



Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association
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Graduating Quiz Team Leaves Big Shoes

By Junlan Li

In our last junior quiz practice today, our juniors were told that they had “big shoes to fill,” as the senior team was graduating. Looking back, I remembered those shoes being really big, and I realized, with a jolt, that we’d grown into them.

In our grade nine year, 2008, our seniors won the “Reach for the Top” Nationals by a hairsbreadth and an air horn, against our traditional rivals, University of Toronto Schools (UTS). Our captain, Patrick Liao, was there in the stands, and I believe (although he’s modest about it) this moment was a driving factor in what pushed him to be one of the most influential trivia players on the Canadian trivia circuit. But Lisgar won, and finally, after being a title-less yet strong academic trivia school, we had our first National title. The cameras flashed, the winners basked, and we, the juniors, cheered.

So we had big shoes to fill. It wasn’t until grade 11 that we realized how big those shoes really were. Coming off a wonderfully exhilarating Ontario Quizbowl Championship win, we fell flat on our faces at Ontario’s “Reach for the Top” Provincial tournament.

Twelfth place. Lisgar hadn’t finished outside the top ten in the decade



WHIZ QUIZ CHAMPIONS: Students Stuart Macdonald, Patrick Liao, Junlan Li, Joe Su, and Will Sanna show trophies. Teacher Ruth Crabtree stands behind.

since the revival of the school’s “Reach for the Top” team. It was a bitter pill to swallow and I felt like we let down our teammates, our club, and our school. One of my teachers asked me what I was doing back so early. I couldn’t answer.

In our last year, we were determined to make it count. We took every chance we could to play tournaments. We hosted tournaments like the Fall Novice, for our juniors. We even wrote our own tournaments, writing a “Reach for the Top” style tournament, and played at places like the University of Toronto, the University of Washington, and the University of Delaware. We played and hosted Trivia Nights. And we learned, we practiced, and we won.

We started off the school year by

becoming International Champions on WPBS’s “WhizQuiz” competition, by a fairly large margin. This year, we took first and most seconds at all the Ottawa tournaments, except for our own house-run “Reach for the Top” tournament, where the National Champions from New Brunswick came to play. It was pretty close though; we still came second, even without our senior players, who wrote the tournament.

And then we had to make a choice. The Canadian National “Reach for the Top” championship, or the much bigger American High School National Championship Tournament? For one thing, they fell on the same day. For another, going to both would have cost us each over \$2500. Plus it would mean having to choose between the

two formats: “Reach for the Top” is less academically demanding, more adrenaline driven, and much more controversial than its American counterpart, which most players enjoyed more. Still, Patrick, Alex Rochon, Joe Su, Weikai Chen, and I chose the Canadian championship, while Harry Rusnock, Stuart Macdonald, Will Sanna, and Geoffrey Song chose the American tournament in Atlanta. They did well, as the perennially only Canadian team, contending with fairly heavy American content, missing the playoffs by a heartbreaker and a slow reader.

We did well at the city tournament, winning the Ottawa title for the eighth time in recent years. At Provincials, we

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Your Alumni Association Needs You!

We continue to look for a new **Treasurer** to manage the finances of the Association and a new **Newsletter Editor** to lead the production of *Alere Flammam*. If you are interested in either of these roles, or would like to get involved with the Alumni Association in another capacity big or small, please contact us at alumni@lisgar.net or (866) 236-1450.

Members' Forum

Jim Kekanovich (1952) wrote: What a surprise to see the photo of the 1950 junior hockey team in the Fall 2010 issue, and myself in the second row. I remember all of the faces (61 years ago), and fondly recall those happy and carefree times. Although I continued to play many sports, hockey was one of my favourite and was engendered in my youth by playing hours and hours on the outdoor rinks in Ottawa's Lowertown. I even recall clearing a patch of ice on the Rideau Canal well before it became the skating venue it now is. I went on to a degree in Forestry from the University of Toronto and spent most of my career at Natural Resources in northern Ontario. I should also mention that I have been a library board member for the Municipality of Grey Highlands for the last 10 years and undoubtedly this participation is due in no small part to the influence of Lisgar. Your alumni newsletter is great.

