

Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

Staying Connected



Weston Collegiate Alumni News

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

2017 is a big year.

As the country continues to celebrate Canada's 150th, the Alumni Foundation and the amazing group that has volunteered their time have come together to plan something special for Weston Collegiate.

On October 14th, I hope you will all join us as we celebrate the 160th Anniversary of Weston Collegiate Institute. We have planned a full day on Saturday starting with a brunch for past and current WCI Staff, and then a pub and tea room for all Weston Alumni. We're also bookending the weekend with an Ironmen Football game and barbeque on the Friday and an Ironmen and Ironchicks Alumni Hockey game on the Sunday. More information on these events can be found on the next page or on our Facebook page. We have also enclosed a registration form on the last page.

Anniversary years are always great years and we hope that we will be able to support many of the great programs at Weston Collegiate that could use our help to ensure the students have the materials they need to succeed. All proceeds from the Anniversary celebrations will go to supporting the current and future students of Weston Collegiate Institute.

I can't wait to celebrate with all of you and cheers to 160 years of Weston C.I.!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Lesley (Ross) Bannard
President, Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation
Class of 2007

You're invited to our 160th

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Note from the Editor:

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this year's Alumni News.

If you would like to contribute your memories from any decade at WCI or help the students of WCI, please email lesley@westonalumni.com.

**You're Invited to Celebrate
the
160th Anniversary
of
Weston Collegiate Institute**

October 13th to 15th at Weston Collegiate Institute
100 Pine Street, Weston, ON

Schedule of Events:

Friday, October 13th –

[Ironmen Football Game & Barbecue](#)

Game Time TBD

Barbecue at 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 14th –

[Past & Current Staff Brunch](#)

Cafeteria at 11 a.m.

[Alumni Tea Room](#)

Staff Lounge at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

[Alumni Pub](#)

Cafeteria at 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 15th –

[Alumni Hockey Game](#)

Weston Lions Arena Time TBD

Highlights of the 2016/2017 School Year at Weston

Weston C.I. grad is Ivy League bound

My name is Debbie Dada and on March 30th, 2017 I received fairly life-changing news. I found out that I would be a part of the Yale University Class of 2021, which has been a dream of mine for many years. I was incredibly ecstatic when I saw and happy tears were shed.

I'm very passionate about the sciences and medicine as well as international relations and for a long time I felt these two fields were too different for me to pursue both. Thankfully in the eleventh grade, great staff mentors like Mr. Reid helped me to realize that I could combine these two passions in the field of global health. As such, I will be majoring in global affairs while at Yale.

My time at Weston CI has allowed me to nurture another interest of mine and that is helping marginalized youth, especially African-Canadian, understand that they were born with great potential. I have had the opportunity to do this by serving on the executive team of the African-Canadian Leadership Committee for three years as well as on the TDSB Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee. In addition, I have been a peer buddy in Weston's Best Buddies program, the Youth Councillor for York-South Weston in the City Youth Council of Toronto and the Executive Director of Find Your Path (a grassroots organization: fypcanada.com).

My life goal is to positively impact marginalized youth. Whether that is achieved by combatting high infant mortality rates in Mali through global health initiatives, or helping minority youth stay in school in inner-city Canadian communities, I desire to expand the options that youth on the fringes of society have for growth and influence. I believe my education at Weston and my future studies at Yale will equip me to do just that.

Congratulations to our 2016 WCAF Orlando Martini Award Recipients

The WCAF Orlando Martini Award is awarded to deserving Grade 11 students, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, as well as good citizenship, and have made a significant contribution to extracurricular activities at WCI.

Congratulations to this year's recipients Prachi Dalal and Aryana Singh!

What I've Learned at Weston

My name is Miduran Murugathasan and I am a 2016 recipient of the Orlando Martini Leadership and Citizenship Award and am a recent graduate at Weston Collegiate Institute. Weston has taught me many valuable leadership skills as I am a part of various clubs and councils at Weston; such as Weston Aces, Weston Student Council, High School Emergency Response Team, Yearbook and much more.

Being a part of the Weston family, I learned about myself and who I wanted to become as an adult striving for success. Moreover, I wouldn't think I would get the same experience if I had attended at different high school. I am so grateful for the incredible teachers and staff at Weston who have impacted my growth as an adult. Nevertheless, it's kind of weird and exciting at the same time because it feels like I just finished grade nine like two months ago; but I feel like it is time to move on to the next chapter of my academic career at Carleton University.

I will be studying history and theory of Architecture as it is a step closer to my dream job as an architect. I chose this program because I want to be knowledgeable about the architectural past in order to understand why buildings define the social environment we live in today. Maybe one day, I have the opportunity to design a building that will impact the future of our society. Furthermore, I want my future job as an architect to allow me to travel around the world and learn about different cultures because the more life experiences you encounter in life; the more aware you are about yourself and the people around you.

All in all, my advice that I always tell myself is to take a lot of risks even if it's too risky for my liking; get out of my comfort zone and let my voice be heard.

Weston – An Inside Look

By Lieselotte Noort, Grade 11 Student

Weston Collegiate Institute has been in operation for nearly 160 years, and in that time there have been thousands of unique students. Although they have all been vastly different; they all share one thing; they all have been shaped by their experiences at the school. Within the next year the class of 2017 and 2018 will conclude their journeys at Weston, and begin whole new stories. However, everything they will achieve and have achieved is strongly due to the life they have, and have had at Weston.

