



OBHS CLASS OF '65 50TH REUNION

NEWSLETTER: JULY, 2015

Well, wasn't that a superb weekend?

Once again, the Organizing Committee would like to thank everyone who attended our 50th reunion. Everyone seemed to agree it was a fabulous time. We know its success far exceeded our expectations. This is going to be our final newsletter for a while. There seems to be some consensus in recreating this reunion weekend in 5 years and some have expressed an interest to have informal events more often. So, stay tuned! The gmail account will continue to be monitored so if you need to contact any of your classmates, please send a note and it will be passed along to the person you want to reach. As well, the website will be kept "live" so there is no deadline for submitting bios, photos or thoughts. Please check it out if you haven't because, after the reunion, lots of photos from each of the events were posted. A big thanks to Mike Woodley (Marg's husband) who took the majority of the photos.

Now, a brief synopsis of the weekend:

FRIDAY EVENING:

It looked like it would be a big success when people started arriving more than one hour



before the scheduled start time. Many stayed well past 11 p.m. Laureen kicked the evening off by welcoming everyone, introducing the Organizing Committee and then handing the mike over to Bob Murphy who introduced the teachers who were able to attend: Gary Taylor, Ed Kowalyk, Zoe Dhur and Phyllis McOrmond. Unfortunately, Don Taylor



and Frank Gower who had planned to attend were unable to be there. Ed then addressed "us students". The entire class assembled on the steps (in spite of the rain) to have a class photo taken. After that, it was all about meeting and/or reconnecting with teachers and classmates and sharing stories. The energy in the room was electric. We'd like to extend our appreciation to Marg and Lee who were responsible for organizing this part of the weekend. Kudos as well go to Aleda and Marilyn who helped with the decorating, flowers, the In Memoriam table and memorabilia which included the grad dress Aleda wore 50 years ago. The dress makes another memorable appearance on Saturday evening. The venue was perfect and the appetizers and desserts, delicious.

SATURDAY SCHOOL TOUR:



There was an enthusiastic response on the part of alumni to the invitation to tour the school. In fact, so many people signed up we needed three groups. The first impression was of an immense entryway, with soaring ceilings and amazing light supplied by skylights, which really did seem as far away as the sky. The use of natural wood and theme colours of fresh and spritely green, playful yellows, grey blues, beige and black were occasionally interrupted with splashes of orange. We

passed student social areas, complete with recharging centers for electronic devices, and seats where students could gather to chat after classes. All of the water fountains were constructed with bottle-filling ports, an ecologically sound idea. At times, we were able to look down to lower floors from vantage points on the upper floors - again creating the sense of airiness and open space. The classrooms and labs seemed endless and geared to multiple programs and disciplines. So many choices! Everyone wondered what it would be like to be an Oak Bay student 50 years after we had attended the school.





SATURDAY EVENING:

Our MC for Saturday evening was John Heisterman and it turned out he was the perfect



choice - funny, nostalgic, poignant - and informative. After our very scrumptious dinner, John introduced Bob Murphy who reminisced about what was happening back in 1965 and how blessed we were to have been here in Canada during that turbulent time in history. It wasn't lost on anyone that we came of age in a very special and unique era. After Laureen brought the committee up to the front of the room, John segued into talking about our graduation "song". Then, with a great deal

of cajoling, the committee tried (and somewhat succeeded) to sing it - only the first verse, however, probably much to the relief of our classmates. It isn't surprising that a number of people have said since then that *Today* became an "ear worm" for the next few days! Then, John issued a challenge. Anyone who was willing to put on Aledda's dress would receive the prize of a bottle of wine. From the photos posted, you will see that Graham Ramsey considered it but it was Tom Hall who put the dress on, danced with John and then hung out with "the girls" for a bit. Too funny! (The photos are on the website if you want to check them out).



The rest of the evening was spent sharing old memories and reconnecting with people. While we had anticipated some folks would want to dance, no one seemed to have the energy or they were just too busy socializing! Big thanks for this evening go to Andrea S., Andrea F. and Elaine for the work they did to make this evening so very special.



Well, that about summarizes the weekend in a few paragraphs. No doubt for many of us, it was priceless!

*Oh, and **we made the news** – well at least the Oak Bay Star. Sue Moore wrote and submitted an article which was published on July 31st. Thanks, Sue, very much. The link to the article is: <http://www.oakbaynews.com/news/319604971.html> - not sure how long it will be active, however.*

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- 1. The website will be kept active and any bios/stories and/or photos you wish to submit will be posted. Just send them our gmail address.*
- 2. You can email us at obhs65@gmail.com if you have any comments or simply want to be connected with classmates.*

Finally, a big THANKS to everyone from Your Organizing Committee. We provided the opportunity for an amazing weekend and, because of all of you, it was all truly special. See you in five years, if not before!