Hugh Acheson (1990) is a chef and owns three restaurants in Athens, Georgia. This spring, he competed on the reality television program "Top Chef Masters," winning \$15,000 for the charity of his choice,



LISGAR'S TOP CHEF: Hugh Acheson (1990).

Wholesome Wave. The organization supports increased production and access to healthy, fresh, and affordable locally grown food, especially in historically excluded urban and rural communities.

One of Hugh's more unusual creations on the show was for the "bug" challenge, during which he prepared tempura crickets with a carrot puree. The crickets narrowly won out over a sunchoke salad with beetle vinaigrette.

Hugh has a cookbook in the works, which we imagine will not include cricket recipes. It will be entitled A New Turn of the South.

Lucy Poaps (Connelly, 1947) wrote: I have just come across an old copy of *Alere Flammam* and realized it has been a long time since I received one. Very likely I neglected to notify you of our updated address. Did you think I had died?! [Editor's note: Please

In Memoriam

EAL, E. Ruth (Todd, 1946) died on July 13, 2009. Life member.

BOWLEY, Kathleen (Barclay, 1939) died on November 16, 2010. From 1942 to 1945 she served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, and was the only "WREN" to be awarded the France and Germany Star. After graduation from Queen's University she worked for the Royal Commission on the Arts, Letters and Sciences headed by Vincent Massey.

CAMERON, Claire (Ritchie, 1950) died on April 22, 2011. She played basketball and volleyball at Lisgar and began her habit there of forming life-long friendships.

CREED, Sheila (Bowser, 1942) died on April 14, 2010.

DUNLOP, James (Jim, 1950) died on November 18, 2010 in Oakville.

GREEN, Thomas (1950) died on March 27, 2010. Life member.

HALLIDAY, Dr. Bruce (1944) died on January 1, 2011. He completed his high school education with two years at Lisgar, where he played on the senior hockey team before entering Medicine at the University of Toronto. He practiced family medicine for 22 years and then became the Member of Parliament for Oxford, serving from 1974 to 1993. An advocate for the disabled, he is credited with the introduction of sloped sidewalks at intersections for wheelchair access. He received a commendation from the President of the United States when the idea was adopted in many states.

HAYWARD, Marjorie (Swerdfager, 1958) passed away on February 3, 2011. After being Head Girl at Lisgar, she attended Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. She taught English as a second language at Algonquin College for over 20 years.

HOOD, Helen (1943) died on December 7, 2010. She graduated from McGill with a B.Sc. and became Director of Nutrition at the Toronto

General Hospital and served as President of the Canadian Dietetic Association. In 1977 she received the Queen's Medal.

HOPPER, E. Peter (1947) died on October 31, 2010. Life member.

KUJALA, Andrea (nee Vickers, teacher 1976-1991) died April 12, 2011. She taught business subjects at Lisgar, and also taught at Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hillcrest. A forthright person, Andrea was a faithful and forceful presence at the weekly breakfast of former Lisgar women teachers. She was an avid reader and lover of music, having served as business manager of the Strings of St. John. Andrea was also a regular volunteer at St. Patrick's home where she provided palliative care and accompanied the elders in song at weekly Saturday gatherings.

PERRIN, Douglas (1950) died February 20, 2011. Life member.

RUDDY, Helen (Hanson, 1941/2) died on December 28, 2010.

SAUNDERS, Sam (teacher 1974-1989) passed away on March 28, 2011. He had a thirty-five year career as a devoted teacher, and will be remembered for his gregarious and enthusiastic nature. At Lisgar, he oversaw numerous art shows and the creation of snow sculptures on the canal for Winterlude. More recently, he organized an alumni art show during the 160th anniversary of the school.

