



# Notre Dame High School Alumnae News

## Reunion 2007

The annual reunion will take place on Friday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Notre Dame 12 Malvern Avenue 416-393-5501

### Highlighted years:

- 1947 - 60<sup>th</sup>
- 1957 - 50<sup>th</sup>
- 1967 - 40<sup>th</sup>
- 1977 - 30<sup>th</sup>
- 1987 - 20<sup>th</sup>
- 1997 - 10<sup>th</sup>

We look forward to seeing you!

## Notre Dame Celebrates 65 Years!

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. It's even harder to believe that it seemed like yesterday when we celebrated the school's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recently in October of 2006, Notre Dame High School celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Just imagine all of those young women that were fortunate enough to have experienced Notre Dame's traditions and to have been part of Notre Dame history. These are the women who helped to shape Notre Dame into the wonderful community that continues to exist today.

When the class of 2006 recently walked down the aisle to receive their diplomas and move into the next phase of their lives, the moment provided me with a convenient opportunity to reflect on Notre Dame High School in general and what a unique place it is not only in terms of what it represents but what it offers students. For me, like many of these new alumnae, it only seems like yesterday when I first started my own journey at Notre Dame High School.

Notre Dame has a remarkable track record of educating young women to do "good work" – work that is both necessary and exceptional if it is going to allow every student the opportunity to make a difference in the world. Notre Dame continues to be about values and developing a sense of who you are in every facet of your life in the school: the classroom, athletics, spirituality and extracurricular activities.

The tradition of Notre Dame continues today because of the strong support, commitment, and involvement of the Notre Dame community. This is evident by your participation at events such as the annual Notre Dame Reunion. Many old and new faces continue to come and go at this event. I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all the teachers and students who continue to keep our alumnae alive by attending this annual event. We look forward to seeing the alumnae continue to grow in the future.

Bonnie Riggs Gibbs('71)  
Alumnae President

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### Keep Us Informed!

Are you moving? Have you recently graduated, won an award, married, become a parent or grandparent? Let us know and we will print your news in the next issue of the Alumnae Newsletter. Please be sure to include your year.

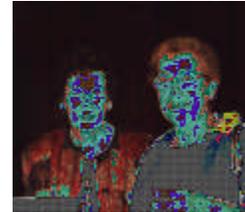
### Get Involved in Your Alumnae Association!

Be a vital part of the process that helps keep the Alumnae and school connected by becoming a Class Chair. Keep in touch with your year mates and pass along photos and stories to share with all of us. To become a class chair contact:  
Bonnie Gibbs (416) 757-8733



# Pictures from the Annual Reunion

## April 18, 2006



Winners of the raffle



Class of '86



Class of '71



Class of '65



Class of '56



Three Generations at Dame

## A fond farewell to ...

### Jane Poliwka

Jane Poliwka has worn many hats since she started teaching at Notre Dame in the fall of 1975. She has taught physical education, mathematics, English and for the past 15 years or more, she has been a helpful, organized librarian. She has assisted countless students in locating research material and has established the Academy of Reading to motivate students to enjoy reading. This has contributed to our 96% success rate in the most recent EQAO literacy assessment. In addition to all this, Jane has relentlessly worked on countless extra-curricular activities: she has coached many teams, she has organized numerous academic awards' assemblies, she coordinated several memorable March break trips to Greece, Egypt, Spain, Italy, France and England. As Jane closes this chapter in the book of life, we extend our best wishes to her for a blessed, fulfilling retirement.



### Gloria Baranowsky

Gloria Baranowsky has touched the souls of staff and students alike. Her special personality does not go unnoticed. She has inspired countless budding artists to great heights. Her students have been recognized for their outstanding achievements and for their creative talents. Christmas card publications, Remembrance Day posters, participation in art exhibits, Intacit Understanding, coordinating the school yearbook for many years, organizing March break trips to Greece, Egypt, Spain, Italy, France and England, moderating the successful Art Club and coordinating staff social events are some of Gloria's many contributions that have enriched our school community. We will miss Gloria's generosity, her helpful spirit, her incredible personality and her cheerful smile. May God bless Gloria as she starts this new phase of her life.



