



Gratitude

Christmas is a time for reflection and giving cheer to others. It enables many to reach out a helping hand, without the expectation of something in return. Yet, many recipients of attention and gifts at this time get joy from saying "Thanks." It seems to make what is received even more special.

Once again, the members of the Seniors Committee worked to ensure that the senior members of the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association recognized that their welfare was important to members of this family. In fact, 2010 was the second year when the Committee included alumnae who are 80 years and over but who reside outside of Guyana in an act of good cheer; those alumnae whose contact information is known to the Committee received Christmas cards.

Carol singing is a great way to remind us of the reason for the season and the significance of the "ties that bind." It is an activity which is enjoyed by many seniors who polish their voices so that they can hit the high notes as well as the low notes on that significant Friday in December. It is also a time for exchanging news while sampling the snacks which are reminders that Christmas Day would soon be here.



The sources of support for the programme keep increasing. We must thank Angelique de Groot for using her good offices to tap suppliers of the goodies for the food hampers to ensure that the smiles on the faces of seniors continue to be bright when December comes around. Alumni at the CARICOM Secretariat are consistent donors as is Janice Maison, the creators of the "oh, so delicious" black cakes. This year, Joseph Johnson, of Nigel's Supermarket threw in his lot.



Committee members at work



Members of the Senior Class expressed their appreciation in different ways. Some sent cards, other sent emails while others made telephone calls to let their delight be known.

you sent me in 2009 and 2010.

I was very happy during my years at BHS and always have fond memories of my old classmates and others.

All the best to you all and the school for Xmas and the New Year."

Rosalind, you and all the senior alumnae of the Bishops' High School are most welcome!

Scarborough High School's Class of 1947 Meets for Lunch

For 63 years, Norma Hardy-McGirr's date book on the first Wednesday in October has had the same entry - lunch with the ladies of class 11D. Since their graduation from Scarborough Collegiate (now R.H. King Academy) in 1947, the ladies have met every year for some food, laughs and conversation.

"We can't stop now," Hardy-McGirr joked.

Not after six decades of lunches and seeing each other through marriages, children, and divorces - the good times and the bad.

It was their teacher Alice Carnaghan who initiated the first few reunions, which used to take place twice a year, and now they carry it on with one of them organizing it each year by selecting the restaurant and sending out the invitations.

This year 16 of them - there were originally 32 in the class - met at the Pickle Barrel in North York on Oct. 6. They've met in Scarborough many times over the years as many of them still live there.

Hardy-McGirr grew up on Blantyre Avenue in southwest Scarborough and Scarborough Collegiate was the only high school back then. She remembers taking the school bus from Fallingbrook Road to get to the school at St. Clair Avenue and Kingston Road.

"And sometimes we'd hitch hike and keep the money and spend it on cherry Cokes," she said.

Times were a little different when she and her classmates were growing up. Movies were 10 cents and sometimes they'd hitch hike to Ajax just for something to do.

"We had terrific fun when we were younger with no money," said Margaret Waites.

Many of the women hit their milestone 80th birthday this year, three members of the class have passed away and others have moved out of the area.

But, when they do get together they make the most of it.

"It's fun. You might not talk to everybody the whole year," Waites said. "It's nice to catch up and see each other."

Even if the conversation has migrated to less desirable topics. "We used to talk about babies and now we talk about hearing aids," Hardy-McGirr said. (Source: InsideToronto.com, Oct 8, 2010)

Let's Celebrate

Feb 19 Elaine Murray
Feb 27 Megan Anderson
Mar 29 Magda Pollard
Apr 4 Phyllis Thompson



Apr 7 Jeane Skeete
Apr 8 Joyce Sinclair
Apr 17 Jannice Simmons

DID YOU KNOW?

- In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)
- As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.
- In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'
- Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'
- Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced', wore a tightly tied lace.

