



# Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association  
Volume XXIX • 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue • Fall 2014

## 20 Years of Pancake Breakfasts for United Way

Nina Acharya

In 1995, Lisgar ran its first ever United Way Pancake Breakfast, raising around \$700. This year, on November 14, some 330 Lisgar students, parents, staff, and special guests raised over \$2,000 for people in need around Ottawa.

Although Lisgar and its Students' Council have changed considerably in the past twenty years, the Pancake Breakfast remains remarkably true to original form. The Executive Council still braves the 4 AM wake-up call, and eager students still pile into the cafeteria for pancakes and sausages. In fact, this breakfast is one of the most anticipated events of the year.

The Pancake Breakfast also continues to generate interest in our community, attracting guests from the School Board, City Hall, Queen's Park, and Parliament Hill. The 1995 breakfast was attended by then Mayor Jacquelin Holzman, and by Nancy Cooper, Max Keeping, and the Ottawa Rough Riders. This year, students saw many familiar faces serving them pancakes, including MP Paul Dewar, MPP Yasir Naqvi, City Councillor David Chernushenko, School Board trustee Jennifer McKenzie, and Superintendent of Instruction and Learning Susan Macdonald. Helene Slater, a United



PUTTING VIPs TO WORK: Colleen Mooney (Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa), Helene Slater (United Way), Jennifer McKenzie (School Board trustee), and Paul Dewar (Member of Parliament) help out.

Way Representative, and guest speaker Colleen Mooney, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, were also in attendance. Unfortunately, Mayor Watson had to cancel due to a scheduling conflict. Many other prominent figures, including the Prime Minister, the Premier, and the Governor General all congratulated Lisgar on the 20th anniversary of the Pancake Breakfast and the devotion to community service it reflects.

Lisgar students are very proud of the tradition associated with the school and as such we incorporated many aspects of this into our raffle prizes. The Alumni Association generously donated two sesquicentennial history books, which were the objects of much lunchtime discussion, as well as a beautiful limited edition Babelowsky Lisgar print. Both were among the first prizes to be collected at the raffle table, at which students had stopped by throughout the morning to flip through the pages of the book. In the days since, a variety of facts have been floating through the student body, with questions such as "did you know the cafeteria used to be the gym, even with

those posts?" I would like to thank the Alumni Association for renewing this appreciation for the past

In order to celebrate this occasion in Lisgar history, the Goodwill Committee decided to add a new attraction to this year's breakfast: a grand prize of a trip to the fifth floor! When I first approached Principal McMahon with the idea, he laughed, saying it did not seem like a very "grand" prize to him. He proposed adding in a trip to the roof, and with that our idea took off—the fifth floor

still is the object of many students' curiosity and attracted much attention.

In addition to a reverence for tradition, Lisgar students also recognize the importance of progress, and it is this balance between the old and the new that we sought to capture in this year's breakfast. Social media plays a much bigger role now than it did in 1995, and our event was advertised to students on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Last year's breakfast actually saw the development of a hashtag, #PB2K13, which allowed social media users to easily group all posts related to the breakfast. Our performers also reflected a wide variety of genres, from classical piano, to classic rock, to Disney, to rap.

Lisgar's 20th Annual United Way Pancake Breakfast was a success in terms of the funds raised and also the enthusiasm seen amongst the attendees. We look forward to many more years filled with the same tradition and innovation that Lisgar students so admirably strive to achieve.

[Editor's note: Nina Acharya is Director of the Goodwill Committee of Lisgar's Students' Council, and the organizer of the breakfast.] ■



EARLY MORNING: Students set alarm clocks for 4 AM to have pancakes ready for over 300 attendees.

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## Members' Forum

*Louise Stew (1970) e-mailed:* I really appreciated the article on Mr. Roebuck in your last issue. He was one of my favourite teachers and I was sad to hear of his passing. I never knew he was a submariner.

*Christopher Jorna (1989) posted on our Facebook page:* This year is the 25th Anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1989—last batch of the '80s! Is anyone organizing any events around this? Elizabeth MacIntosh Hale did a great job a few years ago getting folks together for the 20th reunion of the class of '90.

*Dr. Yogi Sehgal (1990) wrote:* I read with interest of the retirement of Mr. Derry and it reminded me of all the wonderful French teachers I had at Lisgar. Thanks to their enthusiasm during my years at Lisgar, I actually became fully fluent. After 12 years in several remote communities, including ten amazing years in the community of Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario, my wife Lynne and I decided to move to Fredericton, NB. For the past four years I have been working as a family physician at the Centre de Santé Noreen-Richard. My wife and I have two sons, Ori (2) and Kéo (4 months). When I graduated from

Lisgar in 1990, I would never have thought I would be working in medicine in French in New Brunswick. That being said, I will be changing jobs to become a full-time emergency room doctor this fall, but am proud to say that I will be one of the very few here in Fredericton that can provide fluent service in both official languages.

*Bruce Thom (1968) e-mailed:* I noticed in the 2014 Spring issue of the newsletter that John Roebuck had died. He was a real free spirit and added an immensely important dynamic to the Lisgar music program. He was an inspiration to all of us struggling sax players and he also took the time to get to know us as individuals. Always fondly remembered.

*Douglas Burns (1952) e-mailed:* As a life member, I am always interested to receive the newsletter and catch up on events involving former Lisgarites, particularly those of my era. I presently live in Pointe Claire, QC, and have since university. However, my sisters are still in Ottawa: Alison Scott (Burns, 1954) and Margaret Dempsey (Burns, 1949). I also visit my long time closest friend David Owen (1952).

*Doug Jones, Bill Shore, and Bill Hines (all 1965) wrote:* Some of us who graduated in 1965 would like to organize a reunion in Ottawa in May or June of 2015 to commemorate our 50th anniversary. A great chance to catch up on what some of us have been doing in the last half-century; an opportunity to compare ourselves now to what we were then; and most of all, a chance to renew old acquaintances, to revisit our past, to remember the days when our lives were much less complicated than they appear to be now. We'd like any member of the Class of 1965—remember that there were over 200 of you!—to contact us at [lisgar65spring2015@gmail.com](mailto:lisgar65spring2015@gmail.com) if you'd like to take part in this reunion a year from now. And if you know the e-mail of another member of the class and would like to pass it on, we'll con-

tact him or her. If enough of you are interested in getting together after so many years, we'll start planning the weekend. Of course, you are welcome to help us with the reunion planning. And be honest—some of you may need a bit of excitement like a reunion to liven up your retirement!

*Allison Perch (1993) contacted us with an update via Facebook:* I have been married for 19 years, and my husband and I have seven children. I moved to Wedgeport, NS, in 1999. We lost our home in a fire in February of 2013. I currently reside in Yarmouth, NS, and am a stay-at-home mom.

*Lawrence Erwin (1941) wrote:* Enclosed is a copy of the obituary of my life-long friend Lloyd A. Barrett. The obituary was published in the *Times Colonist* in Victoria, BC—the newspaper for which he worked prior to his retirement.

*Alice Olivia Clarke (1988) has a critically lauded supporting part in the Sundance Festival film Land Ho! The film is a roadtrip movie about two former brothers-in-law traveling through Iceland and meeting a wide array of life-changing characters along the way. Clarke plays one of those transformative people, Nadine, a bank manager who studied photography and followed her own dreams to Iceland. Alice moved to Iceland in 1993, following her Icelandic husband, whom she met*

### 175th Anniversary Reunion

Planning for the 175th, in 2018, is just getting underway! Please join us in Lisgar's Library at 7 PM on Monday, April 20 if you'd like to become involved. You can also reach out at [alumni@lisgar.net](mailto:alumni@lisgar.net) to let us know you'd like to help!

*during his studies at Carleton University's School of Architecture. The couple lives in Hafnarfjörður with their two teenage children.*

*Jeffrey Weiner (1969) wrote:* Please find enclosed a donation to the library in memory of my mother, Miriam Weiner (Katz, 1939), who passed away from cancer on November 12, 2013, at the age of 92.