STEWART, Mary Irene (St. Germaine, 1939)

TORONTOW, Cyril (1939)

WHITTLE, Brian (1944) died on December 7, 2010. After graduating from Lisgar, he joined the Army and was involved with infantry training during the latter part of WWII. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in English and moved to Pembroke where he was a reporter with the Ottawa Journal. He then moved to Ottawa to work for the National Energy Board. Life Member. ■

remember to advise us of any change in address!

John Dunfield (1937) wrote that he

enjoyed the latest issue of Alere Flammam as it featured classmate Raoul Jenner: In my retirement, I have written a number of books on the

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forestry/lumbering era in the Ottawa Valley (1800-2000) and wondered if you would like one or two for the library?

Robert Maudsley wrote: When I get a chance when I am in Ottawa on business, I enjoy meeting with former classmates from 1956-57 Alan Ross, Bob McAskin, Dave Ivison, Hugh Hiscox, AJ Quarrington, Bob Short and Bob Hopwood.

Ann Aller (Marsh, 1947) wrote to tell us that her granddaughter Kiersten Aller is currently enrolled in grade ten at Lisgar.

David Pinbey (1955) sent in contact information for Bob Walker—one of the Alumni we were trying to contact. Thanks David!

Larry Wade (teacher 1962-1992) wrote: I have been reading the Fall 2010 issue and was struck by the lead article, "Lisgar Math Class Takes Step into Future." I was particularly impressed with the success of math teacher Mr. Robert Tang's students, who use the iPod Touch and have enjoyed great success in so doing. And I can well imagine that in the future such technology will be indispensable for maths students, as will other technology for other subjects.

My concern has to do with the maintenance of the Gifted program at Lisgar. I could not believe the sentence "Mr. Tang shares his goal of seeking Principal McMahon's agreement next year to ask that students have an iPod Touch if they plan to attend Lisgar." That is called a means test. That smacks of elitism of the financial kind. I can only hope that that suggestion is never seriously considered at Lisgar, or for that matter in any publicly supported school. It has not always been easy but nevertheless possible to fend off criticism of Lisgar's special programs to accommodate the specially talented and motivated for what we all felt were obvious reasons. But to allow a means test to govern entrance to the school is quite another criterion, and not one

the public should ever be presented with. It is simply wrong.

I can think of no easier way to alienate the public and therefore the trustees who govern the purse, than to suggest the above. Since back in the days of the forerunner of both Gifted and Enriched courses, Lisgar has been able to deflect the constant criticism that the school was elite. And with good reason. It has not always been easy but nevertheless possible to fend off criticism of Lisgar's special programs to accommodate the specially talented and motivated for what we all felt were obvious reasons.

Yes, students are required to buy books and pencils and lots of other things that I probably have no idea of these days, having left public teaching so long ago. And sadly, schools are constantly under pressure to supplement tax support with fund raising

schemes. And that is also wrong. But it is the requirement of all schools, not just Lisgar. A \$365 outlay is quite a different matter.

[Editor's note: We thank Mr. Wade for raising these important issues. Like other public school administrations, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is studying how best to support learning by incorporating technologies as fairly and effectively as possible. The Board is considering guidelines based on a consultation process, and the Ontario Ministry of Education is also reviewing the issue. A key question under consideration is how students in financial need could be supported if a jurisdiction were to require students to have wireless devices.]

Mary Tsai-Davies (1985), Reena

Belford (1989) and Simon Keeble (2000) recently performed in GLEEbe The Musical at the Glebe Community Center.

Kathleen Whittle wrote to share some information and newspaper clippings of her father Brian (1944) who recently passed away: My father was very proud of his attendance at Lisgar, so I was wondering if the enclosed information would be of interest to Alere Flammam. If you do decide to publish any of this, could you please send a copy to my mother Evelyn?

[Editor's note: See newspaper clipping below.]

Dorothy Shannon (Harvey, 1948) wrote: I meet people in Victoria, BC who attended Lisgar in the 1940's and speak so fondly of Lisgar. ■



THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHT: A group of fourteen Lisgar students enlisting in the armed forces are featured in a 1944 *Evening Citizen* clipping.

