

Our

REFLECTIONS

WINTER 2026

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS

80th ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS COMPLETE!

We are thrilled to share exciting news with the Rockway community that our Capital Campaign has officially concluded! Thanks to your generosity, we have successfully raised the full **\$2.2 million** needed to complete our gymnasium upgrade.

This achievement is a powerful reflection of the strength, loyalty and commitment of our alumni, families and friends. Every contribution, regardless of size, helped make this vision a reality. Because of your support, our students will soon benefit from a modernized gymnasium that will enhance athletics, physical education, school events and community gatherings for years to come.



With the campaign now complete, work will move ahead as scheduled. The gymnasium upgrade will begin this **May** and will be finished in time for the **first day of school in September**. We look forward to seeing this important project come to life and to welcoming students back into an improved space that is designed to better serve our school community.

Upgrades scheduled to take place:

- Refinish all gym floors
- New weight room, Phys Ed office and meeting space
- Update change rooms and washrooms in North Hallway
- New digital scoreboards
- Replace lights, outdated basketball nets and backboards
- Install new lights
- And more...

On behalf of our entire school, **thank you** to everyone who contributed to the Capital Campaign. Both your generosity and your belief in our mission have made a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

Chris Ainsworth, *Director of Advancement*

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ROCKWAY
Mennonite Collegiate

80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

FR's
80th Anniversary
Celebration



FUN, FOOD & FESTIVITIES AT J. STECKLE HERITAGE FARM

On Saturday, September 13, our community came together at Steckle Farm to celebrate a remarkable milestone – our 80th Anniversary. With more than 200 guests in attendance, the evening was a vibrant and meaningful tribute to our school's history, growth and enduring spirit.

This celebration was filled with incredible live entertainment, featuring bands made up of alumni and current students in their respective bands. Their performances brought energy and excitement to the barn and fostered a powerful connection between past and present. Guests also enjoyed four food stations, each offering delicious selections courtesy of Bingemans Catering, which added to the warm and festive atmosphere of the night.

Hosting the event in the barn at Steckle Farms was especially meaningful, as it honoured our roots and the theme of "going back to the barn". Eighty years ago, our school began its journey in a barn, and returning to such a space was a powerful



SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14, 2025



reminder of how far we have come. The energy, music and shared memories made the barn come alive once again. It made for an unforgettable evening that celebrated our history while looking ahead to the future.

HYMN SING AND OPEN HOUSE

The celebration continued the following day with a special Open House that welcomed guests and invited them to reflect more deeply on Rockway's journey over the past eight decades. The open house featured a Hymn Sing which brought voices together in worship and gratitude; setting a reflective and meaningful tone to the day. Attendees were also invited to explore photo boards and artifacts displayed from each decade of Rockway's history; offering a tangible glimpse into the memories, milestones, and people who have shaped our school along the way.

We hope these anniversary events provided our guests with a meaningful opportunity to honour our past, celebrate our present and look forward with excitement and gratitude to the future.



ROCKWAY ACTS: Action - Connection - Togetherness - Service

Rockway's Graduate Vision supports the development of learners who are responsible, globally-minded, compassionate and reflective. These four pillars were instrumental in the creation of our new school-wide initiative, **Rockway ACTS: Action-Connection-Togetherness-Service**. This initiative replaces our former, and much-loved, "Envirathon/Servathon (E/S)", where, as many of our alumni will recall, our school population spent a day participating in activities that gave back to our community. Like E/S, Rockway ACTS is rooted in acts of service and in the belief that student growth and wellbeing is enhanced when given meaningful opportunities to connect and serve.

Because Rockway ACTS integrates seamlessly with our chapel program, it became our chapel theme this year; allowing us to explore more deeply, as a community, what it means to live intentionally into our faith, our values and our worldviews.

Romans 12:6-8 says, "And we have different gifts, each according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, prophecy according to the measure of faith you have; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is encouraging, then encourage; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is leading, do it with diligence; if it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully."

This scripture passage reminds us that our understanding of what service means can be wide. Service can be giving (in all its facets) and it can also be a prophetic critique of injustice. This passage gives us a non-exhaustive list of ways to be using our gifts, and nudges us to give thought to how and why we are doing this.

