

THE SCHOOL TIE



BHS Alumni Association (Toronto) Chapter



Volume 16 Issue 1



May 2009

REFLECTIONS

Victoria Day is here and it's still cool in Ontario. It has not been this cool on our first long weekend of the summer for years!

As I write my final article as President of the Toronto Chapter I think of how busy the last four years have been. I took over in 2005 after the Reunion in Washington DC and we immediately launched into the planning of Reunion 2008 in Toronto. A Planning Committee was formed and began meeting once a month. We needed to raise funds to offset some of the anticipated costs. It was decided early on in the planning that the Reunion should be as self-funding as possible - the Chapter should still be able to continue to fulfill its commitments to the School.

Three years and many many late nights later Reunion 2008 was here. We were very pleased with the response we received – registrations in record numbers and everyone wanting to be here. There were over 500 alumni registered for this event - the largest International Reunion thus far. The Last Lap Lime was also very happy to see all those Bishops' alumni and friends there. It was the most successful Last Lap Lime ever.

All in all it was a very successful Reunion. Kudos to those who spent hours working on making the event a success. Everyone I spoke with said they had a great time and loved being in Toronto. There were some hiccups but then it would be almost impossible to have an event of such magnitude without any bumps in the road. We appreciate everyone's support. We thank all those who came and who brought their friends. We also thank our supporters in the Toronto area who always attend our events and who came out in large numbers again.

I remain surprised and disappointed at the way alumni behave at Reunions. I experienced it in Washington in 2005 and again here in 2008. I was shocked at the way alumni attending the Reunion spoke to those of us working at the various functions. One alumni told me that she got better service at Walmart! Some were downright rude and obnoxious. Others tried to get into the functions without tickets! And then there was the terrible behavior at the Farewell Reception. As former students of Bishops' High School we need to take a hard look at our behavior towards one another. When we go to a Reunion we should always remember that all the planning and execution for these events is done by VOLUNTEERS - alumni who have taken time off from their regular jobs and devoted hours of their personal time; people committed to ensuring that other alumni enjoy the event. We should be appreciative of their efforts.

I don't think any of us involved in the planning of Reunion 2008 realized how much we had put into it. When it was over we were all absolutely exhausted. I came home every night and fell fast asleep in the chair. I ignored my garden and didn't want to talk to anyone on the phone. We could barely drag ourselves to the General Meeting in September. It's a good thing we did not plan any major events until December!

Our Christmas Brunch was held in December and for once it was a beautiful day. The previous year we had been hit with a severe snow-storm. We thank everyone who came out to support our effort and we were happy to see so many of our older alumni there.

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Labor omnia vincit

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Once we recovered it was time to get back to the business of helping our Alma Mater. We purchased 18 computers and several thousand dollars worth of books for the Library. In all, 37 boxes were shipped to Guyana. I went down in January to work in the Computer Room. One thing about working with computers in Guyana – you have to plan for the blackouts. In all the years, I had never experienced so many blackouts at the School. In spite of the challenges we now have 32 computers in the Lab and 6 in the Library. The ones in the Library are really well-used and much appreciated.

We also had to install an alarm system in the Computer Room and Library. Thieves broke into the Computer Room the night after I left. Thank heavens for an alert security guard who saw the light on in the room, wondered who was in there at midnight and went to investigate. The intruders took off. The system had just been installed when they tried again only to be surprised by the alarm. We had to have the security in both rooms beefed-up – installing grill-work and reinforcing the door to the Library.

I am happy to report that Bishops' High School is alive and well. It is nice to walk into the school and see how orderly things are; walk along the corridors and be greeted by the students and have the boys come up and ask if they can help you with your bag!

I was amazed at how much was going on while I was there. There was a Social Studies project on the influence of African slaves on the Guyanese life. The presentations were great - they showed how much our food, dress and way of life can be attributed to those forefathers. The Steelband and the Choir were practicing for Prize Giving on February 19th. The Basketball team placed second in a tournament at Presidents' College and won another tournament at Saints. I was there for Baskett House Day – the students do all the planning for the celebration and run Assembly on House Days. There was also a Food Sale one Friday. It is a very busy place.

