

# HAPPENINGS IN THE HIVE

Issue 29

## Simonds High Alumni Newsletter June 2021



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

CLASS OF  
**2021**  
CONGRATULATIONS!

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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 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! In fact, the grove is almost full; only a couple more trees will be planted to allow space for the ones there to mature. The grove is located outside the gym and continuing down the school driveway by the playing field. Alumni have donated the Princeton Golden Yellow maple trees. In 2021, it has been a challenge to find these matching trees. During the pandemic, many people concentrated on renovating their homes or improving their landscaping. Other commodities, like toilet paper, were hard to obtain; for us this year it was certain trees! Many nurseries either were unable to get that type of tree this year, or had sold out of the few they had. Finally, we successfully found the four new trees we needed and were able to find someone to deliver them to Simonds. Families remembering a loved one will be having pictures with their new memorial trees.

This spring, a lovely sign to identify the significance of the trees was installed on the gym side of the school; it will be able to be seen above the trees as they grow. (See included picture) We would like to sincerely thank Peter Woytiuk, Joe Woytiuk, Harold Stewart and Brian Chapman who have planted and staked trees for us over the past few years.

We invite individual alumni or classes 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) or any member of the SHS Alumni Committee (on page 1). Thank you to all who have donated trees in memory of friends and family. We appreciate your support of the grove, which also serves to beautify the Simonds' property.



The family of Bill Peacock stands by the tree planted in his memory beside the Simonds field. Granddaughter Martha Grace is ringing the large bell that Bill always rang to cheer on granddaughter Ashley while watching her Simonds Stomp games.

### 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 \$35.00. 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.

### 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!



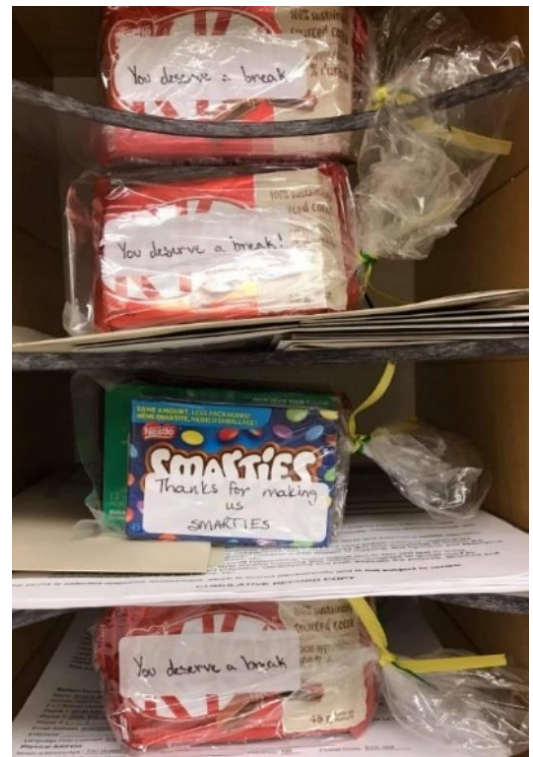
# WHAT'S HAPPENING??

## Teacher Appreciation 2021

Each year a week in February recognizes the work and contributions of teachers. In this pandemic year, teacher appreciation treats had to be different, individual and more creative than in previous years. Both the Simonds alumni and the Simonds Student Council expressed their thanks to the teachers with treats. Jane Buck (an active alumni volunteer) and her mom (mother of 5 Simonds grads) baked cookies and made up 100 Brown Break Bags with the cookies, hot chocolate and chocolates. The Student Council made up treat bags for another day; their creative bags thanked the teachers for making them Smarties, and encouraged the staff to take a Kit Kat break! It has been a challenging year for teachers as they taught students in front of them plus ones at home each day. (High school students in New Brunswick attended school in person every second day, and followed online instruction on the other days.) We would like to recognize and thank the Simonds teachers for their excellent caring dedication to their students each and every day.