Every single student at Weston has their own story and view on the world. These kids are all vastly unique, interesting and have so much insight on everything they have experienced. From brief conversations with a number of grade 11 and 12 students, I got to see exactly how brilliant the young minds at Weston are.

NATHAN, GRADE 12

Do you think you're a different person than when you started high school?

Definitely, high school was a growing experience for me. I remember on my first day of grade 9, I knew right away that this place was going to be way different than elementary; and not just because of the work load and people. It helped me see the real world in a way, and how different things are compared to TV. The people I've met and problems I've faced have changed my outlook on things, and I know that if it weren't for everything that's happened to me in these four years have changed who I am for the better.

What's the most important thing you've learned at Weston?

I learned that mental health is so important, and that although grades are important, they aren't everything. I know so many people who wear themselves out over a number and put their grades above their own sanity. But we all need to remember that we need to take care of ourselves first. Grades are really important and they do matter, but you need to listen to your body first. If you're feeling depressed or not yourself, take time to get back to yourself. Take care of yourself and everything will fall in line.

How do you feel about graduating?

Honestly, I'm upset. I've been at school for as long as I can remember and it's weird to think that these four years are done. I'm not planning on going to post-secondary right away, so things are going to be really different. Not only will it be weird to not have a daily routine, but there are so many people I'm going to miss. But I think what I'll miss most of all is the high school experience.

What is your favourite memory from high school?

It's from grade 9 actually. I was with a couple friends doing some after school thing, and we were just sitting in the back of the school on the steps. The sun was setting and we were all just talking and enjoying each other's company and watching the sun set. It's simple, but I think that's the best part of it. I can't remember at all what we were talking about, but I do remember that in that moment, everything felt simple, everything felt good.

PRACHI, GRADE 11

How different do you think your life would be if you went to a different school?

I definitely think I would be way more introverted, and less involved. Weston is so friendly and welcoming, and I don't think many other schools are like that. When I was in grade 9, all the older kids made me feel so comfortable in the school, and it's because of that I joined tons of clubs and teams. Generally, I'm a pretty outgoing involved person, but I don't think I'd be that person if it weren't for those grade 12s pushing and encouraging me when I was in grade 9.

What was one of your goals when you started high school, and what is one of them now?

Well when I started high school, I wanted to be the smartest in my class. I wanted to have the highest grades, and be known as the girl with the perfect average who is 'going places'. But now, my goal is to figure things out. I know that grades aren't everything, and that being a good person and being happy is more important. Although I still really want crazy high grades, I know it's not the end of the world if I don't get them. But to answer your question, now I just want to become more focused and figure out what I want to do with my life.

What would you change or do differently?

I would want to put myself out there more. I didn't start joining clubs and being myself until recently; and I regret that. I want to put myself out of my comfort zone more, and take more risks. I think that every time I put myself into a different situation and tried new things, I learned so much about myself and had such a good time. But I think from now on, I'll do things that make me uncomfortable more often, because usually they end up being great experiences.

What's the most important thing you've learned?

Things change. The older you get the less things get handed to you, and the more things get thrown at you. Sometimes things will get overwhelming and you'll want to throw in the towel and give up. But you can't let change and challenges break you. You need to take the things you've learned and been through and use it to adapt. Classes are only going to get harder and so will other things. If you can't adapt and make the best of things, you're never going to get anywhere.

What advice would you give to someone about to start high school?

Don't be scared, and take chances. I know so many people who were scared to do things, scared to join clubs, scared about what people thought; and it held them back. Even I am guilty of it. But you shouldn't be scared, especially at Weston. Everyone here is so kind and welcoming, and even if some people aren't you shouldn't be scared. Take chances because they lead to the best memories.

MIDURAN, GRADE 12**What advice would you give to someone else who is about to graduate?**

Don't give up. You've worked too hard to flop now, so go to class and work hard. But don't stress too much about small things. We are all still young and have time to work things out, not everything is as serious as you think it is. You are only ever going to be a teenager once, so take mental breaks and enjoy yourself. I spent so much time stressing over stupid things and not taking the time to just take things in. Enjoy your last year and make the most of everything because it'll be over before you know it.

What advice would you give to someone about to start high school?

Join clubs, because high school is tough and clubs are one of the best parts of it all. You'll meet so many interesting people and make so many new friends. Most of the best memories I've made in high school are because of the friends I made in clubs, and I wouldn't be the same without them. In 10 years when you think back on high school, you aren't going to remember that physics test you failed or the French presentation everyone loved; you're going to remember the people you hung out with and the things you did outside of class. High school isn't just about your classes, it's about making memories; so make sure you put yourself out there so you can make those memories.

Do you think Weston changed you as a person?

Yeah, without a doubt! I think I've always been an extroverted person but in middle school I was kind of shy. The people and environment at Weston helped me come out of my shell, and talk to people. Now I talk to everyone and am part of, what sometimes feels like, every club at Weston. I think if I went to another school, with different people, I would be nowhere near as outgoing and involved as I am at Weston. The school helped me be myself.