### Class of '47 - Celebrates Sixtieth Anniversary!

The Class of '47 celebrated their 60th Reunion in the spring of 2007 at Qsiss Place

**Attending the reunion, but not in any order, were**

Geraldine (Burns) Gravell, Helen (Casey) Thomas, Doreen (Killeavy) Dick,  
 Florence (Hickling) Swire, Jeanne (Leonard) Seymour,  
 Hannah (McQueen) Keenan, Patricia (Morin) Legge,  
 Kay (O'Brien) Barbetta, Marie (Runnels) Doherty,  
 Norine (Sheehan) Devine, Elizabeth (Sherbourne) O'Hara  
 Sr. Meagher (Sr. St. Anne of the Angels)



## Notre Dame: Literacy Report Card

Notre Dame has been receiving stellar results in terms of its standings for the provincial standardized testing. The school was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in Ontario according to the Fraser Institute, a huge leap forward considering it was 133<sup>rd</sup> five years ago. The math scores of Grade 9 students increased, and of students taking the literacy test for the first time, 92.1% passed last year as compared to only 61.6% in 2002.

A large contributing factor to this success has been the promotion of extra-curricular activities by faculty and staff. Participation in extracurricular activities have helped the girls do better in school by allowing them to feel comfortable and spend time with their friends. The girls who are involved in teams or clubs are more likely to stay after school for academic programs as well, such as the after school literacy group, which was well-attended last year. Furthermore, the teachers strive to make learning fun for the girls by using original methods, such as Barbie bungee jumping, designed to make equations fun.

This combination of hard work and innovative teaching techniques has certainly been paying off, as the school is steadily rising through the ranks.

### Congratulations to this year's winners of the Alumnae Graduation Awards.

**Shuraya Akhter** – Notre Dame Alumnae Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys Award in Family Studies.

**Jessica Da Silva** – Notre Dame Alumnae Award for Personal Achievement

## Responding to An Invitation to Associate Relationship

Midlife is a call to deepen! My midlife journey has taken me deeper than I ever dreamed I would go. The insights, values and beliefs that I sought and developed during my Notre Dame years, and have been part of me for years afterward, now beg for my attention once again. This is not, however, an easy journey, and not one that can be done alone; it requires the support of a larger community.

Being an Associate with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame (CND) allows me to come together with other Associates, as well as Sisters, in times of prayer, celebration and spiritual enrichment so that we can support and affirm each other's faith and gifts. We are then, better able to go out in our own everyday lives and live out not only this relationship, but also our own personal call. In so doing, we take on our share of the responsibility to spread the Good News of a God of Love.

Simply put, we are laywomen and men, from all walks of life, who feel not only a need, but also a call to a committed spiritual life that runs parallel to that of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. We share a general desire to be part of this CND community: to share spirituality with them, to share meaning with them, to share ministry with them, to share prayer with them, and to share Mary's Visitation/Pentecost Spirituality, as well as St. Marguerite Bourgeoys's charisma and legacy with them. We are not part of a church group or a social club, but we are "in relationship" with each other, and with the Sisters. Therefore, Associate Relationship not only provided us with a nurturing faith environment, but it is also a vehicle for us to respond to God. In this way we live out more fully our fundamental, Christian, baptismal commitment.

If you feel that you too are being called to "come and see", please contact me at 416-419-4055 for more information about CND Associate Relationship.

Karen Volpe '79.





# ALUMNAE NEWS: Where are they now?

## THE FORTIES

**Rita (Farrell) Cresswell (1947)** worked for a trust company for fourteen years. She has raised six children and was widowed twelve years ago. Since her retirement, she has been enjoying her eight grandchildren.

**Kay (O'Brien) Barbetta (1947)** did secretarial work for a living. She has four daughters (three of which are graduates of ND) and eight grandchildren. Her eldest daughter is a professor at UofT, one teaches nursing at George Brown and two are teachers. She was widowed ten years ago. She enjoys golfing and tai chi.

**Patricia (Morin) Legge (1947)** did secretarial work after graduating. She raised four children, two daughters and two sons. One of her sons is married and one is a priest. She has one grandchild. She was recently widowed. She now enjoys bowling.

## THE FIFTIES

**Marie (Shelbourne) Foley (1954)** entered the order of the Good Shepherd in Halifax, Nova Scotia after leaving Notre Dame and was there for ten years. She later married and has two sons. She now works with street people and is very dedicated to this work.

