

Our REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER: NEWS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI UPDATES

COME CELEBRATE! ROCKWAY FOUNDERS' DAY CHAPEL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020, 2-5 PM AT ROCKWAY

Join us to celebrate Rockway's founding story and 75 years of mission and Alumni. This high energy worship celebration is the first in a series of events planned throughout the year, inviting you to celebrate, connect, and create community.

This year's Chapel will feature guest speaker, Sarah Johnson '03 and a special Alumni & Friends Choir (see p.4).

Guided by Colossians 3:12-17, we will celebrate the founding story and legacy of Rockway. We will connect through our shared Rockway experiences. And, as we create community, Sarah will ask, "What does it mean to be a Mennonite school in a diverse and evolving global environment?"

Come celebrate with us, and enjoy a few 75th birthday surprises along the way. *All are welcome!*

Stay tuned to rockway.ca and [#Rockway75](https://twitter.com/Rockway75)



Sarah Kathleen Johnson '03

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Rockway
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE



*And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony. And let the
peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called
in one body. And be thankful.*

~ Colossians 3:14-15

On February 15, 1945, delegates to The Mennonite Conference of Ontario (now Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) voted in favour of creating a Mennonite high school in Kitchener. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate was one of several schools that opened in Canada in the wake of World War II, with a desire to promote peace.

That September, Rockway welcomed twenty-seven students and its first Principal, Harold Groh. The prior seven months were a time of remarkable leadership, community and generosity. Volunteers came together. Property was found. Funds were raised. And personnel recruited.

Today, Rockway serves over 295 students and families, and counts over 4,000 Alumni amongst our community. We continue to provide a strong academic and faith-based education while creating opportunities for students to grow in faith and character, and understand their ability to positively impact the world around them. I invite you to read our 2018-2019 Annual Report and financial statements at <https://rockway.ca/about/about-rockway/>

As we gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we are especially grateful to our founders, to our Alumni, to our families, and to our community that sustains Rockway's unique mission.

In the spirit of peace, joy, love and hope,

Ann L. Schultz

Ann L. Schultz '84, Principal



Louise Wideman '80 with her Mom, Pearl Wideman '56

of the Way *Every Step* Be There...

In a recent letter, Louise Wideman '80 reflected on her Rockway journey. She gave thanks for the many family, friends, and community members who supported her Rockway education. From the reluctant landlord to her cherished classmates, each one was with her *Every Step of the Way*.

She witnessed this same love and support for her nephews and niece during their time at Rockway. Louise believes we can all Be There. Read more and donate at rockway.ca. Support Rockway education this Holiday season.



Louise with her niece, Maria '19

STUDENTS SPEAK UP ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



Guest speaker, Dr. Carol Penner, led a panel discussion, that included two Rockway students, during our Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) Evening. They talked about *Healthy Relationships: Power, Sex and Spirituality*. Thank you to **Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)** for sponsoring this important conversation. Thanks also to **Theatre of the Beat** and the **Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region** for providing engaging SEW workshops for students.

QUILTING AND KNOTTING COMMUNITY

The **St. Jacobs Mennonite Church Women (SJM CW)** have been providing relief in our community and around the world for many years. Their finished quilts go to the Mennonite Relief Sale and to the local MCC Warehouse for global relief.

Every month, they come together to quilt and knot. Some of their quilt collection is on display in Rockway's Silo until the end of this school year. If visiting, be sure to take a look. Thank you, SJMCW!



MAKING INCLUSIVITY A PRIORITY



This past summer, we converted a classroom by the Library into an **English Language Learners classroom**. This centralization of English language supports was intentional as we work to build community amongst all students. Pictured left, students participate in a mock United Nations Council.

You can support inclusivity with your donation at rockway.ca. Simply include 'ELL' in your giving message.



Thank you Rockway families and Alumni for supporting *Connections Weekend 2019 Gr. 10 Spaghetti Supper and Rockway's Community Silent Auction*, raising funds for trips and mission.

THANK YOU, BOB, FOR LIFTING ROCKWAY VOICES AND HEARTS


At the *Connections Weekend Retired and Former Faculty & Staff Breakfast*, we remembered the life and legacy of Robert L. Shantz, former Rockway Music Department Head (below, left). We heard a moving tribute from retired Assistant Principal, Dennis Wikerd (below, second from right), followed by Bob's widow, Janice (below, second from left). Guests shared their favourite stories too, from time spent travelling to and from choral performances to inspiration in the classroom. We also received touching tributes on-line:

"I feel very grateful that he was my teacher, and my friend." Anne Marie Heinrichs '88



Calling all Singers!

ALUMNI & FRIENDS CHOIR







Our school is turning 75!
Lend us your voice this Founders' Day.
Be part of the Rockway Alumni & Friends Choir,
led by Principal, Ann L. Schultz '84.

REHEARSALS
Wednesday, February 5 @ 7 - 9 pm (optional)
Saturday, February 8 @ 1 - 4:30 pm
Sunday, February 9 @ 12 - 1:30 pm
(Founders' Day Chapel @ 2 pm)

Sign up by January 17, 2020
at rockway.ca.