We had our Annual May Hatters' Tea party recently and it was a great success. It was wonderful to see all the lovely hats. We were also happy to see so many of our senior alumni and friends.

There have been sad times for our Chapter in the last four years. We lost one of our original members Aileen Granger Sherrett in 2007. We also lost Elaine Daune Small Hector, a member of our Chapter and also my classmate. We have also lost family members and some of our friends. We continue to be a source of strength to each other. Let us not forget those of us who are fighting for our lives.

Now it's time for our summer recess. We will be involved in the Last Lap lime as usual but we will take time off to enjoy the weather. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on May 31 and a new Board will be elected. I wish the new Board much success.

It has been an honor to serve as President. I am proud to have guided our Chapter through Reunion 2008 and happy that we have been able to provide continuous support to our Alma Mater. I am proud of the way we support each other and I am happy to be part of this great sisterhood (no offence to our male alumni).

Denise C. Archer



Upcoming Events

May 31, 2009

Annual General Meeting

Cajan Bajan
133 Manville Road



August 3, 2009

Last Lap Lime

Woodbridge Fairgrounds

September, 2009

Annual General Meeting

TBA

October, 2009

Literary Evening

Location TBA

November 2009

Games Night

Location TBA

January 9, 2010

12th Night Dance

Thornhill Community Centre

February, 2010

General Meeting

Location TBA

April, 2010

Casino Trip

Niagara Falls

ELAINE DAUNE SMALL HECTOR



I remember the first day I met Daune. It was on my first day at Bishops' High School one Monday in September 1964. We were both in Form 1B. There she was with Rosamond Frank, the shortest girl in the class. It was the funniest sight – Daune had to have been two feet taller than Rosamond. It turns out they knew each other

very well – they were both from New Amsterdam and had attended the same primary school; in fact there were three of them from NA in our class – Juliet Pearson was the third.

Daune was part of the “train” crowd – the group of Bishops' girls who came on the train every morning and walked down Carmichael Street in a big group. I remember them hurrying back up the street every afternoon so they wouldn't miss the train.

We had lots of fun at Bishops'. Daune was so tall but she could never seem to clear the high jump bar! She didn't jump very far into the long jump pit either. Those long legs seemed to have a mind of their own! She loved the Sciences and was really good at them. She loved to talk. She was always in trouble for talking too much!

Daune and I were at UG at the same time. We used to ride the Tata bus to the campus. We got off at the same stop – she crossed the road to the Faculty of Sciences and I went into the Arts building. After we graduated we lost touch but I remember knowing that she had gone abroad for further studies.

The next time I heard about Daune was from my brother. He said “I met one of your school friends the other day – she is looking for gold; as we in Guyana would say she was a “pork knocker”. I said “Really! Who is that?” He then started to describe her “it's the

tall girl who was in your class, remember the really tall one?” Right away I said “Daune Small”. He said “Yes, but she has a different name now – Elaine Hector”. Daune was even on the Board of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association.

The next time I saw Elaine Hector was in Toronto at a BHS Alumni Association function. She had just moved to Canada and had found our Association. She was working at the Ministry of Labor. She quickly got involved in the Chapter and was elected to the Board the following year. She was so enthusiastic about helping the School; even after she got the job in Sarnia and moved out there she continued to be supportive of our efforts. Whenever she could, she came to Toronto for our events. It was on our Boat Cruise in 2005 that she told me she had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Later on in 2005 there was a BHS International Reunion in Washington DC. There was a large group of us from 1964 at that Reunion. We had so much fun – some people had not seen each other since high school. We exchanged email addresses and phone numbers and promised to keep in touch. About a month after the Reunion a small group of our year met again at a wedding in Washington DC. The next day they met for breakfast and Camille McKenzie said, “We should get together for a weekend. I live alone. You can come to my house”. That thought turned into an annual reunion for the class of BHS 1964. In November 2005 we got together at Camille's, and in June 2006 we met in New Jersey at Tiny Austin's. Daune could not come to any of those reunions because she was undergoing treatment. Whenever we get together we always remember and pray for the classmates we have lost and for those who are fighting for their lives.

In June 2007 the 1964 Reunion was going to be in Mississauga, Canada. Daune was so excited. It was close enough and she could come. She was still having treatment but she was coming. She said she was only able to come for one night, Friday night. She called me and asked where the nearest train station was, and if there was someone who could pick her up.

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Karen Kishore picked her up on Friday morning. She stayed for the entire weekend. She said she felt so welcome and so loved by everyone there that she had to stay. She told us that she had received so much support from our group – people called, sent her cards, emailed her or talked to her on Facebook. She really appreciated our support. She gave everyone there a card with a little note. It was as if she was saying goodbye.

Last August there was a BHS Reunion in Toronto. Daune was one of the first to register. She was so excited about it. We were planning a class get-together during the Reunion. Thirty of us were going to be there. About a month before the Reunion she called me. Right away I could sense that there was something wrong. I asked her what had happened. She said the cancer had come back and was now on her liver. As we talked I asked “Are you going to miss the Reunion?” She said “No way. I am coming.” She said she would have to leave on the Wednesday to go back for some tests but she was going to come right back.

The first thing she said to me when I saw her on the Opening day was “Guess what, I can stay for the whole Reunion. Someone cancelled and I was able to have the test last week.” She was so happy. She had a wonderful time at the Reunion. She was in some discomfort but she never once complained. She brought Ntianu to some of the events and proudly introduced her to everyone. She was looking forward to the birth of her grandchild. She was so happy when Savannah was born. She kept us up to date with stories and lots of photographs on Facebook.

We will all miss Daune. She was generous to a fault. She was bright and funny. She loved her family and her friends.

On behalf of the BHS Alumni Association, and the Class of 1964 I bring condolences to Ntianu, Savannah, and Steve, and to her Mum, Gem and Heather, and the rest of her family.

Safe travels, my friend.

Denise C. Archer



DAWN CAMPBELL ADAMS

Dear Editor,

Last August, on a rainy Saturday, during the BHS Reunion in Toronto, several of my former classmates met for lunch at a diner. There we were, Yvonne Atherly, Dawn Campbell, Denise Leander, Anne Ramkisson, Gaynor Robertson, Penelope Yearwood and me. Some of us had not spoken to or seen someone at that table in 30 years, but we barely skipped a beat as we ate, laughed, looked at old photographs, reminisced and caught up on each other's lives and asked of other schoolmates. We had fought to carve a few hours out of our packed day to have that time together. I remember Dawn was moving house that day, but she came anyway. We lingered in a car park afterwards, exchanging contact details in the drizzle, before scattering to our four corners of the earth, warmed by the memories of a childhood spent at Bishops' High School, in good old GT.

Two weeks ago, I came across a photograph of that day and chuckled at the way we still seemed to be, at our core, the same little girls who shared a classroom and teenage 'dramadom' in the mid-70s.

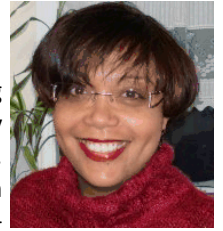
Last week, we received the shocking news that Dawn had passed away, and I thanked God for those few precious hours of pure joy spent with my friends last summer.

To those of you sitting in a classroom at the BHS and other high schools in Guyana, create your friendships now. You will have the usual teenage squabbles; classmates will 'fret' you, your best friend will 'steal' your boyfriend, and someone will not invite you to their sweet sixteen birthday party. What I know for sure is that those hurts will fade in intensity and importance, but the shared memories of the good times will endure. These are the people with whom you spend most of your waking moments in your formative years, and they will be your points of reference, more often than you can imagine, during your lifetime. As Boys II Men sang back in the 1990s “...The good times that made us laugh outweigh the bad.”

How do we say goodbye to yesterday? Last August, my beloved Aunt Gwen hosted a tea party for some “Bishops' old girls” to celebrate the good fortune of being alive and the sheer joy of having had a shared childhood.

A few days after the reunion, one of them passed away. Some of us will not be so fortunate to get to four score and ten plus, so please enjoy your family and friends now – call, write, drop

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by. Moving house is deemed one of the most stressful activities in a person's life, yet Dawn, carved out a few hours of time on her moving day last summer, to share a meal and laughter with six former classmates.

To Dawn's children, siblings and other loved ones, I extend my condolences. May Hashim, He who is called God, comfort you in your time of need. Dawn, "May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Yours faithfully,
Cheryl E. Noel



GUYANA AWARDS 2009

Shauntel Parkinson is a Grade Twelve student at Woburn Collegiate Institute. She has been accepted at the University of Toronto and will pursue studies in the Life Sciences beginning this Fall.



Shauntel is a well- rounded individual who is not only strong academically, but is involved in numerous extracurricular activities. She has consistently been on the Honour Roll every term from Middle School to High School and was the class valedictorian for both her Elementary and Middle Schools' graduating classes. She has received numerous awards for sportsmanship, leadership, science, drama and dance.

As a top competitive sprinter on Woburn's Track and Field team, Shauntel has successfully represented her school at both the City and Provincial levels.

In 2008, Shauntel was appointed President of the National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter at Woburn, and with a few of her peers has started her school's first Caribbean African Student Association.

Shauntel has for many years been a devoted volunteer in the Guyanese community-at the annual Guyana Independence Festival and Last Lap Lime, and at numerous BHS Alumni Association activities. Since 2006, Shauntel has been a member of the Toronto Public Library's Youth Advisory Group, and remains an active member of her Church community by teaching Sunday School.

Congratulations, Shauntel!

Shauntel is the daughter of Marva Jones and Siegmern Parkinson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Born on March 12, 2009 and weighing 6 lbs was Maya Raveena Chowbay, daughter of Nadia and Rudy. Maya is Asepha (Deen) Bacchus's first granddaughter.

Diane (Kerry) and Ibrahim El Amin are the happy grandparents of Elliott Ibrahim Sascha El Amin-Denis born Jan.1/09 in Montpellier, France on January 1, 2009.



Jennifer (Francisco) Singh who is currently on sabbatical until the end of summer from her position as Chair, School of International Business & Centre of Human Resources at Seneca College, recently completed her MBA with an International Management specialization from Columbia Southern University in USA.



TEA & TOUR



Amid the excitement of Reunion 2008 held in Toronto from August 5 to 10, a special event was organized for Seniors. The indomitable Gwen Stephenson-Mitchell hosted "Tea and Tour" for seniors in the Roof Garden of the Fairmount Royal York Hotel, the venue of the Reunion.

Approximately 50 women gathered to enjoy the camaraderie and delicacies. Everyone in attendance received a camera to allow them to capture scenes from the reunion so that they could reflect on the events and interactions in their quiet moments.

After the tea they were given a Tour of the Rooftop Garden of the Royal York Hotel.

It was a lovely afternoon and all the invitees were presented with a special gift by the Hostess.



STRATFORD 2008



A group of us ventured out to Stratford on a bright sunny day at the end of August to "The Taming of the Shrew" at the Festival Theatre.

We carpooled and drove the hour and a half towards our destination. There was a delay in our arrival due to a challenge with directions. However, we found a lovely spot beside the lake where several swans entertained us as they glided back and forth effortlessly on the smooth calm surface of the lake. It was the first time I had ever seen so many swans in one spot. I was mesmerized by them.

We unpacked our picnic and enjoyed such food as chowmein, cheese sandwiches, chicken wings, black-pudding, plantain chips, zucchini bread, pine tarts, and a wonderful brew of mauby plus other juices.