**Brenda Lang (1956)** has lived in Vancouver and Toronto since graduating from Notre Dame and has been living in Dallas, Texas since 1970. She worked at radio stations in every city in which she lived. One of her big hobbies was fencing. She was then a stay-at-home mom for eighteen years and loved every minute of it, being actively involved with her kids. She then re-entered the workforce, and is now working for an insurance company, which insures small aircraft. Her big hobby now is quilting. She plans to retire in 2008 but will wait until then to make a final decision, but is excited at the possibilities!

**Rose Marie (McElroy) Abdee (1956)** worked as a secretary for IBM after graduating. In 1963 she married Marshall Dorbyshire and they had a daughter (ND grad), twin boys and another son. In 1975 she became a widow. In 1978 she returned to work at IBM. In 2000 she remarried. She is now retired.

**Anne (Goodwin) Stuart (1956)** worked in research administration for the Ontario government. She married and stayed home to raise her daughter for sixteen years. She then went to work as an administrator for a financial institute. She has travelled a lot with her husband. Now she is enjoying her two grandchildren.

**Beverley (Abdee) Harris (1957)** worked for the City of Toronto until she retired. She has two grown children. She now spends six months in Keene, Ontario and six months in Florida.

## THE SIXTIES

**Wendy Noonan (1962)** trained as an x-ray technician after grade 13. She married Rick Noonan in 1967. They moved to Richmond, B.C. in 1970 and raised four children. They now have seven grandchildren and have since retired. They moved to Naramata two years ago, a small community in the heart of Okanagan wine country.

**JoAnn (Munro) Tuskin (1961)** taught mostly Kindergarten with the Toronto Catholic District School Board for 35 years while getting a B.A. and B.Ed. After retirement, she got herself hired with a private International School and taught Kindergarten (in English) in Ankara, Turkey for four years. Jo Ann had a wonderful experience in Turkey and traveled at every opportunity (visited nine other countries and extensively in Turkey). After returning home in 2003, she is now a supply teacher with the TCDSB. Jo Ann has two sons and four grandchildren, a taste for traveling and several hobbies to keep her busy.

**Mary (Bigioni) Powell (1964)** is retired after teaching for thirty-three years for the Catholic School Board. She has a grown daughter, is happily married and living in the country.

**Paula (Foley) Burgener (1964)** taught for twenty years for the Catholic School Board and is now retired. She is married with two daughters. She is enjoying life to the fullest.

**Ann Marie Monahan (1965)** obtained her RN after high school and headed out West. She has had a varied nursing career all over the world, with a focus on older people. For the last twelve years, she did staff education in the nursing homes around Central Vancouver Island and just retired in June. Over the last two years, she and a small group produced a website and teaching DVD on Delirium in the Older Person, which received an International Medical Media Award. She is single and has traveled extensively and now enjoys gardening and relaxing at home in Nanaimo, B.C. with her cat Sam.

**Ann (Dimuantés) Godfryd (1966)** has had a strong connection to the Marguerite Bourgeoys community ever since leaving Notre Dame after grade twelve. Following grade thirteen, Ann did her undergraduate studies at York in English and Philosophy and then her teacher training at the Faculty of Education at U of T. Her first return to ND was as a Practice Teacher and she insists that her experiences with the girls in those classes were foundational to her success teaching high school English. Ann's first teaching assignment was as a founding member of Cardinal Newman Catholic High School in Scarborough. She was responsible for the development of the Resource Centre and over the next years as teacher and librarian played a role in establishing that school. With a brief absence to take care of her

two young sons, Ann was at Newman until 1989 at which time she moved west to join the staff of Neil McNeil. It came as a shock to the Neil boys to find that their new librarian was in the 1966 Neil yearbook as a member of Fr. Flemings' Choir. However, there have always been close ties between Neil and Notre Dame and in the early 1990s the girls and boys shared a number of grade thirteen classes, traveling back and forth along Kingston Rd. Ann was once again connected through these girls. Then in September 1995, Ann was offered the position of Vice Principal at Notre Dame. She jumped at the chance to return and had a wonderful two years before being moved to the northwest where she spent two years as VP at James Cardinal McGuigan. After six years at Jean Vanier, she is now working at Monsignor Fraser College with adult students and continues to enjoy her role as Vice Principal. Presently Ann is still very much part of Marguerite Bourgeoys' community, connected to the CND Sisters through Associate Relationship. In this capacity, Ann continues to work within the charisma which animates the ND spirit. As she prepares for the next phase of her journey she is looking to retirement when she will be able to explore further her CND connections and her personal interests.

