

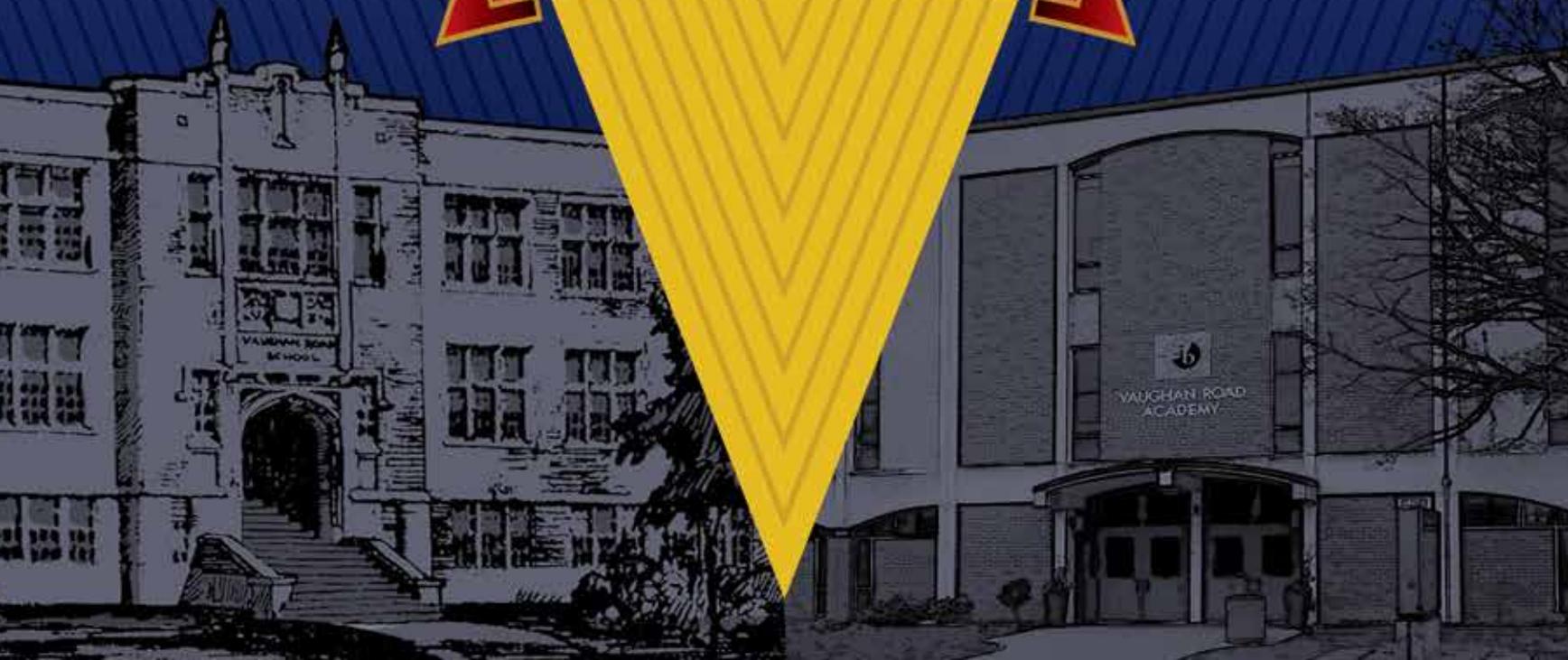


A Tribute to

VAUGHAN

1926 • 2017

IN MEDIUM QUÆSITA REPONUNT





Message from the Chairs of the Farewell Tribute Committee and the Vaughan Road Alumni Association



HOLD A 91ST REUNION celebration or a farewell tribute celebrating 91 illustrious years? That was the dilemma a small group led by Jack Parker, Chair of the Vaughan Road Alumni Association, faced in September 2016. On December 7, 2016, the verdict was in—Vaughan Road Academy (VRA) would close for good as of June 30, 2017.

It was a sad moment for the group of five who had met at the school to learn the news that day. But there was no time to waste. There were less than six months to accomplish what would normally take a minimum of 18 months and that was to plan the best tribute possible for a school that has meant so much for thousands of students over its 91 years.

A multi-generational committee was quickly assembled with the first Farewell Tribute Committee meeting held on January 11, 2017. I want to acknowledge all of the committee chairs, the volunteers, principal Cynthia Zwicker-Reston and her staff and faculty. This tribute was only made possible because each one worked tirelessly over the past five months, bringing their expertise and heart and soul to the task, ensuring Vaughan Road received a memorable send-off—one that every former student could enjoy and reflect with pride on how much we derived from our years here.

Saying goodbye is hard to do. But Vaughan Road will forever live on in our hearts and minds.

— *Norma Meneguzzi Spall, Chair of the Farewell Tribute Committee (Class of 1971)*



VAUGHAN ROAD IS CLOSING after 91 years of providing a terrific education to thousands. The teaching staff at Vaughan over the years did an incredible job of sharing in their role as leaders. They helped prepare the grads to become understanding, compassionate and valuable members of society. For almost all former students there are still great memories about their time at Vaughan. I still see several of my former classmates at least once a year. I have had the privilege of being an active alumnus since 1983. The committees, on which I served, presented the Celebration of Vaughan in 1986, for the 60th Anniversary, in 2001 for the 75th Anniversary, and again in 2011 for the 85th Anniversary. Since 1986, the Alumni Committee delivered over \$30,000 in financial rewards to deserving students and graduates. For the final commencement, scheduled in June of 2017, another \$2,000 will be employed. I have attended many commencements in the last 31 years. This farewell will be another celebration of the place that Vaughan Road will continue to hold in the community. Thank you to all the committee members who dedicated their efforts to the success of this farewell event.

— *Jack Parker, Chair, Vaughan Road Alumni Committee (Class of 1952)*



Anne Michaels, Class of 1976

Photo by Marzena Pogorzaly

UPON LEARNING of the school closure we asked Vaughan alumnus and Toronto's current poet laureate Anne Michaels if she would provide a poem to mark its closing. The poem she proposed deals with time, place and memory.

Anne Michaels is a novelist and poet. Her books are translated and published in over 45 countries and have won dozens of international awards, including the Orange Prize, the Guardian Fiction Prize and the Lannan Award for Fiction. She has been shortlisted for the Giller Prize (twice), the Governor-General's Award and longlisted for the IMPAC Award (twice). Her novel *Fugitive Pieces* was adapted as a feature film. Her latest book of poetry, *Correspondences*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2014.

PHANTOM LIMBS

*"The face of the city changes more quickly, alas!
than the mortal heart."*

— Charles Baudelaire

So much of the city
is our bodies. Places in us
old light still slants through to.
Places that no longer exist but are full of feeling,
like phantom limbs.

Even the city carries ruins in its heart.
Longs to be touched in places
only it remembers.

Through the yellow hooves
of the ginkgo, parchment light;
in that apartment where I first
touched your shoulders under your sweater,
that October afternoon you left keys
in the fridge, milk on the table.
The yard — our moonlight motel —
where we slept summer's hottest nights,
on grass so cold it felt wet.

Behind us, freight trains crossed the city,
a steel banner, a noisy wall.
Now the hollow diad
floats behind glass
in office towers also haunted
by our voices.

Few buildings, few lives
are built so well
even their ruins are beautiful.
But we loved the abandoned distillery:
stone floors cracking under empty vats,
wooden floors half rotted into dirt,
stairs leading nowhere, high rooms
run through with swords of dusty light.
A place the rain still loved, its silver paint
on rusted things that had stopped moving it seemed, for us.
Closed rooms open only to weather,
pungent with soot and molasses,
scent-slung. A place
where everything too big to take apart
had been left behind.

*from Miner's Pond,
McClelland & Stewart, 1991*



Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal



SINCE ARRIVING AT Vaughan Road Academy, we have been struck by the sense of history and the many alumni we have encountered who are so fond and proud of their high school. Clearly their experiences at Vaughan Road have impacted their lives much beyond the high school years. We have learned many lessons about Vaughan Road and the history of Toronto through the eyes of these individuals.

Alumni Committee Chair Jack Parker was one of the first people who introduced us to Vaughan Road. When Jack describes his years at VRA, it is as though you are walking the halls with him. His memories of people and place are so vivid. Thank you to the alumni committee for organizing wonderful events to celebrate the history of the school over the years and for recognizing a number of Vaughan Road graduates each year through generous scholarships. On Remembrance Day in 2015, alumnus Gordon Carton wrote and read a passage to remember his friends and classmates who died during World War II. It was a moving tribute to his school and expressed a fond gratitude for his country. It was a moment that students and staff will not forget.