100 Brown Bags - Jane Buck & Mom



Staff Appreciation  
by Student Council



## **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). Luncheons for the retired Simonds teachers will resume once it is safe to do so (after covid-19).*





# WHAT'S HAPPENING??

## Double Valedictorian



Simonds 2017 grad and valedictorian, Allyson Lamont delivered the spring address as the 2021 Valedictorian for the University of New Brunswick in Saint John. Allyson received her Bachelor of Science with Honours in Psychology. Throughout university, she was a Dean's list student and a Beaverbrook scholar. She had numerous involvements at university, including participation in the mental health advocating group, Jack.org at UNBSJ and the Peer Helper Support Centre on UNB's Fredericton campus. Allyson mentored with the Promise Partnership, a program that connects the university with the community to help combat poverty. She also offered advising for first and upper-year students. Allyson will be continuing her education at UNB in the accelerated master's program in Psychology. She has received the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada Graduate Scholarship to assist her. Congratulations Allyson! Simonds continues to follow your success with pride.

## Travel Opportunities - Journeys with Judy

The world is slowly beginning to open up again for travel, and people are anxious to get back exploring! With the uncertainty as it does, travelling in a group may be appealing and comforting to you. For several years, I have organized group travel with a well-respected global company with a great reputation. With offices and Tour Directors in most countries world-wide, they will take care of all the small details of your trip and ensure that any new safety protocols are in place. Regardless of your tour destination, your safety is their number one concern; their tours will only run if all protocols are in place and the traveler will get the best tour experience. I have rescheduled my tours to a time when travelers will feel more comfortable getting on an airplane and experiencing a foreign country. My upcoming tours are as follows:  
Lisbon, Seville, Madrid & Barcelona - June 4-16, 2022  
Food & Wine of Northern Italy (plus the Italian Riviera & Venice) - September 3-16, 2022  
Budapest, Vienna, Prague and Salzburg - September 15-28, 2023

I invite you to join us to one of these exciting destinations. 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.



## **SWIM COACH NEEDED!!**

Simonds High School is looking for a Coach for the Swim Team for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in finding out more about this great opportunity, please reach out to the following:

Doug Deering @ 658-2578  
[doug.Deering@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:doug.Deering@nbed.nb.ca)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING??

## Brown Bag Love

Seven years ago, a group of volunteers from the East Saint John United churches began an initiative to make brown bag lunches to feed hungry students. Initially lunches were made for students at Simonds High School and what was Woodlawn School. Although some people questioned the need for these for high school aged students, program coordinator, Joan Shillington explained that students needing food support have several ways of receiving assistance at the Elementary and Middle School levels, but that is not available to those in high school. For reasons that are no fault of their own, sometimes high school students are out of their own home - perhaps couch surfing - and need food security. The lunch program started small, but eventually grew to include students at Bayside and Forest Hills Middle Schools. Currently, lunches are made and distributed to high school 3 times a week, and to middle school twice a week. Under covid-19 restrictions, the lunch making groups were in the same "bubble". Presently, at the former Silver Falls Church building, about 90 volunteers make 275 brown bag lunches per week to distribute to east side schools. Each lunch contains a sandwich, juice box, some veggies, fruit and a granola bar or home-baked treat. Even halal lunches are made and identified. Early on, lunches also included words of encouragement or caring. Some students would come to school just because they knew they would receive a lunch. The students coined the phrase "brown bag love".

In the fall of 2021, the lunch program will be moving to a new location at Harmony United Church, allowing the program to expand once again. The group plans to increase their output to 400 lunches per week and include students at Saint John High School and St. Malachy's High School. Businesses, churches, individuals, etc., have been kind with their donations of food, supplies or money so far. However, expanding this initiative to accommodate more students will require more community support, more volunteers and more funding. It is a very worthwhile program; students cannot learn if they are hungry. If you feel you may be able to either volunteer or to donate, please contact Joan Shillington at 506-696-5072 or by email at [Joan.Shillington@bellaliant.net](mailto:Joan.Shillington@bellaliant.net).

## Alumni Christmas Sale

If covid restrictions are reduced or eliminated, we are optimistic that we will again be able to hold our fall alumni Countdown to Christmas Sale at the school on November 6, 2021. We will not be certain of our booking until late September. We will probably not be certain until September. If we are able to have our sale, we will be looking for vendors of all kinds. Please stay tuned to Simonds High School Alumni on social media for details.