Our theatre was up on the hill from our picnic spot, and so after hurriedly eating, we scrambled up the slope to the theatre since our delay in arriving had given us only a short time of 15 minutes maximum to enjoy our picnic.

While the theatre was not full there was a good crowd. We soon settled down to enjoy the show which was humorous and absolutely enjoyable. The actors were incredible. As most of you know, this story is about a woman being changed into a wife who meekly obeys her husband. All too soon, it was over and we went back down the hill to our picnic spot and polished off the rest of the food. Then our troupe departed for home. I can't speak for everyone but I would venture a guess that most of us had a warm, fuzzy feeling of contentment. If you have never gone to Stratford, I recommend it highly. It will be a memorable event.

Asepha Bacchus



Thoughts

Well, it's November and the leaves are almost all gone. So is Reunion 2008! The three years from 2005 to 2008 went by really quickly; it must have been because we were having so much fun! Did everyone fall into a funk after the Reunion? Or was it just me? For a month after I could not be bothered with email or the telephone, and I slept and slept. I did not realise how much the Reunion had taken from all those involved in the planning.

It was a great week. There were over 500 alumni at the Reunion - it was the largest Bishops' High School International Reunion ever. My classmates turned out in numbers and we had so much fun. Over the years some of us had seen each other but there were those who we had not seen since BHS. There were 30 of us at our Class Reunion on the Wednesday. It's fun being able to be among your classmates and behave like girls all over again.

Now I see why we can only have these Reunions every three years - the planning that is required is almost overwhelming. We had our committee in place right after Washington and were certain that we had everything under control. A month before we remembered something important; a week before we remembered another important thing and there were still things that we forgot. We had checklists and more checklists, spreadsheets and more spreadsheets, and planning tables and documents a plenty. There were phone calls, many conference calls and meetings that went on till 4 am. None of us remembered sound for the events or wine for the dinner. We were trying to get the Journal finished and the Programs for the Commemoration Service printed. We had to get the souvenir bags stuffed with tickets and give-aways and the singers were also busy fine-tuning the Reunion song and the National Anthems. No wonder we were so pooped when it ended!

From my perspective, as President of the Chapter, the Reunion was a success. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to its success.

Denise C. Archer



THANKS

The Toronto Chapter would like to thank those alumni who took the time to send in their subscriptions. We encourage alumni who have not paid their dues to do so. A new year began on May 1st and we hope alumni will continue to support our efforts with their subscriptions.

LAST LAP LIME 2008



Last Lap Lime 2008 was a huge success. A lot of people were in Toronto for the BHS and the GT Lime Reunions and came to LLL as well. I have never sold so many tickets so easily!

The weather was great – hot as usual and thankfully dry. The layout of the ground had been changed and people said they liked the new way. The BBQ on the spot was a big hit – there were long lines at that tent all day. There was a lot to eat and drink and some kind of fun for everyone.

Folks also said the entertainment was great and there was more hugging and kissing like Last Lap Lime has ever seen. I have not heard a negative comment about the event so far. We thank all who came from near and far to support this event.

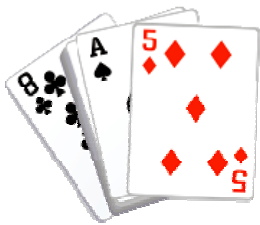
Congratulations to the folks who worked hard putting this all together.

A big thank-you to the BHS alumni who helped sell a record number of tickets this year.

A job well-done! See you all on August 3rd!

Denise (Savory) Archer

DID YOU KNOW



Did you know that there is now a Bridge Group in the Toronto Chapter? If you would like to join us—usually on Friday nights - let us know. We are happy to have players of all levels—expert to novice. Call or email Denise Archer. We would love have a few more tables.

Did you know that at 5 minutes and 6 seconds after 4 AM on the 8th of July this year, the Time and Date will be

04:05:06 07-08-09.

