



Canadian Association of Sacred Heart Alumnae

December 2006 Edition

President's Report 2006

First may I wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas and many graces in the New Year. I want to thank my executive for their support and ensure you that CASHA is alive and well because of the commitment of wonderful Sacred Heart Alumnae.

From my communication with every Chapter it is apparent that each is busy and holding very successful meetings and events to help keep us connected. Montreal had a very busy and well attended Homecoming weekend in October, Vancouver had one of its largest turnouts in recent times in November, Ottawa had a diverse and vibrant gathering this fall, Halifax had a good Alumnae Day in October and a very successful afternoon of reflection in November and a real joy was to hear about a group of Winnipeg gals who searched each other out and had a great reunion this summer in Winnipeg after many, many years of no contact. The spirit of Saint Madeleine Sophie and Saint Phillipine Duchesne lives on.

The international AMASC executive has confirmed the dates for the next conference which will be April 8 – 11, 2010 in Malta. I encourage all to stay connected with AMASC through the website <http://www.amasc-sacrecoeur.org> which has detailed information about the association and

wonderful information to stay true to our Sacred Heart roots. As you are likely aware the theme of the 2010 conference is: **Fight Poverty - Share Care Love**. In order to direct us through the theme a number of reflections are suggested and thoughtful and thought provoking readings are available on the website for personal review or group use. This will continue as we move toward the conference.

CASHA has been in existence since 1986 and to my knowledge has never had a national conference. Occasional executive meetings have brought faces and voices together from across the country. In order to solidify the unique connection we have and to try to provide an exciting exchange to allow as many as possible to share in this special bond we are planning a CASHA Conference in Halifax October 19, 20 and 21 2007. Planning is getting underway but please mark your calendars and see if you might be able to travel to Halifax to share in what we hope will be a truly national event. I am very pleased to announce that Sister Clare Pratt, Superior General of the Society of the Sacred Heart will be in attendance at the conference. Sister Mary Finlayson, Provincial for Canada and the heads of the schools Patricia Donnelly and Elaine Brooks are lending their full support. Please stay tuned as plans and conference details emerge.

Sheila Donahoe

President

Sea to Sea and in-between

From Vancouver Airlie writes

Instead of the usual 30-40 attendees 52 people appeared. Somehow the lovely Brunch, provided by Patrick Maguire and his staff, did the magic "loaves and fishes style" and everyone got something.

Our friends from the Seattle area came from Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bellevue. Sr. Mary B. Flaherty gave us a wonderful talk about the beautiful new chapel and senior building as well as a lovely story about two little children who are directly related to those who welcomed St. Philippine to Louisiana in 1818.

Terry Goulet '52 Wpg/Pt. Grey introduced us to her new book on "The Metis". Sandy Walton '68 showed her lovely article in the Legionmagazine.com ; a touching story about her Grandfather.

Fiona Walsh gave a wonderful presentation of her summer in Uganda at our Sacred Heart School (Kyamusansala) The gorgeous gym bags sewn by the Ugandan children out of spectacular Ugandan material were all snapped up as were the gorgeous baskets made of banana leaves by a family Fiona met . We were all touched by the experience. Fiona made her summer come to life so beautifully.

Our Moderator, Margaret Connolly,rscj , came all the way from Halifax thanks to her darling nephew, Mike, who lent her his Airline points. We also heard from our new Provincial, Sr. Mary Finlayson,rscj that "the Provincial Council would like to support the Vancouver alumnae by sending Margaret to participate in the fall and spring Vancouver alumnae meetings each year." The applause at the meeting was deafening !! Margaret spoke about the lovely AMASC WEB SITE Mater Reflection of which most had copies. She also provided us with her wonderful

questions to go with the web site reflection. The Annual Christmas Raffle made a large sum for Fr. Abraham's Mission in India www.sasac.net .

Our association's annual donation plus many individual ones brought the current total of donations to Sr. Jo and Uganda to one of our highest in 13 years. (exceeding \$1,000)

From Halifax Cathleen writes: The Halifax Alumnae Association is planning our 85th Anniversary weekend to be held on May 11th and 12th, 2007. The weekend will include a buffet luncheon at which the class of 2007 will be introduced to the Association, as well as class reunions and an "Alumnae Revue" featuring current and past students.

The fund-raising project launched this fall has been very successful. Fleece scarves of various colours bearing the school logo were sold to students and alumnae. The money raised will pay the school fees for our Ugandan AIDS orphan.

We are working with the school's administration to finalize details of the scholarships provided by the bequest of long-time alumna, Margaret Wallace Jarvis. University entrance scholarships will be given to graduating students in memory of the daughters of Thomas and Ada Wallace, Mrs. Jarvis' parents.

The Association is planning to host a holiday party for the nuns at Barat Residence to be held on Sunday, January 7, from 3 to 5 pm. It will be a time of great conversation, food, and entertainment.

