



Fall 2018 Newsletter

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Our MDAA VISION:

* Engaged with alumni, students & staff showing pride & spirit in our school. *

President's Message



Welcome back, Mt Doug Alumni readers! How beautiful and colourful our autumn has been outside! It is my pleasure to introduce you to our two new administrators at MDSS this year: Tammy Sherstobitoff was our VP at MDSS 2012 - 2016 then was VP at OBSS for 2 years and is now back as our leader & principal, taking the reins from Shawn Boulding, who is now at Gordon Head Middle School. Welcome back, Tammy!

Our new VP Paul Ledet, new to Mount Doug, was a Stelly's Secondary School teacher in Saanich School district # 63. Paul is also an accomplished rock climber and was part of the official team managing the sport climbing events in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the Youth Olympic Games. This is his first administrative position where he is taking over from Phil Pitre who is now at Oak Bay Secondary as vice principal. Welcome to MDSS, Paul! Our "seasoned" VP Aaron Norris, going into his 3rd yr at MDSS, is also heading up the Learning Commons planning team/committee at our school. More about that project in future MDAA Newsletters. Enjoy the read of our fall newsletter, MD Alumni!

Wendy Gedney
MDAA President

Our New Principal's Message

Dear Mount Doug Alumni,



I am very happy to be back at Mount Doug as Principal; it feels like home. I have enjoyed reconnecting with people and meeting new staff, students, and parents. Paul Ledet has also joined the Administrative Team; he comes to us from Saanich. His wealth of experience and background in outdoor education and mathematics are welcome additions to the culture.

The school has had a bit of a “facelift”; the efficiency, functionality and aesthetics of the school have been improved. The newly paved front lot, gym floor, windows, computer lab, and boiler are all welcome additions. Our teams and clubs are all full speed ahead. Unbelievably, we are already half way through the first semester; report cards and Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences are planned for November.

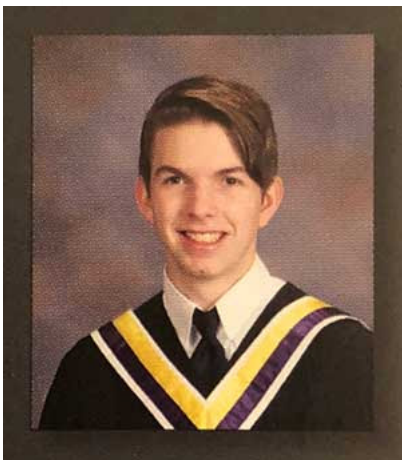
Our 2019 grads are already planning our “Fill the Foyer” campaign; a food, toy and money drive for the families and students of a district elementary school. As you may remember, a student’s Grade 12 year goes by very quickly. These students will soon be joining you as future alumni members of this amazing school.

Many thanks to the alumni members who keep our Mount Doug history and spirit at the forefront. Your efforts and presence are appreciated and so very necessary. You help to keep our traditions alive and provide our students with role models and opportunities for networking. Mount Doug is somewhere alumni can always call home. Please feel free to get in touch anytime.

T. Sherstobitoff
Principal

SPOTLIGHT on our MDAA BURSARY RECIPIENTS - June 2018

*** The Len Michaux Fine Arts Award - Rowan Farintosh**



Rowan Farintosh was the winner of the Len Michaux Fine Arts Award presented in June 2018. Rowan is currently enrolled at Humber College in Toronto, Ontario and pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Jazz Performance. He used the bursary funds towards his tuition at Humber College.

Rowan is aspiring to work as a full-time musician, a career which includes teaching music, performing, and recording his musical works. His favorite experiences at Mount Doug include participating in the band program, creating films for his English class, his band trip to Whistler in 2017, as well as his band trip to Cuba in 2018.

- interview by Rod Lindquist

* Our Academic Bursary - **Cassie Rimek**



Cassie Rimek was the winner of the 2018 MDAA academic bursary award which was presented in June 2018. Cassie has applied the bursary funds towards her Sport Management Degree Program at Camosun College where she is currently taking six classes. Her favourite class to date is the Sports Leadership and Organization in Canada course. Cassie enjoys the class's unique perspective and practical information for working in the "sports world".

Along with being a full-time student, Cassie remains an active athlete. She is currently playing soccer for the Castaways Club and field hockey with the Lynx Women's Field Hockey team. Cassie hopes to combine her education, talent, and interests into a sports career, perhaps focused on children, or in social media and marketing.