This will not happen again until the year 3009!!!!!!

CHAPTER EVENTS

Christmas Brunch 2008

Our Christmas Brunch was held on December 6th. The weather was perfect—no snow or rain. The meal was delicious and the entertainment well worth it. Christmas music sounds great on a steel pan!



Twelfth Night Dance



Our 12th Night Dance, held jointly with the Queen's College Alumni Association, took place this year on January 10th at the Thornhill Community Centre. Those in attendance said they had a fabulous time.

Casino Trip

We took our Annual trip to the Falls View Casino on April 18. The bus took off from Scarborough Town Centre and stopped in Mississauga to pick up the “west-enders”.



As we rolled away from the Park and Ride it was discovered that the patties had been left in a car in Scarborough. Whew! We promised everyone their patties as they came off the bus at the end of the trip! In typical BHS fashion there was more than enough food, even with the patties missing. We had lots of fun going and coming. The weather was lovely—21C. All in attendance said it was a great day. By the way, no one confessed to winning anything at the Casino!

May Hatters' Tea Party

Our Annual Tea Party was held this year on May 2 at St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Church Hall. It was really well attended this year, in fact it was sold out! Thank you to all who came.



The food was lovely and so were the hats. We had the Hat Parade, entertainment by Barney Singh and lots of good music. If you have never been to the Tea Party you should try and come next year—it is a lovely way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

GAMES NIGHT 2008



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2008



MAY HATTERS' TEA PARTY



BHS international chapters wow Canada at Reunion

By Tangerine Clarke

THE Bishops' High School New York Tri-State Alumni Chapter commanded a standing ovation two Friday evenings ago following a scintillating performance that captured the New York City lifestyle.

From scenes from the subway system, to the world-renowned Radio City Rockettes, and the hustle and bustle of New Yorkers, the costume-clad group put on quite a show to entertain former students and guests alike in the Canadian Room of the exquisite Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada.

Alumnus, scriptwriter and director, Claire Anne Goring, along with co-director, Rose October-Edun, and choreographer, Verna Walcott-White presented 'New York, New York' -- a collage of music, dance and drama with musical score by Avis Joseph -- at a cultural evening, organized by the Toronto Chapter as part of its week of activities.

Set against the backdrop of the BHS banner and two 'mega' screens that provided a vantage point for the hundreds in the audience, the old students, some who graduated as far back as 46 years ago, never missed a beat during the four-hour presentation.

And, from the swing of things, there was no doubt that all alumni worked feverishly to put on presentations worthy of top billing.

Starting with a rendition in steel of the national anthems of Guyana and Canada, the Guyana Chapter, headed by renowned dramaturge, Margaret Lawrence, returned to the stage to wow patrons with



'Guyana Groove' -- a colourful blend of dance movements that highlighted the vibrancy of the Guyanese culture, and paid tribute to late poet Mahadai Dass.

Jean Millington-White of the BHSAlumNet was deliberate in her delivery of 'Caribbean Chat' -- two poems, titled, 'Love Letters' and 'When I am Done' which attracted loud applause.

Jean Small, another alumnus, brought back stinging memories

of her school days. Wearing a blue school uniform and sporting ponytails, she was in top form with a poem titled 'A Black Woman's Tale'. Small, who now lives in Jamaica, represented the island's Chapter, which is projected to host the 2011 reunion.

During the mixed bag of acts, the Toronto Chapter attacked modern technology with gusto and a dash of humour during an adroit skit entitled, 'Techno Madness', which drew hearty laughter from the audience as well.

The evening, which attracted alumni from as far away as Great Britain, Israel, and Australia, showcased the rhythmic ladies of 'The Fabulous Florida Chapter' who demonstrated how they reconnect at alumni meetings. The youthful-looking damsels danced on to the stage, each carrying a favourite Guyanese dish and contributing to the latest gossip.

