



ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Toronto Chapter)

SPECIAL EDITION—APRIL 2023

NEWSLETTER NO. 108

IMPORTANT ASSOCIATION NEWS

April 23, 2023

Dear Members of the St. Rose's Alumni Association (Toronto Chapter),

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the **pending closure of our beloved association** after over 25 years of dedicated service to St. Rose's High School in Georgetown, Guyana. The decision to dissolve the Association was **approved at our Annual General Meeting today (April 23, 2023)**.

As many of you may know, the Toronto Chapter was formed to support school projects and initiatives, and to keep alumni connected through social events and community outreach programs. Over the years, we have worked tirelessly to raise funds to support **various initiatives at St. Rose's High School** to assist students and teachers. Our efforts have contributed to the computer lab, chemicals for the chemistry lab and the provision of awards to meritorious students, and the purchase of much-needed equipment such as laptops and other resources for the school, totalling over **C\$250,000**.

Regrettably, after carefully considering various factors, such as those related to dwindling membership, unsuccessful recruitment efforts to attract new board members, and recent fundraising impediments arising from the pandemic, we have arrived at the arduous conclusion to terminate operations of the St. Rose's Alumni Association's Toronto Chapter by year's end. The situation is further exacerbated by the persistent stagnation of our board's composition for the past decade or so, rendering it unsustainable to continue with an aging committee.

The Association's funds will be used to settle all outstanding commitments and any remaining assets will be used to support school project(s) according to the Association's by-laws. After which, the association will file for a certificate of dissolution with the province of Ontario.

Although the Toronto Chapter will no longer be operational, we encourage all members to continue to support St. Rose's High School in whatever ways they can. We are confident that the spirit of the **Serviam** will live on in the hearts of all those who have been a part of it.

If you are interested in starting a new alumni association, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to share our experiences and offer advice & guidance on how to get started. However, we will not be able to provide personal contact information to others who may want to form a new association. This is in line with our commitment to protecting the privacy of our members.

We want to express our **sincere gratitude to all members, past and present**, for their unwavering support and dedication to the mission of our association. Your contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of the students and faculty at St. Rose's High School, and we are proud of what we have accomplished together.

Thank you also to **past committee members and sponsors** who have helped to make this journey possible. It has been a pleasure to serve our members, and we wish you all the very best for the future.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

In Serviam,
2023 Executive Committee and Board Members
St. Rose's High School (Toronto Chapter)

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THANK
YOU
very much



COMMENTS FROM OUR ALUMNI

(received by email or through our website)

- “Thanks to all the members past and present for dedicating their time towards this great Association. I will miss the newsletter.” ***Maureen Gordon***
- “Sad news, but many, many thanks to the alumni who have run this association over the years. Blessings to all.” ***Felicity (Franker) Alexander***
- “Thank you for all you’ve done.” ***Maria I. Reilly***
- “Well done and thanks for the years.” ***Sandra Gittens***
- “I wish to thank all for the many years of supporting St. Roses GT. In the past years, being in Guyana every (year) as a missionary, I have been visiting our school. I was often asked to present awards to the graduating students. Yes I will miss that and more. However all good things must come to an end. I truly believe the decision made was correct. I have no further comments. God bless.” ***Lauren Awah Harry***
- “You guys did a great job assisting the school, Like everything else the Ursuline Convent in Barbados and Guyana is also closing. The Ursuline school is no longer in existence for quite some years and now reality steps in we should accept it is a government school. We have wonderful memories and made everlasting friends.” ***Marcelle Vansluytman-Ledoux***
- “Although I totally understand the reasons for the closure, as the spouse of one of your members I'm saddened by this announcement. The association has been an important part of Yvonne's life, and by extension, of my life. You have my sincere appreciation of everything that the Srh TO Chapter has accomplished over all these years. Thank you as well for all the pleasures and excitement that we have enjoyed through your unselfish, hard work.” ***Gerry Triesman***
- “Sad to hear. Thanks to the Committees through all the years who have worked hard and achieved so much. God bless you all.” ***Mitzi Martin Neuzerling***
- “Very sad to hear this news. Thanks to all Members of the committee for their dedication over the years. God Bless you and your family. In Serviam.” ***Nellie Ferdinand Carey***
- “Thank you for your work for our Alma Mater. Generations of students benefited from the donations, upgrades to the classrooms, current computers and established a link between the Toronto Alumni and the school. As well, you created a community here with the school as it’s center. Thank you.” ***Alice Sweetnam Bhyat***
- “Younger people don’t come out to support the events. Year after year it was the same crowd and you could see they were aging. Strange enough my husband made the comment (about it being an old folks party) at the Christmas dance before Covid hit. Sad but c’est la vie!” ***Toni Mayers Jagannath***
- “O my goodness! It’s hard to believe, but I guess it had to happen given the aging members who really kept it going all these years! Thanks so much to ALL of them! We will truly miss all the many get-togethers, reunion lunches etc. We have great memories to keep with us! Serviam!” ***Carol Lopes Chung***
- “I was not surprised but sad to read the news of the closing of St. Rose’s HS Alumni Assn Toronto Chapter. Thank you for the well written and clear report and for sharing the steps to be followed for such a closing. Your willingness to assist any new group is commendable. Who knows, maybe they are waiting in the wings. Thank you for a job well done.” ***Rita Glasgow Bacchus***

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**YOUR 2022–2023
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Cheryl (Surrey) Braz, Interim President
- Beverley (Rowe) Jones, Secretary
- Penny Lee, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

- Desiree (de Abreu) Buckley
- Cheryl (D'Ornellas) Devers
- Terry Kim Katchay
- Carol (Harris) Munroe
- Tessa (King) Ng-See-Quan
- Shanta (Naraine) Persaud
- Yvonne (Joseph) Triesman
- Jennifer (Dummett) Welshman

Remember: *"The best times in our lives were not about what we had but who we were with."*

**ST. ROSE'S HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL REUNION
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
JULY 30 TO AUGUST 5, 2023**



Our Alumni Chapters are planning an International Reunion in Guyana from **July 30 to August 5, 2023**. This reunion promises to be a time of nostalgia and fun. It is an event you would not want to miss. Many of your school friends are planning to be there. Reconnect with them and rehash all those memories.....

More information may be obtained by emailing reunion@strosesalumni.org or you may register online at <https://strosesalumni.org/join-us-at-st-roses-high-school-alumni-international-reunion-2023/> to secure your spot.

N.B. Late fees will apply after June 30.

There's a word that wakes our spirits..... Serviam!

OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Valerie (Mohamed) Coates** on the death of her husband, Dyson Fraser on March 9, 2023 in Brampton, Ontario. Dyson's sister-in-law is **Alumna Lorraine (Mohamed) Emeghebo**.

—The relatives of **Mrs. Ruby Ramsammy** a former teacher at St. Rose's High School. She passed peacefully on April 12, 2023. in Santa Monica, California

—**Alumnae Myrtle Cheeks, Dolores Cheeks, Joan Cheeks and Daun (Cheeks) McWatt** whose brother Anthony (Tony) Cheeks passed on April 25, 2023 in Hamilton, Ontario.



The announcement on Page 1 was circulated to our membership on April 23 by email and published to our website and Facebook pages.

We are sending this paper copy to our alumni who do not receive electronic mail in order to keep all of our supporters informed. The comments above were received in the first week since the announcement was made.

As stated in the announcement, **"It has been a pleasure to serve our members, and we wish you all the very best for the future."**