Congratulations to Norma Meneguzzi Spall and all members of the Farewell to Vaughan Tribute Committee who have planned and executed the wonderful and important Tribute event. Thank you to all of the committee chairs and in particular to Katie Pellizzari and her team whose unflagging, passionate and consistent research resulted in this important chronicle. We have learned so much about those who have learned together in this building over 91 years. Congratulations to the new Hall of Fame Inductees. The telling of your stories gave us some additional insight into student life through the years at Vaughan Road and you are a wonderful representation of the so many accomplished individuals who have been members of the school community.

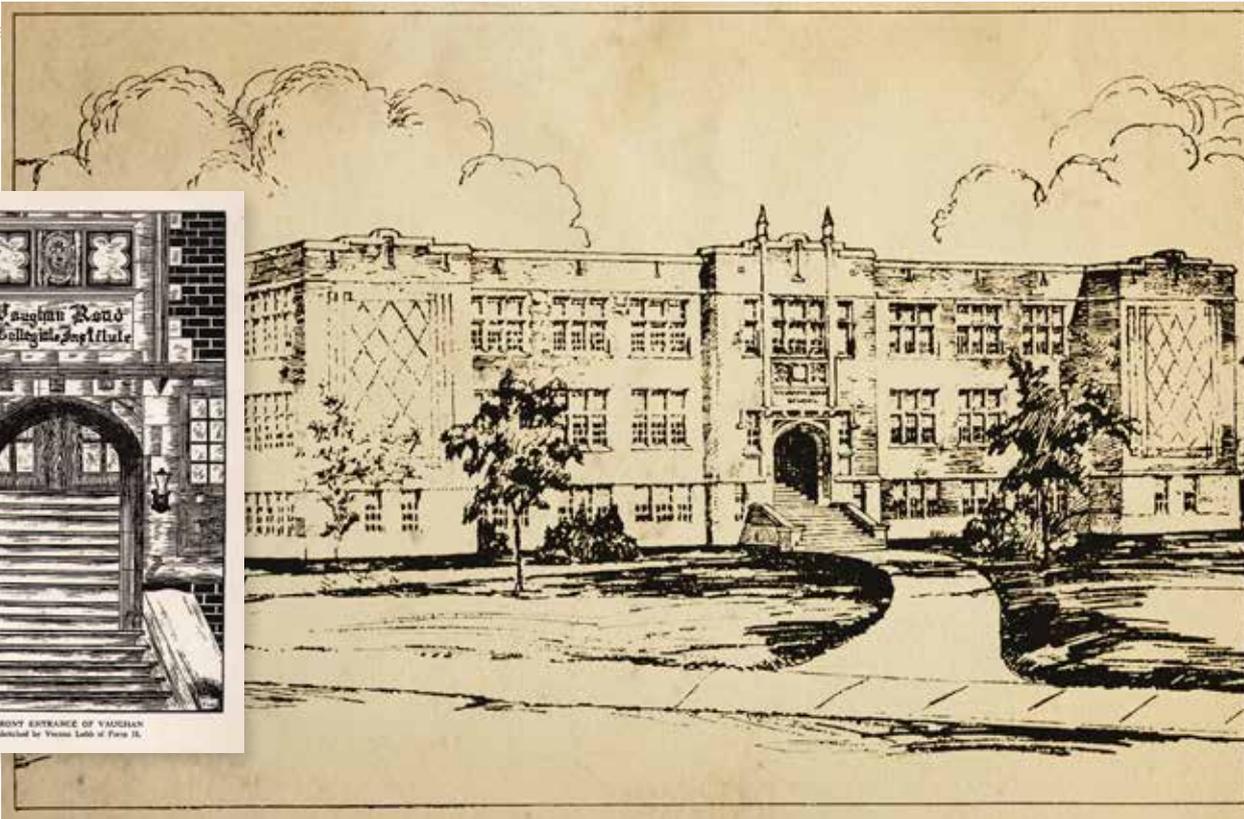
To the final graduating class, current student body and staff at VRA, we hope that the videos, photographs and your involvement in year-end celebrations captures the spirit, enthusiasm and pride in your school that you have shown this year. History should look back at a group that embodied the Vaughan Road motto, *Through study they restore community*. It was sad to be the final group but once the decision was made we decided that we would learn together, celebrate together and support one another in the transition work that was a significant part of the year. We look to new beginnings and the many opportunities that will unfold for our students and staff. As with the wonderful alumni we have met and celebrated with, we will have very fond memories of Vaughan Road Academy and our time here will have a lasting impact upon future endeavours.

— Cindy (Cynthia) Zwickler-Reston and Janet Allen

Principals of Vaughan

G. E. Evans	1926–1957
O. B. Coumans.....	1957–1965
J. R. Rowlandson.....	1966–1970
Daryl Hodgins	1970–1973
Frank Irving.....	1974–1975
W. Harris Hill.....	1975–1978
Norm Ahmet	1978–1981
Jocelyn Gauthier-Kennedy.....	1981–1984
Robert (Bob) A. Rosebrugh	1984–1986
Audrey Amo	1986–1987
Milan Crepp	1987–1991
Brenda Protheroe.....	1991–1992
Terry Baytor	1992–1997
Colleen Baycroft	1997–2002
Sue Eamon	2002–2004
Susanna Greenaway	2004–2007
Joseph Santalucia	2007–2012
Mike Poirier.....	FEB. 2012–JUNE 2012
Cynthia Zwickler-Reston.....	SEPT. 2012–2017





THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF VAUGHAN
as depicted by Vernon Lamb in *Form 18*.



youth
energy
hopes
dreams

On December 7, 2016, Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustees voted to close Vaughan Road Academy. The first high school built in the former City of York is now the first to be closed. A school is as much about the values and principles of a culture and the neighbourhood it is located in, as it is about education and the spirit of youth. We hold it in our memories and it holds us.

AFTER THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION quickly launched into organizing one last reunion, we channelled our sadness and frustration into researching the school's physical, cultural and social history.

We interviewed people, found bits and pieces of information at the city archives and on the Internet. Yearbooks, which are kept in a vault in the main office, were our main source of information, including the 50th Anniversary Acta complement, *The First Fifty Years*.

We soon realized we were diving into a vivid and intense micro-history. Each decade, with its rich stories, comments and insights into student life and the world outside deserves its own booklet. We cannot offer a comprehensive history we can only offer a glimpse into the school's splendid life.

As you read through these pages we hope our brief and partial exploration of Vaughan will bring back memories of your own time at the school. As we flipped through the yearbooks we encountered teachers and principals who shared their passions and interests with students; we read about sports teams, clubs, scholarship and academic achievements, and we met spirited and perceptive students who offered frank opinions about everything. Their stories and poems, their reports, pictures and accomplishments offer a unique insight on life, the school and its neighbourhood. We found our youth, our energy, our hopes and dreams. We found ourselves. We hope you will too.

— Katie Pellizzari and Elizabeth Cinello

1926—
2017



BEGINNINGS AND FIRSTS. Clockwise from top left: Oakwood Avenue looking south from Eglinton Avenue, 1924; Cedarvale land for sale, 1915; Cornerstone laid 1926; New cafeteria, auditorium, gym and pool construction begins 1958/59; Jack Riley and his father.



How nice it will be to have a magnificent new building, all our very own... a school of which we may all be proud, a school that is second to none, in all the province... modern, fully equipped, and distinguished in appearance, both inside and out.

The “gym” is being fitted out with the best of apparatus and is large enough to permit different games to be played at the same time.

...Visions of an oratorical society and a school of dramatics and, certainly most visionary of all a third story added to our school in the faraway future.

— *the first yearbook, Acta Studentium 1927*

“There were sixteen class rooms, three science labs, three teachers’ rooms, an auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, library, locker rooms and offices. The commercial department had thirty-five typewriters while the science labs had running water and gas outlets at every desk.”
— *The First Fifty Years, 1976*

“After Easter we began the Spring term in this building. No expense had been spared and everything was the last word in modern school equipment.”
— *Valedictorian Maxine Lucas, Acta 1928*

First High School in York Township

Vaughan Road was a Native trail. In 1850, the Yorkville and Vaughan Plank Road Company laid down wooden planks and created Toronto’s first toll road, connecting the area’s farming community to Yorkville.

In the 1920s, York Township was a burgeoning community of immigrants from the United Kingdom. Infrastructure projects brought electricity, telephone lines, plumbing, paved roads and transit to the area. Young people were moving through the school system but had nowhere to go for their high school education.

In February 1926, with a growing tax base to draw from, the Council of the County of York declared York Township a high school district. In September, with much fanfare, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Colonel Henry Cockshutt, laid the cornerstone at the construction site of the future Vaughan Road High School. Students, staff, and their families attended the ceremony. In April 1927, students moved into the present building.

Early Days and Today

Vaughan’s student body began its first academic year 91 years ago while the high school was still under construction. Classes were held in two temporary locations. Its academic stream was housed in portables at Rawlinson Public School and its commercial school was in portables in the field behind Central Fairbanks School known as Six Acres, a swampy area where students played organized sports.

“It is the Swamp. A place which affords a great short cut for those living south, but alas! so many accidents occur there daily. In the summer there are grass snakes which persistently frighten the life out of our girls and which the boys will catch and chase us with. Then there are yellow Marigolds which mockingly laugh at us when an unfortunate one falls in the black mire, while attempting to pluck them.”
— *F. O’Harrow, Acta 1927*

“It was some change to move from the primitive portables to the lavish new structure with its fine gymnasium, spacious auditorium and other facilities which made our eyes pop. Everything was new and shiny and exciting...”

“Good-bye portables! It is with joy that we look forward to the increased advantages afforded us by the new building.”
— *John Doherty, editor of the first two Actas*

Vaughan’s Student Population

“Working positively together, with respect for and understanding of each other’s cultural, ethnic and religious strengths, has made the uniqueness of the VRCI family exemplary for others to emulate.”
— *Milan Crepp, principal, 1991 farewell note*

VAUGHAN WAS BUILT in the heart of one of the country's most culturally diverse districts. A walk through its neighbourhoods today will take you past Philippine grocery stores, Portuguese bakeries, Italian restaurants, Jamaican roti shops, and synagogues and churches of many denominations. Its centrally located neighbourhoods once offered affordable housing and accessible public transit. The area has long been a magnet for newly arrived immigrants looking for work, a better life, and a new place to call home. Vaughan embodied the hopes and aspirations people have for their children—a better life through education.

In the early 20th century, immigrants from the United Kingdom flocked to the area, attracted by the cheaper land in York Township. In the 1930s, Toronto's Jewish community began to move north from older downtown neighbourhoods. Italian immigrants took over the city's west end in the 1950s. For decades these communities dominated Vaughan's student demographic. From the 1970s on, the school was enriched with the growing diversity of the city, attracting students whose families arrived from all over Europe, the Caribbean, South America, Asia and South Asia.

Jack Riley, Vaughan's first black graduate (1939/40), embodies the neighbourhood's dynamic experience. His father, head blacksmith at the TTC, was originally from Barbados and came to Toronto via Nova Scotia. In 1926, he moved his family from downtown Toronto to north of Rogers Road, just off Oakwood. That made the Rileys one of the first black families in the City of York. Jack attended D. B. Hood before coming to Vaughan where he played on the rugby team. "I loved French class, *comment ça va?*" Like many students during the war years, after graduation he enlisted in the army.

"When WWII ended he returned to Toronto and continued his education at Ryerson where, in 1945, the Toronto Training and Re-establishment Institute trained ex-servicemen and women for re-entry into civilian life. Jack was the first black student to graduate with an Electrician's Certificate. Early in his career, he was part of a team of electricians who wired the Shaarei Shomayim synagogue, later transformed into the Hungarian House, on St. Clair West.

"In 1953 he founded his own company, JJ Riley Electrical Contractor, and went on to wire many buildings. 'I knew Rabbi David Monson, he hired me to do some work at Beth Sholom synagogue.' A big job came to him through his D. B. Hood school friends, the Pusitano brothers and Andy Ucci, who were builders. 'They hired me to wire the entire north side of Brendwin Road in the west end. I even bought a house on that street.'"

— *Living Toronto Journal*

"The world will be ruled by the students of today; if we shirk our responsibilities now, what will happen later?"

— *Bob Auld, student council president, Acta 1951*

Student Achievement

In the past, newspapers reported on the achievements of high school students. They reported on special events, sports, scholarly competitions and they even printed the names of students who passed. If writing a test wasn't enough pressure,

everyone in your community, everyone in the city would know how you did. One student, in the early 1930s, who headed her graduating class at Vaughan, winning the prize as leading all-round student was **Eileen Tallman Suftrin**, a pioneer labour leader, awarded a Governor-General's medal in 1979.

Another student who was always at the top of his class was Vaughan's 1981 Nobel Prize recipient in Physics, **Arthur L. Schawlow**, co-inventor of the laser. American-born to a Canadian mother, he grew up in Toronto and graduated from Vaughan in 1937.

In a 1996 interview with Suzanne B. Riess, for a book about his life, Mr. Schawlow recalls his high school days, including a chemistry and physics teacher:

"The fourth year, I think we took chemistry. And then the fifth year, chemistry and physics. Those last three were from a man named Robinson, C. W. T. Robinson, who was known to everybody as 'Speedy,' because he had a rather slow way of talking—although amazingly, he had been a fighter pilot in World War I. We had five years of high school, thirteen grades in Canada. I think they still do, but I really don't know why because the Americans, at least those that come to Stanford, are just as well-prepared as we ever were. But perhaps I couldn't have taken so many languages if it hadn't been for that.

"Anyway, in the last year he just told me to do all the problems in the book at my own pace. That was pretty good, so I learned everything that was in that textbook... In high school mathematics I was at the top of the class, could do very well."

Vaughan has seen many graduates build successful careers in the arts, in academia, science, medicine, business, sports, politics and social justice. You never know when you might encounter a Vaughan graduate at a business meeting, or in China, like **Dr. Stephen L. Endicott**. You might encounter a Chief Judge of the District Court of Ontario like the **Honourable Justice William D. Lyon**; or a doctor who is reading your MRI or taking your blood pressure.

As current teacher Mr. Jason Kunin found out, you might encounter a member of your PhD dissertation committee like **Hersh Zeifman**. Prof. Zeifman went to Vaughan and attended the prom with fellow graduate and Vaughan English teacher **Miss Goldberg**.

Mr. Kunin is a popular English teacher who lives in the neighbourhood. Since 1999, he has taught various courses at Vaughan including the school's film course. He has produced many entertaining online videos about our students and teachers. He captures everyone's feelings when he speaks about Vaughan as a community, a community space that has been special. He speaks about his students with pride:

"The kids have been great here. I could not have asked for better classes and better students. They have taught me lots of little things—they come up with insights into works I'm teaching that surprise me, that I haven't thought about before. I learned a lot about the world through my students' own backgrounds and personal experiences."

International Baccalaureate Program

Vaughan, an Academy since 1997, in 1998 became only one of a handful of TDSB schools that offered the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB). The IB gives students first-year university credits and is recognized in over 125 countries. It prepares students for the challenges of university anywhere in the world.

The IB Diploma program is centred on academic excellence and personal achievement. Students study English, a second language, mathematics, science, social science, the arts and a philosophy course called Theory of Knowledge. Students must commit to 150 hours of activity divided among volunteer service, sports and the arts.

What Will Happen to Our Old School Building?

Vaughan will not be sold but its future is uncertain. The TDSB cites low enrolment and the inability to offer robust programming to its students as the reason for the school closure. As the community grapples with its loss, it becomes clear that these reasons are symptoms of bigger problems related to budget restrictions and policy changes that have affected the entire school board.

Vaughan is in excellent shape. Local not-for-profit community groups want to use the building to bring much-needed services to the neighbourhood—including the expansion of the community daycare run by the Learning Enrichment Foundation. The city will continue to run its park and recreation programs in the pool and gyms. The TDSB may decide to reopen the school in the future, perhaps under a different name, perhaps not even as a high school. The neighbourhood, which the school was built to serve, wants Vaughan, an integral part of its history, to remain a public asset.

Some Contributing Factors to School Closure

- Decline of student enrolment begins in the late 1970s and continues to today, across the city.
- In the 1980s, full funding of Catholic School Boards sees students transfer to Catholic high schools.
- In the 1990s, families move from old city neighbourhoods to suburban GTA cities.
- Optional attendance allows students to attend any school in the board; students are no longer required to attend their local school.
- Introduction of specialty schools and programs, reflecting the board's new market model, draws students away from their local school.
- Under Ontario's funding formula, school boards no longer have the power to raise tax dollars. To pay for school repairs and constrained by the Ministry of Education's funding directives, school boards close and sell off schools.
- For over 10 years, rumours circulated that Vaughan would close; at the end of the 2016 school year, a letter was sent home to students advising that the school may close.
- Once enrolment falls below 700 students, cuts are made to electives; below 400 students, schools face cuts to core programming, precipitating a death spiral. ▼



Girls' Basketball Team
 Mae Coates, Hilda Woodhouse, Ruth Murison, Winifred Thompson, Miss Fry (Coach),
 Dorothy Hendrick, Agnes Blain, Margaret Jones, Doris Richmond.
 Absent: Ruth Brown, Marion Wallace.



ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL LIFE

Sports Teams and Clubs

“Sports, clubs and events add a certain social flavour to the humdrum existence of school life.”
 — *Acta Studentium* 1927

VAUGHAN'S YEAR 1 saw the first Acta yearbook, skating parties at the new Oakwood Park Rink, and the organization of a 20-piece orchestra which played at art exhibits and literary meetings as well as at important school events.

The first Oratorical Contest took place at the school's temporary location at Rawlinson Public School which was happily attended and cheered on by the entire student body because it got the afternoon off, proving early on that students are always happy to get out of class.

Vaughan's spirited female students formed the Girl's Athletic Association and the Girl's Club, “to encourage their mental, physical and moral development.” One hundred girls turned out for the group's first big event: The Hike. They played games, sang songs and ate food. The Trethewey lands were a favourite location. The boys had the HI-Y club.

Year 2 brought excitement and school spirit with the organization of teams for interschool and intramural competitions. The rugby team was the first team entered in an interschool competition and the first team to win a championship cup. It remained a popular sport throughout the school's early decades, with junior and senior teams winning championships especially during the 1930s.

Vaughan produced many winning athletes and teams. **Marita Payne-Wiggins** (1979), a runner, was a track and field athlete who won national and international awards including a Gold in the 1986 Commonwealth Games and two Silver medals in the 1984 Olympic Games. Hall of Famer **Gord Ash**, a past general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays; and new inductee **Tom Watts**, Toronto Maple Leaf Coach from 1990 to

1992, saw action in Vaughan's gym. In 1991 Watts returned to Vaughan as a special guest at the Athletic Banquet.

The 1993/94 school year produced the York League Junior Girls Basketball champs; the Cross Country Team champions; Men's singles Tennis Championship and the Girls Soccer team captured its second York championship in a row.

In 2012, both the senior girls and senior boys Vaughan Road Vipers basketball teams advanced to the OFSAA; with the senior boys winning the OFSAA “AA” Provincial Championships.

In 2016, Vaughan athletes participated in seven sports: Badminton, Co-ed Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Table Tennis, Tennis and Track and Field. Caroline Perez won the Tennis City Championship in the senior female division. Four athletes advanced to the Badminton City Championship, two singles and one double Co-ed team. Vaughan's Varsity Girls team qualified and represented our school at the OFSAA Single “A” Championship in Thunder Bay. In Track and Field seven athletes qualified for the 2016 OFSAA Track and Field Championship, in Windsor.

Here is a list of the eclectic teams, clubs and activities at Vaughan gleaned from yearbooks and online information. They are in no particular order. Some teams and clubs have been around since the beginning, some fell off the radar, like the Assault-at-arms, the Cadet Corps and the Ambulance Squad in the school's early years; while others like Cricket and Table Tennis are recent additions.

The list includes teams that participated in city-wide competitions and events, as well as intramural or in-school programs and workshops.

“The signallers (in charge of military communications), band, and stretchers are well underway again. Under the leadership of several experienced students, shooting is going on apace and the outlook for a team for the various trophies is

very promising indeed.”

— *Vaughan Road Cadet Corps, Acta* 1928

Early Clubs

Assault-at-arms • Cadet Corps [with rifles!] • Ambulance Squad • First Aid Unit

Arts Clubs

Literary Society • Dramatic Society • Oratory Society • Dance Club • Dancing Classrooms • Drama Club • Announcement Club • Sound, Light and Stage Crew Club • Stage Design Club • Creative Writing Club • Vaughan Theatre Company • Student Newspaper Club • ESL Club • Library Club • Reading Club – Boys • Boys Book Club • Writing Club • Improv Club • Live Production/Play • Tech Crew • Tech and Stage

Music

Orchestra Band • Staff Band • Glee Club • Von Vox Choir • Choir • Ensemble Band • Jazz Band • Jam Band • Brass Band • Crunchy Roll • Concert Band • Keyboard • Dance Team • Jazz Choir • Music Council • Elevendisix

Visual Arts

Poster Club • Photography Club • Sewing Group • Enamelling Group • Raffia, Leather, Crepe Paper interest groups • Art Club • Painting • Basket Group • Canvas Art Project • Ceramics/Pottery • Radio Club • Computer/Graphic Arts • Camera Club • Film Club • Media Arts

And More

Acta Studentium Yearbook (1926–2012); thereafter the Yearbook (2012–17) • Student Council • Von Vox • Von Voice • Pulsar Chronicle • Prefects • Junior Red Cross • Prom Committee • Math Club • Math League • Moderns Club • French Club • Spanish Club • Italian Club • German Club • ISCF (Inter-school Christian



Fellowship) • VRTI Club • Rainbow Club • Black History Month • African History Assembly • Fiesta Latina • Barangay Club • Typhoon Haiyan Relief Club • Hellenic Student Association • Guitar Club • Jewish Culture Club • Asian Culture Club • Model UN • Model Parliament • Ontario Model Parliament • Peer Tutoring Club • Gay-Straight Alliance • DECA Team • (Chemistry) Lab Rats • Computer Club • Debating Team • Debate Team • Philosophy Club • Peer Tutoring Committee • Technology Club • Girls Club • Mentors • ESP (Empowered Student Partnership) • Vaughan Road Lawrence Heights Mentorship Program • School Play • Green Club • Go Local • Gardening Club • Green Team • LGBTQ • LEGO Robotics • Biology Club • Scobie's Step Team • Yoga Club • Dance Team • Latin Dance Club • Knitting Club • Gamers' Club • Anime Club • Wellness Warriors • Chess Club • Games Club • Weight Training Club

Social and Global Issues

Environmental Club • Social Justice Club • United Nations Club • International Club • Dignitas International • Vaughan Volunteers • Me to We

Sports

Rugby • Tumbling and Pyramid Work • Soccer • Slo-Pitch • Track and Field • Archery • Basketball • Hockey • Boxing • Gymnastics • Wrestling • Volleyball • Flag Football • Tennis • Running • Badminton • Broomball • Butler Ball Hockey • Self-defense • Swim Team • Ski Team • Baseball Team • Basketball Team • Football Team • Cricket Team • Cross Country Team • Golf Team • Indoor Soccer Team • Softball Team • Table Tennis • Vaughan Cheerleaders • GAA • BAA • Vaughan Athletic Council

FESTIVALS, DANCES, competitions, and student exchange programs animated student life at

Vaughan. The Canandaigua Exchange brought Vaughan students in close contact with students from New York State during the 1950s. In 1955 the school's musicians took part in the Owen Sound Orchestra Exchange.

The Halloween Masquerade was a popular event in the 1920s. In 1961 students organized "Gentleman's Week" where male students attempted to dress and act like gentlemen. The BAA presented Circus Nights and featured basketball games and a talent show. Later, in 1969, an Arts Festival was held at Vaughan.

Throughout the 1990s and 2000s Black History Month and the Black History Assembly shows celebrated African culture with lively spoken word performances, dances, poems and song.

Nature Trips

From the 1970s on, Camp Wanapitei and Pine River excursions figured prominently. In 1993, at Pine River Week students formed a committee called START (Students and Teachers Against Racism Today) to share what they learned during workshops.

Students also travelled to Ottawa, Montreal, Stratford, Niagara Falls, Welland Canal, Quebec City, Buffalo, New York, Paris, Mexico, Italy, Mont Tremblant, Spain and Portugal.

Fundraisers

From Vaughan's very first year, students have organized carnival nights, talent shows, bake sales and food drives. The Terry Fox Run Fundraiser, an annual tradition, was one of Vaughan's favourite and most successful all-time fundraising events. It brought the school and community together and showed Vaughan's generous spirit.

"In this school year alone, well over \$10,000 have been raised through the Terry Fox campaign, the United Way campaign, the Heart and Stroke swim-a-thon, and the Huntington Society ►

Hoop-a-Thon... We can be justly proud of these accomplishments which are unparalleled in our city.”

— *Brenda Protheroe, teacher and principal, Acta 1992*

Award Winners

Continuing in a long history of speech writing at Vaughan, the 1995 Junior Speech winner, **Hugh K. Gordon** wrote a clever and convincing defence of violent video games:

“After spending five hours in asbestos filled rooms ... looking at rocks, speeches, and a guaranteed weekly test from at least two classes, wouldn’t you just love to be able to go home, turn on the Mortal Kombat and gently rip the head off Scorpion? ... On really bad days ... when someone forgets to tell you about the geography test, that’s when you can just lose it.”

At the 2005 International Olympiad in Informatics, a VRA student received a gold medal, and silver medals in 2004 and 2006.

In 2013, *Homecoming*, a short film by Vaughan’s grade 12 students was shown at the prestigious TIFF Bell Lightbox Jump Cuts film festival. The following year, in 2014, Vaughan students had another film in the Jump Cuts festival, called *Nightlight*. These films were produced by students enrolled in Vaughan’s new film program directed by Mr. Jason Kunin.

The Arts and INTERACT

In the 1996/97 school year, almost 30 years after the first Drama program at Vaughan, students made a spectacular showing at the 50th Sears Drama Festival. Under the guidance of teachers Mr. Ken Klonsky and Mr. Blake Melnick, Vaughan won every award possible from city-wide to province-wide. It put the school on the map with our talented students, including writer **Jelani Nias**, winning more awards that year, than any other school.

Much artistic talent has graduated from Vaughan — artists, designers, actors, musicians, singers, directors, and writers. Every generation of students can point to an artist who has made his or her mark, nationally and internationally. **Don Harron** was a beloved 1940s alumnus who retired from performing at Vaughan’s 85th reunion with a special show.

INTERACT, launched in 1985, is an academic secondary school program for students involved in arts and athletics who find that their out-of-school activities make regular attendance at the traditional secondary school difficult, if not impossible. It provides a program that accommodates student absences for practices, auditions, competitions or filming.

The INTERACT program has nurtured performers such as **Ellen Page**, **Alison Pill** and **Drake**. They join a long list of luminaries who have left their mark in the arts like Hall of Famers **William Hutt**, **R. Murray Schafer**, **Charles Pachter**, **Louis Fishauf**, **Anne Michaels**, **Michael Friedman**, **Don Harron**, **Al Waxman**, **Larry Mann**, and radio personality and entertainment reporter **Rudy Blair**. See pages 9-11 for their biographies. ▼

KNOCKOUT. Right: Rubin “Hurricane” Carter with Ken Klonsky’s students, 2001.



OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF

IN 1957, WHEN he retired, our first principal, **Mr. Evans**, was the longest serving principal in Ontario. By then, over 12,000 students had passed through the school doors. Hundreds of students attended a party at the Palace Pier in his honour. The expert in classic studies loved Vaughan and nurtured its culture of engagement. Many teachers shared his outlook and enhanced Vaughan’s curriculum.

In 1969, the head of the English Department hired **Mr. Wayne Fairhead** to start the Theatre Arts program, one of the first drama courses in Ontario. Vaughan’s students always put on a great show and now they could be guided and trained in all aspects of theatre production. In 1979 Mr. Fairhead left Vaughan and went on to work at the York Board of Education and OISE. The affable Australian trained many drama teachers at U of T, and is now the Executive Director of Sears Canada Drama Festivals.

Miss Cherilyn Scobie taught at Vaughan from 2003 to 2010. She organized a popular Dance Club where students honed their skills in Hip Hop, Contemporary and Caribbean dance, with soca and reggae music. Now a principal at Westview, Miss Scobie was part of a group of newly-hired young teachers. She remembers Vaughan as a school with great mentors, “Programs supported each other and they explored social justice issues. Vaughan shaped who we are as educators.”

An example of a great mentor and dedicated teacher is **Mr. Ken Klonsky**, who taught English at Vaughan from 1991 until his retirement in 2003. His commitment to one project stands out. This is the kind of teacher that makes a difference in a young person’s life.

“My students became interested in Rubin ‘Hurricane’ Carter after a field trip to see the film *Hurricane*. We wrote letters asking him to visit us at Vaughan and, for some reason, he agreed. It was a life changing experience for everyone, myself included. Subsequently, I interviewed him for the Sun magazine (Chapel Hill, NC) and the interview was seen by David McCallum at Eastern Correctional Institute, Upstate New York. He wrote to me and set into motion a 10-year struggle resulting in his release from a

wrongful murder conviction. He had served 29 years in jail. McCallum was released in 2014, six months after Rubin’s death. I have been the director of his project, Innocence International, ever since.”

— *Ken Klonsky*

In a 1990 Acta valedictorian speech, Gabriele Ferraioli estimates that from grade 9 to grade 13 a student spends a total of 5,000 hours in the classroom, 4,000 hours to grade 12. This does not include the time spent with teachers who coach, guide and teach extracurricular subjects, before and after school. After our own parents and guardians, they are the adults we spend the most time with.

We all have our favourite and our not-so-favourite teachers. There are those who threw chalk at us, hovered over our desks when we were writing a test, forced us to run extra laps, gave us detentions and extra homework, belittled our lack of knowledge, scowled at our excuses for missing a class, and taught us the meaning of sarcasm.

Daniel Norman, in a 1956 valedictory address turns our attention to the teachers who managed to make the quantum leap into the time space continuum of the teenage brain:

“Early in our high school careers we sometimes, I am afraid, laughed at some of their idiosyncrasies, but as we got to fifth form we realized that these idiosyncrasies were so much a part of their personalities that without them they would be failures, both as teachers and people. We developed a great respect for these men and women who were at the same time both patient and instructive. They encouraged us and helped mould our characters. Through our association with them at Vaughan, too, we formed friendships which shall last throughout life. These friendships are friendships peculiar to high school life and are not likely to develop anywhere else.”

Many teachers and administrative staff were long-serving Vaughan veterans like **Mr. Melville**, **Mr. Orfanides**, **Mr. Perkins**, **Miss Rose** and **Mr. Powell** (1967 to 1995). **Miss Talbot**, who attended Vaughan in the late 1930s and early 1940s, graduated and worked as an office administrator and was still here in the late 1970s. **Mrs. Felicia Quattrociocchi** worked in the

HISTORY OF VAUGHAN ROAD'S HALL OF FAME

IN THE YEARS leading up to Vaughan Road's 75th anniversary in 2001, the principal at the time, Collen Baycroft along with the Vaughan Road Alumni Committee decided that the Hall of Fame would be an effective means of recognizing some former graduates and draw attention to the calibre of students that passed through Vaughan's doors.

A letter with criteria was sent out to the alumni in the school's database requesting nominations. From the submissions received 25 were inducted in 2001. The same method was followed for the 2011 reunion. Seven graduates plus Vaughan Road's first principal were inducted in 2011. Another graduate was inducted in 2012. Today, a total of 47 honourees reside on the second floor hallway wall. They include the 13 who will be inducted during this Farewell Tribute. They are James Bruce, Tom Closson, Michael Cohl, Sarah Gadon, Connor Jessup, Mike Katz, Frank Pizzolato, Barry Pless, Rosemary Sadlier, Lenny Solomon, Maribeth Solomon, Tom Watt and Michelle Williams.

This list is a mere fraction of worthy students. We know that Vaughan's graduates have gone on to find success in a plethora of careers and have contributed to their communities locally and worldwide. We salute all of Vaughan's former students and their achievements and the inspirational teachers who taught us. ➤



office from 1985 to 2014.

Mr. Coumans wins the longevity award. You could read about him in 5 decades of Actas. The math teacher, with a penchant for photography, entertained everyone by writing equations backwards forcing students to read them with a mirror. He served as a teacher from 1929 to 1953, then as a vice-principal from 1953 to 1957 and finally, as principal from 1957 to 1965. Has anyone seen him lately?

Others saw "both sides of the desk" graduated and returned as teachers, like our energetic English teacher **Mrs. Goldberg**, and **Ruth Hershorn**, **Gloria Schwartz**, **Linda Shapiro**, **Norma Rosenberg**, **Thelma Roth**, **Evelyne Molnar**, **Karen Spector**, **John O'Connor** and **Rosario Orsi**. **Joe Santalucia**, a 1976 grad, came back as a principal in the 2000s. Still others like **Mr. Crepp**, who followed Mr. Coumans' path, started at Vaughan as a teacher (1964 to 1970) and then returned as a principal (1986 to 1991).

Some teachers fell in love with each other and got married. Others just happen to have names that went together, like two of Vaughan's original teachers **Miss Cooke** and **Miss Fry**. Many made a life-altering impact on us and changed our lives.

In the last 15 years, and in particular in the past few years, as student enrolment declined and the school's budget was cut, Vaughan's teachers stepped up to the plate and took on heavy teaching duties. They taught multi-level courses in one class; they taught new courses, and they worked with challenging timetables. In addition, during this final year, many teachers and some staff did not know, until the spring, where they would be working next. Through all this, their commitment to education and to their students remained unshaken.