VINITA, GRADE 12**How do you feel about graduating?**

Honestly, I have such mixed emotions about everything. I love Weston so much, and a lot of the things I have achieved are because of this school. But at the same time I'm so excited for change, I can't wait to grow up, have new experiences and begin a new chapter in my life. I think it's going to be bittersweet leaving. I'm going to miss it.

Did Weston live up to your expectations?

When I was younger I didn't know what to expect. Everything I heard about High School was from movies and shows, so I was kind of expecting something out of *The Breakfast Club* or *High School Musical*; but it was completely different. I think Weston exceeded my expectations. I know a lot of people talk about how High School is a rollercoaster and I can, without a doubt, confirm that. I can't describe how exactly, but Weston made my High School experience perfect. From the people to the opportunities, I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend 4 years.

AISHA, GRADE 12**Did Weston positively impact you, why or why not?**

Before I started high school I was in a really bad place. To put it simply, I wasn't very happy. But Weston changed all of that. Ever since I started here I've completely lit up. Not only am I a happier person, but I'm a better person; I owe that to Weston.

Tell me about your overall experience at Weston?

It was interesting, to say the least. In grade 8, I knew I wanted to be involved and make my mark at the school; but I wasn't too sure how. However, after spending four years here, I can honestly say that all the opportunities, teachers and people at Weston helped me make a mark and made everything amazing. Despite the fact that everything wasn't always perfect, and there were just as many low points as high ones, I can say that I wouldn't change it for the world. These past four years shaped me into who I am today.

How do you feel about graduating?

I'm very happy. I feel like everything has a time and place in this world, and I think this is the perfect time for my career at Weston to end. I've grown so much in these past four years, and every experience I've had, as I mentioned before, has made me into who I am today. I've grown so much because of this place, and I'm ready to see what the world has in store for me.

What would you change or do differently?

For a long time, I thought I should study 24/7 and sacrifice the time I spent in clubs and teams to get a certain mark. But now I've realized that although marks are extremely important, high school is also about your experiences and the good times you have. It's the people you meet in clubs, and the times you have that make your high school experience. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it weren't part of those clubs, so if I could go back, I'd make sure to savour the moments I had doing extra stuff.

LUCAS, GRADE 11**How has your time at Weston affected you?**

At first I heard a lot of bad things about the school, a lot of my friends told me that it wasn't a good school and I should be careful. But after going here, I know that none of that was really true. There's a whole other side of Weston; one that I've come to love. So far, it's been an amazing experience.

What lessons did you learn (inside or outside the classroom) that shaped you into who you were today?

I don't know if it's really a lesson, but I'd say it would be what my friends taught me. They helped me become a better leader and person. The people I've become close to these past three years really helped me come out of my shell and become someone I might have looked up to when I was younger. One of the most important things they helped me realize is that you should try new things and be optimistic, because you never know.

How do you want to be remembered?

I want to see the impact I made, and if my actions affected anyone. I don't think I'll make any ground breaking changes, but I do want to see how the younger kids I've come to know have been impacted by me. When I leave high school I want to be able to say that I made change in at least one person's life.

DANIEL, GRADE 11**What would you change or do differently?**

Definitely being more open to things and people. There are so many unique and interesting people that go to this school, and I find that the more open minded I am towards them the more fun interesting times I have. Seeing how other people see the world and go about there every day lives is so interesting to me and I think that if I were more open when I began in grade 9, I'd be a better person right now.

What lessons did you learn (inside or outside the classroom) that shaped you into who you were today?

Set priorities and make time for things you love. I also learned to think a certain way, and to challenge everything I hear. Before I'd believe most of what my teachers and peers told me but now? I question everything, and I'm not afraid to anymore. I find that the more questions you ask, and the more you in depth you look into things, the better you understand things. Trying new things and questioning everything makes you so much of a better person.

How do you want to be remembered?

I want to be remembered by what I've done and am doing. It's one thing to hear about people, but it's another to be remembered for doing things. People could hear about Daniel who went to Weston and did something great, but I want people to remember actually interacting with me or feeling the impact of the things I've achieved. I want people to remember my actions and the way I made them feel. That's what makes you who you are.

SELMA, GRADE 12**How do you want to be remembered?**

I don't really want to be remembered by high school me. I feel like it took me 4 years to really find out who I am, and I would rather make a legacy after I leave and be remembered by that. I want to do amazing things and I'm going to do amazing things, and rather than have people remember the Selma from their English class, or whatever, I want people to hear about everything I've achieved once I graduate; and think I knew her when.

What would you change or do differently?

I would stop caring so much. For the vast majority of my four years in high school, I was so caught up on what people thought of me, and tried to hard to be someone I'm not. I use to hold so much of my importance in others, and I'd be so hard on myself if I didn't get their approval. If I were to tell my grade 9 self one thing, it would be put yourself first. You need to stop caring so much about what people think and start living for you. In 10 years when you look back on your time at Weston, you're not going to remember what people did or said; but you will remember how everything made you feel. I became a happier person when I stopped caring about other people's opinions of me, and I think everyone can learn from that.

Any final words?

