



May 2017

Time certainly does fly. The last newsletter came out in October, and here it is, almost the end of another school year. The alumni committee still meets bi-monthly, and continues to look for ways to contribute to the St. John's community. Alumni committee activities have included:

- Brian Burdy, Carolyn Rickey, Greg Woloszyn, Ruth and Allan Stargardtner and Sue Gibb serving at the Community Feast on April 27.
- Sue Gibb regularly updating our web site (www.stjohnshighalumni.com). Be sure to check it out for the latest news including a new "In Memoriam" section.
- Chris Dewar, Sue Gibb and Greg Woloszyn continuing to work on the archives entering information about alumni and school events. They also change the Alumni Wall display frequently to highlight alumni in the news and history of the school. Thank you is not enough to say for all the work these three put in.
- One of the most important undertakings will be the digitalizing of yearbooks beginning September 2017. Can you spare a few hours a week (or month) to help out? If you're interested, please let us know.

2017 – A Special Year at St. John's

It's hard to believe that 50 years ago, the "new" St. John's was opened and St. John's Technical High School (aka the 'old school') was torn down. If you were at St. John's in 1966-67, you'll remember your last classes in the original Tech, and moving to the brand new building. Should we celebrate this event? How? Do you have suggestions and are willing to help or have stories/pictures you'd share? This topic will be discussed at the next committee meeting, **Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in the library.



The Manitoba Historical Society's web page includes the following about Tech:

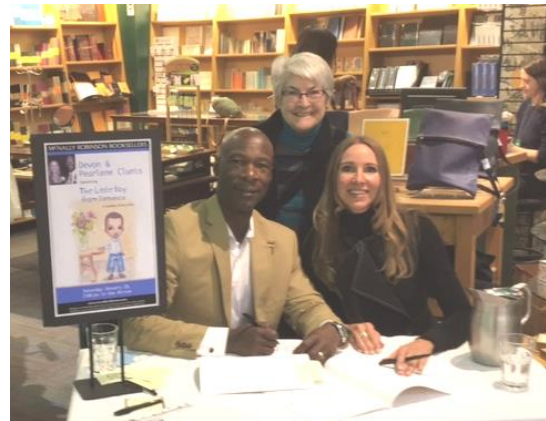
Designed by Winnipeg school architect J. B. Mitchell and built between 1910 and 1912, St. John's Technical High School opened for classes in 1912.

The basement housed rooms for "technical" instruction in machining, woodworking, electrical work, mechanical drawing, and plumbing; dressing rooms for the gymnasium; the boiler room; four toilets; and two offices for teachers. On the ground floor was the auditorium, gymnasium, eight classrooms, household science room, and four toilets. On the second floor was a balcony overlooking the auditorium, a running track over the gymnasium, five classrooms, library, commercial classroom, typewriting classroom, and rest rooms and toilets for teachers. Finally, the third floor had eight classrooms, chemical and physical laboratories, museum, and two toilets. Altogether, there were 38 rooms where instruction was done. At the time of its construction, the school was thought to be the most thoroughly modern school in Canada.

Alumni in the News

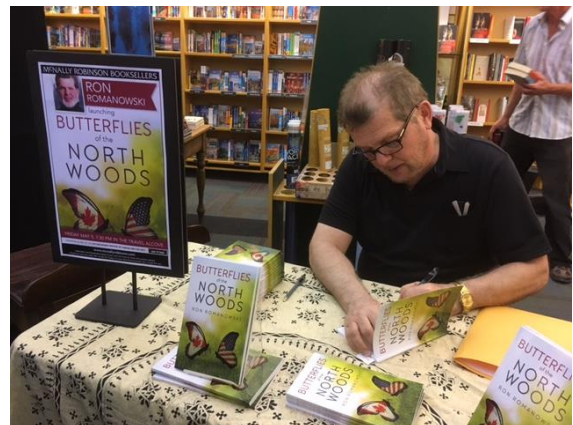
Devon Clunis and his wife Pearlene's book "The Little Boy from Jamaica" was launched January 28 at McNally Robinson Book Sellers.

The book was dedicated to "a number of educators who helped unlock the potential in the little boy from Jamaica". Mentioned in the dedication were St. John's teachers/coaches Bill Wedlake, Brian Burdy and Dennis Pelisek.



Ron Romanowski's seventh poetry collection, "Butterflies of the North Woods" was also launched at McNally on May 5th.

His first anthology, *Sweet Talking*, was published in 2004. This event marked Ron's twentieth appearance at the Winnipeg MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts.



In the most recent University of Manitoba alumni journal, *UM Today The Magazine*, **Martin Yaffe's** name was listed as a recipient of the Order of Canada in 2015 for his research in breast cancer screening. Martin is senior scientist at Sunnybrook Research Institute and a professor of medical biophysics at the University of Toronto. He pioneered the development of digital mammography, which is now in widespread use, and helped establish breast density as a risk factor for breast cancer. An advocate for women's health, he is internationally respected for his ongoing efforts to improve breast cancer detection methods.

One of the purposes of the newsletter and website is to share news about the many distinguished alumni who have attended St. John's Tech. Sue and I are happy to include news of our alumni but we could use your help with the details. Perhaps to celebrate the opening of the 'new school', we could focus on distinguished students who have attended St. John's High in the last fifty years.

Do you know someone who has made a notable contribution through their work, or to their community? Please let us know.

From **Kim Zeglinski** (nee Jaremowich):

There is some buzz about a **class of '88 30th reunion in 2018**.

Please send an email to stjohnsclassof88reunion@gmail.com to be added to the contact list and/or to help with planning. Thank you.

The next committee meeting is Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 in the library.

Hope to See You There!