Jeanette J. Antonio, a 1997 graduate, sums up our feelings for our smart, caring, heroic mentors: "I would like to thank **Mrs. Collins** for having taken the time to talk to me, and showing me another side to life. Mrs. Collins, if I had not taken your Grade 12 law class then I would not be in high school and I certainly would not be where I am today. Mrs. Collins, I love you and will always be grateful." ▼



PAST HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

GORDON IAN ASH (*Class of 1971*), general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays from 1995 to 2001, is currently the Vice President of Baseball Projects of the Milwaukee Brewers.

RUDY BLAIR (*Class of 1982*) is a music journalist and promoter with Rudy Blair Entertainment Media. He was a long-time music and entertainment reporter with 680News.

GORDON R. CARTON, a former Ontario Progressive Conservative politician and cabinet minister in the government of Bill Davis, he was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1963 to 1975.

DR. STEPHEN LYON ENDICOTT (*Class of 1945*) born in China to missionary parents before the Chinese revolution, is Professor Emeritus in History at York University; he has written extensively on Canadian labour issues and Chinese history.

GEORGE E. EVANS trained as a classic teacher in rural southern Ontario, was Vaughan's first and longest serving principal, 1926–1957. During his tenure of 31 years, Vaughan Road Collegiate grew rapidly, both in magnitude and in quality. He established a school with a rich tradition in academics and athletics.

LOUIS FISHAUF (*Class of 1968*) is a Canadian award-winning graphic designer, art director and illustrator known for creating logos, magazines, websites, packaging and brand identities for such companies as Sympatico, Adbeast, Alias, Roots, Molson Breweries, Intact Insurance and Toronto Life. ➤

DR. WENDY FREEDMAN (*Class of 1975*) is one of the world's most influential astronomers best known for her measurement of the Hubble Constant. Currently the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, she has received numerous awards and prizes for her research work.

MIRA FRIEDLANDER (*Class of 1971*), Canadian theatre critic and radio journalist, she was an award-winning freelance cultural, arts and travel writer for many Canadian and international publications.

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN (*Class of 1973*) is a singer, guitarist, songwriter and producer who is currently based in Germany. He tours extensively, performing in various countries as a solo artist as well as a member of several groups. He is a respected member of the international music community in Europe.

LORRIE GOLDSTEIN (*Class of 1970*) is Acting Comment Editor of the Toronto Sun. He joined the Sun in 1978, working as a general assignment reporter, feature writer, Toronto City Hall reporter, Queen's Park reporter, columnist and bureau chief, City Editor and Editorial Page Editor.

DON HARRON (*Class of 1942*), Canadian comedian, actor, director, journalist, author, playwright and composer. Harron is perhaps best known for the comedic character Charlie Farquharson from the country music television show, *Hee Haw*. ➤

THE VAUGHAN ROAD



James Bruce
Class of 1945, VRCI

James (Jim) Bruce's rich career in meteorology, climatology, water resources, disaster mitigation and science management started out shortly after he graduated from Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute (VRCI) in 1945 and went on to earn a MA in Physics (Meteorology) in 1952 from University of Toronto. Some of his many accomplishments include serving Environment Canada and its predecessors under a number of different roles, chairing the landmark Conference on Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change in Austria in 1985, and publishing *A Canadian Environmental Chronicle* (1954-2015). Jim's many accomplishments haven't gone unnoticed; he is an officer of the Order of Canada, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from University of Waterloo and McMaster University. He was the only invited Canadian member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change delegation, which received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in December 2007. Jim met his wife Ruth while studying at VRCI and they are still married to this day.



Tom Closson
Class of 1967, VRCI

A professional engineer and former President and CEO of the University Health Network and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Tom Closson started his career after earning an MBA from York University in Toronto and graduating from University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Engineering. He is currently the principal of Tom Closson Consulting and serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, Health Quality Ontario and LifeLabs. While an active chair for the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, he is also a volunteer advisor to entrepreneurs at MaRS. Over the years, Tom has received a number of career awards, including being inducted into the Engineering Hall of Distinction at the University of Toronto and as a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He has also received the Alumni Outstanding Public Contribution Award from the Schulich School of Business at York University.



Michael Cohl

Michael Cohl's career spans over 45 years as a producer and promoter for a broad range of entertainment properties. He's worked with over 150 of the world's most recognized artists including Barbra Streisand, Oprah Winfrey, David Gilmour, The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, U2, Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra and many others. He has also worked on several successful films and theatrical plays such as *Pete Seeger: Power of Song*, *LENNONYC*, *Spamalot*, *Big Easy Express*, and a film about Harry Belafonte, *Sing Your Song*. A previous chairman for Live Nation, Michael has also been inducted into the Canadian Rock 'n' Roll/Music Hall of Fame and has been recognized with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame. Among his many other awards, Cohl has also been honoured with the Billboard Legend of Live Award and a JUNO Award for Special Achievement.

PHOTO: COURTESY TORONTO STAR

• PAST HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES *continued*

MICHAEL W. HIGGINS (Class of 1966), Canadian academic, writer and vice president for Mission and Catholic Identity at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, named among TVO's "Top Ten Lecturers of Ontario" (2005).

WILLIAM HUTT was a distinguished actor of stage, television and film, Companion of the Order of Canada (1969), Order of Ontario (1992).

HONOURABLE ROBERT P. KAPLAN was a former federal Liberal MP who was Solicitor General of Canada from 1980 to 1984.

JOHN KARASTAMATIS (Class of 1979) began his career as a freelance theatre publicist and theatre producer. He produced *The Drowsy Chaperone* for Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille in 1999 before it went on to win several Tony awards on Broadway in 2006. He is currently the Director of Communications, Mirvish Productions.

DR. ROBERT KERBEL (Class of 1964), leading Canadian cancer researcher at Sunnybrook Research Institute, is senior scientist at Odette Cancer Research and a professor at University of Toronto Department of Medical Biophysics. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Tumour Biology, Angiogenesis and Anti-Angiogenic Therapy.

MONTE KWINTER (Class of 1950), Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature since 1985. He was a cabinet minister in the government of David Peterson from 1985 to 1990 and also in Dalton McGuinty's government from 2003 to 2007.

HONOURABLE JUSTICE ALLEN M. LINDEN (Class of 1953) is a former Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal and distinguished tort law professor. He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2015.

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE WILLIAM D. LYON (Class of 1943), lawyer, North York borough councillor, first chair of the York Region Police Commission, later appointed judge in 1978, he served as Chief Judge of the District Court of Ontario from 1985-1993.

LARRY D. MANN (Class of 1941), actor best known for voicing the character Yukon Cornelius in the animated Christmas classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

ANNE MICHAELS (Class of 1976), poet and novelist, her works have been translated and published in over 45 countries and have won many national and international awards. She is Toronto's current Poet Laureate.

BILLY "BUBBLES" MYERS (Class of 1944), an outstanding teacher and coach at Earl Haig Collegiate Institute (1955-85), he was an exceptional athlete while at Vaughan, leading many VRCI teams to victories. He played professionally with the Toronto Argonauts 1945-48, and led them to Grey Cup victory in 1945 and 1946.

CHARLES PACHTER (Class of 1960), artist, Order of Canada recipient, his images of the Queen of Canada, moose, and maple leaf flag are pop icons of Canadian contemporary art.

BOB POMERANTZ (Class of 1975), freelance writer, video producer, spent twelve years as a print journalist working as a staff writer/editor/columnist at The Toronto Star before starting Your Life Productions, an award-winning tribute video production company in 1987.

DR. NORMAN ROSTOKER, nuclear fusion clean-energy pioneer, physicist, inventor and entrepreneur, was considered the father of breakthrough clean nuclear fusion energy techniques via plasma-based accelerators. Recipient of many prizes and awards he was Professor Emeritus at UC Irvine and raised generations of graduate students in his field.

DR. ROBERT L. RUMBALL (Class of 1949), recipient of many awards including the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada, he was the founder of the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf. He was a United Church of Canada pastor and an advocate for the deaf and those with special needs. He played professional football with the CFL from 1951-58.

D. PAUL SCHAFER (Class of 1957), author, educator, advisor, administrator, and researcher, he has worked in the arts and cultural fields for more than five decades. He is currently director of World Culture Project.

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Class of 1951), writer, music educator and environmentalist perhaps best known for his World Soundscape Project, is Canada's best-known living classical composer. He was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2013.

