

# Rapport

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May 2003

Association of Former Basilians

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## Reunion committee membership

As was mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, our committee was very pleased to welcome Paul Murphy and Stan Kutz as members. We can now announce with the same enthusiasm, another volunteer, Wayne O’Reilly. Wayne was part of Paul Murphy’s “Reunion within Reunion” last summer.

While still on the topic of change, the Chair and Secretary indicated last Fall to the committee their intention to retire from their respective positions. This took place officially after the Spring meeting a few weeks ago. The reason? Deteriorating health, as those in the “Golden Years” will certainly understand,

Paul Murphy accepted the nomination of the committee to be Chairman. Stan Kutz agreed likewise to be secretary.

The next meeting of the committee is on Saturday Oct. 4 2003 from 9:30 am - noon, at the Cardinal Flahiff Centre (the Seminary on St. Joseph St.). Anyone wishing to come please let Paul Murphy know ahead of time.

Paul Murphy  
2 Lake Driveway East  
Ajax ON L1S 3V6  
dana2ap@aol.com

Committee Membership  
Association of Former Basilians

Jim Carruthers C.S.B.  
Cy Doherty  
Larry Elmer  
Alf Graham  
Julia Keeler (Graham)  
Stan Kutz  
Bob Madden C.S.B.

Paul Murphy  
Fergal Nolan  
Wayne O’Reilly  
Jim Strickland  
Dwyer Sullivan

## Request for e-mail addresses

We have been trying to accommodate our means of communication to the wishes of our membership. This Spring, for example, the edition of Rapport will be sent out by e-mail to those whose address we have. The others will continue to receive it by the usual means: “snail mail”. Fergal Nolan has been asking for a couple of years now to send your e-mail address to him if you would prefer this mode of communication. This is another request/reminder to do the same.

fnolan@radiationsafety.ca

## Reunion within reunion 2004

Stan Kutz

The 2004 reunion will attempt to gather the remnant from the 1953/54 Richmond Hill novitiate group as a reunion within the reunion. Anyone knowing the names (and contact information!) of members of that novitiate year is asked to get in touch with either Jim Strickland (jrsrstrick@aol.com) or Stan Kutz (416-960-8391; stankutz@sympatico.ca).

## Photo request

Jim Strickland

Re: Old and Newer memories on photo

Rapport

A publication  
of the  
Association  
of Former  
Basilians,  
appearing  
twice  
annually

paper.

We want to renew our picture boards for the next reunion and so are asking you to look again for any of the 'Golden Oldies' you have been saving for the past many years.

We also want to get a full history in photos of our reunions since the first one in 1988. As well as pictures you took during the wonderful week ends, we are also looking for copies of the group picture which is always taken at the hotel after lunch on Saturday.

If you can still remember the names, dates and locations of the individual pictures, please mark these details on the backs of the shots you send to:

Jim Strickland,  
10 Duncan Street,  
Carleton Place, Ontario,  
K7C 3W4

## Report from the Treasurer

Larry Elmer

Regime changes do not take place easily. They either occur as the result of forceful take over or reluctant resignation. Paul and Saundra, the reluctance of acceptance is on our part, the resignation out of necessity is on yours. Paul, we profoundly appreciate your good sense, affability and leadership over the past fifteen years. One of the essential marks of leadership is the ability to handle massive ambiguity. This you have done well. As Paul Murphy, your successor, commented: "I now have very big shoes to fill". We all agree. For while those big shoes did not exactly "lard the earth" they certainly left a mighty imprint.

Your departure from our leadership is not easily imaginable nor easily replaceable. But more than that, with your departure, by way of 'collateral damage', we lose

Saundra as well. Leaving aside the cliché about the 'power behind the throne', Saundra, we all have a great sense of gratitude for your solid support, secretarial expertise, reunion arrangements, and those thousand and one other, scarcely noticed but always appreciated, contributions.

Paul, many of us know of your repressed episcopal ambitions; those sometimes Freudian slips of self reference to the "Archbishop of Arn Prior". We wish you well in your ecclesiastical climb. Incidentally, if the sea of Arn Prior is not to be had, word has it that Boston still has a few openings.

Paul and Saundra—Thank you and God Bless.

### Treasurer's Report:

Strange how inspiration works. As I was reading Proverbs, this jumped off the pages:

Do not refuse a kindness to anyone who begs it, if it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go away! Come another time! I will give it tomorrow.", if you can do it now. (3, 27—28)

Perennial wisdom. Even in those more ancient times, the need to remind the community of their responsibility to one another was present. At this moment, I have difficulty in separating this sacred utterance from a profane application, viz. Your Association of Former Basilian 2003 dues.

Our thanks to the following who are paid up, and our encouragement to those who may be considering doing so:

W. Allgeyer  
G. Bammel  
P. Beers  
P. Burns  
K. Cashion  
D. Coughlin  
J. Dietrich  
C. Doherty  
L. Elmer  
M. Farge  
S. Femiano  
R. Gagnon  
L. Galla  
P. Glynn  
J. Goeters

A. Graham  
T. Hickey  
S. Kutz  
F. Lally  
B. McCarron  
G. McGinn  
J. Moher  
E. Neary  
D. O'Neill  
T. Paterson  
V. Reinsborough  
L. Schmidt  
J. Slavin  
N. Smith  
D. Sullivan  
T. Sullivan

**Other business:** In keeping with our now established tradition of making an annual donation to the Basilian school in Cali, Columbia, a cheque has been sent to the Basilian Fathers of Cali. This year we have been able to increase our donation to \$1500.00 US with the designation that it be used to offer fifteen \$100.00 bursaries to needy students. It is our hope that someone from Cali, either a Basilian or a student, will come to speak at our 2004 Island Reunion.

