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ENTERTAINMENT GALA

Wild Hope, 2015

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

Claudia Isaac in collaboration with Mackenzie Rae and Bethany Snyder
Collection of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Rockway's Art Department, under the leadership of Karen Scott Booth, along with Rockway Administration, has brought back the tradition of creating a piece of art that provides a visual representation of our chapel theme **Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season**. You can see many of these pieces of art hanging in our Assembly Area at the school to this day!

In her address to the student body explaining this initiative, Principal Ann Schultz said "We value in having something aesthetic in our chapel space as an additional way to bring an enhancement to our worship experience. We are reminded that God is already at work in exciting and creative ways, often



L-R, BETHANY SNYDER, CLAUDIA ISAAC, MACKENZIE RAE, KAREN SCOTT BOOTH

beyond our wildest imaginings. During this 21st century, we are putting out the challenge for all to be inspired; to awaken our thoughts and imagination and to live in "wild hope!"



This work is emblematic of the theme **Wild Hope**. A brave and fearless creature, the tiger epitomizes both strength and freedom. Every tiger is made unique by their intricate striping, much like the uniqueness of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. This tiger however is not made up of stripes, rather people. Each figure plays a crucial part in contributing to the overall image. This idea stresses the necessity of community and cooperation. The warm colours evoke a sense of passion and optimism. As a whole, this work provokes a wild hope: hope for ourselves, hope for others, and hope for the greater world.

CLAUDIA ISAAC, 2015

Principal's Message

WILD HOPE: FAITH FOR AN UNKNOWN SEASON

Each year at Rockway, we choose a chapel theme that encourages us to look at various Biblical texts, while also offering opportunity to have our students think critically and be challenged by how they live and the choices they make. This year, we are exploring the idea of **Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season**. As a faith community, we are acknowledging that while our world is full of possibilities, it is also filled with brokenness. The Middle East is in disarray, racial tensions continue in the US, and hunger and poverty continue to be world wide issues. We live in a predominantly secular "Post Modern" culture; there is cynicism and skepticism with regard to Biblically based faith. Many of us are concerned about our world and our church. Where will this take us?

Mennonite Church Canada addressed some of these realities this past summer at the Canadian Conference in Winnipeg where the theme: **Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season** was addressed. Their website states that instead of despairing, we need to claim "a strong sense of hope that this represents a tremendous opportunity to hear God's call anew, and shape a new kind of church for the future."

What does this mean for Mennonite Church Canada? And how does Rockway, a Mennonite Church School, address these challenges?

As you read this issue of Reflections, I also encourage you to read the new stories on our web site from the perspective of seeing Rockway as a place to explore "faith in an unknown season!" See how Rockway students are being given the opportunity to explore new ways of thinking and doing, as they participate in extra-curricular activities, debates, classes, chapels, specifically Spiritual Emphasis Week, our exchanges and the newly developed Sabbath Space. I suspect you will find many tangible examples of how Rockway is equipping its students to explore their faith in this post modern era.

As Rockway alumni, take a moment and reflect on your own experience with us. I would love to hear your stories, of how Rockway has prepared you to live in this unknown season! If you have one to share, contact me at anns@rockway.ca.



**May 2015 bring you peace, joy and
a good dose of wild hope!**

ANN L. SCHULTZ '84 – PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL MEDIA – www.rockway.ca

- **Rockway Web Site:** All Alumni are encouraged to keep checking our website often as we are regularly posting news stories about current and upcoming activities in our NEWS & EVENTS section.
- **Alumni Facebook Page:** Check in on what is happening with your classmates and keep informed about Alumni events and activities. Join the growing group today.
- **Rockway Facebook Page:** Another spot to learn about events and activities beyond what gets posted to our website. We also share information about recruitment and community arts and athletics activities. One of the best ways to stay informed.
- **Twitter:** Be sure to follow us and keep connected to what is going on @RockwayMC
- **Linked-In:** Keep growing and learning with our well connected community of professionals. Search for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Alumni under groups.

CONNECT WITH ROCKWAY...





CONNECTIONS WEEKEND



WOW. What a weekend we had! Thanks to all who attended the many events that made up **Connections Weekend**. It was great to see alumni, retired faculty and staff, former staff and parents, current families and the many supporters that keep Rockway a vibrant learning and faith community.

The **Spaghetti Supper**, in support of the Grade 10 class trip to Quebec City, fed over 300 hungry guests and kicked off the weekend in fine fashion. Even though it was on a Thursday night, the support was affirming and the students and faculty did a great job running the event. Be sure to join us on Friday, October 23rd next fall if you missed it this year. After dinner, a large following headed to the gyms to see our Alumni prove once again that just because high school is over, your athletic career is not! Credit goes to the Rockway Senior Girls for their willingness to come together so quickly and provide for an entertaining evening of volleyball at this year's **Alumni Sports Challenge**.

Saturday morning saw a nice sized group of **retired faculty and staff** plus current administrators gather for breakfast in The Silo. It was great to hear what folks are up to in their post academic careers and to share the many fun-filled memories from their days at Rockway. Several **class reunions** were planned by

alumni as part of the weekend, including the class of 1949 and 1989. Rockway friendships truly stand the test of time!

The **Auction Dinner** on Saturday was a treat for over 100 guests who benefitted from the superb skills of our Food Services staff and Banquet Committee volunteers. Entertainment was provided by a local Jazz trio and vocalist who set the tone for a very classy event.

Our Auction followed the dinner and was a bittersweet night as we say goodbye to the **Auction Extravaganza** and prepare to initiate a new event in the fall of 2015. The turnout was high for the Auction and many folks commented on the ability of the wiener sticks and maple syrup to command good prices over so many years.

Next year's event is a Night of Comedy with **Matt Falk**, a Winnipegger, and promises to be a fun and entertaining evening. Be sure to save the date of October 24th, 2015, for our **Entertainment Gala with Dinner & Auction**. See the back cover for more details.

A big THANK YOU to the many, many, many people who worked hard to make it a very successful Connections Weekend.

SACRED SPACE, HOLY TIME



On Friday, December 13, students in Ms. Bauman's grade 10 Church History course had the unique opportunity of experiencing a prayer labyrinth.

Patricia Horst Wagler, a pastor and trained labyrinth facilitator, led students and staff in exploring the history of the labyrinth as a Christian tool for prayer. She explained the meaning and symbolism of the shape and various features of the labyrinth, and the benefits for many of an active, physical way to pray. She described walking the labyrinth as a way to focus the mind and give insight into one's life and spiritual journey.

She then invited students to walk the labyrinth in silence. While this was a new experience for many students, they respected the silence, took their time and reflected thoughtfully on this experience of active prayer. Some found it a bit weird! Some found it calming, some noticed it helped them find clarity with a problem or decision, and some liked the way they could use their whole body to connect with God.

An open invitation was extended to anyone else who wanted to walk the labyrinth during their spare or at lunch during Friday's Sabbath Space.

Warm thanks are extended to Patricia for helping us to create this sacred space and holy time.

A FAKE PRIZE WITH REAL OPPORTUNITY

Students in Rockway's grade 12 World Issues class traveled to the MCC offices at 50 Kent as the culmination of a month-long development project. Students were challenged to conduct research into the roots and cycles of poverty in a country. Next, they conceived a project that might break those cycles of poverty in a way that was sustainable over the long term and encouraged local and international engagement.

Students wrote proposals for these projects and presented them in a competition for a fictitious \$500,000 grant. In the end, the stakes proved higher than this, however, as Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (MSCU) provided a generous grant to fund a real development project of the winner's choosing.

Having chosen three finalists, the grade 12 class of 23 students traveled with their teacher, Bryan Berg, to the MCC offices in Kitchener. There, a panel of judges heard presentations from finalists **Connor Huxman**, **Eliza Heeney**, and **Colin Rier**. Their proposed projects, respectively, championed micro-credit loans for small businesses in Haiti, the formation and support of fair trade tea cooperatives in Rwanda, and agricultural training, technology, and canning facilities for small farmers in Mauritania.

After listening carefully to the presentations, and asking some probing questions, the judges panel chose **Eliza Heeney** as the winner. While she did win the imaginary \$500,000, she was also awarded the chance to choose a project from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) or the Mennonite Economic Development (MEDA) and \$300 to fund it. The other finalists were also awarded \$50 each for a project of their choosing.

Along with this opportunity to think and dream about poverty reduction and development in our world, students had the chance to learn from the stories and experiences of the judges panel. This included **Allen Reesor-McDowell '99 of MCC**, **Pam Fehr of MSCU**, and **Kara Klassen of MEDA**. All three have traveled, lived, and worked extensively in the countries that the students studied. All three offered inspiring stories and examples for the students to consider as they head towards graduation.

Thanks are extended to **Ben Janzen '97**, Stewardship in Action Advisor at MSCU, for bringing together this amazing opportunity for students.



Food Drive

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!

Many thanks to our incredible Rockway community for your overwhelming support of our annual food drive for House of Friendship Christmas Food Hamper program. This yearly tradition challenges all of us to consider those who need the food bank to make ends meet and provide for their families. Our Student Council takes ownership of this each year and has once again done great work in inspiring the students to work hard and bring in donations of food and money.

We are pleased to share that the equivalent of over 25,000 food items was given to House of Friendship to support their program. Go to www.houseoffriendship.org to see their reports on the Food Drive.



Rockway's Grade 7 & 8 Class
presents

Roald Dahl's
CHARLIE
- AND THE -
CHOCOLATE
FACTORY

Adapted by
Richard R. George

March 5-6,
2015

The Grade 7&8 classes invite you to join Charlie Bucket in his delicious adventure through Willy Wonka's world-famous chocolate factory!

In addition to meeting Charlie and his family, you will meet interesting characters such as Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregarde, Veruca Salt, Mike Teavee, Grandpa Joe, and Willy Wonka himself.

This delightful band of characters come to life in a heart-warming story where each will discover the true meaning of teamwork, self-confidence and self-esteem. The delicious fun of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory awaits you...

Tickets are available at the door the night of the performances. Full details at www.rockway.ca

Alumni Stories & Events

CARL ZEHR '63 RETIREMENT – A SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Thursday, November 27th saw the Rockway Senior Choir as featured entertainment at the Rotary Club Tribute to Carl Zehr, retired Mayor of Kitchener. Carl is an Alumnae of Rockway, as is his daughter Chantal '87, and he spoke glowingly about his memories of Rockway Choir concerts and the solid education he received.

It was an honour for our choir to be chosen to perform at this event and the students represented our school, and tradition of music excellence, wonderfully.



Congratulations on a job well done (Retired) Mayor Carl Zehr, Rockway class of 1963!

STAYING CONNECTED



LEFT TO RIGHT: MARILYN SHANTZ MARTIN '55,
MARY HUNSBERGER SCHIEDEL '55, CAROL CRESSMAN
STEINMAN '54, VERNA CRESSMAN GINGERICH '54

In September of 1951, four teenage girls settled into a cozy dorm room at Rockway. Yes, Rockway had a dormitory for out of town pupils when the school was first opened. It was in the old farmhouse beside the renovated barn that served as the school.

Two of us were in grade nine and two in grade ten. Breakfast was served early and then we would go back to our dorm room and wait for the warning bell. Our window

faced the school entrance and we could watch our classmates hurry to class. Then we would leave for our classes. We were never late. "Lights out" was at 10 pm. However, many nights one of us would spend extra hours "studying", or reading great novels by flashlight in our bedroom closet.

We got along very well and became good friends. Over the years we kept in touch even when some of us lived in faraway places. Christmas and birthday cards were exchanged and marriages were celebrated along with baby arrivals, hospital stays and deaths in the immediate family. As we got older and less involved with our young families, we managed to get together for dinner or special events.

For the past three years we have met annually for three days at a cottage. We've just returned from such a getaway and spent the time eating wonderful meals, reminiscing about long ago things and also attempting to solve today's problems! We laughed a lot – especially at ourselves!

Since we are all retired, we think about the changes we need to make in our lifestyles, and discuss the trips we have taken and those we wish to take! We have a wonderful time together and will be close friends forever. Sixty-three years doesn't seem that long ago.

CAROL CRESSMAN STEINMAN, CLASS OF 1954



Alumni Coffee House

Rockway's Alumni Music Recital Series

Thursday, May 28th, 2015

We are excited as we continue to feature past alumni and their musical talents! Mark this exciting event in your calendar now!!

Reminiscent of the coffee houses of old, this event will take place in our performance center in a relaxed atmosphere. Our featured alumni talent this year will include alumni Anna Wiebe '10, Anna Horvath '10 and Daniel Kruger '07. As usual it will follow our annual Donor Appreciation Dinner which will be located in the assembly area.

7:30 pm

FREE WILL OFFERING

Past performances have featured:

VIOLIN – Marcus Scholtes '02

PIANO – Keenan Reimer-Watts '10,
Carol Isaac '80, John O. Hess '70

VOCALISTS – Stephanie Kramer '74,
Alison Enns '93,

Jennifer Enns Modolo '97,
Daniel Lichti '68, Timothy Shantz'90

ROCKWAY'S ANNUAL FUND RAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Bugs Bunny Championship trophy is proudly (and quietly) resting at the home of the current championship team's head office at Van-Del Construction. Don Stevanus, Dave Wells, Grant Harkness and Dave Kalbfleisch combined to shoot a solid 59 walking away with the top spot in Rockway's 20th Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament at Willow Valley Golf Course in Mount Hope. Every year on the first Wednesday in June Rockway supporters pull out the clubs for a day of golf, food, fellowship and goodies to raise funds through sponsors to support Rockway's tuition assistance fund (Share the Flame). Host, Ron Schiedel '74, and his amazing staff always put on a class day and there is always the opportunity to knock in a hole in one and win a Toyota vehicle courtesy of Willy Heffner and Heffner Toyota. Feel free to join us this coming season!



