

# HAPPENINGS IN THE HIVE

Issue 28

## Simonds High Alumni Newsletter December 2020



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING??

*There is always something happening in the hive. We never seem to give ourselves enough credit, and with that in mind, this section of our newsletter will highlight those people who make Simonds better!*



**Simonds High School**  
*Home of the Seabees*



## Simonds Memorial Grove

In the Simonds High School Memorial Grove, trees are planted in memory of a student, teacher, group, friend or family member or to celebrate a certain grad class. Our Memorial Grove has been growing and looks great! It is located outside the gym and continuing down the school driveway by the playing field. Alumni have donated the Princeton Golden Yellow maple trees. This fall, we commissioned a lovely plaque to identify the significance of the trees to the public. It is being installed on the gym side of the school and will be able to be seen above the trees as they grow.

We invite individual alumni or classes who are planning future reunions to consider placing a memorial tree in the grove. What a beautiful way in which to remember a classmate/friend/family member! To commemorate each tree, a plaque with name plates honors those remembered. In addition, a picture and short biography will be placed in our Wall of Remembrance along with the plaque. The display case for this remembrance is in the lobby across from the school theatre. The current approximate cost of a tree and planting materials is \$180. If you wish to donate a tree, please contact Judy Chapman ([judychapman44@gmail.com](mailto:judychapman44@gmail.com)) or any member of the SHS Alumni Committee (on page 1). The next planting will be in the spring of 2021. **Please note: there will only be 3 - 4 more trees planted in the grove as we would like to leave plenty of room for the trees to grow and not be crowded.** Thank you to all who have donated trees in memory of friends and family. We appreciate your support of the grove, which also has served to beautify the Simonds' property.



### Old Yearbooks!

Still searching for that memorable gift for a friend, relative, or even yourself? The Simonds Alumni Committee has yearbooks from most years (only a few years are sold out). What a special gift that would make! Where else can you get such a unique gift for \$35 (no tax)? Also, if you have any yearbooks with which you are willing to part and donate to the alumni, we would be happy to accept your gift. For more information, or to see if your year is still available, please contact Judy Chapman at [judychapman44@gmail.com](mailto:judychapman44@gmail.com).

### Simonds High Scholarship Fund

The Simonds High Scholarship Fund has been in existence for many years. Money from that fund has been used to recognize numerous excellent Simonds graduates and offer them some funds toward their post-secondary education - whether it be a university, community college or another educational institution. Any assistance is appreciated by the students. As a student at Simonds, you may have even been a recipient of this funding. The Simonds Alumni Committee donates money each year to use for scholarships from this fund. Many people donate to the SHS Scholarship fund in memory of a loved one who has passed away; what a great way to "pay-it-forward"! If you wish to donate to this fund and "give back" to your school, you may send your donation to The Simonds High School Scholarship Fund, 1490 Hickey Rd., Saint John, NB., E2J 4E7. An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation. Thank you in advance for your support of your school!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING??

## Travel Opportunities - Journeys with Judy

At present, most international travel is on hold due to the pandemic. It is critical to stay safe and healthy prior to the resumption of travel adventures to other countries. Nonetheless, we can still dream of where we would like to visit once the world becomes safer and opens up again. We can add to our "bucket list". When international travel resumes, perhaps you would feel more comfortable traveling in a group and with a company with a reliable world-wide reputation. If so, perhaps you would like to join one of my tour groups; I organize adult tours with a well-respected international company with offices in Canada. My upcoming tours are listed, but dates may be revised depending upon the status of the pandemic and the assurance of safety to travel. Why not check out the destinations and dream with us of future adventures? I invite you to join us.

Lisbon, Seville, Madrid & Barcelona

Food & Wine of Northern Italy

Budapest, Vienna, Prague and Salzburg

Itineraries and pricing are available on my microsite: [www.grouptoursite.ca/judychapman](http://www.grouptoursite.ca/judychapman). Please be in touch if I can answer any questions: [judychapman44@gmail.com](mailto:judychapman44@gmail.com) or 506-847-3241.

## Countdown to Christmas Sale

Our annual Christmas sale, usually held the first Saturday in November, is the primary fundraiser for the Simonds alumni. It gives many entrepreneurs in our community an opportunity to show and sell their products and handmade items. It is also a great opportunity for shoppers to find unique gifts, while shopping local and supporting the alumni. This year, due to covid-19, our sale was cancelled. However, we hope to be able to plan another Countdown to Christmas sale next fall. So, if you are a craftsperson or a shopper, please stay tuned! We appreciate your understanding and support!

## Seeking Gardening Help

In June, a generous alumnus, Mark Hughes, remodeled and gave new life to the garden area beside the theatre / gym entrance. As shrubs, plants etc grew over the summer, the garden required some TLC in September. The alumni hired someone to clean out this garden and keep this area looking good. However, this small gardening task should be repeated each spring and fall. Thus, we are seeking someone or a couple of people who might have a green thumb and would be willing to do this job. It would be a great opportunity to give back to your school and would not require much time. If you think you might be able to clean up this small garden bed, please let a member of our committee (listed on the front page) know. This is not meant to be a lifetime commitment! Perhaps, you would be willing to help out once. Perhaps, you would do it for a year (IE once in the spring and once in the fall). We would appreciate any assistance in maintaining this small area. Thank you.

## **Retired Simonds Staff Members**

*Are you a former staff member - teacher, secretary, custodian - from Simonds? If so, we invite you to join us for a monthly lunch date.*

**The group of retired teachers and other staff members from Simonds meet for lunch and socializing on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (throughout the school year) at 12:30 PM. Our lunch date locations vary each month. Be sure to email us and attend a few of our get-togethers. We are still an integral part of the Simonds family and enjoy reminiscing and keeping caught up. This group is still caring and compassionate about Simonds students; monthly, they donate funds to assist with the breakfast program there. They work with the Simonds alumni and the school on this worthwhile initiative. If you are interested in further details, please contact Cathy MacDonald ([ceileenm@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ceileenm@nb.sympatico.ca)). Luncheons for the retired Simonds teachers will resume once it is safe to do so (after covid-19).**

## Boosting Morale

The Simonds alumni did a couple of things this fall to boost the spirits of the teachers, who are operating under conditions unlike any in their career. Small Halloween treats were made for all Simonds staff. As well, there were draws for a few Tim Horton's and Captain Sub gift cards. It is always nice to show our appreciation to the hard-working teachers at Simonds.

# SEABEES HOME & AWAY

Seabees Home & Away (or Milestones) is compiled from submissions from our readers who have submitted items by letter, email or phone as well as various public sources. These submissions will always refer to Simonds' alumni; they will generally be about family milestones (births, deaths, new job opportunities, marriages, moves, appointments, accomplishments, etc). We welcome your information for future newsletters. If possible, please try to include your graduation year with your submission.

Address any entries to Judy Chapman (judychapman44@gmail.com) or Tammy Kilpatrick (alumnisecretary@outlook.com). Alternately, entries may be mailed to Simonds High Alumni, 1490 Hickey Road, Saint John, NB, E2J 4E7 or sent as a message through our facebook group, Simonds High School Alumni.

**Kelsey Clifford (2011)** and partner Matt Berthelot welcomed daughter Madison Marie on September 15, 2020. Big brother, Will age 2-1/2 is excited. Kelsey is a Licensed Practical Nurse for Horizon Health and Matt is a conductor at CN Rail. The happy family live in Moncton, NB

**Sara (Long) Driscoll (2010)** and husband **Nick Driscoll (2006)** have a new son Keelan Douglas, born on November 18, 2020. Sara is an engineer in the Fractionation Complex at Exxon Mobil in Baytown, Texas and Nick is a Red Seal Automotive Service Technician. They make their home in Houston.

**Jenna (Brown) Robichaud (2004)** and husband Justin Robichaud added a new daughter, Isla Faye, to their family on September 11, 2020. Isla has older siblings Isabella, age 7 and Emmett, age 4. Jenna is a pharmacist for Horizon Health and Justin is with the Canadian Armed Forces.

**Jillisa (Brown) Millett (2011)**, husband, **Cody Millett (2011)**, and big sister Quinn age 4, welcomed Weston Benjamin, on October 4, 2020 to their family. Jillisa is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital, while Cody works at CLB. They live in St. Martins, NB.

**Katelyn (Vandenbroeck) King (2004)** and husband **Josh King (2004)** are excited about their new son Dylan Murray Keith, born in May 2020. Cameron, age 3, will be big brother to this new arrival. They live in the Saint John area.

**Joanne (McBride) Johnson (2000)** married Donald Johnson on October 3, 2020. The happy couple resides in Saint John.

**Keith Waller (2009)** hit the quadfecta this year! On April 17, 2020, a son Carter Franklin was born to him and fiancé Tori White. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Keith and Tori were married. In November, after many long hours and days of studying, Keith became a CPA (Certified Public Accountant); he is a senior accountant with the accounting firm Teed Saunders Doyle & Co in Saint John. Tori is a local sheriff. 2020 has gotten even better for Keith as his woodworking hobby of building custom furniture has developed into a side business called Woodworking Waller. That's a phenomenal year of happy events, Keith! Congrats!

On October 2, 2020, **Amelia Hatfield (2009)** married Taylor Warren. Amelia works as a paralegal at McInnis Cooper and Taylor, and Taylor is a technician at Fit Works. Amelia has been very active in the local theatre scene (except during covid). The happy couple lives in Saint John.

**Amanda (Cook) Carter (2005)**, a stunning bride, married Danny Carter on August 29, 2020. Amanda is an Educational Assistant and Danny is the owner of Carter's Family Convenience. They live in Miramichi with their happy family of four children - twins aged 4, plus a 9 and a 12 year old.

**Jessica (Hosford) Moore (2011)** and husband **Devin Moore (2011)** are over the moon with their arrival of their daughter Madison Grace on October 16, 2020. Maddie has an older brother, Aiden age 4. Jessica is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom and Devin works at the Irving Refinery.

**Quinn Garvin (2018)** and partner George Rooney have a son Beckett Christopher Robert Garvin-Rooney born on November 25, 2020. Quinn works at the Centre for Youth and George, at Atlas Trusses in Lorneville. The family resides in Grand Bay, NB.

**Zachary Garvin (2020)** and girlfriend Jateena Richards have a new baby boy, Levi Terry Robert Garvin, born on May 25, 2020. Zac works at Barred Rock and Jateena works at Wyndham.

**Dr. Beth Keyes (1985)** has been awarded a University of New Brunswick Merit Award for her outstanding contribution to teaching, research and university service. Dr Keyes is a Senior Teaching Associate and the Coordinator of the BA/BED program at UNB Saint John. She has an extensive background in Neuropsychology and Special Education. Beth has created several new courses for UNB and has received many awards for her teaching including the Faculty of Excellence Award for Teaching and the Departmental Award for Teaching Excellence. Congratulations Dr. Keyes on your many achievements.

**Kyle Skerry (2007)** and wife Leanne Skerry are very excited about their new son Grayson James Skerry, born November 16, 2020. Kyle is a power engineer at Point Lepreau Generating Station and Leanne is a Research Coordinator at Horizon Health Network.

## SIMONDS' SWAG!

Several alumni have been asking for T-shirts, toques, hoodies, sweatpants, etc. with Simonds logos on them. You are now in luck! The school recently opened an online shop for all your Simonds clothing. If you wish to have your spirit wear say "ALUMNI", you can customize it for just \$4 extra. There is LOTS of selection for men's, women's and youth clothing with several brand names. Shipping takes 4 - 7 work days and is FREE if sent to anywhere in Canada. Best of all, 10% of all purchases goes directly back to the school. Log in to the site, create your own account and pay for your purchase using a credit card. Receive 10% off your order with bonus code ENTRIPYSHOPS10. Check out the online site at:

<http://simondshighschool.entripyshops.com/>

# SEABEES HOME & AWAY

**Megan (Moran) Lynch (2009)** and Mark Lynch were married on September 25, 2020 in St. Martins. Megan is a physiotherapist in the ICU at the Saint John Regional Hospital and Mark works in the IT department of JD Irving. The newlyweds live in Quispamsis.

**Rikki Lee (Arseneau) Webster (2009)** and husband **Brad Webster (2009)** have a beautiful new daughter Emmalyn Maebyn, born on July 3, 2020. Rikki Lee is a respiratory therapist at the Saint John Regional Hospital, but also teaches respiratory therapy at NBCC; Brad works for Form Rite Ltd Concrete. They live in French Village.

**Shannon (Horgan) Livingstone (2012)** and husband **Cody Livingstone (2011)** are now parents of beautiful baby girl Brielle, born in June 2020. Shannon is a pharmacy technician at the Saint John Regional Hospital and Cody is a firefighter at Point Lepreau.

In November 2020, **Dr. Maria Boyle (2011)**, a chiropractor with Town Health Solutions in Saint John, was presented with the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association Award. She was given the award for early dedication to the chiropractic profession - for volunteering in community outreaches and for sports sideline coverage to NB athletes. Dr. Maria has also been very engaged in advancing the chiropractic profession in her community by being a prominent creator on social media. She currently serves on the New Brunswick Chiropractic Association Committee.

**Megan (Crawley) Aspen (2004)** and husband **David Aspen (2001)** welcomed daughter Lauren Diana born on July 29, 2020. Lauren was named after Megan's sister, **Lauren Crawley (2001)**. The new baby will have her twin 7-yr old sisters, Liz and Lexie, and 4-yr old sister, Aria, to look out for her. Megan works at the Saint John Regional Hospital and David works at TD Insurance.

**Colin Sherwood (2010)** and Alysha Sherwood were married on December 12, 2020 in Whistler, BC. Alysha is the assistant manager of Tisol Pet Nutrition & Supply Stores and Colin is Operations Manager at Swingle Clinic. They live in Vancouver, BC with their two dogs.

