

QC Reunion 2009 – Presentation of History book at general assembly 28 October 2009

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Minister of Education, Chairman & Board members, Headmistress & staff, distinguished guests, students and fellow alumni. I'm truly happy to present this book on the school's history. Toronto is presenting 50 copies -10 now for the library, and 40 left with QC-OSA to be used for the school's prizes.

My time limit means I must be brief. It's not a reflection of the book's value, but results from a carefully calculated index of boredom, which says that 3 minutes of me is all that you could bear. So, with apologies for brevity, thank you Prof. Cameron, Dr. Loncke, Mr. Trotz, Dr. Allsopp, Mr. Chan. Mr. Wishart, Mr. Wong, Mr. Muss, The Ministry of Culture, The Toronto association, the other associations and ICQC, and all others who assisted with the book.

To find out why I'm thanking them, please read the acknowledgements on page xi, and please read Dr. Loncke's inspiring biographical notes on the author, outstanding alumnus, Professor Norman E. Cameron. I'm also going straight to the end of what I wanted to say, so you'll need to read between the lines. You may need to read above, below, in front, and behind.

The book has a new appendix on the post-1951 period that includes 8 colour photos. I will speak of 3 of them. The first photo shows Wallisa Roberts who topped the C.A.P.E. exams this year. Toronto was elated to host a dinner in her honour when she was in the city last month, and it was delightful. She heads a list of 9 Q.C. students in the top 10 - a truly remarkable achievement worthy of our proudest history - a living history, that's being written every day. For this superb achievement, the students, staff, administration, and Board deserve a huge round of applause.

The second photograph shows Conrad Griffith presenting the audio system for this auditorium. I could tell you a lot of Conrad's incredible commitment to the school, but there is little time. In this case, he traveled to discuss and survey the needs, used his expertise to design and acquire the system, shipped it, traveled to receive it, direct the installation and do the training, and phoned daily from Canada for weeks to resolve the problems ...and much of this he did at his own expense.

This very microphone was carefully selected by him, and this auditorium bears the marks of his hands. I imagine that if Commissioner Greene were to have his men dust these walls, they would find Conrad's fingerprints. Whenever you thanked Conrad for his efforts, or were incredulous about the level of his dedication, he would simply reply "*I would do anything for my Queen's College*". Simple words; simple not for lack of depth, but simple because they are unequivocal. That is why Conrad is featured in this book. The Chairman too is featured in the book, because ours is a living history, and it's being written every day.

Few of us (if any) could match Conrad's level of dedication, but I tell you that there is something of Conrad in all of us alumni - well, in many of us - and we carry it with us wherever we are, because we are all of Queen's College and Queen's College is of all of us ... and we look forward to seeing many of the present students and staff carrying it proudly into the future as well.

The third photo is my favourite in the book. It's a picture taken by our alumnus, Roland Carryl, when he visited the school in '06. You see, we keep coming back, because we're all of Queen's College. The photo captures the front rows at general assembly, and is titled "Laughter in the new auditorium". Here in this photograph, we have the essential meaning and purpose of this book. Here, I daresay, is what moved Professor Cameron to write it in the first place. It is a picture filled with humanity, filled with hope, and filled with the best spirit that brought us all here today. I invite you to gaze on it, immerse yourselves in its glorious promise, feel the kindred embrace of our school, and honour the dearest dreams and aspirations written so happily on those young faces ... and then, watch ...watch with proud anticipation, as they go on to write tomorrow's history of Queen's College.

Thank you.



Wallisa Roberts honoured at dinner by QCAA (Toronto)



Conrad Griffith presents audio system



Laughter in the new auditorium