The Bajans, in turn, deliberately misspelled relief in two skits that addressed the many challenges they face from day-to-day in the education and medical systems in their country, while entertainer, Bill 'Crooner' Newman kept the audience alive with his quick quips which enhanced his outstanding duties as emcee. Well known for his melodious voice, 'The Crooner' also serenaded attendees with a rendition of Bobby Fernando's 'El Dorado'.

Guest artiste, calypsonian Monty Hamer, added his touch to the evening with an old time favourite, 'A Drunk Man Walk in a Grave Yard'.

Folklorist and storyteller, Pauline Thomas aka 'Auntie Cum See', now 87, still has a commanding presence on stage. She reminisced about the good days and the origin of her favourite greeting: "Howdy! Howdy! Howdy!"



The evening later switched gear to include a bit of the classics performed by young classical violinist, Ben Fernandes, who was accompanied on the keyboard by Anson D'Souza. The duo gave a great performance playing 'Bésame Mucho and the theme from 'Love Story'.

The evening culminated with a rendition of the BHS School Hymn, 'Look Down On Us, O Father', by everyone in the audience.

The Toronto Chapter also hosted a boat ride, a debating session, and a church service to mark the occasion. (Photos by Taylor Lewis)

MAGDA POLLARD

“Understanding and accepting the philosophy of Education - everyone has the potential”, is the understanding that Magda Pollard has as an educator for many years.



A role model, educator and woman, Magda Pollard.

This 77-year-old woman is as vibrant in her current position as a volunteer consultant at the Women’s Affairs Bureau as when she left The Bishops’ High School (BHS) in 1950 to begin her career in education.

After leaving this prestigious institution, Pollard began her career as a teacher at the Broad Street Government School, now called Dolphin Secondary. She then ventured to become further qualified by earning herself a Teacher’s Diploma from Scotland College of Domestic Science.

Upon her return to Guyana, she was posted at the Carnegie School of Trade, which later became Carnegie School of Home Economics. After years of service, Pollard was appointed as Principal of the Home Economics institution. This was fitting, since her field of expertise was Home Economics.

“I did Home Economics at school and it has been very valuable and I have no regrets in committing to this field”, she said.

Pollard has been privileged to have a history in Education as both her parents as well as her siblings were educators. “Education was a part of my life and with my secondary education at the BHS, I have adopted one value, which is to always strive for 100 per cent or the best that I can”, she added.

Striving for the best paid off, Pollard said, adding that during her years as Principal of Carnegie School of Home Economics - the level of efficiency established was maintained. During her 16 years as Principal of the school, Pollard also taught part time at the BHS and was involved in many landmark events as Guyana progressed during the years, including Guyana’s Independence in 1966.

“At the school we offered support to different units of government as we provided hospitality services during the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts in 1972, and for other big events”, she said.

Pollard, who has been instrumental in contributing much to the Education sector, related that educators have a role and responsibility to their students. She explained that the girls coming through the Home Economics school did not have much of an academic background, since the majority of them were early school leavers.

“As a school, we tried to assist them to develop expertise that would facilitate income earning and saving, and this is the duty of educators”, she stated.

Pollard, who grew up in an environment that was predominantly female, focuses on women and gender equality in Guyana. After leaving Carnegie School of Home Economics, Pollard accepted a position as a Women’s Affairs Officer at the Women and Development Desk at the CARICOM Secretariat.

Since her retirement, Pollard continues her work in the interest of women, and still plays an integral role in education as she is connected to her old school, BHS, and assists in seeking ways to better the delivery of education.

“Trained as an educator, the three main areas focused on are skills, knowledge and attitudes, and these give recognition of the Ultimate Goal as a philosophy of life”, Pollard posited.

“Understanding and accepting the philosophy of Education - everyone has the potential”. Everyone has the potential and by “self reverence, self knowledge and self control, these three lead to a life of sovereign power”.

The Ultimate Goal in life is something that Magda Pollard seems to have understood and she has linked this expertly with her work in the education sector.