As much as I want to be cliché and say that high school was terrible, I'm actually so happy with the way things turned out. I think that bad and the good things that happened shaped me into the person I am today, and I don't think I would have been able to do the things I've done without it. Weston has honestly and truly made me who I am today because of it, and I am so glad I decided to come to this school.

AMRAN, GRADE 12**What was your favourite experience at Weston?**

Making friends. It's kind of scary when you're a new kid and don't know anyone, but the people at Weston were so sweet and welcoming. The best thing about high school is the people you meet, because they help carry you through everything. It's kind of cool how we all have different paths and goals; but we all ban together to get through the crazy high school experience. The whole experience at Weston was amazing, and I think that everything about this school made the experience great.

How do you feel about graduating?

I'm excited and relieved. I think it's a huge milestone, and although I'm going to University in the fall, and its more school; I'm excited for what lies ahead. I loved high school but I'm ready for my life to really begin and for all the memories that will follow.

What would you tell someone who is about to graduate?

Don't rush it, just enjoy things. High School goes by so quickly and before you know it, you'll be accepting that offer from your dream school, and everything will be different but it'll all be good. High School will make a huge impact on your life and I'm so glad I experienced it in the way I did.

Weston Collegiate has seen its fair share of exceptional people throughout its 160 years. From the princesses to the jocks, the artists to the mathletes; everyone who graced the halls of Weston has been unique and amazing. The paths they take throughout school and after have been shaped by the outstanding environment, staff and students that Weston possesses. If it were not for the outstanding environment Weston possesses the graduates, and graduates to be; would be vastly different people with different world views. Weston's class of 2017, and the future class of 2018, are full of phenomenal human beings who are without a doubt going to go on to be some of the brightest, successful people this world has ever seen.

Decade News

Late 1940s, Early 1950s

Old Boys of Weston

The old boys of Weston reunion is held on the second Tuesday of December each year.

**Weston Collegiate Old Boys Reunion & Lunch
Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Held at Mandarin Restaurant
North East corner of Hwy. 27 at Rexdale Blvd.**



Back row (left to right) Bruce Lee, Jack Look, Wilf Chard,
Ed Chadwick, Orlando Martini, Gary Seagrave,
Doug Heathfield, Dave Allatt

Front Row (left to right) Santo Martini, Gino Guatto,
Stew Antram, Ron Hurst, Rudy Miller, Jack Kelly

Inset: Marvin Katz (had to leave before the picture was taken)

Ladies Reunion

The ladies always meet on the Monday after Labour Day in September.

This reunion was started by a small group of classmates (Louise Bochna (Lawson), Pat Sibley (Desmond), Betty Patterson and others) in September 1997. The first organized reunion was held at the Weston Golf Club and there were 12 ladies present. For the last several years it has been held at Nobleton Lakes Golf and Country Club, and the group has expanded to approximately 46 ladies. Louise Bochna and Doreen Batterbury have put a lot of time into organizing and keeping track of everyone.

**WCVS Classmates Reunion
September 12, 2016
Nobleton Lakes Golf & Country Club**



Back row – left to right: Lois Livingston (Williams), Loretta Meltz (Curtis), Lorna Harding (Ireland), Joan Garratt, June Evans (Hamilton), Ivy Fenton (Garratt), Marg Adams (Dobson), Kathy Hendry (Smith), Joan Reid-Bicknell (Powlesland), Florence Thompson (Hamilton), Mary Lostchuck (Harrison), Marlene Miller (Spence), Ann Cowan (Day)

3rd Row: Gail Stephenson (Smith), Taflyn Maynard (Sale), Joan Dalziel (Todd), Eleanor McClelland (Lynd), Lorraine Hilliard (Kersey), Doreen Shackleton (Dobson), Ann Whitmore, Wanda Stevenson (Anness), Barb MacDonald (Lynd), Nancy Etherington (Ingram), Dana Winder (Dobson), Marilyn Williams (Mousley)

2nd Row: Mary Seagrave (Walwyn), Beverley Ash (Miller), Ann Martini (O'Dell), Betty Silver (Johnson), Eleanor Fry (Risebrough), Doreen Batterbury (Brayshaw), Peg Falvey (Bradford), Joan Wardrope (Pender), June Musselwhite (Anderson), Heather Breedon (White), Andrea Goodison (Kemmis), Bev Gutteridge (Davis)

1st Row: Audrey Miller (Grimoldby), Bella Jane Smith (Robertson), Barbara Moffatt (Simpson), Pat Evans (Tavender/Ross), Ines Chard (Martini), Pat Niepage (Maguire), Louise Bochna (Lawson)

Two Weston Collegiate Graduates Recognized for Volunteer Service to Toronto

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Toronto recognized and celebrated 25 of this city's most amazing volunteers at its 4th Annual Legacy Awards on April 28 at Metro Hall. Recipients were nominated by organizations or members of the community and were selected by a committee of local community leaders, previous award recipients, and Volunteer Toronto Board Members. This year's recipients represented a diverse spectrum of genders, ages and cultures.

With so many nominees, it seemed incredible that two of this year's Legacy Award Recipients were graduates of Weston Collegiate Institute, Prakash Amarasooriya (2000s) and Jane (MacMillan) Ross (1970s).