From Montreal Regina writes:

Our Alumnae Association hosted our first annual Homecoming Weekend in October. It began with the Memory Book evening for last

year's grads, who returned to the school for their memory books. There was near-perfect attendance, and it was a really touching event. Among this class were several students who now attend Dawson College, scene of the mass shooting the month before, including one who was still recovering from gunshot wounds to her leg. It was an emotional reunion, but a very happy one.

Other events included a gathering of young alums at a downtown restaurant for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on Friday evening, and tours of the school on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon, we had a Harvest Tea for senior alumnae (grads of 50+ years ago.) There were lots of memorabilia and photographs to enjoy. During this event, the RSCJ's were honoured by the Alumnae Association with a presentation of a doll, dressed in the traditional habit. [I am attaching my presentation speech, since they were quite touched by what was said.]

Finally, on Sunday, we hosted a fundraiser at the Centaur Theatre. The play, "Carmela's Table," was absolutely wonderful. Following the play, we all enjoyed a little wine & cheese. It was agreed that this was a terrific event, and one that we are likely to repeat in the near future.

Best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas,

From Ottawa Eleanor writes:

At our Fall Gathering at Margo Duford's, we were happy to welcome Sr, Mary Finlayson, the new Provincial and Sr. Ann Leonard, who traveled from Montreal.

It was gratifying to learn that our Ugandan student, Joyce Naliaka is doing well in her studies to become a Medical Laboratory technologist. It was agreed that once the commitment to Joyce in complete we will ask Sr. Margie Conroy to assign another.

Elizabeth Ripley and Pat Bennett spoke of the project at their parish to sponsor a family recommended by Sr. Margie, to immigrate to Canada.

The annual collect for the Kings Daughters Christmas basket was begun and will be followed up with a letter appeal.

The next reunion will be in May 2007

Save your Christmas Stamps

- This is AMASC's ongoing fundraiser
- Our Spanish Alumnae collect postage stamps and sell them to philatelists.
- Your help in this fundraising activity is appreciated.
- From 2002 to 2006, \$7,050 was collected for AMASC projects.
- Please send stamps to:

**Sister Margaret Connolly rscj,
Barat Residence,
1455 Summer St.,
Halifax, NS
B3H 4L6**

- she will forward to Spain.

Newsletter Content

Let us know what you want to see in the next issue.

bkraffoul@sympatico.ca

NEWS from Sr. Anne Mare Conn our past Provincial)

She writes from Sprout Creek Farm in Poughkeepsie, New York, that after two months since her arrival, she has found it to be a perfect place for a sabbatical.

She has gotten to know the many species of animals, helped birth a 120 pound calf, "Mitch", made cheese and interacted with the many visitors to the FARM including school children from the Sacred Heart Network. There is a marvelous website that you can visit to learn more about the mission and mandate of this wonderful facility.

www.sproutcreekfarm.org

"The Farm is a very peaceful place, but also a very busy place. There is always something to do and bit by bit I have learned something about some of the animals. The autumn has been full of color and wonder and there have been many opportunities to simply take time to enjoy the beauty. The evening skies are magnificent and a mist often hangs over the valley in the early morning. I have take time to paint a bit and have had time to get back into knitting once again. Learning to felt has been fun and I am making lots of my Christmas gifts."

She will be in Halifax for the Christmas holidays and send much love.

AMASC NEWS

Hermine van Asten-Wennekers President of Amasc has worked hard with her executive to develop an action plan.

She met with the Superior General, Sr. Clare Pratt in Rome joined by Claudia Taylor (vice-President) and Gillie Collyer (Secretary General).

She held her first Presidential Team meeting in Bussels , October 6,7 and 8.

She has visited Poiteir for their Bicentenary and has sent Silvia Wollersheim and Claudia Nicolaije to represent her on a visit to Ireland

In March of 2007 Hermine will visit Japan JASH DAY as well as Korea accompanied by Silvia Wollersheim (Director Europe).

MALTA

Claudia Taylor has formed a group in Malta and has begun the planning for the Congress. We shall begin to receive more information as arrangements are made. Stay tuned and mark the dates! April 8th to 10th, 2010

Sr. Clare Pratt sends Christmas greeting of Peace to all. Please see them on the AMASC website:

<http://www.amasc-sacrecoeur.org/>

Claudia Taylor-East has drawn our attention to the '**Global Call to Action Against Poverty**' and below I have included a quote from her email. You can look up more about this movement by putting 'Global Call to Action Against Poverty' into your search engine. Would you be interested in AMASC signing up officially as a participant in this movement? Please let Sheila Donahoe know so that she can advise Hermine by the New Year.

"Here in Malta our Association is part of the National GCAP. There are National Platforms in every country! May I suggest that we explore ways of involving ourselves as AMASC. They are seeking to give more visibility internationally - can we help? Through our website, through our network, through our National Presidents!

'Fight Poverty' needs to become an active issue over the next three years for AMASC - let us not miss this opportunity in being a **Voice for the Poor. 2007 is calling us!"**