From the Lisgar Archives: Notes from “Down Below”

From Joy Heft

Two books of interest have been added to the collection of books by Lisgar authors currently housed in the Lisgar library. The first, by Joan Windle Barnes, entitled *My Father's People*, is the story of a British home child, a look into the roots of an Eastern Township Family. Joan wrote the book in response to “an urgency to record details of the simple, pioneer life and to write down the information she is privy to.” Joan currently lives in British Columbia. Thank you, Joan, for your donation.

A second book, entitled *Personal Reflections of Ottawa Past*, was received from Hugh McCord as a result of a query Hugh had regarding former Lisgarites with whom he wished to get in touch to notify about a forthcoming event. During the call, Hugh spoke of his book and I encouraged him to donate one to the school, not knowing he was not an alumnus. He graciously donated two of the books, which chronicle many sites and phenomena of his earlier years, including pictorial renderings of such majestic buildings as the Imperial Theatre. Hugh was a student at Ottawa

Tech but had many friends at Lisgar. He was a member of the then-popular Deltones, and thanks to his generosity may now be considered a Friend of

Lisgar. Hugh was trying to contact Frances Grimes, Barbara Horton, Ron Stewart and Joe Scanlon. We were able to provide information for only the last

of these, and welcome your help.

The answer to last newsletter's trivia question regarding the personalities represented over the door of the school is Beethoven (composer), Galileo (astronomer), and Fermat (mathematician), a good representation of disciplines to conform with the school's attention to arts and academics. The athletics are represented on the Athletic Wall of Fame. ■



TRIVIA ANSWER: The three stained glass windows placed prominently over the school's main doors contain portraits of Beethoven, Galileo, and Fermat.

Quiz Team (continued)

lost to the first seed by ten points, but we ended up in the semi finals, in a game against our old rivals, UTS. This time it was Lisgar that lost by ten points, but during the game the judges did not accept our answer of “De La Salle,” instead, only accepting “La Salle” for the French Canadian explorer. We challenged this after the game, which resulted in our team being invited to the National Finals in Toronto.

We went, of course. It was fun playing teams from all over Canada, meeting new people, upping the ante of the competition. We played well in the round-robin, all the way up to the semi-finals in Wonderland, against the Ontario Provincial Champions, a team we'd never lost to before. Well, there's

a first time for everything. We ended up third overall (while UTS came fourth).

Capping off the year in Chicago, again as the only non-American team, we finished with a very respectable 28th place in another, more difficult American tournament. Retirement loomed, but not before Lisgar went to the University of Guelph and successfully defended its Ontario Quizbowl Championship with panache. Our juniors even came fourth, winning against some of the top teams in the country. The Captain's tie was passed, the buzzers wrapped up, and the schoolwork backlog was addressed.

Looking back, I'm proud of my High School Quiz Career even if we came short of Lisgar's 2008 performance. I've played some of the best;

I've played with the best. And even if I'm now “one of the guys” (there aren't very many female players), even if my parents are complaining about my trivia bill, and even if I'm still working through a backlog of assignments for my very understanding teachers, I wouldn't ever give up my teammates, my wonderful coach, and my entire competitive Trivia experience.

[Editor's note: Teacher advisor Ruth Crabtree recently received an Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Award of Excellence for her dedication to Lisgar's “Reach for the Top” team, which she has been working with for more than ten years, and for her many other pursuits in support of her students and the teaching profession.]

Besides supporting the quiz team, she works with the school's environmental action club, which invites guests speakers and holds vegetarian lunches and other activities. Her environmentalism has extended to the staff as well, with her having brought worm composting to the Lisgar staff room. She also works with the girls hockey team.

Respected not only by her students, she is admired by her teaching colleagues for her leadership as Chair of the school board's Social Sciences Subject Council, a role she has been in since the 1990s, and for her coaching and mentoring of young and student teachers.