Prakash Amarasooriya: Setting youth up for success

Prakash started volunteering during high school, where despite juggling five part-time jobs he early on recognized the benefits. From stress-relief to getting his foot-in-the-door with potential job opportunities, he set out to prove he had the skills to make an impact. In his volunteer position as School Boards Lead with the Toronto Youth Cabinet, it's clear to see he's met this goal. "Prakash's volunteer work has benefitted future generations of young people across the province," says Tom Gleason, Executive Director (also a recipient of a 2017 Legacy Award). "His teamwork and leadership skills have set an example for the young people of the Toronto Youth Cabinet and demonstrated what is possible when young people work together for a common cause."



Prakash was instrumental in securing a meeting with the Minister of Education, successfully campaigning to have financial literacy included in the Ontario curriculum. Along the way, he's used his drive, openness, and remarkable ability to form strong relationships to push for fast and impactful change in large bureaucracies, also encouraging others to do the same. "Volunteering taught me the life skills I needed that I was not taught in class," Prakash says. "I learned to develop my interpersonal skills, improved my communication skills, became a better public speaker and refined my time management skills."

Jane Ross: A legacy made in Weston

Starting as a member of the Weston Leo Club at 14, Jane Ross has spent the last 45 years serving Toronto as a volunteer. She was the first female member of the Weston Lions Club, and has truly given her blood, sweat and tears to the community in a lifelong commitment, volunteering more than 500 hours each year.

When she's not working as an Administrative Assistant, Jane is busy at the Weston Lions Arena Snack Bar, keeping the books, also organizing Toronto Blue Jay giveaway events and the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation.

"Many organizations benefit from Jane's work with the Lions Club," says Samantha Noort, a fellow volunteer. In 2016, \$75,000 was invested back into the community through initiatives Jane touched. From sending blind children to camp, providing at risk youth with good breakfasts, supporting the Weston Food Bank, the Humber Regional Hospital, driving scholarships for students, and helping connect youth with the service dogs they need, Samantha says Jane is the embodiment of volunteerism in Toronto.

"My greatest seasonal volunteer commitment starts again with the opening day for the Toronto Blue Jays," Jane says. "Our Lions Club has been working with the Jays for 40 years, handling the gates for the giveaways. I have been running the volunteers for the past seven years, communicating, organizing gate assignments and coordinating all of this with the Jays staff." She adds, "I have over 100 unbelievable volunteers for Jays, of all ages, from all over Toronto. Their enthusiasm for the work, knowing that their labour will help others humbles me and keeps me smiling as I run around the stadium on game days."

**Photo and write up provided by Volunteer Toronto (<http://www.volunteertoronto.ca/?page=LegacyAwards2017>)

Volunteer Toronto is a charity that connects volunteers to the causes that need them. Each year, the organization connected thousands of people across the city to volunteer opportunities and work closely with over 600 non-profits to ensure they have the skills and expertise to provide meaningful volunteer experiences.

Class of 2007 – 10 years later

By Lesley (Ross) Bannard

It's hard to believe that 10 years have passed since we walked the halls of Weston. A lot has changed since 2007 – some of us went our separate ways as we pursued secondary education out of the city and others grew closer as they started the next phase of their lives at York, Ryerson, and the University of Toronto. I moved to Ottawa to attend Carleton, met some of my closest friends and my husband, but a part of me would always be in Weston.

When I graduated from Carleton, many of my friends stayed in Ottawa to find work and build their lives and many of them remain there today, but with an acceptance letter to Humber College, I was headed home to continue my studies in the Post Graduate Public Relations program.

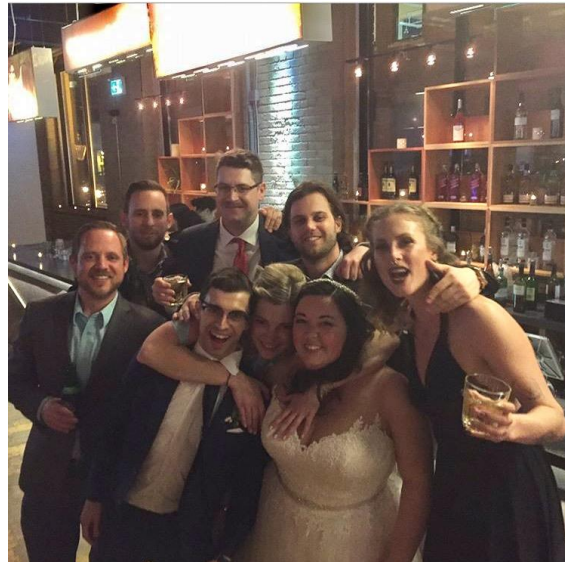
My Weston friends have been in my life for as long as I can remember – many of them have been my friends since the days of Family Centre at Weston Memorial, others I met playing hockey at Weston Minor, and the rest at CR Marchant.

While we don't see each other as often now, when we're together, it's like no time has passed at all.

Weston Collegiate Prom 2007:



My Wedding – April 29, 2017:



Back Row: Kris Dimitrijevi, Brent Gunning, Daniel Austerberry, Heather Douthright
Front Row: Jason Dimitrijevi, Nick Bannard (My Husband), Shauna Orr, Lesley Bannard (Ross)

Pushing for financial literacy in the classroom

By Andrea Gordon, Education Reporter, Toronto Star – Article appeared on November 1, 2016 in the Toronto Star

Prakash Amarasooriya is on a mission to get more financial literacy into Ontario high schools. So far, he seems to have a savvy investor's touch when it comes to good timing.

