander and former Spitfire pilot. When they weren't flying, several of them on different crews shared responsibility for the Library in a corner of the mess hall. One Greek pilot (old enough to be his father, he says), always with a Greek-English dictionary in his hands, asked for help with some of the idiosyncrasies of the English language; for example, pronunciation of cough, bough, rough, though, thought, etc. They had a great many laughs, and moments of great satisfaction as he progressed remarkably well.

*(Please turn to back of order form for the conclusion of his story.)*

## Reunion Update

In the last *Alere Flammmam*, we asked for volunteers to help us co-ordinate the next reunion and for your ideas regarding activities. And you responded!

We now have a dedicated team of 25 volunteers spanning four generations busily planning the May 28-30, 2004, 160th reunion, including many of the events you requested. You confirmed our hunch that it was time to get together again in the usual Lisgar tradition. We have already heard of possible attendance from Poland and the United States.

Registration will begin Friday, May 28, and continue until Saturday afternoon. Friday events will include an Open House and Alumni Assembly, followed by a Blue and Gray Night pub. For golfers, a mid-day tournament is being planned at the Meadows Golf Club on Hawthorne Road, including a lunch and prize giving.

Saturday will kick off with a continental breakfast in the cafeteria, and an opportunity to meet with many past and present teachers in the new City Hall. Sports events will include soccer, volleyball, basketball and frisbee. Everyone is welcome to join in. And don't miss our noon barbeque!

On Saturday night, the venue switches to the Congress Centre, where we will be holding a Principals' Reception and Dinner, followed by dancing with live music and a silent auction. This will be great opportunity for all alumni singles, couples, groups, young and the young-at-heart to dine and reminisce, whether you enjoy dancing or not! Sunday's events will include a mid-morning closing brunch.

The weekend will feature performances by both the band

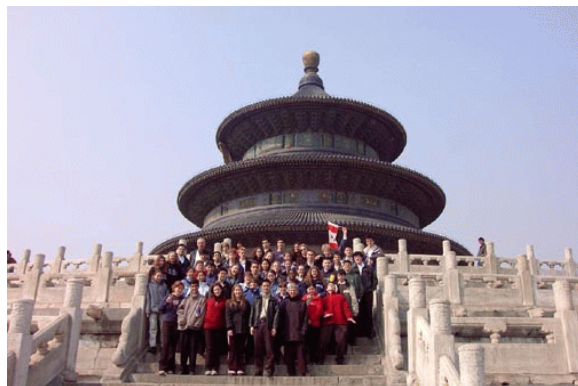
and orchestra, with opportunities for former music students orcurrent musicians to join in. So dust off the bow or prepare your reed! We hope to have another Fashion Show, a highlight at the 150th, showcasing Lisgar's finest professional designers, featuring current and past attire.

Our ongoing Open House will include archives, photographs, tributes both to veterans and to late teachers, decade rooms and an art show. We are hoping to celebrate this important event with various commemorations (which we are currently investigating and hope to report on in the next issue) and the participation of illustrious former students from the media, arts, education, sports and culture. Those who attended the 125th student assembly in 1968 will remember being enthralled by Rich Little, Adrienne Clarkson, Eugene Forsey and Peter Jennings.

Reservations have already been made at several local hotels and an airline discount is being arranged. And we are hard at work arranging attractive and appropriate memorabilia to commemorate the event.

So mark your calendar now (Friday, May 28 to Sunday May 30, 2004) and watch for further details on our Web site ([www.lisgar.net](http://www.lisgar.net)) and in *Alere Flammmam*. Although registration will not begin until early 2004, suggestions, please let us know whether you plan to attend and wish to be on our exclusive reunion mailing list at: Lisgar Alumni Association (160th), 29 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0B9 or <[160th@lisgar.net](mailto:160th@lisgar.net)>. Or you can leave a message at (613) 239-2478 or fax us at (613) 235-7497.

'Till we meet again at the OCI! ■



**The Lisgar Band travelled to China in the spring of 2003.**

## New Life Members

Kelly Bridge (1954)  
Jean (Maginnes) Crawford (1938)  
Beth-Anne (Gibson) Exham (1954)  
Samantha Franks (2001)  
Robert Hum (1960)  
Tony Keenleyside (1966)  
Elinor (Quick) Lett (1957)  
Dorothy (Douglas) Mackie (1939)  
John D. Miller (1972)  
Robert Pitfield (1974)  
Phyllis (Young) Rabbitts (1942)  
Karen Rudnitski (1997)  
James Seed (1941)  
Rick Sleeman (1964)  
Elizabeth Smith (2000)  
Diane (Ralph) Stephenson (1966)  
Orville B. Wilson (1942)