A highlight for Cassie, while attending Mount Doug, was her time on the Mount Doug Field Hockey team. The field hockey team was very successful during Cassie's three years of play, making it to provincials and finishing in fourth place during her graduating year. Cassie is grateful not only for the team's success, but also for the strong bonds and relationships created on the team.

Cassie would also like to give special acknowledgment to Mr. Sprigg who was one of her favourite teachers while at Mount Doug. Cassie remains grateful for his help, whether with homework or needing someone to talk to; he was always friendly with a smile on his face.

Finally, Cassie would like to acknowledge the MDAA and extends a big thank you for the bursary.

-interview by Dustin Marnell

OUR FEATURE ALUMNAE - **CAILEIGH FILMER**

Among our Mount Doug alumni is an Olympian, Caileigh Filmer (graduate 2014). 2018 has been a great year for her, as she became a world champion rower, bringing home gold medals for Canada!

Caileigh has been an amazing athlete, both as a swimmer and a rower. She first competed internationally for Team Canada as a twelve years old in the summer of 2008, when she swam with the youth national team. After leaving swimming, Caileigh took up rowing at age thirteen. While she was a student at Mount Douglas Secondary School she trained with the school's rowing team and coach/teacher Graham McLaren. She has competed internationally winning in several World Junior Championships. Since then, she's been winning medals as part of teams of two, four, and eight rowers.



While attending University of California, she competed as a varsity rower. A rib stress fracture affected her for a few months before she was able to recover fully. Caileigh took a redshirt year, as American college athletes call a year away from competing in varsity athletics, so that she could compete at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

To complete her science degree, Caileigh has transferred to University of Victoria. There at UVic she is now studying Earth and Ocean Sciences, and Geography. Caileigh has traveled a long way in the last few years and has returned to her studies just a short distance from Mount Douglas School. There's plenty of rowing training done in Victoria, and Caileigh has continued training and racing this fall 2018. In September in Plovdic, Bulgaria, our World Champion gold medalists were women's pair rowers Caileigh Filmer and her partner Hillary Janssens. Congratulations, Caileigh!

- by Paula Johanson

Eden's Dilemma - Can you help?

Former MDHS principal, Jack Lowther, who died suddenly last year, has a granddaughter, Eden who has been wondering about a gift she was kindly bequeathed from her grandfather. She was curious and wanted to know more about the St. Christopher's medal & gold chain she was given, that MD students (or class?) presented to Jack. The inscription on the back says: FROM THE STUDENTS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS THAT YOU HAVE TAUGHT AND LED. It doesn't say the year the gift was made to Jack or by whom. Eden would like to learn more about it. Can you help her? It would be sometime during Jack's years as a MD teacher 1954-1967 or as principal there in 1969 - 1979. RSVP with any information you may have about this to Wendy Gedney at wgedney@telus.net to be passed on to Eden. Thank you.



Gone But Not Forgotten

Since our last Newsletter... we have learned of the following MD Alumni who have died; they are listed on our MDAA website under their class year, most with their obituaries as well:

Garth Wilson '78 - d. Nov. 10
Dominic Lawless '84 - d. July '15
Peter MacConnachie '80 - d. Oct. '17
Alan W. Smith '74 - d. Nov. '17
Maynard Savery '54 - d. Jan. '18
Laurie Frederick '70 - d. Feb. '18
M Jean Grant '40 - d. Mar. '18
Phyllis Shelton Pesce - tchr '61-'68 - d. Apr '18
Lisa Clark '84 - d. May '18
Wilma Jarrott Rowbottom '58 - d. May '18

C. Francis Dolan - tchr '68-'76 - d. May '18 - at 103(was oldest living MD teacher then)

Marcus Grant '40 - d. June '18
Brian Cornall - tchr & VP '69-'82 - d. July, '18
Elizabeth Tresidder '78 - d. July '18
Don Thorne '75 - d. Aug. '18
Kim Smallwood '67 - d. Aug. '18
Patrick Ashmore '77 - d. Aug. '18
Mary van Leusden Squance '65 - d. Sept. '18
Edith Lee Price '47 - d. Sept. '18



Bill Oscienny - tchr '76-'77 - d. Oct. '18
Bob Cameron - tchr '75-'85 - d. Nov. '18
May Brown Panter '47 - d. Nov. '18

Let us know if there are other MD alumni you know of who have died and we will place them under their class year on our site. Include their obituary if one is available. Send it to: obiteditor@moundougalumni.com

- by Wendy Gedney

Summer 2018 MD Class Reunions

We were told about 3 reunions this past summer: the MD Classes of '78, '88 and the '08 all reunited at different places and dates to bring together friends and reminisce with one another about their Mount Doug days and more.