## Seabees Supporting Seabees

Many Simonds alumni own or operate their own businesses. There are some great entrepreneurs among us! We wanted to celebrate them and their business achievements and what they offer to our community. Especially during these difficult pandemic times (but all the time), we want to support you and your business. It was decided not to allow business posts on our regular Simonds High School Alumni Facebook page as it would soon become inundated with them and the regular information about alumni, reunions, etc. would be overshadowed. Also, not every alumnus following our Facebook page lives locally or is interested in following business promotions. To that end, we have created a special Facebook page, Seabees Supporting Seabees, to celebrate and advertise our Seabee entrepreneurs and businesses. We invite Seabee-owned businesses (large and small) to use this medium to promote their business. Fellow Simonds alumni look forward to supporting you and your business and thank you for advertising there. We also invite interested alumni to join and check out this new Seabees Supporting Seabees Facebook page and to support our classmates. Check in often; as more people become aware of its existence, more businesses will post advertisements and the huge array of talents they possess.

# 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.

As you can tell, marriages and reunions were often put on hold during the pandemic, but the arrival of babies could not be.

**Tom Edwards (2005)** and his wife, Nicole, added to their family in July 2020 with the birth of a baby boy, Lachlan. Now, Brielle, age 3, will have a playmate! Tom works is a boilermaker / welder, but is also studying Power Engineering and Nicole is a nurse. The family lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

**Kristina Worden (2010)** and fiancé James McAdam have a new addition, daughter Addilyn Kimberly Irene, born on February 4, 2021. Older sister, Hailey, age 4 and brother, Jonathan, age 3 will be great helpers. Krista is a Team Leader at Dollarama and James works at the BFL Terminal. The family lives in Saint John.

**Heidi (Cunningham) MacLeod (2000)** and husband Greg are thrilled to announce the birth of their twin sons on St. Patrick's Day, 2021. Big sister Madelyn loves her new brothers Oliver Roy and Jack David. Heidi is a teacher in Anglophone School District - South, while Greg works at Point Lepreau. They make their home in Grand Bay, NB.

**Sara (Long) Driscoll (2010)** and husband **Nick Driscoll (2006)** moved from Houston, Texas to Sarnia, Ontario in June 2021. Sara is an engineer for Imperial Oil and Nick is a Red Seal Automotive Service Technician. Their son, Keelan is 7 months old.

**Nathan Ough (2005)** was selected as one of the "Forty Under Forty" (40 people who are under age 40) who are movers and shakers in the energy sector in Texas. His focus for his new company is to concentrate on electrical power. Nathan and his wife, Megan, live in Houston.

**Chris Mackin (2014)** successfully defended a graduate thesis at UNB and has earned his Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Chris works at LuminUltra Technologies Ltd. in Fredericton.

**Brad Baxter (2008)** and wife Christine Baxter have a new daughter, Amelia. Brad is a power engineer at the Irving Oil Refinery; Christine also works at Irving Oil in the technical department. They live in Quispamsis, NB.

**Devon Richard (2019)**, as member of the Royal Canadian Navy, graduated from Basic Military Qualification Training at CFB Esquimalt, BC in May 2021.

## 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

**David James (2004)** and wife Amy have a new son Zayne Anndars, born on February 9, 2021. Zayne has a big brother Nash, age 2. David is Chief Science Officer for Halucenex Life Sciences while Amy is the pension and benefit specialist for Jazz Aviation. They make their home in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Kayley Burns (2009)** and partner **Adam Barton (2009)** have a new son Colton, born on June 8, 2021. Kayley and Adam both work at Sobeys and live in Saint John.

**Trevor Carson (2011)** married **Megan (Porter)Carson (2016)** on May 15, 2021. Trevor is employed by Pardy's Waste Management & Industrial Services while Megan is an Educational Assistant in Anglophone School District - South. Saint John is where the happy couple call home.

**Stephanie Purcell (2005)** has completed her medical specialty and is working as a General Surgeon at Miramichi Regional Hospital. She is relieved to no longer be a student!

**Krystal Binns (2009)** and partner **Justin Hanson (2009)** have a beautiful daughter Audrey, born on October 16, 2020. Krystal works at UNBSJ as a program manager for the Centre for Research in Integrated Care; Justin works at Canoport LNG as a panel operator. They live in Red Head, NB.