*Ian Brodie (1991) is an Associate Professor of Folklore at Cape Breton University, where he has been teaching since 2005. He is married, with one child. He has recently published a book, A Vulgar Art: A New Approach to Stand-Up Comedy.*

*D'Arcy McNamara (teacher 1966-72) wrote:* What prompted me to write is Bob Hursti's article on John Roebuck in your latest issue. I spent the summer of 1969 travelling the UK with John and, yes, playing lots of golf. I remember someone in Northern Ireland asking me if John was my

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*Alere Flamman* is the semi-annual newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association.

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I CAN MANifest CHANGE: Ottawa Police Service Constable Khoa Hoang (2000) appeared in a public awareness campaign this fall to positively engage men and boys in ending violence against women.



father. I was perplexed because I thought of John as my buddy, although this comment made me realize there was a substantial age and experience difference between us. I did lose track of John over the years but I am sure the guy I knew was the same throughout his life. John was, in a word, irreplaceable. He was always the most wired guy in a room. His energy was infectious, and I am sure that he inspired many people to broaden their horizons, as he did me. I also wanted to add that I'd like to thank Wright Neil for hiring me and believing that I was teacher material. I went on to teach 32 years with the Ottawa Board, and Lisgar remained my template for

the way public education should be delivered. I have many fond memories of staff and students.

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*Jean Kapur (Mulvie, 1943) wrote:* I am always pleased to receive a copy of the latest issue of *Alere Flammam*. Sadly, there aren't many times that the class of 1943 is mentioned. However, I saw the name of Irene Broad (Woolford, 1943) was listed with the donors. I'd love to get in touch.

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*Leezab Cohen (1965) was married in North Carolina this August. Fellow Lisgar grads Nancy Gnaedinger (1965) and Niki Cohen (Sicotte, 1965) were in attendance.* ■



SASSY SIX: All Cohens and all Lisgar grads, Jonathan (1960), Eric (1966), Alan (1964), Leezab (1965), Niki (Sicotte, 1965), and Gobby (1969) celebrate the night before Leezab's wedding.

## In Memoriam

**BAILEY, Mary** (Moxley, 1943) passed away on November 11, 2013. She graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1947 and pursued a nursing career in Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, and Ottawa.

**BARRETT, Lloyd** (1941) passed away on July 5, 2014. He attended Carleton for Journalism and worked for several newspapers across Canada before retiring from the Times Colonist in Victoria, B.C.

**BLACK, James Bernard "Bernie"** (teacher 1953-58) passed away on July 22, 2014. He taught English and Phys. Ed., and coached the Lisgar football teams to city championships in several years. Dubbed the "mastermind of basketball" by players, he was later Head of Athletics at Ridgemont.

**BRYANT, Barry** (1963). He was a ski instructor during his Lisgar years, as well as an active canoeist, kayaker, hiker, camper, and summer camp counselor. Barry studied Outdoor Recreation at the University of Ottawa.

**COWAN, Penny** (Sherwood, 1946) passed away in East Sussex, UK.

**ELLIS, Waltraud "Wally"** (Hentschel, 1958) passed away on June 2, 2014.

**FERGUSON, Margery** (Turnbull, Lisgar secretary 1968-84) passed away on May 9, 2014.

**FOX, Janet** (Macdonald, 1947) passed away on September 30, 2014.

She graduated from Carleton and raised three boys (David attended Lisgar in 1966-67). Janet was involved with UNICEF, the Maycourt Club, and the University Women's Club.

**GRAHAM, Dr. James** (1935) passed away on May 7, 2014. He attended McGill and completed his postgraduate residency training in Internal Medicine at the Montreal General Hospital and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (Harvard) in Boston. He practised in Ottawa from 1947 to 1966, as a member of the Department of Medicine at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. He became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1979.

