

A Jubilee Year of Accolades and Achievements

The Jubilee Year of the School, marking the 50th anniversary of our School's founding, was celebrated at every level of the HGS community. It was truly a year like no other at HGS, presenting a golden opportunity to celebrate 50 years of achievements and to recognize the contributions of many individuals to the School's success and reputation for excellence. It also provided a unique opportunity to focus on fundraising for endowment.

Fundraising

The fundraising goal for the newly established **Jubilee Endowment Fund for Scholarships and Bursaries** required initiatives other than the designated proceeds from special events. In the months leading up to the Gala, efforts were made to add significant dollars to endowment. As a result, two named scholarships have now been endowed in perpetuity through the generosity of alumni parent **Mr. Colin MacDonald**, Chair of the successful *Building on Excellence* Capital Campaign launched in 1999, and HGS graduate **Dr. Tom Meyerhof'64**, eldest son of Founder Dr. G. Geoffrey Meyerhof. In accordance with the new scholarship policy, scholarships are established with a minimum endowment of \$20,000.

The remainder of the \$175,000 that was received for endowment prior to the Gala, were unsolicited donations from **Mr. Gordon Strrett** who pledged a magnificent gift of \$100,000, **Mr. Peter Nicholson'83**, an HGS graduate who pledged \$20,000, Founder **Mr. Elliott Spafford** who we were delighted to see at Jubilee events, the law firm of **Stewart McKelvey**, and Founder **Dr. Kraft von Maltzahn** and former German teacher **Mrs. Anne von Maltzahn**. Together, these generous members of the HGS Community have set an example for others to emulate in the interests of the future financial security of the School.

Special Events and Publications

We honoured our Founding families and Charter Students at the **Jubilee Launch** in September, welcomed back alumni and their families at the **Alumni Reunion Weekend** in August, initiated a **Distinguished Speaker Series** that included alumni who are making a significant difference in today's world, inaugurated an **Annual Alumni Dinner** and an **Alumni Service Award**, hosted the **National Junior High Debating Championships**, and staged a magnificent **Jubilee Gala Dinner and Dance** on May 30 that raised an astounding \$175,000 for the Jubilee Endowment Fund.

Recording these events on film were photographers **David** and **Diane Krochko** who generously covered all the special events free of charge during the Jubilee year. David and Diane capture those wonderful student photos every fall and the special photos at the school closings and graduation.

Holly McCurdy Dunn'88, Senior Communications Consultant with m5pr, wrote press releases for the Gala and the debating championships, and secured TV and print coverage

for two of our alumni distinguished speakers, Mr. Andrew Oland'85 and Dr. David Goldbloom'71. Holly serves as Communications Officer for the Alumni Association.

Capping off the Jubilee year will be the much-anticipated publication of *The Grammar School: Striving for Excellence for 50 years in a Public School World*, a history of the Halifax Grammar School, 1958 to 2008, written by Dr. Paul Bennett. Published by Formac Publishing of Halifax, a special limited edition will be available in July and can be pre-ordered for \$35 through the School. Another publication that marks the many remarkable successes, stories, and milestones over the past 50 years is the **Commemorative Edition** of the *Grammar News* that was distributed to the HGS Community in May, a souvenir rich in memories.

Commemorative Artwork



Placing an indelible stamp on the Jubilee year was the **50th Anniversary logo** that was created by graduating IB Art student **Jessica Perrie'09**, whose artwork conveys an uplifting spirit of the leaf that compels us forward to the future. It appeared on all print materials for the 2008-09 school year and on the Jubilee souvenir items of pens, bookmarks, memory sticks, copper mugs, and lapel pins. The 50th logo joins an impressive collection of anniversary logos designed by talented HGS students.

HGS Graduate **Allyson Simmie'85** has designed three gorgeous pieces to commemorate our Jubilee Anniversary, as well as a new HGS ring that was unveiled in the last Newscast. The Tree of Knowledge sculpture is a reproduction of a maple leaf twig in Sterling Silver with five leaves, signifying the five decades, set on Nova Scotia Green Serpentine with an 18k yellow gold plate. The pendant and cuff links are also crafted in Sterling Silver and Nova Scotia Green Serpentine. These limited editions are priced at \$475 for the Sculpture, \$350 for the Pendant, \$350 for the Cuff Links. Orders can be placed through the Development Office where the jewellery can be viewed and admired.

An award-winning artist, Allyson is an accomplished jeweler and sculptor, whose work has been widely shown and collected by clients including the Office of the Governor General of Canada, the Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and the Premier of Nunavut. Allyson has a studio in Blandford, NS.

Setting the Stage

In the fall of 2007, a **Jubilee Planning Committee** was formed with representatives from a broad cross-section of our community – alumni, faculty, current and past parents, students, staff, members of the Board of Governors - whose discussions set the Jubilee calendar of events and overall concept. It was to be a year of celebrations with a focus on sustainable events and lasting relationships, and a community-building year, especially for the HGS alumni Association. Needless to say, all of this was accomplished in fine style, with special thanks to **Dr. Paul Bennett** whose foresight and clear direction truly set the stage for an amazing, successful celebratory year.

The nineteen committee members included the Chair of the Board of Governors, **Joan Penney**, as the Honourary Chair, **Roger Baskett'86**, Headmaster **Paul Bennett**, **Drew Bethune'67**, **Matthew Bluteau S3**, **Laura Brock**, **Wendy Carter'93**, **Sheila Connor**, **Howard Conter'77**, **Meg Federico**, **Deborah Goodfellow**, **Carol Hansen**, **Bev Jackson**, **David Keefe'92**, **Emily McCormick S3**, **Holly McCurdy Dunn'88**, **Patricia McDermott**, **Gay Silverman**, **Bill Spurr**, **Gordon Stirrett**, and **Lisa Wilson**.