**Jessica Purcell (2008)** and partner Brian Ridgeway have a new daughter Emilyn Margaret Ridgeway, born on January 21, 2021. Jessica is a lab technologist at Alberta Precision Laboratories and Brian works at Peace River Hydro Partners. They make their home in Grand Prairie, Alberta.

**Hailey Phillips (2012)** & partner Josh McShane welcomed their second child Frankie Adele on March 9, 2021. Frankie has big sister Charlie, age 2.5 years to look out for her. Hailey is the store manager at Pseudio and Josh is an apprentice carpenter. They reside in Saint John.

A new son, Ashwin Walter Changsong was welcomed by **Emily (Taylor) Hao (2012)** and husband Dr. Robin Hao on April 23, 2021. Emily works for a budgeting software company while Robin is completing his medical residency. The happy family resides in Edmonton, Alberta with their fur baby Barney.

Matilda "Tilley" Mae Ward was born on June 15, 2021 to **Kirsten MacDonald (2012)** and Zach Ward. Tilley has a big sister Lainey age 5. Kirsten works as a supply teacher for Anglophone School District - South and Zach works as a welder for Local 213. They make their home in Hampton, NB.

**Letitia (Tisha) Geldart (2011)** and partner, Jamie Steele are enjoying their new son Hunter Douglas Gordon, born on January 27, 2021 at 10 lb 8 oz. Tisha works at Loch Lomond Villa and Jamie works in construction. They live in Saint John.

**Jessica (MacDonald) Carson (2010)** and husband, Paul Carson welcomed son, Hunter James, on December 22, 2020. Hunter has an older brother Byron, age 2. Paul is project manager at TEP Canada, an engineering company. Jessica is an educator at Origins Natural Learning Centre. They live in Quispamsis, NB.

**Emily (Keating) Steele (2011)** and husband **Jared Steel (2009)** welcomed their son Aidan Joseph Steele, born on June 15, 2021. Emily is a nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital while Jared works at Steele's Trucking & Contracting Ltd. They live in Saint John

**Michelle Hanson (2012)** and fiancé Jordan MacLellan have a new daughter Sadie Alexandra born on April 29, 2021. Michelle works as a lab technician at Irving Oil and Jordan works at Gulf Operators. They reside in East Saint John.



# ***2021/22 Reunions***



## REUNIONS 2021/2022

**Class of 1970:** Due to continuing pandemic restrictions, the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1970 has again been postponed. It is now scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2022 from 6 PM – midnight at the Riverside Golf Club in East Riverside. A grand celebration in honour of their 50+2 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 1971:** The 50-year reunion for the Class of 1971 has been postponed to 2022. By then, it should be much safer to travel and gather in a large group. Stay tuned for updates as they become available.

**Class of 1972:** Organizers have started planning for the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1972. It will take place in 2022. More details will be forthcoming.

**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 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 a time when covid-19 is over. 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. More 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**.

**Class of 2001:** With the uncertainty of travel and group gatherings, the grad class committee has decided it would be difficult to celebrate the way they would like. Instead of celebrating their 20-yr reunion this year, they have decided to celebrate 25 years in 2026! At that time, the class hopes to celebrate together without any restrictions.

Questions have been asked re reunions in 2021 for the classes of 1981, 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. As soon as details become available, they will be advertised in this alumni newsletter and on our Facebook page **Simonds High School Alumni**.



### Alumni Swag

Are you yearning for some useful alumni swag? If so, we have the answer for you. We have a good supply of sturdy glass alumni beer mugs and stemless wine glasses for \$15 each. Payments may be conveniently made by e-transfer or cash and pick up is easy. These would be perfect as a special gift or for you to enjoy your favourite cold beverage this summer. To order, please contact Colleen Nobles on Facebook or by email at [simondsalumni@gmail.com](mailto:simondsalumni@gmail.com).



# ***OBITUARIES***

**Victor Cyr (1966)** passed away on January 8, 2021. He had worked at Dominion Food and Floor Fashions, and at his own business, Victory Installation in Saskatchewan. Victor is survived by his mother Georgina, son Bradford, 2 grandsons, brothers George, Earl, Douglas, Ralph, Wayne, and Wendell, as well as sisters Cathy, Louise and Leola.

**Alan Fawcett (1966)**, well-known local musician, passed away unexpectedly on January 23, 2021. He will be missed by husband Allen Vegter, brothers Eric and Norman and other extended family members. Alan started his musical career in festivals, choirs and bands. After playing at venues in NB and NS, he became resident pianist for Canadian Pacific at numerous hotels throughout Canada. He met and played for Prime Ministers, dignitaries and celebrities. After living and performing for years in Alberta, Alan and his partner moved back to his beloved St. Martins; he had just retired as organist at Harmony United. His musical gift will live on through his postings on social media.

**Michael Crawford (1970)** died on December 28, 2020. He was foreman of the City of Saint John Water Department for 35 years. Michael loved motorcycles, trains and camping. He will be missed by his wife, Marcia, son Corey and brother Sandy.

**Sylvia (Murrins) Nofzell (1971)** passed unexpectedly on February 11, 2021. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse who enjoyed her 25-year long career at Loch Lomond Villa. She loved yard sales, second hand shops and clothing. Sylvia is survived by daughters Jennifer and Melissa and five adored grandchildren.

**Bill Allan (1973)** passed away on January 8, 2021. He was a well-known investment advisor in his own business, AKG Financial. He was an active community member through his involvement with his church and his many years with the Boy Scouts of Canada. Bill's family and friends will remember fun times with him sailing, camping, vacationing in PEI or spending time at his cottage. He will be missed by wife, Debbie, daughter Vanessa, sons Daniel and Jeffrey, 7 grandchildren, his sister Christine and stepmother Dorothy.

**Bill Peacock (1980)** lost his 8-year battle with leukemia on May 1, 2020. Bill was a longtime employee of Industrial Security and a dedicated volunteer firefighter with the Simonds Fire Department, from where he retired as Deputy Fire Chief. As Santa Claus, he brought much joy to the staff and residents of the Loch Lomond Villa. Even when in poor health, Bill never missed a game watching his granddaughter play football and rugby for Simonds. He will be fondly remembered by his wife Pam, son William, daughter Wendy, brother Andrew, sister Linda and 3 grandchildren.

**Kristina Cooper (2003)** died on January 19, 2021. Her infectious laugh and peaceful presence brought joy to many. She is survived by her mother Karen, Janet and extended family.

**Monica Cavan (1984)** succumbed on May 28, 2021. Monica was an avid reader and card player; she loved dancing, spending time at the beach and going for long drives with the music blaring. Left to mourn are her son Ryan, one grandson, sisters Ann, Joan, Teresa and Maureen.

**David Dupuis (1985)** passed away on May 21, 2021. He had worked at Parrrtown Security at McAllister Mall for many years. David is survived by his father and step-mother, brothers Edward, Mark and Joe, sister Kim, and step-siblings Krista and Grant.

**Donna (Gallant) Bennett (1987)** died on January 22, 2021. She will be missed by her husband John, daughter Sophia, brother Elwood, stepson Jeff, stepdaughter Carrie-Lynn and 6 grandchildren.

**Tony Montague (1989)** passed away unexpectedly on May 10, 2021. Tony was a skilled local pipefitter who took great pride in mentoring new apprentices. He enjoyed four wheeling, kayaking, playing crib and spending time with family and friends. Tony leaves behind his fiancé Jane Green, daughter Bryana, stepchildren Samantha and Santana and brothers Chris and Jimmy.

**Peggie McLean (1992)** passed away in Didsbury, Alberta on December 22, 2020. Peggie enjoyed singing and playing hymns on the organ and passed that love on to her boys. Her artistic spirit was expressed Peggie's Eyeglass Charms and her hair styling. She is survived by her parents, sons Keaghan, Denver, Korbin and Jesse as well as her brothers Olin and Rod and sister Cathy.

The unexpected passing of **Justin Arsenault (1997)** of Leduc, Alberta occurred on April 5, 2021. He enjoyed his career as a truck driver with Ascent Transport Ltd. in Alberta. He was a huge football fan - watching, playing and coaching the sport. He also loved rugby. Justin will be remembered by brothers Evan and Dean as well as sister Rhonda and other extended family.

**Michael O'Neill (1997)** lost his brave battle with MS on January 25, 2021. He had a heart of gold and chose to see positivity in any situation. Michael will be missed by his parents, his sister Jennifer and other extended family.

**Jack Hill (staff)** passed away on June 11, 2021. Mr. Hill was a gifted teacher and taught at several schools including Lorne and Island View as well as a couple of years at Simonds High in the late 1990s. His love of singing and playing the guitar was passed along to his children and grandchildren. Jack enjoyed being around water - as a lifeguard, swimmer, diver, snorkeler and kayaker. With his woodworking skills, he built many things for family and friends. Jack is mourned by his wife Suzanne, daughters Sarah and Miriam, and 3 granddaughters.

**George Little (staff)**, beloved and respected Simonds English teacher and Department Head, passed away on May 15, 2021. Mr. Little began his teaching career in Scotland; after moving to Canada, he started his 30+ year teaching career at the Simonds Bayside location and then moved to the Hickey Road campus. With the students, he spearheaded numerous October UNICEF campaigns that raised over \$87 000 to help children worldwide. He was a talented poet, author, singer and world traveller. Mr. Little was also the leader of the New Democrat Party of New Brunswick in the 1980s. This eloquent talented gentleman loved teaching his students, and they loved him in return. He will be missed by his wife Pearl, daughters Jackie and Alison, 2 grandchildren, 3 sisters and a brother.

# REMEMBER WHEN



HRH Prince Phillip presenting awards and witnessing presentations at Simonds High School in

## Did You know?- Remembering HRH Prince Phillip

The world was saddened on April 9, 2021 by the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. One of his lasting legacies is the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Prince Charles School was the first place in Canada to adopt these in 1963. The following year, the Simonds 527 Air Cadets, under then training officer Bev Harrison (1960) adopted the program. Air, sea and army cadets embraced this program. In 1966, this group was the first group in Canada to receive awards. In 1967 aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia some Simonds students such as Larry Josselyn (1966) and Ken Campbell (1966) were presented with their Gold awards. In 1969, HRH Prince Phillip visited the Simonds High School on Bayside Drive to present some awards in person. How awesome is that? Commanding Officer Bev Harrison was on hand and Simonds student Glen Josselyn (1971) extended a greeting to HRH Prince Phillip on behalf of the squadron. Having royalty visit Simonds and present these coveted awards was certainly a proud moment in the history of the school! The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are still highly prized today.



### 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.

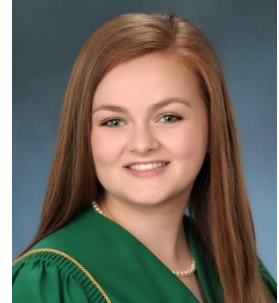
# SIMONDS NOW!

## Honoured 2021 Simonds Graduates

The Valedictorian for the 2021 graduation class is Safe Abu Jayyab. Safe has been awarded the prestigious \$65 000 Currie Undergraduate Scholarship from UNB. This award recognizes potential leadership skills, present community involvement, academic success and obstacles overcome. Safe was the student council president. He was also involved in sports and was squadron commander in Air Cadets.



Safe Abu Jayyab



Anna Gillies

The Salutatorian for the 2021 Simonds graduation is Anna Gillies. Anna has also received a University of Kings College Scholarship.

Colby Arsenault has been awarded the Arthur and Sandra Irving Primrose Undergraduate Scholarship by UNB. Selection for this award is based on academic achievement and community and athletic leadership.



Colby Arsenault

Two students, Sharbel Debly and Aya Imdoukh, have been awarded APEGNB entrance scholarships to the University of New Brunswick.

Other students receiving scholarships from UNB include Julie Allen, Sydney Arseneault, Aiden Connors, LeeAnn Holland, Emma MacDonald, Natalie Richard and Tyler Williams. Sydney Arseneault was also awarded the Ted Rogers Scholarship.

The Simonds High School Alumni extends congratulations to all 2021 graduates. This has been a challenging year for all and you have still succeeded!

CLASS  
OF  
2021

The 2021 Virtual Simonds Graduation Ceremony is available on their YouTube channel, for anyone who wishes to view it. This includes scholarship winners, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches and recognition of each graduate. You may proudly watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtLooyv6Mi8>.