**GREENBERG, Mervin** (1947) passed away on May 22, 2014. As a teenager he worked as an usher at the Capitol Theatre, delivered telegrams on his bicycle, worked in a lumber yard and in the family grocery store, and sold vacuum cleaners door-to-door. He found his true calling in 1952 when he started selling real estate. He founded Mervin Greenberg Limited and Arrowood Homes. From his grad write-up: Merv is one of Lisgar's basketball stars. This six feet of smiling sunshine hasn't disclosed his plans (if he has any) for the future (if he has one). His hobby, to quote him, is "Wimmin!"

**LIEFF, Joseph, Q.C.** (1935) passed

away on January 7, 2012. He was very active in Ottawa's Jewish community.

**MARTINDALE, Robert** (1953) passed away on November 17, 2013. He graduated in Civil Engineering from Queen's and worked most of his career with Imperial Oil in Toronto.

**MAXON, Phyllis** (Connett, 1950).

**MCMONAGLE, Robert** (1947) passed away on September 7, 2014. He studied at Western and became a management consultant in Toronto.

**MURRAY, Catherine** (Costello, 1944) passed away in Port Moody, BC on August 10, 2014. Catherine served as a WREN in the Navy during the Second World War and as a dental nurse in Nova Scotia, and obtained her BA from Western and Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton. She worked for both the National Film Board and the CBC.

**PEACHY, Diane** (1962) passed away on July 9, 2014. She was active with the Lisgar cheerleaders.

**PERRIN, George** (1942) passed away on July 12, 2014. He was editor of the *Vox*, and graduated from Queen's in 1949 after serving as an officer in the RCNVR. He worked in life insurance, as an estate planner.

**PRODERICK, Gerry** (1938) passed away on February 14, 2014. He attended the University of Toronto, and served overseas in the Second World War, where he held the rank of Captain in the Canadian Army. After the war, he obtained an MA from the

University of Toronto and an MS from Columbia. He was a professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Western.

**QUARRINGTON, Dr. A.J.** (1956) passed away on February 17, 2014. He was a member of the Senior Football Team, Boy's Hi-Y, and *Vox Lycei* staff in his graduating year.

**SLADE, Bill** (1967) passed away on April 19, 2014. He studied English at Brock, then worked for the government in Ottawa. He received his MA from the University of Ottawa in 1979.

**SLEEMAN, Warren** (1938) passed away on August 9, 2014. He was the younger brother of Fred (1925) and the uncle of Rick (1964) and Judy Eardley (Sleeman, 1956). Warren was the father of John Sleeman, who successfully resurrected the Sleeman Brewing and Malting Company in Guelph, ON, in 1988 and built it into the third-largest brewery in Canada.

**SPICER, Erik** (1944) passed away on September 27, 2014. [See article on p. 6].

**WEINER, Miriam** (Katz, 1939) passed away on November 12, 2013.

**WHERRETT, Doreen** (Johnson, 1952) passed away on February 17, 2008.

**WOOD, Gillian** (McPherson, 1967) passed away in Halifax, NS on January 22, 2013.

**WOODBIDGE, Anne** (Moerel, 1961) passed away on September 11, 2013. ■

## From the Lisgar Archives: Notes from “Down Below”

Joy Heft

We have had many inquiries this year from persons interested in Lisgar alumni from the two World Wars. The first such inquiry came from Barbara Mennill, step-mother of Lisgar music teacher Laura Mennill. She had visited many of the war memorials in Belgium and France and was interested in researching those commemorated on the plaques in Memorial Hall. Barbara was delighted to discover our history books and was able to glean considerable information from the *Vox* available through our website. She was the presenter at Lisgar’s Remembrance Day assembly this year, and shared a binder with her research and some pictures with the school.

Following on Barbara’s heels, Boudewyn van Oort sent a missive to say he was taking the Children’s Choir of which he is president to Holtenburg, in the Netherlands, next year as part of the celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of that country. In making arrangements for this trip, he discovered a family attempting to personalize the image of soldiers whose names appear on the war graves in their town. He produced a list of those from Ottawa and asked if some might have attended Lisgar. In fact, Frederick J. Sims, who graduated in 1938 and attended RMC, was among them. His name appears in a number of copies of *Vox* and he is listed in the active service list in 1942.