AD HALL OF FAME



Sarah Gadon
Class of 2005, VRA

Sarah Gadon is a Canadian actress best known for her roles in David Cronenberg's *A Dangerous Method* and *Cosmopolis*. Born and raised in Toronto, Gadon graduated from Vaughan Road Academy as an Ontario Scholar in 2005. She began acting at the age of 10, appearing in Canadian action/drama television series *La Femme Nikita*, and went on to star in such shows as *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*, *Mutant X*, *Cadet Kelly*, *Life with Derek*, *Flashpoint*, and *Being Erica*. Sarah's big screen career has been largely defined by her collaboration with Canadian filmmaker Cronenberg. She is currently starring in a television mini-series version of Stephen King's novel *11.22.63* opposite James Franco and in the past, she has been recognized as Best Supporting Actress by the Canadian Screen Awards for her role in *Enemy* and as Best Supporting Actress in a Canadian Film by the Vancouver Film Critics Circle for *Cosmopolis*.



Connor Jessup
Class of 2012, VRA

Connor William Jessup is a Canadian actor best known for his role in the science fiction television series *Falling Skies* and for appearing in the ABC drama series *American Crime*. He has also starred in a number of feature films, most notably in the award-winning *Blackbird* and *Closet Monster*. Connor got his start in acting at the age of 11, appearing in a stage adaptation of *The Full Monty* and in the children's television series *The Saddle Club*, for which he is also credited with conceptualizing the plot of one episode. He also served as executive producer for the independent film *Amy George*, which played at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival. Jessup went on to star in the Canadian indie film *Blackbird*, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival and won the Best Canadian First Feature Film award at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.



Mike Katz
Class of 1968, VRCI

A legendary Canadian basketball coach, Mike Katz attended Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute (VRCI) in the 1960s, where he was a standout member of the school's basketball team. After enrolling at the University of Toronto, he began his basketball career and would go on to coach a number of distinguished teams from schools such as George Harvey Collegiate, Humber College, and University of Toronto. Over the years, he was inducted into the Humber College Hall of Fame, the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association Hall of Fame, and the Ontario Basketball Hall of Fame. His success and dedication was a major influence in the development of Canadian basketball to the level it has reached today. By 2012, Mike retired from coaching but is still in demand to present coaching clinics. He is currently an advisor to two top University programs in Ontario—Brock and Queens—where he attends practices and gives input to the coaching staff from both schools.

DR. ARTHUR L. SCHAWLOW (Class of 1937), research scientist, educator, Nobel Laureate (1981), was Professor of Physics, Emeritus, Stanford University.

MICHAEL V. SEFTON (Class of 1967), a pioneer in tissue engineering and a leader in bio-materials, biomedical engineering and regenerative medicine, he is Michael E. Charles Professor of Chemical Engineering Principal Investigator, Sefton Lab at the University of Toronto.

F. DOW SMITH (Class of 1939), renowned American optics physicist, he made a name for himself as one of the lead developers of spy satellite technology during the height of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

DR. GORDON SUSSMAN (Class of 1971), allergist and clinical immunologist, is a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto and one of the founders of Anaphylaxis Canada. He worked on identifying and eliminating risk exposures to latex allergy in the 1990s.

ALBERT S. WAXMAN (Class of 1952), actor, broadcaster, author, philanthropist, Order of Ontario (1996), Order of Canada (1997). Best known for his role in the TV series, *The King of Kensington*.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL – TEAM MONTGOMERY MAIDS 1948 won the Canadian Women's Basketball Championship in 1948. This was a first for a Toronto team. Two members of the team were former Vaughan Road Collegiate students, Helen Zarska (Ostrowski) and Bette Colgate (Kirk).



NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI

CAMERON ANSELL (1992–), voice actor for Arthur Read, *Arthur*.*

DONALD R. CAMERON, QC, mediator, former Ontario Superior Court Justice.

MIKE EBEN (1946–), educational consultant, retired teacher, ex-Argo CFL wide receiver, voice-over actor for radio and television.

SIDNEY J. FURIE (1933–), film director.

KEIR GILCHRIST (1992–), actor, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.*

AUBREY DRAKE GRAHAM (1986–), Canadian singer, rapper, songwriter, record producer, and actor.*

STATHIS KAPPOS (1979–), Greek-Canadian soccer player.

JOAN LAX (1944–2013), Ontario Superior Court Justice, former litigator and assistant dean of U of T's Faculty of Law.

YANNA MCINTOSH (1970–), Jamaican-born Canadian television, movie and theatrical actress.

KARLENE NATION, broadcast journalist, news reporter and producer; formerly with CTV.

ELLEN PAGE (1987–), actress, best known for her role in the film *Juno* and played Kitty Pryde in *X-Men: The Last Stand*.*

MARITA PAYNE-WIGGINS (1960–), former track

and field athlete and two-time Olympic silver medallist; mother of Andrew Wiggins and wife of Mitchell Wiggins.

ALISON PILL (1985–), actress who has appeared on TV in the drama *The Book of Daniel*, and nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.*

BRANDON PIRRI (1991–), drafted second round to the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks in 2009.*

ELIZABETH RENZETTI (1966–), author and Globe and Mail journalist.

DR. STEVEN RENZETTI (1960–2017), Professor of Economics, Brock University.

RON SATOK (1940–), artist, losing his sight to glaucoma in 1976, he continued to make art. His work has been showcased in museums and public spaces all over the world.

SILUCK SAYSANASY (1974–), Laotian-Canadian television actor best known for playing Yick Yu, a character from the *Degrassi* series.*

MELINDA SHANKAR (1992–), actress on the Canadian hit *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.*

ROBYN URBACK (1988–), National Post columnist and editorial board member.

SAMANTHA WEINSTEIN (1995–), film and TV actress. ▼

*INTERACT participant



Frank Pizzolato
Class of 1979, VRCI

Frank Pizzolato is an angel investor, advisor and serial entrepreneur. Frank and his wife Bridget founded Clarity Systems, a software company delivering financial software to large enterprises. With offices around the world, millions in annual revenue, and a team of 450 employees, Clarity was a global software company and market leader in its category. Clarity was acquired by IBM in 2010. During Frank's Vaughan Road school years he worked at his dad's car wash on Eglinton Avenue, an experience that taught Frank discipline, hard work and attention to detail. Frank is also an alumnus of Humber College and Ryerson University.



Barry Pless
Class of 1952, VRCI

Dr. Barry Pless is best known for introducing the non-categorical approach to the research and care of children with chronic disorders, and for establishing the highly regarded Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) surveillance system. He was also the first Canadian president of the Ambulatory Paediatric Association and a recipient of the Association's Armstrong Award and Research Award. In 1994, Dr. Pless founded the journal Injury Prevention and remains its editor. He was also appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in 1993. Today, Dr. Pless is the Professor of Pediatrics, Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University and has received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Western University.



Rosemary Sadlier
Class of 1971, VRCI

Born and raised in Toronto, Rosemary Sadlier is an author and advocate for equal rights and social justice. She authored six books on African-Canadian history and has been at the forefront of most initiatives aimed at educating the public on the history of Blacks in Canada. She was instru-

mental in initiating the national observance of February as Black History Month and August 1st as Emancipation Day in the province of Ontario. She has completed her course work towards her doctorate in addition to achieving her BA, BED and MSW. Rosemary has presented nationally and internationally, including to the United Nations, on the subjects of Black Canadian history, curricula and anti-racism. She has received numerous awards including the Order of Ontario, the William Peyton Hubbard Race Relations Award and the Harry Jerome Award. Most recently she was awarded the Lifetime Achiever Award from the International Women Achiever's Award and an award was given in her name through Ryerson's Viola Desmond Awards.



Lenny Solomon
Class of 1971, VRCI

Called Canada's premier jazz violinist, Lenny Solomon's career as a jazz musician, violinist, and composer has made a significant mark on the Canadian music scene throughout the years. Aside from having recorded two of his own jazz albums—*After You've Gone* and *The Gershwin Sessions*—Solomon's jazz violin virtuosity has played a significant role in bringing what was considered a classical instrument into new, popular genres. Born in Toronto, Lenny studied under violinists Albert Pratz and Steven Staryk. By 1969, he co-founded Canadian folk-pop music group Myles and Lenny with Myles Cohen and after touring all over Canada for most of the 1970s, the duo would go on to win a JUNO Award in 1976. Solomon's passion for music has led him to appear as a guest soloist with a number of orchestras and he has toured internationally with his mega production, *Bowfire*, to critical acclaim. Lenny has won the Jazz Report Magazine's annual Violinist of the Year Award not once, but three times.



Maribeth Solomon
Class of 1969, VRCI

Maribeth is an award-winning Toronto-based composer, songwriter and music producer. Along with her writing partner Micky Erbe, her composing credits for film and TV include *IMAX Hubble*, *Space Station*, *Under the Sea 3D*, *Ticket to Heaven*, and *Blue Planet* to name a few. She has also composed for many TV series including *Side Effects*, *Street Legal*, *Earth: Final Conflict*, *E.N.G.* and most recently *Schitt's Creek*.