Questions? Contact Andrew at
andrewm@rockway.ca or
519.743.5209 x3601

#Rockway75



Volunteers and staff set the table for a great evening of food and fun. Guests responded in their gingham, plaid and jeans, raising almost \$16,000 for *Rockway's Lead Us Onward* campaign. Thanks to sponsors, guests enjoyed a Reception, complete with live chickens, and a Pig Roast buffet, before the mini-live auction with Calvin Jutzi '72. Alumni and faculty provided the entertainment at the Barn Dance. See you next year for **Connections Weekend, Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17, 2020**, for a very special Rockway 75 BIG Night Out.



KINDRED
Credit Union
BANKING WITH PURPOSE

And remember to send Andrew a photo of your little one in their new T-shirt!

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a globe, surrounded by various nature elements like trees, animals, and musical notes, symbolizing environmental protection and sustainability.

The project will cost around \$5,000. Did you know that when donating to Rockway, you can designate your gift to a project like the Chapel Art Project simply by including a message with your donation?

ALUMNI HOOPS FUN

Rockway Alumni and students came together for the *Connections Weekend Alumni Sports Challenge*. Alumni prevailed in both games, but not before there was a lot of fun on and off the court. Thanks to **Marble Slab Creamery** for donating sundaes for the Athletics to sell to an eager crowd!

The fun continues for men's Alumni basketball Sunday evenings, 7:00-9:00 pm. To sign up and receive weekly basketball notices, please visit www.rockway.ca/alumni/alumni-events/ or contact Andrew at 519-743-5209 x3601 or andrewm@rockway.ca.

Watch for women's Alumni basketball in 2020!



JUNIOR BOYS WIN CWOSSA 2019

Rockway Flames Junior Boys' A volleyball team got off to a winning start this fall, and kept on going... all the way to the CWOSSA (Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association) championship, where they defeated Walkerton. Well done!





ON TRACK TO GIVE BACK

Rockway's athletics track was in desperate need of some attention. It was overgrown with little or no stone dust and disappearing edge boards. Through an Alumnus, we connected with Josh Zacharias '03 (top, right). Josh had experience in this area and was in the process of starting a business, *True Field Athletics*, with his friend, Brandon (top, left).

After sizing up the work to be done, Josh and Brandon volunteered to help. With a small, but mighty crew of volunteers and staff, Josh and Brandon transformed our track and saved Rockway thousands of dollars!

"It was wonderful to be able to give back to a school that did so much to get me where I am today. I thank Rockway for this opportunity to help kick start our business. I hope that the care and passion we put into the track carries it forward for many years to come." ~ JOSH

Students returned to a much improved track this fall, giving them more inspiration for their next track competitions.

We still have some outstanding costs to cover with this project. Consider donating to the Track Project at rockway.ca.



STILL LEADING US ONWARD

For many years, Jackie Fackoury was the face of Rockway. She was the staff person who greeted and directed people in the Main Office. She knew most, if not all, of the students by name.

As part of her role, Jackie also created and took care of our faculty and staff photos and biographies that were displayed on the wall by the Assembly Area.

As part of her retirement planning, Jackie wanted to leave a lasting gift to Rockway. She knew exactly what it should be – professionally made photoboards. She researched and found a company that specializes in them. On behalf of the Fackoury Family, she sponsored the boards in honour of her beloved Sam Fackoury (1960-2017).

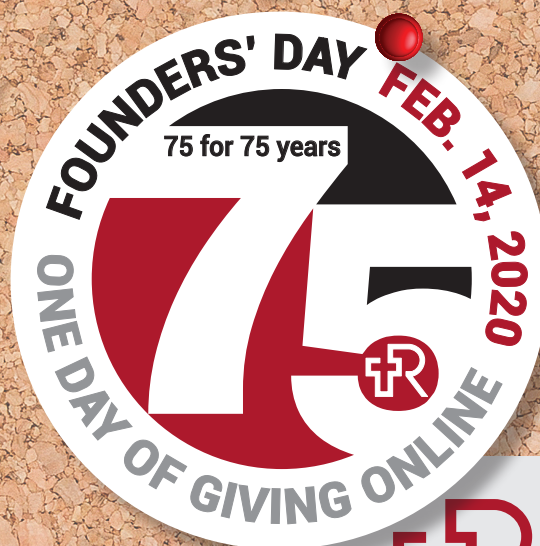
Today, the photoboards hang in the North Hallway by the Main Office, and include a Board photoboard too! They welcome students, families and guests alike to the familiar and new faces amongst our faculty, staff and Board. The boards also remind us, that Jackie is still leading us onward, even in retirement.

SEE YOU SOON! Upcoming Events

Remember to...



Visit rockway.ca
for more information



ROCKWAY'S MISSION

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate integrates sound academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with a passion for peacemaking and service to God and all creation.

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you!

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

110 Doon Road
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3C8

T: 519-743-5209
F: 519-743-5935
office@rockway.ca
www.rockway.ca

Principal: Ann L. Schultz '84

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#lifeatRockway

Save the Date

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S

GOLF CLASSIC

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

ROCKWAY ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL

The
**SOUND
of MUSIC**

Mark Your Calendars!

June 3-6, 2020

Rockway is excited to bring
this wonderful production
back to the stage.

Consider joining the
Alumni & Friends Pit Orchestra.
Contact jenhb@rockway.ca



Reflections is a publication of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. If you prefer to receive your copy by email please let us know at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-342-0007 x3011. Thank you.