The third such inquiry came from David Bluestein, who is writing an extensive article about Leslie Tubman (1907), who distinguished himself in the First World War. In addition to information available in the online *Vox*, Mr. Bluestein was also very pleased to receive digital photos of the plaques bearing the name of Leslie Tubman and he likewise submitted pictures of medals Leslie received for his distinguished service. A laudatory article in the 1918 *Vox* announcing the death of Leslie Watters Tubman indicates that he was one of the most prominent athletes



LEST WE FORGET: Barbara Mennill spoke to students at the Remembrance Day assembly.

in the city, a crack middle distance runner, a football and lacrosse player, and a member of the champion war canoe crew of the New Edinburgh Canoe Club. He enlisted at the outbreak of the war as a private in the 2nd battalion of the famous Canadian Ironsides, and was decorated with the Military Cross in 1917 “for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.”

Speaking of medals, Steve Johnson of Nautilus Designs in Las Cruces, New Mexico, contacted us during the spring to say he had in his possession a bronze medal awarded to Emily Williams, Class 2K in 1925, for general proficiency. He

wondered if she might have relatives who would be interested in having the medal. None of the Williams contacted using our alumni database know of Emily, but Steve has nonetheless sent the medal, which he believes was dug out of the ground, to our archives. His reaction to the fact that we have an alumni association: “It must be quite a school!”

Mr. Johnson’s sentiment was echoed closer to home by a gentleman who had fallen from his bike crossing the Corktown Bridge. He subsequently sent a letter to Principal David McMahon. By his own embarrassed admission he had “foolishly” overloaded his bicycle with fresh fruit from the market, along with his “very amateur painting equipment.” Six Lisgar students rushed to his rescue. They were by his account “very attentive and charming,” and his assessment to the principal was that he has “a fine group of students at Lisgar.” It is good to know that some things never change.

In other news, Abbotsford House in Ottawa recently showed the National Film Board documentary regarding the life and art of Pegi Nicol McLeod. A student at Lisgar in the 1920s, Pegi, whose father spent some time as principal at Lisgar, became a recognized artist during her relatively short life, and was commissioned to document the role of

women during the Second World War. Much of the film, entitled *Something Dancing About Her*, was shot in the home on Second Avenue in which she grew up. This excellent portrayal of this lively and talented woman includes original footage from ski forays into the Gatineaus, among other activities. The film is available on DVD from the public library and at some rental outlets. There is also a book, *Pegi by Herself*, by Laura Brandon, Curator of Art at the Canadian War Museum, that some may be interested in reading.

Speaking of books, a new composite copy of five consecutive editions of *Vox* from 2009–2014 is currently being bound for the Alumni Association. The inscription will read: “This volume is dedicated to Principal David McMahon in grateful recognition of his faithful service to Lisgar Collegiate.”

Finally, we have received a number of donations of Lisgar clothing, mostly athletic wear from different eras. Sometimes such items just appear out of thin air, as was the case some time ago with a girl’s small gym bag. Judging by the contents, the owner (circa 1967) was a leading gymnast, basketball player, volleyball player, and member of the G.A.A. executive. Will the owner please identify herself? ■



WAR MEDALS: Military Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal with Mentioned-in-Dispatches Oak Leaf of Leslie “Tubbie” Tubman (1907).



# Interview with Charles Hill, Curator of Canadian Art

**What route took you to Lisgar?**

I attended Rockcliffe Park Public School and Sedbergh School near Montebello, then began grade 12 at Lisgar in 1960.

**What memories do you have?**

I have fond memories of the Lisgar Players productions directed by Tim Bond, but less fond ones of gym classes which were exercises in bullying.

**What did you study at university?**

I studied French at Université de Grenoble, 1962–63. I did a BA in Art History and French Literature at McGill University, 1963–67. I then completed an MA in Art History at the University of Toronto, 1968–70.

**Did you have any particular outside interests?**

At the University of Toronto, I became active in the gay liberation movement in 1969. I had known I was gay since the age of 12, and political action was an important tool in achieving a personal and social acceptance of what this meant. This political activity greatly assisted my appreciation of the connection between art and greater social issues.