(see end for dues formula)

## "Where I am now"

It is quite difficult, for a variety of reasons, for some members of our association to come to any of the reunions. That doesn't mean that we, your friends from another life, aren't interested in hearing about you. And the reverse situation is equally true. Those who have renewed friendships at a reunion are equally important to those who can't come.

Would you consider a brief sketch for inclusion in Rapport? We are not asking for an autobiographical dissertation. How about a few lines telling us about the road that you took and where you are at today.

Please send to the committee chair. (See above)

## In Memoriam

Laudemus viros gloriosos

Cy Doherty

Although Gerry McGinn and I spent many

years together— first, at St. Michael's College School, then in theology and finally, at Assumption— I will confine my few remarks here to his work on the tennis courts at the Island, and this for two reasons. First, the Island is the focal point of our reunions, and so its history has a special meaning for us. Secondly, in the write-up of the tennis courts made by Fr. Lajeunesse in his published history of the Island, Gerry's name never appears. This humble tribute will correct that oversight.

In January, 1959, Fr. Malley called Gerry and me into his office and, to our surprise, asked us if we would spearhead the building of tennis courts at the Island. We were delighted at the prospect, not only because we enjoyed the game, but also because the project seemed so much more practical than placing stones on a path to the Shrine.

Gerry divided up the work: he would procure materials at a good price (he did), and I would read up on how courts were to be constructed. After Gerry got together metal posts, fencing and baseboards, we searched the whole coast of Lake Simcoe for a barge. Since none was to be found, we asked Bill Sharp if he could extend the raft he was making and got him more barrels to do so. Then we had our "miracle on water". In the evening Gerry accompanied the barge to the landing where a bulldozer was loaded on it in preparation for its trip to the Island the next morning. Then, as the Basil was re-fuelling at McRae Point, we saw the dozer floating on the water with its headlights on. The owners had decided to set out that night, and the raft was so low in the water that it was invisible. St. Christopher, before he was put out to pasture, worked overtime that night!

Gerry then found an "expert" dynamiter to take down the big old tree in the way. Explosion after explosion did nothing more than remove a few leaves (and hurl a

rock close to Peter Beaton's head!) Finally a charge was put in the crotch of the tree, and this worked. The tree split and fell, pulling up the roots at the same time.

Gerry did one final job for the courts. He organized our ordination year to go up to the Island in the fall of 1960 to lay the weeping tile. (These were the old-style orange clay pieces which he got for almost nothing.) We finished the job in one day. Gerry and I never got to play on those courts as I was shipped out to Calgary in June. Two years later I traveled up to the Island on my holidays, and after a rain, I walked out to look at the courts. They had drained to perfection!

When one walks by the "courts" today, one may very well conclude that all the work done by us and by the others who finished the courts was of no more value than that spent on the paths. At any rate, Gerry fought the good fight to build them, and now that he has finished the course...reposita est ei corona. As we gather at the back of the hotel and have our own Corona, we can't help looking out at the courts, and this makes some of us remember Gerry.

## "Lost" members

Cy Doherty

The following are those who were on our mailing list at one time and who have dropped out of sight. The names are on Fergal Nolan's annual address list. This is an attempt to highlight them.

Now I know that what I am going to say is completely lacking in credibility. However, for many who have decided to move in the past twelve years or so, notifying our illustrious association is not #1 on the priority list of things that have to be done. Hence, you are lost. Can anyone help?

Please contact

Cy Doherty  
1905 Broad Hollow Gate #9  
Mississauga, ON L5L 5X2  
1-905-828-2177

Bradshaw, John  
Caspersen, Kevin  
Davis, Bill

Dionne, Ron  
Donoher, Paul  
Dufilho, Maurice  
Fink, Robert  
Freneau, Pat  
Hogan, Tim  
Jordan, Jim  
MacDonald, Michael  
Manherz, Nick  
Merchant, Bernie  
O'Connor, Randy  
Pavlock, Jack

## Correspondence

Paul Glynn

Some Basilians have a special formal relationship to our association. In the late '80s Bud Paré, the Superior General, along with Bill Coughlin, created the concept of reunions for Basilians and former Basilians with families. Bob Madden has been part of our planning group since before the first get-together. Jim Carruthers has been on the committee for over ten years.

Hence, we sent a congratulatory card to Bud and Jim on their 50th anniversary of profession. In the last few months, Bob's older brother John (C.S.B.) passed away. A sympathy card was sent to Bob and family. The cards were sent on behalf of our members.

# Thank You

Paul Glynn

The final note has always been a thank you to Norm Frenette for giving a professional look to my scribble. And believe me, after twice a year for over 12 years, I won't forget this time. Thanks Norm.

It has been a privilege to play a role in a group whose sole purpose is to bring happiness, even if to a limited degree, to a large number of people.

Thanks again, Bud and Bill, for your initiative.

Thanks to the present committee, some of whom have been there since the start, and to former members who, because of distance and/or the "Golden Years" syndrome, have had to back off.

And finally, to all Basilians, and to former Basilians who have helped make communication and friendship a reality, Thank You.

See you at the reunion in 2004

Saundra and Paul Glynn

• 5 May 2003

Rapport

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER BASILIANS**

MEMBERSHIP 2003 — \$36.00

PAYABLE TO: ASSOCIATION OF FORMER BASILIANS

MAIL TO: LARRY ELMER  
226 DICKSON PARK CRESCENT  
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO  
CANADA L5B 1Y4

NAME

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ADDRESS

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TEL/E-MAIL

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GREETINGS AND NEWS ABOUT ME: