

REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2018

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS



Principal, Ann L. Schultz, Class of '84, with Groh family siblings and Rockway alumni: Mary Groh '49, Elizabeth Rudy '54, and John Groh '59 after a special Founders' Day chapel.

STORIES FROM OUR TREE

In Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's story, the memories of this place do not fall far from that very special apple tree that grew in the front grounds until the 1992 building project.

At our first Founders' Day chapel, alumna, Ferne Burkhardt '54, shared memories of Rockway's early days around the apple tree. Alumni Mary Groh, Elizabeth Rudy and John Groh, children of Rockway's first Principal, Harold Groh, were on hand to share in the memories (not present, brother, David Groh, '48).

Some things have changed greatly – noticeably hair and dress styles, typewriters, only skirts and dresses for girls' gym clothing... But it is comforting to know that some things haven't changed – Rockway's Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, great teachers, choir, ping pong, family studies, shop classes, and chapel. We still come together to reflect, sing and embrace peace.

As for the apple tree...remnants of it have been preserved in special wood pieces, such as a lamp and bowls, lovingly carved by Maynard Bauman. The lamp sits on the table at Board meetings as a reminder of the legacy to help light our way.

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The talented cast of "The Mouse that Roared" showing off their creative costumes.

CAST LEAVES AUDIENCES ROARING WITH LAUGHTER

On March 2 & 3, 2018, 70 cast and crew members from Grades 9-12 presented their hilarious, rib-tickling production of Leonard Wibberley's "The Mouse that Roared", directed by Alan K. Sapp. The 21 students in the cast shared their stage with 5 faculty members, shocking audiences with their amazing "tourist/sightseer" acting abilities! Congratulations to the cast and crew, faculty and staff, for their hard work and dedication that was clearly evident in bringing a production of this level to life. *Thanks for coming out to see the show!*

JOIN US FOR THIS FAIRYTALE FANTASY

Join the Grade 7 & 8 students in their production of "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf" coming to the Rockway Gym A stage on Thursday, April 19 & Friday April 20, 7:30 p.m. The 22 cast members have been rehearsing since early February and are excited to share the story about the Big Bad Wolf in two versions – one from the Pig's point of view and the second from the Wolf's point of view. Join the 12 Fairy Tale jury members in deciding who is at fault – the Pig or the Big Bad Wolf. Tickets are available online www.rockway.ca or at the door: \$10 – General Admission seating. *See you there!*



USING ART TO NAVIGATE FAITH AND LIFE



Fine art students, Michaiah Bender and Rachel Kehl, supported by Karen Scott-Booth, Visual Art Department Head, created this year's interpretative art work of Rockway's chapel theme, *Trust for the Journey*. The theme was developed by our student worship team as a way to explore how faith connects to the daily lives of our students. Students tried to imagine how they saw God working in the midst of all these pressures and expectations, and the image of the compass came to mind. You can see this and more art work at the **Visual Arts Exhibition – Mirage, Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 7 p.m.**, featuring a variety of works by visual art students, Grades 7 through 12.



WE WELCOME KINDRED CREDIT UNION AS PRESENTING PARTNER

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Kindred Credit Union. Kindred will be the presenting partner for the 2018 Rockway Envirathon Servathon. A number of Kindred staff – including some Rockway alumni! – will join us, volunteering with students at various sites across our community.

Together, on **Monday, May 7, 2018**, we will fan out to twenty-two local organizations. From serving our neighbours in need, to weeding and planting gardens, Kindred and Rockway will be helping our community one good deed at a time.

Once again, we invite you to support students' efforts to do good work that impacts our earth and community.

Please give online at rockway.ca or send in your donation – cash or cheque – to Rockway Mennonite Collegiate (*please note: students will no longer have pledge forms – if you wish to honour a specific student with your support, you can include their name with your donation – thank you*). Thanks to Kindred's support for the day, all of your donations will benefit Lead Us Onward Revitalization efforts to develop Rockway's outdoor learning spaces.

We are removing the pledge forms to enable students to focus entirely on their experience of helping others and caring for our planet. It is a day of service to our community, and a day for students to reflect on their role in their community and its future.



Ray of Hope staff (left) welcomes Rockway 2016 Envirathon Servathon volunteers: Taite Brenneman, Tara Vojinovic, Conrad Heidebrecht, and Jonathon Janzen, all Class of 2017.

TED & COMPANY IS COMING TO ROCKWAY

In collaboration with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC), several local churches and Conrad Grebel University College, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate is hosting a public performance of **Ted & Company's "Discovery: A Comic Lament" the evening of Thursday, May 31, 2018, 7:30 p.m.** This is the first of four local performances with venues including Steinmann Mennonite Church, Conrad Grebel and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambridge.

Ted & Company will also be the guest speaker for Rockway's chapel that morning, sharing with students how to use drama as a means of teaching and healing.

As part of its final report, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission challenged us: "We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*." Through humour and drama, the play invites audiences to learn about and lament the ongoing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and to connect with Indigenous-led healing and justice efforts. This is an important play for Rockway students, who are focusing on racism as part of our 2017-2018 Spiritual Emphasis. The play is also important for our community and for just relations with our indigenous neighbours.

Admission: \$15 (\$10 for students).
Advance online ticket sales for any performance:
uwaterloo.ca/grebel/discovery



SHOWING YOUR ROCKWAY COLOURS

Founders' Day 2018 was marked with a sea of Rockway colours as invited guests, students, faculty and staff gathered at a very special chapel. Principal, Ann L. Schultz provided a warm and thoughtful welcome, acknowledging the founding decision of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) members on February 15, 1945, to create Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Students from our Faith and Worship Council lit the chapel candle and read from *1 Corinthians 3:11*. All chimed in for a hearty rendition of *Come, thou fount of every blessing*, before guest speaker, Ferne Burkhardt led us on a gentle stroll down memory lane.

We acknowledged the contributions of our founders, honoured our first graduating classes, welcomed alumni through the decades, and invited students to embrace this legacy. Guests then moved to the silo room for tea and a Founders' Day treat – red velvet cupcakes – and of course, more memories and sharing. Meanwhile, throughout the day, students and alumni posted their love of Rockway to their social media accounts and donated online to support future alumni. It was a day worthy of Rockway's legacy, a day filled with gratitude and hope.

Lessons from a Tree:

Stand Tall
Stand Proud
Go out on a Limb
Drink Lots of Water
Enjoy the view
Remember Your Roots



The apple tree that grew at the front of campus as a focal point and beloved symbol for students for many years.

ALUMNI UPDATES

This past year, for Canada 150, an organization called "hEr VOLUTION" hosted a "150 Days of Canadian Women in STEM" campaign to "profile Canadian women in STEM who will motivate and inspire the next generation of young women to follow their path and consider careers in STEM". **Alumna, Kaylen Pfisterer, Class of 2005**, was featured as a PhD student in Systems Design Engineering.

Meanwhile, Eli Winterfeld, 2007, has a busy year ahead: *"I humbly request understanding and forgiveness at the self-indulgent nature of this Alumni Update. After Rockway, I attended University of Guelph and started working in the social services in Kitchener. I worked for three years at The Working Centre working alongside street-involved folks. I'm now working with Extend-a-Family, leading a social enterprise called the KW Library of Things (www.kwlot.ca). What I valued most about my experience at Rockway is the ease of participation and relationship building. I'm also loving playing alumni basketball Sunday nights at Rockway and feeling my age the day after. The rest of my year will involve playing ultimate frisbee, gardening, biking to work, building a sauna and getting married."*



ROCKWAY ALUMNI



Happy Rockway Founders' Day 2018 from some of your alumni recreational basketball friends!

SAVE THE DATE! Connections Homecoming Weekend 2018 Friday, October 26 & Saturday, October 27

Be part of this homecoming weekend, when alumni and current Rockway family and friends come together to connect:

- **Friday, October 26:** Spaghetti Supper, Rockway Community Silent Auction and the Alumni Sports Challenge (volleyball)
- **Saturday, October 27:** Retired and Former Faculty & Staff Breakfast, Class Reunions and BIG Night Out fundraising dinner and entertainment

Calling all Featured Classes for Class Reunions: 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018.

Start planning your Connections Weekend class reunion! Alumni are invited to contact advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 ext. 3011 to book your free classroom space or use of the gyms during the Saturday afternoon. We hope to see you there!



2018 Rockway wrestlers finished 3rd as a team at the District 8 championship recently and 5 team members qualified for CWOSSA, where Joseph Bohem (center, back row) went on to win silver.

FLAMES ROUND UP

Congratulations to Rockway's Badminton team that shone at the Monsignor Doyle Tournament: Max Dominy & Annalee Bender – 4th in doubles; Joseph Boehm – 5th; James Carr-Pries, Rachel Kehl – 4th; Julia Kehl, Nathan Starr – 1st in singles. And kudos to the Senior Boy's Basketball who won CWOSSA. They had a tremendous experience at OFSAA, where they played their hearts out, only to be defeated in the consolation finals.

Meanwhile, past-Rockway parent, Sheldon Rier (left), was busy Family Day Monday, helping Rockway Maintenance staff, Dian, install brand new banners, marking the athletic achievements of Rockway students. Be sure to check out the banners when next in the gyms. Thank you to the donor and vendor support that made these banners possible.





LEFT TO RIGHT – Dennis Wikerd, Betsy Petker, Ann L. Schultz, and Terry Schellenberg

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

The retirement of Dennis Wikerd on January 31, 2018, marked yet another chapter in Rockway's long story of service by outstanding faculty and staff. Past-Principals, Betsy Petker and Terry Schellenberg, along with current Principal, Ann L. Schultz, were among those who honoured Dennis at a retirement Open House at Rockway on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Amidst the speeches and photographs, Rockway announced The Dennis Wikerd French Language Award in honour of Dennis' contributions as a French language teacher and Assistant Principal. An annual Award of \$300 will recognize a Grade 12 student who has excelled in French language acquisition. Missed the Open House? You can still contribute online at rockway.ca. This Award is part of Rockway's Lead Us Onward campaign.

Thanks to you, gifts and pledges of more than \$1.9 million have been confirmed to date for the four year (2016-2017 to 2019-2020), \$3 million campaign. Your gifts are fuelling change throughout the school – renovations, new web site, new athletics banners, refurbished music portables, a new roof for the Design & Technology space, and tuition assistance. This change is giving students a better Rockway experience.

To learn more visit: www.rockway.ca/support/lead-us-onward or speak with Christine Rier in Advancement, advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3011. *Thank you for leading us onward with your generosity.*

May is officially national Leave-A-Legacy Month. This awareness campaign encourages people to consider supporting, through their will and financial planning, charities and causes of meaning to them. It's the perfect opportunity to reflect upon what you want your legacy to be.

Recently, three long-serving faculty members announced their retirements. Charles Kruger (English) and Rob Klassen (Physics) will retire this June and John Moyer (History) will retire next February. We look forward to honouring them.



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.

LEAD US ONWARD
The Campaign to Build Bright Futures



SEE YOU SOON! Upcoming Events

23RD Annual

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S
GOLF CLASSIC

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Chipping In Fore
Rockway Students

Sign up @ www.rockway.ca

Proceeds support Student Tuition Assistance

INFO: christiner@rockway.ca | 519.743-5209 x3011

#ForeRockway

SIGN UP TODAY!

THE
ULTIMATE ALUMNI PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, June 2, 2018

2018 Graduation Ceremonies

GRADE 8
Thursday, June 14, 7:30 pm

GRADE 12
Saturday, June 23, 3:30 pm

CONSIDERING ROCKWAY FOR YOUR FAMILY?

BOOK A TOUR TODAY!

CONTACT: David Lobe
admissions@rockway.ca

#lifeatRockway

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

Grade 7+8 @ 6:15 pm
Grades 9-12 @ 8:00 pm

Contact Us

For more information about our school and mission:

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#lifeatRockway

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.