The 23-year-old is behind [a petition launched by the Toronto Youth Cabinet](#) three weeks ago that calls on the Ontario Ministry of Education to revamp its Grade 10 career studies course to incorporate the basics of budgeting.

"These skills are vital and should be a priority," says Amarasooriya, who works parttime in a bank and knows firsthand how alarming it is to face financial instability without any money skills to rely on. Turns out his pitch is timely. Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter wants to strengthen financial literacy in schools and will meet with Amarasooriya and other youth cabinet colleagues on Tuesday to hear their ideas.

The meeting also comes as the ministry begins its curriculum review of the mandatory Grade 10 career studies half-credit course. "Being financially literate is a basic skill I believe every student should be equipped with," Hunter said in a statement to the Star. "Students should have the knowledge of how money works, how it applies to their everyday lives and to their future.

We're looking at different ways to further incorporate financial literacy into the curriculum to better prepare every student with the skills they need for life."

Amarasooriya's commitment to helping youth learn about money comes from experience. He was in Grade 10 at Weston Collegiate Institute when both parents suddenly lost their jobs in the auto industry.

"It was one of the biggest shocks I ever received in my life, that money wasn't permanent," he says. Panicked about how he, his parents and 11-year-old brother would manage, he juggled five different parttime jobs throughout high school, including as a grocery store cashier, in data entry and teaching taekwondo, even though he was enrolled in a demanding international baccalaureate program and involved in extracurriculars.

His marks started to fall and by the beginning of Grade 12 it was "the loneliness point in my life" as he tried to keep his marks up, manage his jobs and sock away money for the future.

He didn't know how to budget or plan, and even after his parents found work again, kept earning as much as he could, at great cost to his mental health and his marks.

"I saved a lot instead of saving smart," says Amarasooriya, who graduated from York University in 2015 with a degree in kinesiology.

Working in the bank, he soon realized his own lack of basic money knowledge is widespread. He sees young customers daily who don't know the difference between chequing and savings accounts, and people of all ages living off overdraft or credit cards with no understanding of the interest rates they get charged.

Earlier this year, Amarasooriya joined [the Toronto Youth Cabinet](#), a volunteer advisory group to the city, with the goal of promoting financial lessons in school.

Some financial experts argue budgeting should be taught and modeled by parents, rather than in a classroom. But Amarasooriya says parents like his, who are working class immigrants without any financial expertise, aren't able to do that. School is where all kids should have equal access, and Grade 10 is the ideal time, he says. Students have parttime jobs, start saving for postsecondary education and are a couple of years away from having a credit card and a student loan. Teaching kids to manage their finances goes hand-in-hand with learning about careers and "if you don't know how to survive in the world, that (career) doesn't matter."

The petition has the support of 10 trustees from both Toronto public and Catholic school boards. It cites a 2012 Investor Education Fund survey, which found that only a quarter of students believed they made good spending decisions and that their school was teaching adequate financial literacy, but almost 70 per cent wanted to learn about it.

Tributes

Joseph “Joe” Scott – 1921-2016

By Robert Heath

Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland, England, in 1921, Joe immigrated to Canada, with his parents in 1928, and settled in Mount Dennis. He attended Roseland Public School then Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, for the technical programme, and graduated in 1939. After graduating, he went to work at Massey Harris Co. Ltd. in Toronto where he met the love of his life, Eileen Corbet. They married in 1947. During World War II, Joe proudly served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Upon returning from the war, in 1946, Joe joined the Toronto Transit Commission as a carpenter and worked at the Hillcrest Shops till he retired in 1982.

In the early 1950s, Joe and his wife bought a house on Brookhaven Drive in the Trethewey area of North York where they raised their children, Suzanne and Michael who are also graduates of Weston Collegiate Institute. Michael was the Chief Commissioner of Scouts Canada and an Order of Canada recipient. Joe was a member of St. David's Anglican Church, on Lawrence Avenue, for 65 years and served as a Lay Reader for 40 of those years. While at St. David's, he helped create the 6th Weston Scout Group. Joe worked in Scouting for over 20 years as a Scout Leader, Service Scouter, Member of Area and Regional Committees. In 1985, Joe helped create the Weston Area Emergency Support (W.A.E.S.) Food Bank and represented St. David's Anglican Church on the governing committee. Joe volunteered with W.A.E.S. till 2002.

In 2012, Joe and his wife, Eileen, sold their home on Brookhaven Drive and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake to be closer to his son's family. Joe passed away on September 20, 2016. His commitment to help others and his humour will be missed.

Nancy Phillips-Amodeo – September 5, 1960 - October 23, 2016

Class of 1979

Sadly Weston lost a wonderful alumni and lifelong Weston resident when Nancy Phillips-Amodeo passed away in October 2016.

Nancy attended WCI in the seventies and had a big circle of friends – many of whom she kept in touch with throughout her life. Even decades later, if you ever wanted to know where someone from high school was now you just needed to ask Nancy – she either knew instantly, or would find out in a flash. Friends were extremely important to Nancy, second only to her family. And she would always go the extra mile for you, no matter what you needed.

