

Our

# REFLECTIONS

FALL 2021

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS

The commandments...are summed up in this one command:

*Love your neighbour as yourself.  
Love does no harm to a neighbour.*

*Romans 13:9b-10a*

This scripture passage brings us to the core of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. What does it mean to love our neighbour as ourselves? To do no harm to a neighbour?

These questions open the door to the exploration of the various ways harm has been caused, sometimes under the guise of faith. This includes harm to Indigenous communities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, black communities, the differently abled, women, other communities of faith, and to the earth itself. With help from the wisdom of others, we can begin to understand the impact of our actions. We can begin, with humility, to repair that harm, and learn to live equitably with all.

Our chapel theme for this year also gives important context to the many Rockway activities that connect directly to our vision, mission and values as a community, such as Spiritual Emphasis Week, our annual Food Drive in support of the House of Friendship and Envirathon Servathon day. With these and other commitments, including our new Indigenous Learning Group, Rockway is well positioned to put love into "radical action."

So, what does it mean to love our neighbour as ourselves? To do no harm to a neighbour? Asking these questions and exploring these issues will be challenging at times, but doing so also holds the possibility of living joyfully; of discovering what it means to be "not far from the kingdom of God."

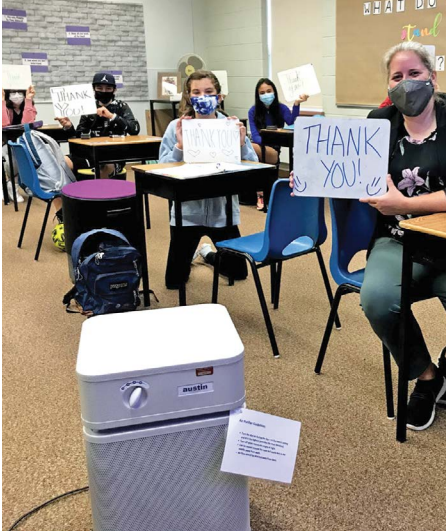
Visit the Community Shelf on [myRockway](#) to see the Opening Day Chapel (Tuesday, September 7) where you will hear Principal Ann L. Schultz '84 challenge the Rockway community to 'roll up our sleeves' and tackle this difficult but important topic.



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# #ROCKWAYRENEWAL



## HEPA FILTERS

Thank you parents! As a direct response to ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors, Rockway has purchased HEPA filters (an 'Austin') for each classroom. Made possible through the generous contributions of Rockway families, these institutional grade filters improve the air quality throughout the school. These filters, as well as dozens of Public Health and Ministry guidelines, have allowed Rockway to resume in-class teaching this fall.

LEFT: Teacher Lindsay Shantz '02 joins her Grade 8 class in thanking the generous donors who made it possible to improve the air quality in Rockway classrooms.

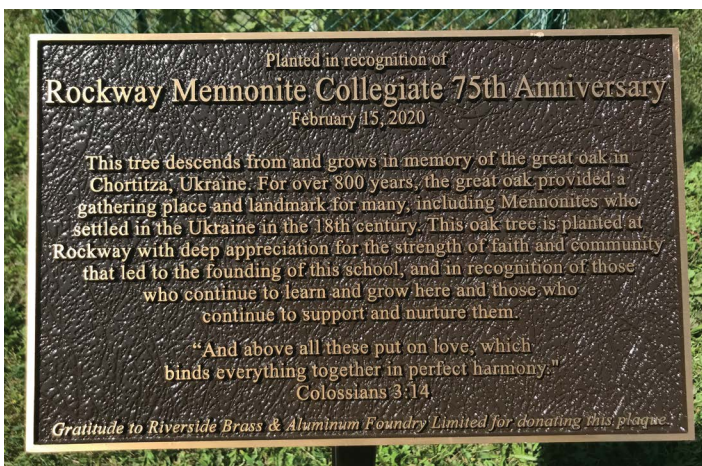
## PORTABLES

The south parking lot now houses two brand new portables, thanks to the generous support of our donors. These new learning spaces include white boards, hooks and shelving, up-to-date heating and air conditioning, as well as LED lighting and large bright windows across the front. These additional classrooms are making it possible for students to be on campus this fall, making sure we safely have enough room for everyone!



## CHORTITZA TREE

Next time you're at Rockway, be sure to visit the newly planted Chortitza Tree on our front lawn. The tree was planted in recognition of Rockway's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on February 15, 2020. The brass plaque, donated by *Riverside Brass and Aluminum Foundry*, provides context and significance of the tree:



*This tree descends from and grows in memory of the great oak in Chortitza, Ukraine. For over 800 years, the great oak provided a gathering place and landmark for many, including Mennonites who settled in the Ukraine in the 18th century. This oak tree is planted at Rockway with deep appreciation for the strength of faith and community that led to the founding of this school, and in recognition of those who continue to learn and grow here and those who continue to support and nurture them.*

***"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."***

**Colossians 3:14**



## WELCOME BRENT!

We welcome **Brent Charette** as Rockway's interim *Director of Advancement* while current Director, Christine Rier is on leave – she's gone back to school too!

Some of you may recognize Brent. You may have seen him volunteering with our Banquet Committee at Rockway events. Brent and his spouse, Andrea, are Rockway parents to a 2020 grad and a current student.

Or, you may have seen him at community events during his time as Executive Director at Hospice Wellington, with the University of Waterloo's Advancement Office, and most recently as the Operations and Engagement Minister at Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

Brent enjoys connecting with people and is looking forward to hearing from Alumni and donors, and sharing their stories and the difference their gifts make in the lives of students.

You can connect with Brent at [brentc@rockway.ca](mailto:brentc@rockway.ca)



## WELCOME TO A FAMILIAR FACE

Retired Rockway History teacher, John Moyer, is Rockway's acting Vice-Principal this fall, a role he has taken on three times before in his 30 years at Rockway.

Throughout the summer, John was busy arranging the Grade 7&8 timetable, figuring out classroom space, and connecting with teachers in advance of the new school year. Currently, John is ensuring Rockway's day-to-day operations run smoothly both in the classroom and during extracurricular activities.

## WITH GRATITUDE

Current Principal, Ann L. Schultz '84, retires at the end of this year, December 31, after serving 30 years at Rockway, including nine years as Principal.

We look forward to celebrating and honouring Ann's contributions in a virtual event: ***"With Gratitude...a Retirement Celebration for Ann L. Schultz"*** on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 3 pm.

The Board of Directors formed a hiring committee and initiated a hiring process at the beginning of the year. As that process continues, an announcement is expected soon.

We anticipate the new Principal will be in place for some sharing and planning with Ann before stepping into the role solo, in January of 2022, to lead Rockway's new strategic plan.



# HONOURING THE CLASS OF 2020 AND 2021 GRADUATES

This past June, Rockway celebrated three outdoor graduations; Grade 8 Class of 2021, Grade 12 Class of 2020 and Grade 12 Class of 2021. After a long, and at times challenging (thanks to the ever changing COVID protocols and lockdowns), graduation planning process, we welcomed our graduates back on Thursday, June 24, Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27 respectively.

Although each graduation was slightly different, they all shared three key elements:

Students were **warmly welcomed** and photographed with the Vice-Principal of their graduating year. Thank you to William Grobe and Mark Modolo for smiling behind the mask and marking this special occasion with each of our graduates. (see right)

RIGHT: Class of 2020 graduate Ethan Troupe (front right), stands with Mr. Modolo who is holding a lawn sign that each Class of 2020 student received last year. He's joined by Eileen Huck (back right) and Rebecca MacNeil (back left). Yes, Class of 2021 grads also got a lawn sign!



Students travelled through a decorated **Grad Alley** (front circle driveway), lined with excited faculty who eagerly cheered them on. (see left)

LEFT: Cornelia Schattman '21, wearing orange, arrived in style, walking through Grad Alley with her family as teachers and staff cheered and waved.



Students **received their diploma**, and/or award from Ms. Schultz, in a tent – the decorations changing slightly for each of the three graduating classes. (see below)



Gavin Mohr, receiving his Grade 8 Valedictorian Award from Principal Ann L. Schultz '84.



Alumni may recognize some of these decorations used in past years – a big shout out to our decorating duo: Monica Loberto and Rebecca Gosse for making the tent feel warm, festive and very Rockway!



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS



- Abundance Canada Spirit of Generosity Award – *Jitao (Jerry) Hu, Malina Narayansingh*
- Benjamin Eby / Salome Bauman Award – *Hanneke Isert Bender, Zoe Suderman*
- Bridging Cultures Award – *Sharon Chau*
- Civic Leadership Award – *Cornelia Schattman*
- Dennis Wikerd French Language Award – *Nicole Castano*
- English Award – *Jonathan Lam*
- Governor General's Award – *Jitao (Jerry) Hu*
- Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award – *Sami Baaj*
- Lobe Cross Cultural and Service Award – *Robin Xiang*
- Math & Science Academic Achievement Award – *Jitao (Jerry) Hu*
- Peter Hallman Athletics Leadership Award – *Hanneke Isert Bender*
- The Record – *Zoe Suderman, Aidan Morton Ninomiya*
- Rockway Diploma Award – *Joe Wildfong, Noa Baergen*
- Valedictorian Award – *Aidan Morton Ninomiya*
- Visual Arts Award – *Anthony Chan, Lisa Xiong*
- William Kruger Award – *Daniel Pugh*