She almost missed the award ceremony because of the schedule of quiz finals. ■

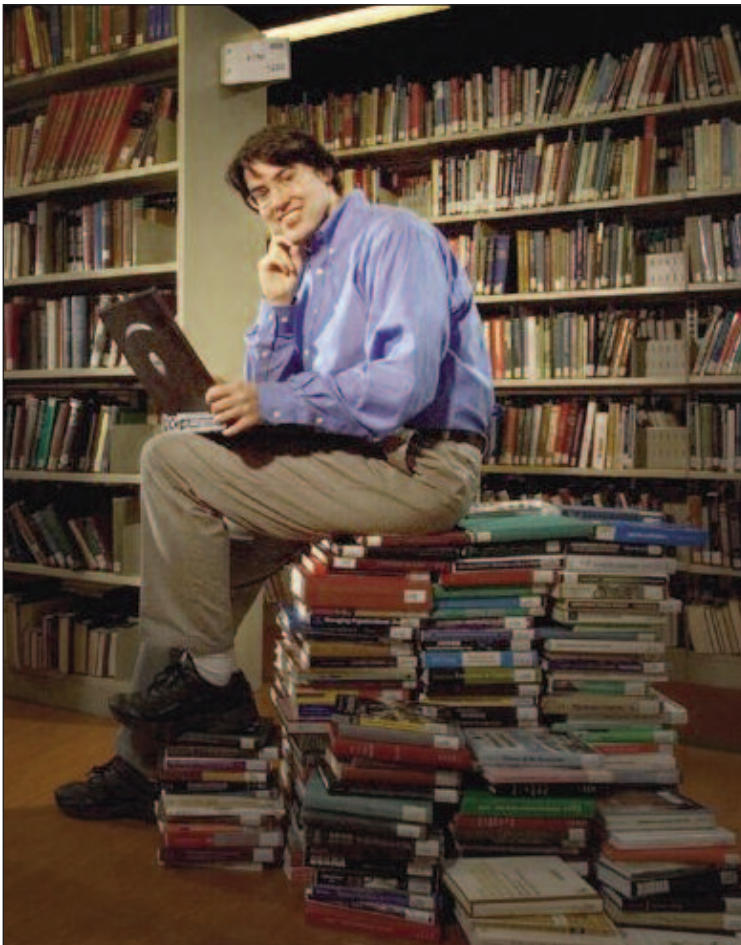
Lisgar's Wikipedian

Most journalists are considered seasoned when they have at least five hundred published articles under their belt—so what would they call Simon Pulsifer (2000)? Through the user-generated online encyclopedia Wikipedia, Simon has created over 3,000 new articles, updated over 100,000 articles already in existence, and been profiled by *Time* magazine for his work. Having graduated a little over ten years ago (2000), Simon's success may seem far away in comparison to the distance between Lisgar's North and South buildings, but Simon's road to success started in the very same classrooms that current students occupy today.