Nancy and her husband Joe settled in Weston in the 80's and started their family which grew to include four children. She became very involved in the community starting with Weston Memorial and then C.R. Marchant. Nancy was the consummate volunteer Mom, helping out at various fundraisers, school activities and local events.

Nancy was also a committed runner. She could often be seen running throughout the Weston neighbourhood, as well as much farther afield, often training for one of the many marathons she ran. With her beautiful auburn hair flying behind her, she was hard to miss. Her circle of friends grew over the years to include many runners from across the city.

After high school Nancy trained as a pharmacy technician and spent many years working in the pharmacy at Sunnybrook Hospital. Even there she crossed paths with many former WCI students and Weston neighbours, and she was always trying to assist them in navigating the health care system.

Nancy was a kind, generous, and loving woman, and always so proud of her family. She displayed remarkable strength right up until the end. Following her diagnosis in Spring 2016, Nancy did her best to live life to the fullest. She and Joe spent some time together at their cottage in Nova Scotia which was probably her most favourite place on earth.

Janet (Heslop) Gillespie – February 13, 1955 – August 25, 2016

Janet (Heslop) Gillespie passed away on August 25, 2016 in Wellington (Guelph).

Janet Heslop was born on February 13, 1955 in Weston. Her parents were Russell Frederick Heslop and Hazel Margaret (Carson) Heslop. The Heslop family resided at 262 Queen's Drive since the early 1940's.

Janet attended Weston (WCVS), with her older brothers Raymond and Murray.

She graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1978 with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies. She loved animals, and had started to work with them at the Lennox Animal Hospital in 1970. Following University, she continued her career with animals as a Veterinary Office Manager.

A memorial service to celebrate Janet's life was held at Moorefield United Church on September 3, 2016.

Prepared with information provided by Janet's cousin, Anne (Heslop) Simmons. (1957).

Janet Noreen Gillespie (Heslop) passed away at the Wellington House Hospice in Guelph on August 26, 2016 at the age of 61 after a lengthy battle with ovarian cancer. Cremation followed and a memorial service was held at Moorefield United Church on Saturday, September 3 and her ashes were interred at Maple Cemetery on Friday, September 9 as per her wishes. She is survived by her husband, Peter, brothers, Raymond and Murray (Linda) and her nieces and nephews. Janet is fondly remembered by her many supportive friends who cared for her in her final years and her colleagues at Bloor Mill Veterinary Clinic. Janet was born February 13, 1955 and raised in her birthplace, Weston. She graduated from Weston Collegiate and attended St. Paul's College at the University of Waterloo, where she met many of her lifelong friends. She graduated with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in 1978. Her love of animals led to her career as a veterinary assistant and Office Manager.

In Memoriam

Since publication of the last alumni Newsletter in July 2016, the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation has been informed of the passing of the alumnae/alumni/staff listed below. Heartfelt condolences are extended to the families and friends of the deceased. Please let us know if we have missed anyone.

Era	Name	Residence	Date
1950s/60s	John David Dowdell	Gravenhurst, Ontario	March 16, 2016
1930s	Margaret (Chard) Brown	Toronto, Ontario	April 5, 2016
1940s/50s	Janet (Worrall) Macdonald	Durham, Ontario	May 11, 2016
1940s	Norman "Syl" Bunn	Cambridge, Ontario	June 12, 2016
1950s	Gerald Edward Livingston	Nashville, Ontario	June 17, 2016
1940s	Nancy Ferguson	Etobicoke, Ontario	July 23, 2016
1950s	Brian Holden	Etobicoke, Ontario	July 31, 2016
1970s	Nancy (Heslop) Gillespie	Guelph, Ontario	August 25, 2016
1930s	Joseph Scott	Niagara On the Lake, ON	September 20, 2016
1940s/50s	Edward (Ted) Pinn		September 27, 2016
1950s	Irene (Burlington) Sherratt	Orangeville, Ontario	September 30, 2016
1940s/50s	Jennett (White, Moon) Toelke	Zelienople, PA	October 4, 2016
1940s	Kenneth Grimoldy	Toronto, Ontario	November 28, 2016
1970's	Nancy (Phillips) Amodeo	Weston, Ontario	October, 2016
1940s	Blake Eatough	Etobicoke, Ontario	January 3, 2017
1940s	Margaret (Worden) Snider	Aurora, Ontario	February 26, 2017
1940s	Ernest Nicolucci	Oakville, Ontario	March 3, 2017
1940s	W. Peter Barker	Etobicoke, Ontario	March 31, 2017
	Nancy (Ingram) Etherington		May 11, 2017
1950's	Ted Koehler		August 18, 2017
	James L. Packham		July, 2017

Treasurer's Report

It has been my honour to act as Treasurer of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many generous donors. Your gifts assist us to support the students attending Weston Collegiate today.

The Alumni Foundation honours two students nominated by staff for the Orlando Martini Awards each year. Our 2016 honourees were Miduran Mugugathesan and Debra Dada. These deserving students will graduate this year.

In 2014, the Alumni Foundation created a new award in honour of the late Gary Hamara, who taught English at Weston Collegiate for many years. The third Gary Hamara English award was presented to Karen Hirji in 2016.