**Tell us about your career at the National Gallery of Canada.**

I started working at the Gallery as a summer student in 1967 and was appointed Assistant Curator of Later Canadian Art in 1972, Curator of Later Canadian Art 1979–80. I was Curator of Canadian Art 1980–2014. I was very privileged to have been able to work at the Gallery for forty-seven years. I don't think I would have been able to do what I did at another institution.

**What are some of the major exhibitions you helped to organize?**

*Artists, Architects, Artisans: Canadian Art 1880–1918* (2013); *Emily Carr: New Perspectives* (2006); *Tom Thomson* (2002); *The Group of Seven: Art for a Nation* (1995); *Morrice, A Gift to the Nation: The G. Blair Laing Collection* (1992); *Canadian Painting in the Thirties* (1975)—to name just a few. The catalogues are the enduring



TRAVELLING THE WORLD: Charles Hill (1962), recently retired after 42 years at the National Gallery of Canada, is seen here at Istanbul's Galata Tower.

record, as exhibitions are ephemeral once they close.

**You met some very distinguished Canadians during your career, including Prime Minister Trudeau.**

Trudeau understood the importance of art for Canadian society. I was privileged in having him open two exhibitions that I organized, *Canadian Paintings in the Thirties* in 1975, and *To Found A National Gallery: The Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts 1880–1913* in 1980. Trudeau was a supporter of the Gallery, and it was thanks to him that a new National Gallery was opened in 1988.

**What interesting places have you travelled to during your career?**

The discovery of many regions of Canada would be first on my list. I have also travelled to China and Saint Petersburg with exhibitions.

**Do you have any favourite artists or colours?**

I love the colours of artists James Wilson Morrice and Tom Thomson.

**What honours and awards have you received?**

I am privileged to have been appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, and to have received the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal. I also

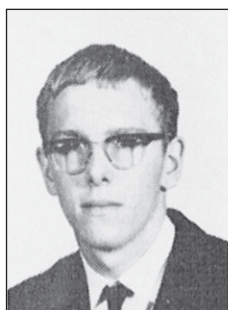
received an honorary doctorate from Concordia University in 2007. My essay "Tom Thomson, Painter" and the exhibition catalogue *Emily Carr: New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon* both won awards. I received the Award of Distinguished Service from the Canadian Museums Association in 2012.

**What advice would you offer to someone wishing to become a fine arts specialist, curator, or director?**

Being a director is a very different kettle of fish from being a curator, but in all fields a desire to see and learn, and recognition of the professional knowledge of others and a desire to work cooperatively, are essential assets.

**What is next for you?**

Now that I have retired, I want to complete a biography of the Montreal art dealer Dr. Max Stern that I began many years ago when I had a short sabbatical. I am currently in Ireland with my partner, Brian Foss, and will return to Ottawa in July. We'll see where the next months lead me. ■



**CHARLES HILL:**

"Read and Learn (?)"

Charlie can be found almost anywhere in the school and invariably he will then be found reading. By means of this curious habit he not only learns about wine, women, and song, but about History, French and what X equals. Such variety in reading inevitably leads to good marks and a look at Charlie's record will surely prove this. It will be a loss to Lisgar when Charlie leaves for McGill.

CLASS OF 1962: Charles Hill's write-up in the *Vox Lycei* spoke to an appetite for books and learning.

## Farewell to Parliamentary Librarian Emeritus

One of Lisgar's best-known alumni in Ottawa circles passed away this fall. Erik Spicer (1944) was Canada's longest-serving Parliamentary Librarian, holding the post from 1960 to 1994, and the first professionally trained librarian in the role. He was also the longest-serving holder of Deputy Minister rank in Canadian history, serving over his 34 years under eight Prime Ministers, and reporting to twelve Speakers of the Senate and ten Speakers of the House of Commons.

Erik was born in Ottawa in 1926 to Violet Manhart (née Gunderson) and Clifford Spicer. He attended the Model School, part of the Normal School for teachers adjacent to Lisgar, now incorporated as part of Ottawa City Hall, and attended Lisgar from 1940 to 1944.