# SIMONDS NOW!

## Bayside Auditorium Restoration

The location of Bayside Middle School on Bayside Drive was the birthplace of Simonds High School. Simonds opened in that location in 1950 and continued there until June 1970, when it moved to its Hickey Road campus. Thus, many early Simonds grad classes will fondly remember the "old Simonds" and the auditorium in particular. An initiative was started a couple of years ago to replace the old uncomfortable wooden seats in that auditorium. Lovely padded ones have been purchased in the blue colour of Bayside Middle School. To contribute to this continuing renovation, some individuals, community supporters and previous Simonds grad classes have "purchased a seat". The seats cost \$100 each and an inscribed donor plaque will be attached to the seat in recognition. If you or your grad class would like to support this project, please contact Bayside principal Pat Laskey at [patrick.laskey@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:patrick.laskey@nbed.nb.ca). Your generosity is appreciated. (Tax receipts will be mailed for donations over \$50.)



## Staff Award

Carol-Ann Haggarty received the 2021 Provincial Inclusive Education Award presented by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living. Carol-Ann is a very deserving recipient of this award due to her dedication and extremely hard work in strengthening the inclusive positive learning environment for all Simonds High students. Congratulations Ms. Haggarty!

## 2021 Awards Ceremonies

Due to covid-19 protocols, the end-of-year awards ceremonies at Simonds again were virtual. For any who are interested in following the success of their grads, neighbours, etc, you may watch the Simonds High School Athletic Awards at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNvJ6yVQ24I>. The Simonds High School Social Awards may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzTzLMemca4>. Congratulations to all the winners!



## Contribution to the SPCA

Under the direction of teacher Ms. Linda O'Brien, the Essential Skills class at Simonds made and donated 10 dog coats to the Saint John branch of the SPCA. The students were very proud of their work, and ten local canines were much warmer this winter.

# RETIREMENTS



Cindy Gillis



Pearl Mattson



Gary Keating



Mark Murchison

In June 2021, Simonds will be losing four staff members. Cindy Gillis and Pearl Mattson have been dedicated patient Educational Assistants for many years.

Mark Murchison (1976), Physics teacher extraordinaire, will also be retiring. Mark has taught numerous different Science courses during his tenure at the school. It is difficult to estimate how many thousands of Simonds students have seen Mr. Murchison's hair stand on end as he exhibited the working of the Van der Graaf generator! Lol! He was also an award-winning inclusive Swim Team coach, who had a huge impact on his beloved students. Mark will be missed, but fondly remembered. Retirement will find him at his beloved Crystal Beach - teaching swimming and enjoying his family.

Gary Keating (1979), has been the Principal of Simonds High School for the past 22 of his 36 years in the education system. Prior to coming to Simonds, he taught at Forest Hills School and Aberdeen School. Gary could often be found walking the halls of green and gold, saying Hi to students and staff, and ensuring everything was running smoothly. He has witnessed many changes during his years at Simonds. Mr. Keating will be remembered for many things, but especially for one of his favourite comments "Always remember with pride, you can now say I graduated from Simonds High"! Gary is looking forward to retirement and spending more time with his growing family.



Mr. Keating was given this absolutely beautiful painting of Simonds High School as a retirement gift. Art teacher Derrick Sleep was the artist and presented it to Mr. Keating for his many years of service and dedication to the school. What a cherished reminder of the school, the staff and the many students! Simonds pride will be on display at the Keating residence.



Alumni and friends,

On behalf of our entire staff, a huge thank you is extended to the Simonds High School Alumni Association for their dedication and continuous positive promotion of our wonderful community school.

Simonds High School has been an integral part of the East Saint John fabric since September 1950, when the school opened on Bayside Drive. Our current location on Hickey Road opened, over 50 years ago, in September 1970.

Thousands of young adults have proudly graduated from Simonds High School over the past 71 years; thus, a strong, united Alumni Association has been established for many years. The Alumni's dedication and hard work has assisted with, and generated, many projects to enrich the school and our beautiful campus.

Please consider joining the Alumni Association as it is a great way to re-connect with former classmates, staff and our wonderful school.

Simonds Pride Continues... with the Simonds High School Alumni Association.

All the best,

Gary Keating (Class of 1979)  
Principal  
Simonds High School