Grade 8 students from four area middle schools visit Weston Collegiate each year to learn about the programs available to them as they prepare to select their Secondary School. To build excitement during these visits and attract more students to our school, the Alumni Foundation has donated Tablets to be awarded as prizes to a lucky student from each of the visiting schools. These gifts serve to identify Weston Collegiate as a school with an active Alumni Foundation and a rich history of student support and achievement.

The Foundation continues to support student projects and programs such as Drama, Yearbook and the Prom. This year, the Alumni Foundation was also pleased to support the STEM program at Weston Collegiate, a summer program that gives future grade 9 students a head start, an opportunity to participate in secondary school programs, meet staff and find their way around the school to ready them for September.

Your generosity enables us to achieve our mandate to continue to provide assistance to the current student body of our school. Thank you for your support.

Jane (MacMillan) Ross
Treasurer, Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

Donations

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) gratefully acknowledges receipt of charitable donations in 2017 from the alumni listed hereunder. Persons have been listed in the order in which donations were received. The WCAF respects the privacy of all donors and alumni. We do NOT rent, sell or trade our mailing lists.

Name of Donor	Residence	Name of Donor	Residence
Frances (Loftus) Breakwell	Etobicoke	Dana (Dobson) Winder	Weston
William Francis In Memory of Al Beardall	Oakville	Jim LaRose In Memory of Norman Vineham	Caledon
Melvina (Middlebrook) Deakins	Innisfil	Jane (MacMillan) Ross In Memory of Gary Hamara	Weston
Anne (Heslop) Simmons In Memory of Janet Heslop Gillespie	Victoria BC	Robert Millie In Memory of Douglas Moore	Jonesboro, GA
Robert Heath In Memory of John Heath	Weston	Orlando Martini In Memory of Richard "Dick" White and Allan Chard	Etobicoke
Orlando Martini In Memory of Fred Fox and Jennetta (White) Toelke	Etobicoke	John MacDonald	New Fairfield, CT
Douglas Musselwhite	Etobicoke	Lloyd Munshaw	Pass Lake
Anne Dale	Toronto	John Solarski In Memory of Gary Hamara	Mississauga
R. Miller	Woodbridge	C12 Graduating Class (1957/58) in memory of Classmates	Various
Vicki (Bunda) Marshall	Weston	Mary Jane (Knapp) Asslestine	North Bay
Wayne Kilfoyle In Memory Gary Hamara	Toronto	Stephen Kishimoto In memory of Gary Hamara	Mississauga
Erich Both In Memory of Gary Hamara	Mississauga	D. Williams In Memory of Gary Hamara	Etobicoke
Steve Gilbert In Memory of Gary Hamara	Etobicoke	Michael Butler In memory of Gary Hamara	Toronto
Gord Whitaker In Memory of Gary Hamara	Toronto	Thomas McConnell In memory of Richard "Dick" White & Jennetta (White) Toelke	Victoria Harbor
Shirley (McCutcheon) White In memory of Richard White & Jennetta (White) Toelke	Milford	Carol (Brown) Gribbon	Etobicoke

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Donation and Newsletter Form

This form may be used for:

- **MAKING CHARITABLE DONATIONS** to the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (receipts for income taxes purposes will be issued for all donations).
- **PURCHASING** a copy or copies of the latest Alumni Newsletter.
- **REGISTERING** your name with the Foundation to receive notices of future events by E-mail

Please complete the form below and enclose your cheque or money order payable to:

Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation
P.O. Box 79775
1995 Weston Road
Weston ON M9N 3W9

Name (first, last): _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____

Period at
WCI* _____

Address: _____

Apt/Unit #: _____

City or Town, Province, Postal Code: _____

Telephone (please include area code): () _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail address: _____

My cheque totalling \$_____ is enclosed for:

(a) A donation to the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

\$ _____

(b) Newsletter @ \$5.00 per copy

\$ _____

(c) Please register my name with the Foundation (no charge)

Total \$ _____

* Please indicate when you attended School at WCI – e.g. 1960's, late 40's/50's

If you have already made a charitable donation and/or ordered the Newsletter, please pass this form on to a friend, relative or colleague.

160th Anniversary Registration

Full Name: _____ Maiden Name (if appl): _____

(First name for badge) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Staff: _____

Registration Fee – Canadian Funds

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Payment of Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person | \$ _____ |
| 2. Donation (all donations support WCI student achievement) | \$ _____ |

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Cancellations/Changes and Refunds: All registration fees are non-refundable. Substitutions are allowed at no charge.

A Charitable Tax Receipt will be issued for any donation of \$10 or more.

PAYMENT METHOD: Check or Money Order in Canadian funds payable to: **Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation**. There will be a \$25.00 fee charged on checks returned by the bank due to insufficient funds. Registration confirmation/receipt and further information will be mailed.

Please check appropriate box: Check Money Order

Please mail completed registration form with payment to:

Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

P.O.Box 79775

1995 Weston Road

Weston, Ontario, M9N 3W9

If you have any items/books/photographs you would like to contribute to our Decade Room displays, please contact Jane Ross at rosscjr@hotmail.com. All items will be returned to you immediately following the Reunion.