The Second World War had been raging for nearly five years, and many student activities at Lisgar were thus focussed on knowledge about the Canadian war effort and on acquiring practical war skills through the Cadet Corps. Perhaps as a result, Erik joined the Royal Canadian Air Force upon graduation, later transferring to the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. After the war, he joined the Governor General's Foot Guards, eventually achieving the rank of Major.

Erik earned three university degrees while in the military: a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Library Science from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of



LONGEST-SERVING: Erik Spicer (1944) in his second of more than three decades on the job as Canada's Parliamentary Librarian. *Bill Brennan / Ottawa Citizen. Reprinted by permission.*

Michigan. He began his career as a librarian at the public libraries in Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa, as well as at the university libraries in Victoria and Michigan. In 1960, while Deputy Librarian at the Ottawa Public Library, he was hired away by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker to become the youngest-ever Parliamentary Librarian.

There were many challenges to the renewal of the Library of Parliament at this time—integrating the French and English systems, modernizing management processes, and before too long bringing in modern technologies. Erik did all this and more with professionalism and grace, earning a great deal of respect from those around him.

According to his obituary, Erik saw himself not only as Parliamentary Librarian, but also as the chief custodian and advocate for the beautiful and iconic building itself. "For 34 years," his obituary reads, "he happily occupied what had to be one of the finest government offices in Ottawa, with a panoramic view of the Ottawa River, Gatineau, QC, and the hills beyond,

and with an entrance leading from the Gothic splendour of the main reading room." He was proud to give tours of the Library to visiting dignitaries and students, and loved to explain how the Library of Parliament was saved during the Great Fire of 1916.

In recognition of his long and distinguished service, Erik was named Parliamentary Librarian Emeritus and Honorary Officer of both Houses of Parliament. In 1994, he was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Erik and his wife Helen enjoyed their retirement years at their cottage, going to diplomatic functions, and regularly attending events at the National Arts Centre. Erik continued to enjoy reading and research, and also served between 1995 and 2002 on the Alumni Association Executive, taking an active interest in the establishment of the Life Membership Fund.

Erik's funeral was held at The Guards' Chapel, St. Bartholomew's Church, in Rockcliffe Park, where he was honoured by his former regiment, the Governor General's Foot Guards. ■

## Lisgar Responds to Downtown Lockdown

David McMabon

Although Wednesday October 22, 2014, began as a regular day at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, it became one that staff and students will remember. At 10 AM we realized that something very serious was happening in downtown Ottawa. Lisgar's administration quickly consulted with the local authorities before moving into a "secure school," which means that all exterior doors and windows are locked and blinds are drawn, and regular activities continue in secure areas—meaning students must stay inside classrooms.

We remained this way until close to 3 PM, and having to keep students secure in their classrooms for almost five hours presented some challenges. The staff worked together to provide washroom breaks and lunch, while the main office dealt with hundreds of phone calls from concerned families in a calm and professional manner. Carol, who runs the cafeteria, prepared a huge amount of additional food and worked with our teachers to deliver it around the school.

Many students were receiving texts and e-mails from parents who also found themselves in a form of lockdown at work, so when police gave Lisgar the go-ahead to release students we dismissed them for the day knowing that some parents might not be home for hours. Transportation also created problems for students in that bus routes had been diverted to avoid the downtown core.

Reflecting back on the events of October 22, we are extremely proud of our students and staff for how they responded to a challenging and difficult day. Members of our community supported each other, remained calm, responded quickly to what needed to be done, and, most important, remained safe.

[Editor's note: David McMabon is Principal at Lisgar.] ■

### Life Members

We are delighted to report that ten alumni have become Life Members since the last issue of *Alere Flammam*: Robert Bedard (1963) Laleah Carscallen (1970) John Fairchild (1960) Dianne Heslop (Duval, 1956) Meredith Laird (1988) Mary McNamara (Bruce, 1973) Beverley Smith (1969) Joe Su (2012) Meredith VanStone McNally (2003) Lawrence Wardroper (1977)