**Kay (Rawson) Ainey (1969)** is a mother of four and has two granddaughters. She is an educational assistant at St. John school and a cantor at St. John Church.

### THE SEVENTIES

**Joanne (Genier) Thauberger (1971)** spent twenty years in the Yukon and in rural Alberta setting up a home care system. She worked in small rural hospitals and in Aboriginal hospitals. She then got her nursing degree in Alberta. She is now the assistant director of care at a long term facility in Toronto. She has a son who works in an automotive garage. Her pets include a beagle, two cats and a bird. She enjoys spending time with her cousins, doing crafts.

**Carmel O'Hara (1975)** works as an administrative officer for Service Canada. She enjoys collecting stamps, gardening and travelling. She has pen pals all over the world.

**Vicki (McElcheran) McCrae (1976)** received her BA degree from UofT then from the Ontario College of Art. She and her husband Mike live in Toronto and have raised six children. She is actively involved in St. Brigid parish as choir director. She has been a vocal music teacher for the Toronto Catholic District School board and is now attending OISE.

**Donna McElligott (1976)** has been working with both CBC Radio and Television since 1984. Her work has taken her around the world. She worked in 1987 as the foreign expert for Radio Beijing. Donna reported from Moscow on the changing face of democracy there and on the guerrilla war against Communism in Afghanistan. She also worked as a reporter in Charlottetown, a senior news editor in Inu-

vik, a legislative reporter at Queen's Park, and a parliamentary correspondent in Ottawa. In 1994, Donna was appointed National Reporter for Alberta, based in Calgary. In 1996, she became News Editor for CBC 1010 and went on to co-host the station's morning show, the Calgary Eyeopener. Donna was appointed the host of Wild Rose Country in November 2002, the noon hour show heard on the CBC across Alberta from Monday to Thursday. Now on Fridays, she also turns her attention to politics on Friday Scrum.

### THE EIGHTIES

**Angela (O'Hara) Mutiisa (1982)** works as a payroll accountant for a private company. She has been married for seven years and she enjoys travelling.

**Mary Louise (Derbyshire) Morris (1982)** was married in 1997 to Jim Morris who was the nephew of Mother St. Irene (Sr. Smith). She was widowed in 2002. She has two children and is a project manager for the Royal Bank.

**Kelly (Seyffert) Carpino (1986)** graduated from UofT with an honours BA in Archaeology and went to work in the field for about one year. She then worked for an office furniture company following that for eight years. She took time off after the birth of her first son and was off for about ten years. She now has three boys aged ten, eight and five. She recently got a job with the Halton Catholic School Board as an EA and will be starting in September.

**Angelica (Cortez) Policapio (1989)** completed her B.Sc. in Nursing from Ryerson in 1994. She married a Neil McNeil grad in 1994 and are expecting their fourth child in January, 2008. She is currently working full time as a nurse recruiter for the Hospital for Sick Kids. In her spare time she loves to read and bake.

### THE NINETIES

**Stephanie Milberry (1992)** always makes sure to catch up with a couple of old ND friends on her rare trips back to Toronto and always has a good time reminiscing about their days at the school. She's living in Knoxville, Tennessee now. She and her husband moved there after three years in Oregon, where he was pursuing his PhD in Wood Science. His assistant professorship at the University of Tennessee landed them there a year ago. She is home with their three children, Emerson is seven, Alice Peach is two and Oscar is seven months. She loves being a stay-at-home Mum after six years studying French in France, at UofT and at UNB in Fredericton. (She credits Mme. Corriero with her love of French). She's also a doula, providing support to women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, and enjoys that work as well.

### 2000's

**Lisa Komar (2003)** has completed her honours BA with a double major in international studies and history from Glendon College, York University. She will be going to

Geneva, Switzerland in September to pursue a MA in international studies with a specialization in international history and politics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI).

**Ashley Collins (2003)** is completing her honours BA at U of T in Political Science. Currently working in the political arena and has just co-founded a photography company ([www.acaphoto.com](http://www.acaphoto.com)) with fellow Notre Dame Alumnae, Alexandra Courneya

**Alexandra Couneya (2003)** is in the anthropology program at York. She has also co-founded a photography business with fellow alumni, Ashley Collins ([www.acaphoto.com](http://www.acaphoto.com)).