WHEN: Wednesday June 3rd, 2015

WHERE: Willow Valley Golf Course

www.willowvalleygolf.com

WHY: To support Rockway's Share the Flame tuition assistance fund

COST: \$500 to \$1000 in sponsorships

Check it out at www.rockway.ca/golf

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ROCKWAY



Steve Pfisterer joined the Rockway faculty in 1985 to teach physics, math, and computers. Throughout his tenure he has brought a high level of academic expectation to his students and has matched that expectation with his

personal commitment to them. His conviction is that all students are here to learn and that – regardless of their ability - their effort will be matched by his support for them in the process. As well, he has worked tirelessly to create a venue for his classes that is both inviting and stimulating. His style of teaching can be characterized as entrepreneurial where students, with a keen interest in Science, engage in the lesson with hands on experience necessary to take them to the next level of inquiry learning. Some of the activities which his students have engaged in over the years include: go karting at Erbsville to study acceleration and safe driving skills; study and measurements in kinematics at Canada's Wonderland; snowmobiling between the soccer pitch and baseball diamond to study projectile motion; motorcycling down Doon Road to measure the Doppler Effect; skateboarding in the hallway and on lab benches to study vector forces and motion. He is an inspiring teacher of most prodigious ideas.

A letter Mr. Pfisterer had written to Mr. Lobe, principal at the time, envisioned a liaison between the University

of Waterloo Science faculty and Rockway. The vision was to have Rockway students participate in the making and testing of future energy-saving products for home and industry. Over the years, Mr. Pfisterer has been able to realize this dream to the degree that we presently have twelve Grade 12 physics students participating in research under four members of the University of Waterloo physics faculty and one at the Institute for Quantum Computers (IQC). This is a unique program that puts our senior science students in direct relationship with specialists in their field of interest.

In addition to his physics and math teaching, Mr. Pfisterer laid the foundation for the Computer Science program at Rockway. Given the degree to which computers have been integrated into the high school curriculum today, current students may assume that computers have been around for decades, but that is not the case. In fact, it is noteworthy that Rockway was one of the first schools in the Region to integrate a computer network into the delivery of the curriculum, and Mr. Pfisterer played an integral role in its development. We've come a long way since the age of the Tandy 1000s used in the first lab where static in the rug could shut down the whole system and each computer would have to be re-booted individually.

Besides Mr. Pfisterer's strong contribution to the academic classroom, he has also made an impact in the larger community. Mr. Pfisterer has influenced many Rockway alumni, who have moved into very successful careers. Many of his students have pursued undergraduate, masters and PHD degrees in medicine, engineering, computer science, research, physics, and bio-medical

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ROCKWAY

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7 —

science. Alumni have named his courses as rigorous, that prepared them well for these programs. He has received numerous thank you notes from students over the years, many of them long after their graduations, thanking him for his passionate approach to science and his ability to bring connections and applications to everyday life.

In 2007 Mr. Pfisterer joined the Advisory Panel for Nelson Publishing, which included creating textbooks for the Ontario Curriculum, leading to the publishing of the Grade 11 and 12 Physics and the Grade 12 Advanced Functions and Calculus and Vector textbooks. All of these textbooks are presently being used in our program. More recently, Mr. Pfisterer was invited to be a Physics Lecturer at the University of Waterloo in the September 2014 term.

Now, in 2015, Mr. Pfisterer is involved in helping to develop questions for the Sir Isaac Newton Physics Contest

(SIN Test) delivered by the University of Waterloo to grade 12 physics students around the globe. He has made great strides in developing a new strategy for the University of Waterloo to more effectively Bridge the Gap between high school and University life. His initial initiative is designed to smooth the transition from High School into the Physics courses for Physics Majors and Engineers in an effort to attract and produce stronger entrants, of both genders, for the Physics and Engineering programs as well as to produce stronger graduates in those programs.

It is with genuine appreciation that we say thank you to Mr. Pfisterer for 29 years of service at Rockway. His contribution to the academic learning at Rockway has been most significant. In the words of Andre Gide “We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.” Thank you for being part of the Rockway journey.



Fall 2015 will see a brand new event for Rockway; the first annual **Entertainment Gala with Dinner and Auction**. This event will be slightly different in that there will be featured entertainment with a dinner. There will also be an auction component that will be incorporated into the evening's activities. A few special live items along with a smaller silent auction will feature high quality items for participants to take home in support of Rockway.

Mark **Saturday October 24th** in your calendar now and watch for tickets to go on sale in September!!

Entertainment is booked and we are looking forward to hosting Matt Falk, a Mennonite comedian out of Winnipeg. Joanne Jantzi and her kitchen staff are already planning for a spectacular meal and Connections Weekend plans are falling into place.

Check out www.rockway.ca for details!

SAVE THE DATE



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