**Angie (Vaughan) Hachey (2001)**, husband Chris Hachey and big brother Kellen, age 7, welcomed a new member to their family on December 14, 2020. Connor Joseph arrived to make their family complete. Angie is a teacher at Kennebecasis Valley High School while Chris works at Melmart Distributors Inc. The family lives in Rothesay, NB.

**Dr. Carly Baxter (2010)**, Co-Chief Pediatric Resident Physician at the IWK Hospital in Halifax is headed to the University of Ottawa for a fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology & Metabolism. Her fiancé, Dr. Bernard Burgesson, is completing his residency in Orthopaedic surgery in Halifax.

Saint John residents **Emily (MacDonald) Gregg (2008)** and husband Geoff Gregg welcomed son Jack Edward Gregg on September 8, 2020. Emily is a nursing instructor at the University of New Brunswick and Geoff is an insurance advisor at Freedom 55 Financial.

**Emily (Keating) Steele (2011)** and **Jared Steele (2009)** were married on September 19, 2020. Emily is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital and Jared works at Steele's Trucking & Contracting Ltd. They reside in Saint John.

Jack Brandon Matthew Hunter was born on June 22, 2020 to **Zachary Hunter (2014)** and his wife Megan Hunter. Zach is a Registered Massage Therapist at Refresh Wellness Studio while Megan works as an Educational Assistant. The family lives in Saint John.

**Dustin Little (2012)** married Susannah (Cochrane) Little on August 16, 2020. Dustin is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital; Susannah is a nurse at the Regional Hospital and at Centracare. They are also avid travelers. The Littles make their home in Quispamsis, NB.

**Haley Evans (2009)** and her husband **Joe Brown (2009)** have moved from Marina Del Rey, California back to Saint John. They are both glad to be back among family and friends.

**Kerri Lee (Butland) Brooks (2004)** and husband, **Joel Brooks (2004)** are thrilled to have a new daughter, Drew, born on August 25, 2020. Big brother, Brett, age 3, has a new playmate. Kerri Lee works at Bee Me Kidz and Joel works in maintenance at the Irving Pulp Mill. The happy family lives in Quispamsis, NB.

**Cortney Sprague (2011)** and partner, Graham Haynes, moved back to Saint John after a 1-year stay in Ottawa. Graham is working at the law firm Stewart McKelvey. Cortney is working toward her degree in Social Work while also working for the John Howard Society. They are enjoying being close to family and friends again.

Roland Michael Shane Noftell was born on July 31, 2020 to **Samantha (Nickerson) Noftell (2011)** and **Joe Noftell (2009)**. Roland has older brother Desmond age 4 with whom to play. The family makes Sussex their home.



# 2020 – The Year of the Mask

## 2020 - The Year of the Mask

With the pandemic in full swing by September 2020, wearing a mask was the protocol everywhere. Students returning to school would have to add that new requirement to their school lists. To comply with these new school rules and to welcome the new Grade 9s to Simonds, each student was given a green community mask emblazoned with SHS in gold. Masks are now to be worn in the hallways and other common areas of the school. The school and the alumni shared the cost of making the 220 masks for Grade 9 students. It was our hope that these masks helped make the new students feel part of our proud Simonds family. The masks were sewn by Simonds alumna, Debbie (Buck) Cyr and her sister, Jane Buck, an active volunteer on our alumni committee, made and applied the gold SHS. The students loved them!



As a follow-up to this initiative, Mr. Gary Keating (1979), Simonds principal, ordered two masks each for all Simonds staff! Soon, alumni were asking for them, so more were produced with the Simonds Alumni logo as a small fundraiser. To date 179 Simonds alumni masks have been sold! Many were purchased by local alumni, but several were mailed to alumni living in places such as Ontario, Alberta, Florida and even New York City! Thanks to everyone involved in making the masks and in purchasing them! As several alumni have indicated they would also like a Simonds mask, it is hoped that in the New Year, some more will be made available. These masks are two-layer; they have an inner pocket in which one can put a third layer of protection, whether that is a piece of paper towel, a coffee filter, a third layer of cotton or other material of your choice. The masks also have wire across the nose which can be molded to your face to make them fit better. If you are interested in a mask, please send an email to [judychapman44@gmail.com](mailto:judychapman44@gmail.com).

At the time when many of the masks had been distributed, it was close to Hallowe'en so, on Facebook, we had a Mask Parade (instead of a Masquerade). Several alumni kindly shared their pictures with us. A few of those submitted are shown here:

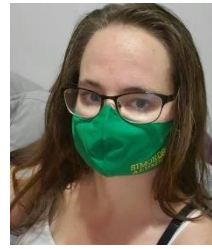
# 2020 – The Year of the Mask



Ralph Black (1968 - Saint John) and wife, Beanne



Shalley Sprague Haslett (1984 - Florida)



Jodie Sutton (2005 - Saint John)



Angela Bonnar - Jones (1979 - Ontario)



Jocelyne Prevost (1996 - Moncton)



The Dobson sisters (2-1965, 1966, 1971, 1978 - Saint John)



Deb McLeod - Belfry (1988 - Ontario)



Lynn Mahaffy (1980 - Saint John)



Andrea Dupere Scott (1985 - Saint John), son Jacob (2015)



MaryLou Perry (1971 - Saint John)



Huguette Donovan (1978 - Saint John)



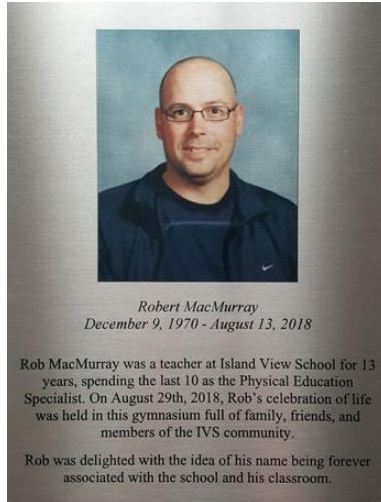
Jane Buck (1988 - Saint John)



# Special Alumni Mention!



Michal Beaman



## AWARDS IN MEMORY OF SIMONDS ALUMNI

Two Simonds students, Robert MacMurray (Class of 1988) and Pte. Michal Beaman (Class of 2015), are being remembered with bursaries in their names.

**Robert MacMurray** was a beloved and dedicated Physical Education teacher at Island View Elementary School in Saint John West prior to his untimely passing from cancer in 2018. In his honour, the school has named the Robert MacMurray Gymnasium. In conjunction with that, his family & friends organized a fundraiser which ran until December 9, 2020 (which would have been Rob's 50th birthday). Funds were being raised for the Robert MacMurray Memorial Bursary Fund for 2021 which will award a bursary to an Island View student when they leave high school for post-secondary studies. To date, the award has only been given to a student from Harbour View High School. However, with this fundraising, the goal is to have an award in Rob's name given from **each** of the Saint John area's four high schools. If you would like to support this initiative, please check the details at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/bursary-fund-for-island-view-school/>. Contributions to this bursary for awards in subsequent years are always welcome. What a wonderful way to remember one of our proud alumni who gave so much to his students!

**Private Michal Edward Beaman** was a young hard-working reservist in the Canadian military; his life was cut tragically short in Kingston, Ontario in January 2020. The team at Irving Wallboard in conjunction with the Beaman family, initiated a scholarship to honour Michal, the son of one of their co-workers. Michal was recognized for his innate ability to bring out the best in others. He was a man-of-action, but a great team player. He inspired kindness and led by example. Starting in 2021, this memorial scholarship of \$1500 will be awarded annually to a deserving child of an employee, who exemplifies the values (leadership, integrity, innovation, giving back to community) that were so important to Michal.







## A Covid-19 Wave of Gratitude

In the spring, a short time after the pandemic was declared in Canada, everyone genuinely applauded the essential workers who kept things going while we were in lockdown. Now, after nine months of various sanctions being lifted, then reapplied ... after nine months of masking, social distancing and serious handwashing, covid fatigue is evident. Although vaccines are beginning to be rolled out, those same sanctions will be in existence for awhile. As well, those same essential workers - those heroes - are still there for us. Let's continue to show our gratitude. Many Simonds alumni are working in essential services giving their best to their communities. The alumni would like to give a Green & Gold shout out to these heroes. Some of our alumni are doctors working long hours in Edmonton, Montreal, Halifax and other cities. Some of our alumni are nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, respiratory technologists, and personal service workers in nursing homes. Some are truckers, food service workers, cleaners, mechanics, bank staff. Some alumni work in power and water services, transportation and garbage collection. Some Seabees are retail workers, teachers, firemen or policemen/ policewomen. The list is endless. Each of these jobs has contributed to us and our families being able to live our best life possible during the pandemic. Many have saved lives. We are so proud of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Thank you for being there for us. Thank you for going above and beyond for your community - wherever that may be. We challenge each of our alumni to say a special thank you to one or more members of your community (even if they are not from Simonds) for the job they continue to do to make your life better at this difficult time. They will not see your smile behind your mask, and you will not see theirs in return, but they can see the sincerity in your eyes and will feel your gratitude in their heart.

**Grateful &  
Thankful**  
for all that you do!

## ***2020/21 Reunions***



**Class of 1970:** As a precaution in the unprecedented times of COVID-19, the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1970 has been postponed until June 26, 2021. It will be held from 6 PM - midnight at the Riverside Golf Club in East Riverside. A grand celebration in honour of their 50+1 years will take place at that time. For more information, please contact [simondsclassof70@gmail.com](mailto:simondsclassof70@gmail.com) or join their facebook page **Simonds High School Class of 1970**.

**Class of 1980:** Due to the pandemic, the 40-year reunion being celebrated by the Class of 1980 has been rescheduled to July 3, 2021. For updates, you may check their facebook page: **Simonds High School Class of 1980**.

**Class of 1982:** The 40-yr reunion for this class has been scheduled for July 9, 2022 at O'Malley's Irish Pub on Rothesay Avenue in Saint John.

**Class of 1984:** A 40-year reunion will take place on August 10, 2024.

**Class of 1990:** The Class of 1990 has rescheduled their 30-year reunion for next year. Details will be announced once they are available. You may follow the facebook group **Simonds High School Class of 1990 (30th Reunion)** for more information.

**Class of 2000:** Due to the current pandemic, the planning committee for the Class of 2000 has decided it would be logical and safer to postpone their 20-year reunion until next year. Further details will be available later. You may follow that class in the facebook group **Simonds High School 20<sup>th</sup> Year High School Reunion**.

Questions have been asked re reunions in 2021 for the classes of 1971, 1981, 2001 and 2011. To date we have not received any details re plans for those reunions. At this time it has been difficult for reunions to be planned; everything is tentative due to the pandemic. As soon as details become available, they will be advertised in this alumni newsletter and on our facebook page **Simonds High School Alumni**.

# OBITUARIES



**Ruth Fletcher) Baxter (1961)** died on July 28, 2020. She worked at Irving Oil and, after raising her family worked in the office of her husband's business for over 40 years. Ruth enjoyed cooking, knitting, camping and cruising. Left to mourn are her husband Carl, son Keith, daughter Carlene, brothers Keith and Roy, sisters Audrey and Frances, 5 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**David Cunningham (1965)** passed away on November 28, 2020. Prior to retirement, David had been employed by Lantic Sugar. In addition to his passion for antique cars, he enjoyed gardening, camping and repairing things. He is survived by his wife Darlene, daughter Patti, son Chris, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

**Dale (Clements) McCarthy (1969)** lost her cancer battle on July 7, 2020. She was an active member of St. Mary's & St. Bartholomew's Church. Dale was a very kind, loving and patient person. She will be missed by her children Gavin, Jason and Sheri as well as 6 grandchildren. She is also survived by siblings Judy, Robbie, Danny, Ricky and Roxanne.

**Barb Hannah (1970)** was a sign language interpreter within the school system and was cherished by the children. She enjoyed meeting travellers when she assisted at the Clipper Ship Motel in the summers. Barb had a wide variety of interests from making pottery and cross stitching to water skiing, competitive swimming and sky diving. Unfortunately, she passed away on November 30, 2020. She is survived by her sisters Sandra and Nancy and brothers Rodney and Richard.

**Brad Godwin (1972)** passed away suddenly on October 11, 2020. He worked at UNB's Audio Visual Department as well as with three local radio stations as a cameraman. Recently, he was employed as a commissionaire at the Saint John Airport. Brad's interests included performing in bands, acting, listening to music and riding motorcycles. His passion for aviation led him to earn his private pilot's licence. Brad will be fondly remembered by his son Colin, and daughters Rachel and Jocelyn.

**Melodie (Sparks) Craft (1974)** was an X-Ray technician at St. Joseph's Hospital. She enjoyed reading, knitting and spending summers at Belleisle Bay. Melodie passed away on November 12, 2020, but will be deeply missed by her husband John, daughters Tara and Rebecca, sister Bonnie, brothers Melbourne and David and three grandchildren.

**Kathy (Vincent) Ritchie (1977)** lost her long battle with cancer on November 29, 2020. With a passion for figure skating, she was proud of her 25 years as a volunteer and board member with the Quispamsis Figure Skating Club and Region 4 Board. Surviving Kathy are her mother, sister Carol, husband Peter, children Sarah and Bradley and one grandson.

**Christine (Maxwell) Davis (1982)** worked in the offices of Dr. Nagaraj and Dr. Cassie. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards with the girls and spending summers at Cambridge Narrows. Christine lost her valiant battle with cancer on November 13, 2020. She will be missed by her husband Vincent, sons Devin, Ryan and Josh, 4 grandchildren, brother Jonathon and sisters Cathy and Carol.

**Jimmy Rector (1983)** passed away on September 15, 2020. He was an electrician who worked at the Saint John Dry Dock followed by various locations in Alberta. Jimmy loved movies, music, snowmobiling and 4-wheeling. In addition to his parents, his survivors include son Brandon, siblings Jackie and Kim as well as Cindy Ratcliffe.

**Cyndi Chisholm-Madill (1985)** passed away unexpectedly on August 19, 2020. She was an honoured employee of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Rothesay. Cyndi was active in volleyball and outdoor sports and enjoyed watching her children play sports. She will be missed by her husband Michael, daughter Ausstyn, son Thornyn and brothers Bernard Jr. and Daniel.

**Tom Whitney (1985)** died unexpectedly on November 12, 2020. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hiking, fishing and building things. He was a great storyteller and raccoon rescuer. Surviving Tom are his father, wife Karla, brother Robert, and sisters Linda, Barbara and Elizabeth.

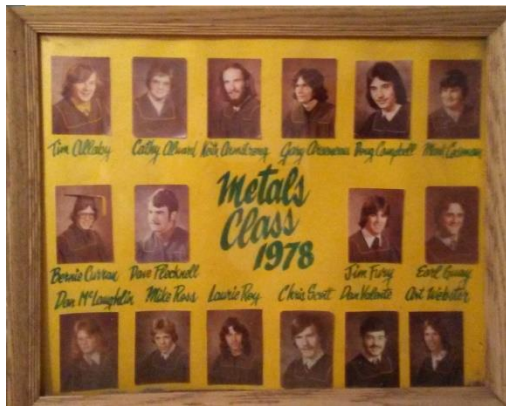
**Lina Godin (1986)** passed away on December 4, 2020 in Saint John. After graduation, Lina moved to Ontario where she was an entrepreneur. Lina's survivors include her mother, her brother Michael, half-sister Kim and her step-mother.

**Travis Miller (2013)** died unexpectedly on September 29, 2020. Travis was a great friend with a generous heart. Left to mourn him are his parents, son Joshua, brother John and sister Jaclyn.



# REMEMBER WHEN

Both of the following pictures were submitted by Keith Armstrong (1978). One picture shows the proud Metals Class that graduated that year. (For those unaware, Simonds always had several excellent shop programs - in metals, construction, automotive, electrical, drafting, etc. Classes in a few of those areas of expertise still remain at the school.) The other picture shows teacher Al Dodge, and student, Keith Armstrong, in June 1978. In later years, Keith returned to Simonds as a teacher, with Al Dodge as his mentor.



## MARTINA RIORDON - HALL OF HONOUR RECOGNITION

Martina Riordan was a dedicated Guidance Counsellor at Simonds High School, from where she retired in 2007. Unfortunately, she passed away in a farm accident at the Riordan family farm in northern NB in 2014. Martina received her B.A. from St FX University and her B. Ed. and M. Ed. from UNB. This fall, it was announced that St FX Alumni Affairs has recognized Miss Riordan as one of three 2020 inductees into their Hall of Honour! Since 1991 St FX has announced this award for deserving alumni who have exemplified the Xaverian commitment of helping others throughout their lives. Martina had a lengthy career in counselling and guidance within the family court system and then the schools. She selflessly gave of her time and expertise to assist youth. Many Simonds students benefited from her guidance.

When news of Miss Riordan's award was mentioned on the Simonds Alumni Facebook page, there was a flood of beautiful tributes filled with memories and gratitude. Many former students remembered her fondly and recounted the direction she had given them re their post-secondary studies. Others commented that she sincerely cared for each student and desperately wanted them to succeed. She assisted with their choice of universities and was very helpful in getting them to apply for any and every scholarship for which they were eligible. Miss Riordan helped many students with personal issues and advocated for them in difficult situations. Students commented that her direction and advice were solid. One story about Martina's community service outside of the school stands out. Brenda Arsenault (1982), owner of Millidgeville Physiotherapy, knew Miss Riordan well as both were active members of the local Outdoor Enthusiasts Club. One day while in the waiting room at Brenda's clinic, Martina overheard a conversation with an older man from Saudi Arabia. The gentleman had very poor English skills and wanted to learn to speak better. Martina introduced herself and volunteered to help him, meeting with him regularly for weeks to improve his English skills. Upon learning of her passing this gentleman was devastated. As with many of her students, Martina had changed the direction of his life. The consensus of so many beautiful tributes to Miss Riordan is that this honour is well-deserved and will perpetuate the memory of a genuinely caring professional who was dedicated to helping others. How wonderful that she has been recognized with this award! The students of Simonds remember you fondly Miss Riordan and are so pleased and proud that you have been given this honour. 🍀🍀



# SIMONDS NOW!



## Cleaning Up the Campus

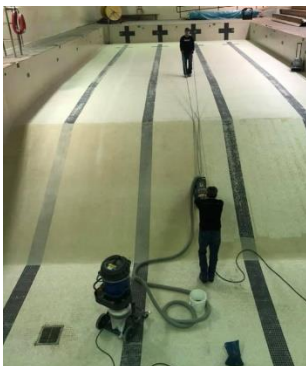
Just prior to the opening of school, two 2020 grads, Dylan Roberts and Aiden Timmons took the initiative to clean the school grounds to make them look inviting to incoming and returning Simonds students. Now that's a class act guys and a great way to give back to your school! It was much appreciated as students and staff returned to school in a fall start-up that was unprecedented! Sincere thank you to new alumni Dylan and Aiden! Simonds pride continues!

## Simonds Pool Renovation

Simonds High School has been fortunate to have a 25m, 4-lane swimming pool on site. Pool facilities include diving blocks, bleachers, changing rooms and showers. Over the years, this pool has been used for Physical Education classes, for Swim Team practices and meets and for swimming lessons for children in the community. In 2020, the school building on Hickey Road turned 50 years old! With time, the pool, like other components of the school, has aged and deteriorated. To repair a leak in the pool earlier this year, a new liner was installed. However, during that repair, it was determined that the actual problem was the plumbing, which was encased in concrete. It was a huge job to chisel out and fix! As well, the sand filter was repaired. The pool is now back in service, even though the heating system is still being rectified.

The Simonds Swim Team, under the capable supervision of teacher, Mark Murchison (1976) is back practicing, when the Saint John area of the province is listed in the "Yellow" phase of pandemic recovery. The number of swimmers has gradually increased from 8 to 32. However, due to a recent covid outbreak, this area moved to the "Orange" phase for a few weeks and swim practices stopped. As the NBIAA requests that masks be worn during this phase, it presents difficulties for swimming. No swim meets are planned at present. When the area returns to the "Yellow" phase, swim practices resume.

Even with its pandemic challenges, it is rewarding that the Swim Team is back again in the renovated pool. Many years of Swim Team members can relate to the great exercise, swimming improvements and wonderful camaraderie this team has provided for them over the years. Those Swim Team members are not only grateful for the use of the pool located on site in the Simonds campus, but also for the dedication of Mr. Murchison in coaching the team.



# SIMONDS NOW!

## Food Services at Simonds

Both the Simonds Breakfast program and cafeteria food services are "on pause" due to pandemic restrictions. It is hopeful that they will be reinstated in 2021 as protocols change.

Students in some Grade 9 Science, Outdoor Pursuits and Biology classes at Simonds have had a few outdoor activities this fall right on campus. When they went seining in the Simonds Pond, several interesting discoveries were made by the students in Mme. Banks' classes. Simonds is fortunate to have so many facilities within steps of their buildings.



## Teacher Appreciation Award

This fall, a Teacher Appreciation Day contest was sponsored in Atlantic Canada by Subway franchisees. \$18 000 in gift cards was awarded to 180 teachers. In the Saint John area, ten teachers were recognized. One of the recipients was Simonds alumni member and teacher Niki (Doiron) Comeau (2004) who was nominated for this award. Niki is a caring and well-loved teacher of English at Simonds. The alumni would like to congratulate Niki on receiving this well-deserved award.



## Missing Previous Newsletters?

Are you just reading our Simonds Alumni newsletter for the first time? Or, perhaps you have missed a few of our past issues? Our SHS Alumni newsletter was started in 2012; since then, we have produced 3 - 4 issues each year. If you are seeking past issues...perhaps you want to see pics of people who attended reunions or to get caught up on the news of your Simonds classmates, you will find them posted on the Simonds High School website: <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/district8/schools/sh/Pages/default.aspx>. Click on the tab for **Alumni** and enjoy! NOTE: Where possible, several issues have been posted on our Simonds Alumni face book page as well.



As we navigate this pandemic, it is hard to find meaningful words to describe this year. As a teacher, I have tried very hard to encourage, motivate and up-lift each student who sits before me. At times, it was hard to find the energy to do that, but it was during those times when I thought about the multitude of people who struggle so much more than I and yet find the inspiration to share their positivity with everyone around them. I thought about our students and our teachers who are working so hard to learn in an unfamiliar environment with new technology that seems so foreign. But most of all, I thought about our Simonds family, and that even in the darkest of days, they found a way to support us through donations or kind words. You will never really know how much your thoughtfulness has touched the lives of our fellow Seabees. I have heard countless remarks about how important it is to stay connected during this time, and with your efforts you have allowed those in need to stay connected to all our Seabee family. There are no words to describe how incredibly thankful we are to each of you who continue to support our Alumni and so I will simply say thank you. Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday. Stay Safe!

Sincerely,

Jill Eckstone

Class of 1986

SPR Humanities Simonds High