In Spring 2025, when we piloted Rockway ACTS, grade seven students raised funds and sewed cloth bags to create over 100 hygiene kits for MCC's Material Resources program. Students then visited the MCC warehouse to learn about the inequality of resource distribution and how the kit program aims to bring supplies to those in need. Grade eight students spent a day visiting Crow Shield Lodge (CSL), an Indigenous land-based healing and education centre. While a portion of the day was spent working on the land, students were greatly impacted by the personal sharing and knowledge given by a CSL Knowledge Keeper about his own journey of healing.

This past Fall, our high school Art students responded to a request from the Domestic Violence Victims Alliance of Waterloo Region (DVVA) to design and paint a large mural for their new thrift store. Our students learned that their unique gifts and skills can contribute to the alleviation of suffering in our community by creating a space where the clients of the DVVA have the opportunity to shop with dignity and experience a sense of normalcy during the most difficult moments of their lives. You can read more about this in the March issue of the *Canadian Mennonite*.

We are grateful for the support of Kindred Credit Union and Josslin Insurance whose sponsorships make it possible for our students to go beyond our walls, and participate in meaningful activities that encourage growth and wellbeing through relationships of reciprocity and mutual benefit.



CONNECTIONS HOMECOMING WELCOMES A FULL HOUSE



On Friday, October 17, we welcomed over 500 people to Rockway for our annual *Connections Homecoming Night*, fondly known as Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. This event continues to grow in energy and attendance each year, and is a favourite for many in our community, alumni and current families alike.



One of the highlights this year was the increased number of alumni returning to reconnect with friends, teachers and the school that helped shape them. Their presence added a special sense of tradition and continuity to the evening. Even the Blue Jays playoff game couldn't keep people away! Anticipating the excitement, we set up a large screen and projector in the gym so guests could enjoy the game while still being part of the festivities.

Thanks to the Capital Campaign fundraising efforts, we were able to open the NEW moveable wall between Gym A and Gym BC, creating a spacious and inviting environment that encouraged conversation and togetherness. Seeing such a wide cross-section of our community gathered in one place was a powerful reminder of the deep care and commitment people have for Rockway's future.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for a memorable night of food, connection and school spirit!



ALUMNI REUNIONS

Three classes held reunions to reconnect and reminisce during the month of October.



ROCKWAY ALUMNI



The **CLASS OF 1955** met during Connections Homecoming Night. Their class received a tour of the school and then sat down together to enjoy Rockway's famous Spaghetti Supper.

Left to right: Harold Culp, Mary (Hunsberger) Schiedel, Alice Frey, Marilyn (Shantz) Martin, Lewis Brubacher with Principal Josh Hill



The reunion for the **CLASS OF 1965** was organized by Bob Snyder and Doreen Shantz. Bob wrote afterwards, "We had a wonderful time with some great snacks and had a lot of fun, 'remember when?', moments but most of all, a ton of laughs."

Front row – left to right: Arlene (Brubacher) Groh, Debbie Groh, Doreen Shantz, Cheryl (Bowman) Lowe
Back row – left to right: Brenda (Cressman) Snider, Bob Snyder, Darcy Lichti, Paul Rempel



The **CLASS OF 2005** also met during Connections Homecoming Night. Together, they opened their time capsule and read through the letters they had written 20 years ago. If you were unable to attend the event but are interested in receiving your letter, email alumni@rockway.ca.

Left to right: Andrew Yantzi, Lauren (Mertin) Clark, Maria Steinman, Allison (Howorth) Yantzi, Anne (Bender) Gunn, Kristi (Goerz) Bethune, Lydia Minkarious, Jo Scott, Amanda (Klassen) D'Silva

ROCKWAY
ALUMNI



Alumnae Drop-in Volleyball

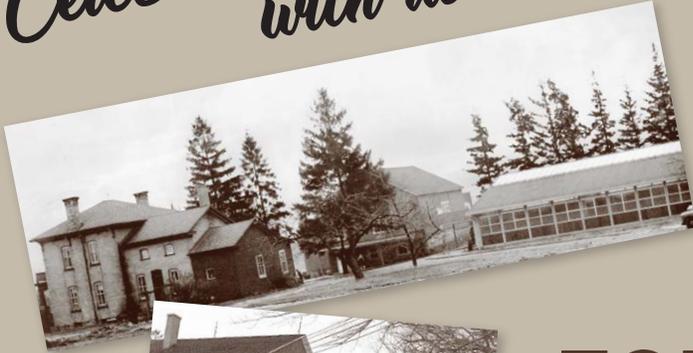
February 8 • 2-4 pm • Rockway Gym BC



Whether or not you played on one of Rockway's girls' volleyball teams, this **women-only event** is open to all Rockway alumnae. Join us at Rockway and reconnect with old friends while enjoying some time on the court together.