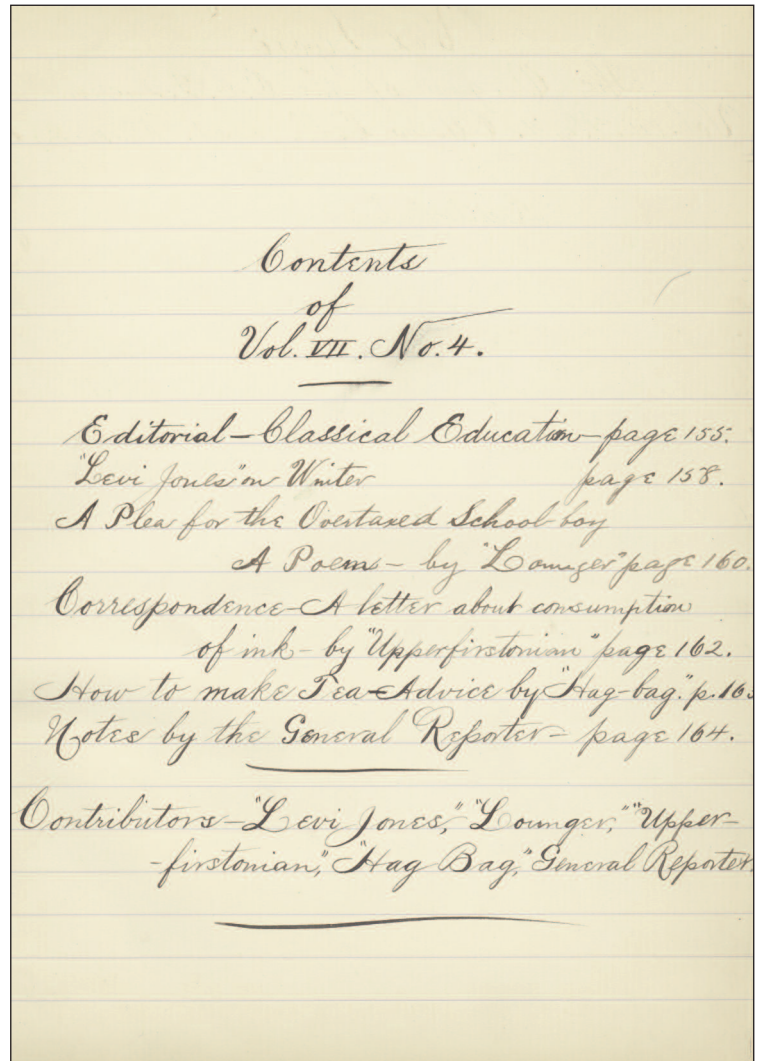
Simon is currently living in Toronto, working for Quillsoft, a rising software company that designs writing software for students with disabilities. Simon's community involve-

ment includes local politics—he is currently the List Manager for New Democratic Party Member of Parliament Olivia Chow. As List Manager, he tracks voting preferences, donations, and turnout within the riding to help boost campaign efforts.

Simon admits that, as a student at Lisgar, he was not at the top of his class, but the challenging environment helped to better prepare him for university than some of his classmates. Simon noticed that many of his classmates who came from non-competitive high school environments struggled with the additional pressure and expectations that he had grown accustomed to at Lisgar. Does Simon have any words of advice for the 2011 graduating class? It may be a struggle, but it is worthwhile: "always try to keep one eye on the bigger picture." ■



100,000 WIKIPEDIA ARTICLES UPDATED: Simon Pulsifer (2000) is a well-known figure on the site.



HAND-WRITTEN VOX: The school's archives contain hand-written *Vox Lycei* issues from the 1880s. Your Alumni Association would like to make them available online, with searchable text, but needs volunteers to help with the transcription. Write to us at alumni@lisgar.net if you would like to help!

Alumni Executive Transitions

After seven years as Treasurer of the Alumni Association, Marie Fraser (1984) is stepping down. Marie is a very busy professional, and the Association has indeed been fortunate to benefit from her energy and experience over the years.

A partner at Hendry Warren LLP, Marie is a Chartered Accountant and Certified Financial Planner. She is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, and the Canadian Institute of Financial Planners. Marie is Past Chair of the Canadian Theatre Festival Society, which produces the annual "Magnetic North" Canadian theatre festival, and

volunteers with several other Ottawa-based not-for-profit organizations and charities. She was selected as a 2008 finalist for the Businesswoman of the Year award of the Women's Business Network of Ottawa.

Marie leaves big shoes to fill, but we trust that another alumnus will step up to take on the important role. The commitment is only a few hours each month, in addition to participation at our monthly executive meetings. If you think you might be interested, please contact us at alumni@lisgar.net or (866) 236-1450.

We are also seeking a Newsletter Editor for *Alere Flammam*, and look forward to hearing from volunteers! ■



GIFT OF LISGAR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: Shiny blue bicycle racks have begun to replace the old bent and broken ones thanks to the donations of alumni.

New Bicycle Racks From Alumni

The Alumni Association has been pleased to contribute to Lisgar's physical plant in ways large and small over the years. This year, we have responded to a school request to assist with a much-needed upgrade of the school's bicycle racks. So far, four sturdy new racks have been purchased for the use of students, staff, and community members (including alumni!) who bike to Lisgar. With your continued support, we hope to be able to

add additional racks in coming years. According to Principal McMahon, an estimated 20% of students and staff bike to school during the warmer months of the year. With more and better bike parking, that number could increase.