## Donors

Marian (Tripe) Ade (1934)  
William Blackburn (1959)  
Marilyn Blattel  
Richard C.E. Bray (1932)  
John R. Bray (1937)  
William J. Broughton (1953)  
Brian Burke (1974)  
Beatrice M. Campbell (1942)  
Peter Chance (1939)  
David Chance (1942)  
Fred Cogan (1956)  
Dale Cooney (1955)  
Fletcher F. Cross (1954)  
Elizabeth (Jeffries) Currie (1970)  
C. Joy (Casey) Davies (1936)  
Maria Downie (1969)  
James Dunlop (1950)  
F.R. (Ted) Edwards (1938)  
Thomas Extence (1944)  
Stuart Fenton (1940)  
Jane (Thurston) Foley (1948)  
Janet (Macdonald) Fox (1947)  
Barbara Gellman (1980)  
Sylvia (Abelson) Gellman (1938)  
Mary Gemmill (1970)  
Valerie (Batchelor) Gleason (1983)  
Barbara (Roll) Gravel (1947)  
Philip Hannan (1976)  
Pamela (Wallace) Harle (1959)  
Robert C. Hill (1953)  
William Hines 1965  
Barry and Mary (Hart 1951) Holt 1950  
E. Peter Hopper (1947)  
Gary Hough (1953)  
Paul Hudson (1950)  
Douglas Hunter (1953)  
Bill Joe (1947)  
Neil Johnstone (1956)

Douglas R. Jones (1965)  
Nadia A. Kostiuk  
Hélène Kruidenier  
Paul Labarge  
Irene Lackner 91947  
H. Ruth (Ratz) LeBlanc (1949)  
Saretta (Rill) Levitan (1940)  
John G. MacKay (1957)  
Mary MacKinnon (1976)  
Cecily (Rankin) Manore (1947)  
Nora Mansfield (1941)  
Shelley Martin  
Jean (Conger) Mather (1941)  
Georgina L. McCuaig (1934)  
Jean (Maxwell, 1952) and Murray  
McGlashan (1949)  
Ann (Hill) McJanet (1955)  
Robert G. McMichael (1976)  
Herb Meincke (1950)  
Colleen (Hill) Middleton (1952)  
Donald W. Mills (1949)  
Keith Mills (1944)  
Howard Mount (1977)  
Mitzi (Hollington) Murray (1940)  
Ethel Newman (1939)  
Ronald E. Newman (1951)  
Joan (Daubney) O'Shaughnessy (1943)  
Catharine Oldfield  
Joe Pagliarello  
Alexandra Pettus (1953)  
Margaret (Isnor) Pineiro (1952)  
Janet (Cole) Potter (1964)  
Richard H. Prinsep (1950)  
Betty (Fraser) Rhoades (1939)  
Clifford "Mac" Richardson (1940)  
Ruth (Gardner) Roney (1945)  
B. Brian Rose (1966)  
Stirling M. Ross (1948)  
Steve Sansom (1989)  
Stephen Saslove (1966)  
Ida (Hundevad) Schjelderup (1946)  
Peter Schonenbach (1955)  
Lance Schwerdfager (1969)  
James Seed (1941)  
Benjamin Shapiro (1941)  
Colin H. Shaw (1942)  
Fairlie (Dale) Sills (1936)  
Eric Toller (1947)  
Phil Trubey (1981)  
Don Urry (1954)  
Judith (Plumptre) Wedderspoon (1959)  
Christauria Welland-Akong (1969)  
Stewart Wells (1950)  
W. Robert Wellwood (1950)  
Donald Whittemore (1946)  
Shirley Whittet (1937)  
Charlotte Witty (1946)  
S. Jane Witty (1952)  
Anne (Tolmie) Wood (1955)  
Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation  
PPG Canada Inc.

## Remembrance Day 2002

*continued from page 6*



**May 3, 1945** At 4 p.m., Dick Boulton, one of the two other Canadian navigators on the squadron at that time, excitedly met him to say, "We have to be

packed and on the 7 p.m. ground transport for Cairo. Our tours are over. We're flying back to the UK tomorrow morning at 6!" At 6:55 Dick and he stepped aboard the transport, and at 6:57, a security jeep skidded to a stop – "Emergency flight! A navigator is needed!" Without a moment's hesitation, Dick said "I'll stay, Bob. I'm four years younger than you!"

He flew on a BOAC Sunderland Flying Boat, from the Nile River basin, and reached Poole on May 6th. As he hustled aboard a train for London, there were rumours galore.

On May 7 at Bushey Park Transport Command HQ, the questions continued. What next? Would they go home? Or would all the scattered RCAF personnel be regrouped for posting to the Far East? They got "indefinite" leave" but were told to keep Transport Command HQ aware of their addresses – a telegram would come. He spent his leave cycling through the Lake District.

And a telegram did come, on June 4th. On July 7, he boarded the *Ile de France* at Gourock, near Glasgow in Scotland, with 10,000 other RCAF personnel, and set sail for Canada on the 8th.

At Halifax, on arrival, it was a marvel of organization. The wounded and former prisoners of war were taken off first, and within 24 hours, 24 troop trains left Halifax carrying all 10,001 to various parts of Canada.

Well, he concluded, this is the story of one veteran from one war in which Canadians have been involved. Several million stories could be related by people who served in various branches of the Armed Forces, in the Merchant Navy, in other wars, in peace-keeping operations in which Canadians have served so well. But many thousands did not return to tell their stories. And we are here on this Remembrance Day, to honour **them**. ■