The MD '78 Class gathered at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club for their 40th reunion on August 4th with food, drinks and dancing. Thanks to Kirsten Mawle who organized the whole gathering for her class.



The MD '88 Class had their 30th reunion at the Victoria Golf Club on September 1st with similar happenings... lots of mingling and story swapping and remember whens. Kathy Kinnis Betts headed the organizing with Jeff Palmer working with her on the event.



The MD '08 Class met for their 10th reunion at Gorge Vale Golf Club August 11th to rekindle friendships and enjoy some good times together. Thanks Chris Bauer for putting it together with help from Taylor Saracuse.



- by Wendy Gedney

A Time Capsule... from the 1950's?

Rumor had it that the grade 9 class in 1950 buried a time capsule close to the school's flag pole on the original MDHS campus on Cedar Hill Road - now Cedar Hill Middle School. In June 2018, the 1962 class decided to take up challenge of looking for the time capsule because the old school probably may be demolished within 5 years. This piece of news about the school's demise meant the capsule could not be kept to open for the 90th anniversary of the school.

Shirley Ross '53 maintains the time capsule was buried on the west side of the flagpole pole facing Cedar Hill Road. "It was a metal box, and contained coins, names of some students, etc. I believe it was 1950, because of a newspaper article of the time that I remember," she told us in her email.

After the '62 class had deep penetrating radar brought on-site at Cedar Hill Middle School, it located two potential sites, and current teachers and students began to dig at the most likely location. Two hours of digging uncovered a very large rock with the radar showing metal below it, but no further progress could be made without machinery. By late August, with no funds for machine work, the School Board decided to fill in the hole before students returned after summer holidays. The capsule's location unfortunately, still remains a mystery. Our thanks to: the MD Class of '62 for taking up the challenge, to Shirley Ross for sharing her memory, to Mr. Carter Giesbrecht, principal, and Cedar Hill staff and students, and to Travis Paterson and the Saanich News who supported this venture.

See Travis' article & video clip at:

<https://www.saanichnews.com/community/on-the-hunt-for-forgotten-mount-doug-time-capsule/>

- by Sharon Hope '62 class

Business Listings/Directory

Are you in need of a service, be it for you - health, esthetics, legal, real estate, vacations ... - or for your dwelling - repairs, renovations? Then visit our MD Alumni in our Business Listings section of our website. Their business can assist you, fellow alumni.

ALSO, you can add a business - FREE of charge.

Send us an email with your business name, phone number, email address, your name and grad year to businesslist@mountdoug alumni.com

Donations

Many thanks to Mark Stofer and his MD class of '72 for their \$2000 donation to the MDAA!! Also thank you to Kirsten Mawle and her class of '78's for their donation of \$800 both of which will go towards our Student Bursary fund. Thank you to all those MD alumni who gave to these contributions. Great to see MD Reunion classes giving back toward some of our next generation's post-secondary education.

Donate to the Mount Doug Alumni Association

Please consider making a donation to the Mount Doug Alumni Association. The simplest way is to go to the website and click on the donation button. You can make your donation securely online via the Canada Helps website. You can also click on the Donate Now image right here. Thank you!



Our MD Book

Plan on being here or coming to town for our MD 90th Celebration in November 2021. Details coming next year. Planning will be underway soon for this special time. 3 years isn't that far off. In conjunction with that event, we are writing a special book... Mount Douglas High School - a History: 90 Years and Going Strong. It is expanding with interesting stories and facts about the times in Victoria as well as stories from individuals and groups of MD alumni since MDHS doors first opened in 1931. It will be ready for sale before as well as at our MD 90th Celebration. For this book to be its best, we need input from you!

Share a story, memory or highlight of your times at MDHS. If you were there in the years 1931 to June 1970, send your info/story... to author Sharon Hope at sharonhope@shaw.ca .

If you attended MDSS anytime from Sept 1970 up till 2020, contact author Paula Johanson at paula.johanson@gmail.com with your contribution.

We'd like to have some feedback from all 90 years in the book. Talk to your classmates about the best tidbit that should go in the book from your years here. Or write about a favourite teacher that you remember well and why. Let's make this book about our school's past a real treasure trove of information and stories and a delight to read and own!

- by Wendy Gedney

Our MDAA Newsletter committee: Wendy Gedney '67, Paula Johanson '78, Dustin Marnell '98, Rod Lindquist '02 & our proof-reader retired MD teacher Dianne Gillespie and guest contributor, Sharon Hope '62.