More generally, Lisgar Alumni were very supportive last year, making donations of just over \$6,500. Some of this money was directed to specific areas such as the music program and library, and some of it has been allocated to other worthy projects and activities. We really appreciate all of your donations as they have a huge impact on student life as well as the well-being of the school as a whole.

Your donations are tax deductible as they are made through the Lisgar Fund, which has charitable status. Since its inception in 1984, around the time of the school's 140th anniversary, a small cadre of former and current teachers, alumni, and parents have served as Trustees of the Fund. Over the years, donations channeled

by alumni through the Fund have provided such diverse items as the electronic scoreboard in the gymnasium, a SmartBoard™ for the Languages Department, and scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. The donations to the Friends of Lisgar Campaign, organized for the 160th reunion and managed through the Fund, facilitated the recent refurbishing of the auditorium, which included refreshing the painting and plasterwork and upgrading the sound system.

Times change even at Lisgar, and there is now consideration being given to a merger of the Fund and the Alumni Association. Originally, the Fund had significant responsibilities for managing monies that did not relate directly to the Alumni Association, specifically those held for scholarships and bursaries. A decision made by the school board several years ago moved the investment of these assets to the Community Foundation of Ottawa Carleton. While important decisions about the portion

2010 Donors

Patrick B. Anderson (1992)
 Linda Balke (Dewis, 1968)
 Morton Baslaw (1942)
 Paul Bennett (1973)
 Nonie Birmingham (Melville, 1948)
 Irene Broad (Woolford, 1943)
 William Broughton (1953)
 Brian Burke (1974)
 Virginia Byfield (Nairn, 1958)
 Beatrice Campbell (1942)
 Janus Cihlar (1999)
 Jana Clarke (Stepan, 1959)
 Fletcher Cross (1954)
 Joan Doubt (Klass, 1961)
 James Dunlop (1950)
 Katherine Duvall (Antonacopoulos, 1999)
 Ken Eades (1958)
 Eileen Galazka (Chequer, 1940)
 Dr. James Graham (1935)
 Henry Hallett (2003)
 Phyllis-Ann Harvey (Payan, 1959)
 Gordon Henderson (1949)
 Robert Hill (1953)
 William Hines (1965)
 Barry Holt (1950) & Mary Holt (Hart, 1950)
 Paul Hudson (1950)
 Neil Johnstone (1956)
 Douglas Jones (1965)
 Jean Kapur (Mulvie, 1943)
 John Lamont (1974)
 Valerie Leasing (De Laute, 1953)
 Suzanne McCord (Ferguson, 1956)
 Robert McMichael (1976)
 Herb Meincke (1950)
 William Melanson (teacher 1968-1999)
 Barbara Mendel (1980)
 Dr. Keith Mills (1944)
 Alice Nakanishi (1983)
 Frances Nikkel (Masse, 1953)
 Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
 David Paull
 Margaret Pineiro (Isnor, 1952)
 Stephen Saslove (1966)
 Benjamin Shapiro (1941)
 Patricia Stackhouse (Stevens, 1951)
 George Toller (1945)
 Margo Trewin (1960)
 W. Robert Wellwood (1950)
 Donald Whittemore (1945)
 Charlotte Witty (1945)

Life Members

We are delighted to report that 8 alumni have become Life Members since the Fall 2010 issue of *Alere Flammam*. They are:

William J. Broughton (1953)
 Pamela Fines (Sutherland, 1956)
 Jim Kekanovich (1952)
 Paul F. Leslie (1961)
 Catherine Malone (May, 1951)
 Barbara Mendel (1980)
 Joan Spakowski (Hunter, 1952)
 Gillian Wood (McPherson, 1967)

of funds to be used in a given year still remain with the Trustees, the work of the Fund in handling active investments has become easier. As well, coordination of support to the school is likely to be easier working as a single organization. More news this fall! ■