*Note: The Class of 2020 award recipients were in the 2020 Fall newsletter*





## CHIPPING IN 'FORE' ROCKWAY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

It's been a long hot summer, made longer by waiting for the return of students to classrooms this fall. Among the almost 280 Rockway students heading back to school, will be about 60 students who will be attending Rockway with the support of tuition assistance. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Rockway provides an average of \$3,600/year to each recipient.

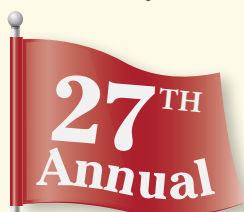
Rockway's *Golf Classic* is our largest single event in support of tuition assistance. Despite a two year wait due to the pandemic and many sand traps along the way, the Golf Committee persevered to welcome golfers to Rockway's 26<sup>th</sup> *Golf Classic* on July 7 at Willow Valley Golf Course.

Once again, over 40 Alumni and friends came together to support future Alumni. Adjustments were made for COVID protocols, but it didn't stop golfers from having some fun. Together with sponsors and donors, they raised over \$30,000!

Golfers Rob Klassen, Andrew Lichti '03, Evan Bechtel '11, and Josh Klassen '11 (seen above with Principal Ann L. Schultz, '84) took this year's tournament with a round of 57. Congratulations!

Everyone agreed that the real winners are Rockway students and families.

See you next year for more golfing fun at Rockway's 27<sup>th</sup> *Golf Classic* on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at Willow Valley. Watch for sign up information in the new year.



ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S

**GOLF CLASSIC**

● Wednesday, June 1, 2022





## CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Steckle Heritage Farm has partnered with our school, bartering event space for a much needed produce cart.

Originally, our Design & Technology (D&T) program students were going to design and build the cart, which Steckle will use for sharing vegetables.

When students were unable to be on campus due to the pandemic, D&T teacher Don Dyck Steinmann came up with another plan.

He sourced and tuned up an existing produce cart, and delivered it to Steckle Heritage Farm in time for the summer.

Thank you to Steckle Heritage Farm for fostering this creative partnership with us. We look forward to enjoying with our community, the fruit of our future shared efforts!



YOU'RE INVITED!

*Thank You*  
*With Gratitude...*



*we'll miss you*  
**A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR**

*memories*  
*THANK YOU*  
*thank you*  
*Ann L. Schultz*

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**3pm | online**

Please see insert or visit **[rockway.ca/withgratitude](https://rockway.ca/withgratitude)** for more information.

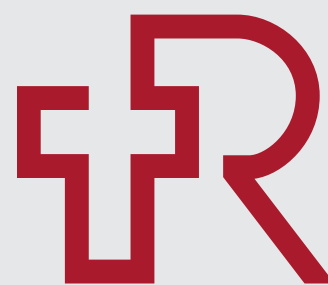




# STAYING CONNECTED

We are back and in-person this fall! While we have enjoyed welcoming parents to small events like Kick Start Welcome and Family Welcome Night, not all of our events will be in person this year.

Please stay tuned to your email, [www.rockway.ca](http://www.rockway.ca) and social media for announcements and updates. Thank you for bringing a sense of renewal to Rockway! #RockwayRenewal



## Our 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 peace-making and service to God and all creation.

## Stay Connected

We'd love to hear from you! You can connect with us at:

### Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

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Principal: Ann L. Schultz '84

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#lifeatRockway

Spaghetti  
Supper

Eat. Share. CONNECT.

TO GO

ORDER YOURS TODAY!  
[www.rockway.ca](http://www.rockway.ca)  
Advance online orders only  
Order by October 25, 2021  
Pick up October 28 & 29

Rockway  
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE  
A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A BIG WORLD

Join us!

DISCOVER ROCKWAY

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 | 7 pm | Zoom

Click now to REGISTER TODAY!

Join us...ONLINE!

ROCKWAY'S  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING



Thursday, November 18, 2021 | 7:30 pm | email [AGM@Rockway.ca](mailto:AGM@Rockway.ca) for zoom link

Reflections is a publication of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Please let us know if you prefer to receive your copy by mail or email. Contact us at [advancement@rockway.ca](mailto:advancement@rockway.ca) or 519-743-5209 x3011. Thank you.