All skill levels are welcome. Visit rockway.ca/events for more information and to RSVP.

Celebrate with us!



FOUNDERS' DAY

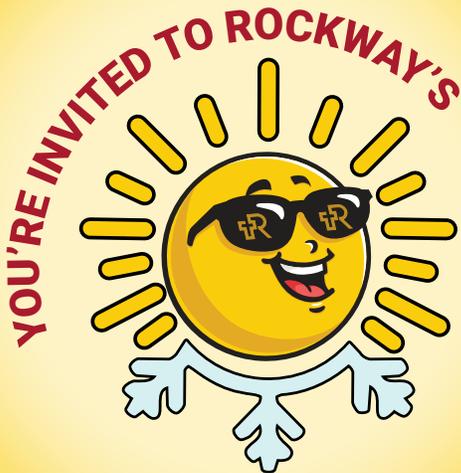
Thursday, February 12, 2026

- 9:15 am Chapel
- 10:00 am Tea & Pastry Reception



#LifeatRockway

Visit rockway.ca/events



Winter WARMUP

Friday, February 20, 2026

5 - 7 pm February Feast & Family-Friendly Activities

- Adults (12+): \$25 • Child (3-11): \$15 • Under 3 eat free!
- Pre-pay online at rockway.ca/events or CASH only at the door.

7 - 9 pm Alumni Sports Challenge

- Alumni vs Sr. Boys' Basketball • Alumnae vs Sr. Girls' Volleyball
- Join a team (alumni@rockway.ca) or cheer in the stands!

Visit rockway.ca/events for more information and to pre-pay, today!



#LifeatRockway



STAY CONNECTED – GET INVOLVED

Stay connected and get involved by watching your email and visiting our website (rockway.ca/events) for all the latest news and updates about events. Stay engaged online by liking, sharing and following us on our **Facebook** and **Instagram** accounts. Check out our all-school videos on **YouTube**!



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:

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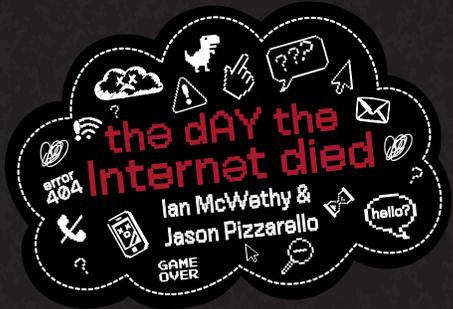
Principal: Josh Hill

Charitable Number: 119122091RR001



#LifeatRockway

Grades 9-12 students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate present



March 10, 2026 | 7:00 pm

Adults \$18 (aged 11+) | Child \$15 | General Admission

VISIT www.rockway.ca/events to buy tickets today!

BREAKING NEWS

Grade 7 & 8 students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate present

HUMPTY-DUMPTY IS MISSING!

OR THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE FALLEN EGG
— by Joseph Robinette



MARCH 5 & 6, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Adults \$18 (aged 11+) | Child \$15
General Admission

VISIT www.rockway.ca/events to buy tickets today!



- May 2, 2026
- Hosted by Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
- Stay tuned to rockway.ca/events for more information



• 2026 CHURCH VISIT SCHEDULE

- March 8, 2026: Senior Choir @ Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
- March 29, 2026: Grade 10 Choir @ Steinmann Mennonite Church
- April 12, 2026: Senior Choir @ St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
- April 21, 2026: Spring Concert @ Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S

31ST ANNUAL

Golf CLASSIC



- **Monday, May 25, 2026**
- **Grey Silo Golf Club**
- **Registration Deadline – May 15, 2026**

rockway.ca/events

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, alumni@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3011. Thank you.