**Frances Walking (2006)** is in her second year at Ryerson University and is studying journalism.

**Elizabeth Chelsey-Jewell (2006)** is in her second year at U of T, St. Michael's College and is studying English and Religion.

**Alexandra Best (2007)** is attending the Theatre Program at Brock University.

**Jennifer Slorach (2007)** is attending UofT to study genetics

**Natalie Lem (2007)** is attending York U studying History.

**Beverley Hestick (2007)** is studying at UofT.

**Lisa Dengler (2007)** is studying architecture at the University of Waterloo.

**Elizabeth Chapman (2007)** is studying kinesiology at Brock University.

**Jayne Westcott (2007)** is attending Algonquin College in Ottawa and is in the Photography Program.

**Mila Komar (2007)** is pursuing a career in Interior Design at Ryerson University.

## Notre Dame High School

Invites

The Women of the TCDSB Community to a

### Girls Night Out

A Health and Wellness Event for Women

on

**November 9th , 2007**

6:30 - 9:30 pm

followed by a Slumber Party for Students

Featuring:

Empowering Communication Skills  
through creative interactive improvisation

presented by

### Second City Education Company

Cost is \$5.00 per person

The evening offerings will include:

*Health and Wellness Workshops*

*Community Resource Booths*

*Karaoke Door Prizes Raffle Tickets*

*Food and Refreshments offered in the Cafe*

All proceeds support

**The Notre Dame High School Student Nutrition Program**

Donations for the raffle and door prizes would be appreciated.

For further information please contact:

Ms. Theresa Riley @ 416 393-5501

or e-mail: [theresa.riley@tcdsb.org](mailto:theresa.riley@tcdsb.org)

## We Remember...

The Notre Dame family has lost several women who throughout the course of their lives exemplified the best of what Notre Dame taught

**Sr. Kathleen Daley**, former librarian at Notre Dame, died in 2006.

**Sr. Fortune** died in Kingston, Ontario on April 20, 2007. She was 87 years old.

**Sr. Evelyn Beerepoot**, former librarian at Notre Dame, died in Kingston, Ontario on June 29, 2007.

**Frank Crupi**, father of **Luciana Crupi ('76)** died April 5, 2007.

**Margaret Doherty nee Emmett ('78)** died October 20, 2006 of cancer.

**Patricia Legge nee Morin ('47)** – whose husband, Jack, died in May 2007.





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M4E 3R5

### Alumnae Executive

Bonnie Riggs Gibbs (1971)  
Doris Cecchini (1974)  
Lorraine Treacy (1979)  
Eileen Power CND (1961)  
Virginia Emerson (1965)  
Georgina Farrell Chapman (1965)  
Bernadette Farrell (1975)  
Angela Farrell (1975)  
Barb Jones Storey (1965)  
Mary Ellen Creamer (1972)  
Louise Shrubsole (1972)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Send cheque for \$15.00  
made payable to:  
**N.D. Alumnae Assoc.**  
to  
**Bonnie Gibbs**  
78 Parkview Hill Cr.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4B 1R2  
(416) 757-8733

Please include your  
name, maiden name,  
address, phone,  
year of graduation,  
and your occupation

## Noteworthy:

### Congratulations:

Congratulations to **Virginia Emerson ('64)** on her recent engagement in July 2007.

### In Our Prayers:

Your continued prayers are requested for **Christina Calayca ('04)** who went missing in the northern Ontario bush in August 2007. We pray that Christina is found safe and we pray for her family, that God gives them strength during this difficult time.

The Sisters of the CND Community & All Alumnae



### We Believe...

Our prayers and support have  
the power to help our community to  
heal and find comfort.

## Our Christmas Basket tradition lives on ...

In an effort to continue supporting our current students a group of retired teachers make their own donation each December. Olha Zelenyj initiated this project, which is generously supported by the whole group.

If you would like to be a part of this Christmas project, your non-perishable food items would be gladly accepted at the school in early December.

### our \$15 membership covers:

- Newsletter
- Memorial mass
- Annual reunion
- Graduation awards and reception
- Flowers for CND sisters (Christmas, Easter, special occasions)

Memorial Mass for  
our Deceased Alumnae  
9:00 AM Saturday, November 17, 2007  
St. John Church  
794 Kingston Road  
Toronto, Ontario