She's written songs for Anne Murray, Natalie Cole, Robbie Coltrane, The Nylons and many others, as well as themes for animated, TV and feature films including *Babar*, *Cave Bears*, *Gooby* and others. Along with Micky Erbe, she has been the recipient of five Gemini Awards as well as several Genie awards and an Emmy Nomination. She's also scored the popular video games *Sunless Sea* and *Fallen London*. Maribeth is a founding member of Songwriters of Canada and has served on boards of the Academy of Canadian Television and Cinema and the Screen Composers Guild where she's been proud to mentor young composers nationwide.



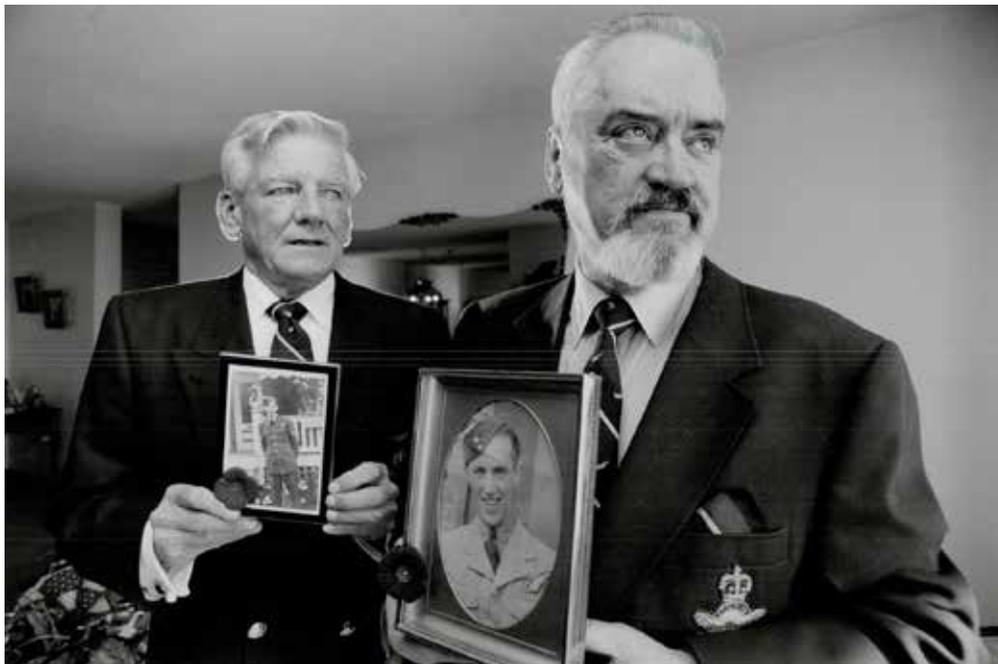
Tom Watt
Class of 1955, VRCI

A pro scout for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Tom Watt has an extensive hockey background. Over the course of his career, he has worked as a Pro scout for the Florida Panthers; Player Development for the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim; and as a NHL coach for 11 seasons including assistant coach with the Toronto Maple Leafs. He took over as head coach in the 1990 to 1991 season. Prior to his time with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Tom was an assistant coach with the Calgary Flames from 1988 to 1990, including the Stanley Cup winning 1989 club. He was also head coach and assistant general manager with the Vancouver Canucks. Watt's international experience with Team Canada includes two Olympic games, two World Hockey Championships and three Canada Cup assistant coaching assignments. In 2005, he was inducted as an honoured member into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame.



Michelle Williams
Class of 2010, VRA

Born in Pretoria, South Africa, Michelle Williams is a competitive swimmer and a member of Canada's Olympic team. She specializes in free-style and is best known for winning a gold medal in the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, and a bronze medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Michelle has also competed in the 2015 FINA World Championships in Russia and the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics. She graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science from Ohio State University, where she set multiple team records and she lists her older sister Lydia Williams, a former national team gymnast, as her biggest influence. Michelle also has a unique ritual of always bringing something gold to a swimming competition. ▼



Clem Pearce, right, and Jack Wallbank, who flew wing to wing in World War II hold pictures of their brothers who didn't come home. Clem, his brother Ernest, and Jack and his brother Donald were VRCI students. PHOTO: MICHAEL STUPARYK, TORONTO STAR, 1991.

WE REMEMBER



Adgey, Robert
 Armstrong, Lorne O.
 Barber, Robert J.
 Bell, Marion
 Benson, R. W.
 Black, Bruce, G.
 Boddy, Robert
 Boxall, George Robert
 Boyle, Thomas
 Brennan, Robert
 Brown, Douglas S.
 Brown, James
 Burns, John William
 Burns, Robert
 Caldwell, Gordon M.
 Chinnery, Bruce C.
 Christie, Allan F.
 Christie, Charles T.
 Christie, Stanley A.
 Cornwall, John H. A.
 Cunningham, Stanley
 Davidson, Jack W.
 Dean, Ross
 Donovan, William
 Dowling, Ralph A.
 Dufton, Donald
 Durbin, Louis
 Farrell, William

Foreman, Gordon
 Fouse, Mervyn E.
 Gabourel, Lloyd
 Gilchrist, Donald Ross
 Grandjean, P. M.
 Grant, Hugh
 Grant, Ronald E.
 Gray, Robert R.
 Gray, William A.
 Hann, Douglas
 Lurensa
 Hardacre, Sidney
 Hartney, Norman J.
 Healy, Kenneth
 Henderson, Robert
 Eric
 Hickingbottom,
 Harvey W.
 Hooper, Kenneth John
 Houck, Albert J.
 Howells, John G.
 Ingram, Kenneth J.
 Ingram, Robert D.
 Jacobs, W. Harvey
 Jay, Edward Albert
 Keely, Harlan D.
 Kennedy, Bill
 Knight, Donald T.

Laing, Arthur
 Leach, Jack
 Lemon, John Harold
 MacKay, Ross A.
 MacLaren, David
 MacLaren, Ian
 Martin, James Hyrum
 McClennan, Bruce W.
 McCormack, Jack
 McCormack,
 Lawrence E.
 McKittrick, Irwin
 Myers, Hillyard
 Newbigging, William I.
 Newman, Dick
 Nidelman, Bernard
 O'Leary, Pat. W.
 Oliphant, George
 O'Rourke, Arthur F.
 Pearce, Ernest
 Pow, Norman
 Proctor, George K.
 Punshon, Johan
 Norman
 Quinlan, Maurice J.
 Rice, Stanley
 Richards, Dan
 Richardson, David B.

Ritchie, Thomas
 Roberts, Alex. W.
 Robson, Albert Russell
 Rowney, Jack H.
 Sandiford, J. Bernard
 Secker, Bruce W.
 Sharpe, Frank P.
 Smith, Allen Gorrie
 Sonshine, Murray
 Stephen, Gordon K.
 Stiff, Lloyd G.
 Tait, John
 Talbot, Ted
 Thomas, Jack R.
 Thomson, James A.
 Tompsett, Fred
 Torbet, George D.
 Venning, Owen Earle
 Wakefield, John
 Wallace, E. W.
 Wallbank, Donald
 Wedd, William
 Wedd, Robert
 Went, Harry E.
 Whittle, Kenneth G.
 Wiegand, William
 Wilson, Bill
 Wilson, John C.

IN THE 1940s Vaughan's students went off to war or joined the war workforce. Those that stayed behind organized fundraisers, knitted sweaters in the school colours for soldiers overseas and in prisoner-of-war camps. They put together care packages and even sent copies of the Acta Newsletter to ex-students and teachers in service. In 1944, the school invested \$1,600 of its funds in War Bonds.

Clem Pearce, a Vaughan graduate shot down in France and the youngest RCAF pilot to be taken prisoner in WWII, visited his old neighbourhood in a 1984 Toronto Star article. While walking along Eglinton Avenue from Dufferin Street, he remembers his childhood friends and fellow Vaughan students who didn't make it back. He turns south on Glenholme Avenue, where he can see the houses of all his friends.

"There were 10 of us... There were three sets of brothers among us... The three sets of brothers are no longer. Two of them lay side by side in an English country churchyard. One lies at the bottom of the North Sea. One rests on the side of a French mountain. Misfortune on a training scheme at Camp Borden brought one to rest in the veteran's plot in Prospect Cemetery. Two of us ended up in a German prisoner-of-war camp, and one of us, after bailing out of his blazing Spitfire, joined the French Underground.

"One beat the almost impossible odds and completed 33 bombing trips over Europe and came home safely. One joined the army and was on his way to Japan when the war ended. They had names such as Johnny, Bernie, Alvin, Donald, Jack, Dante, Wally, Jimmy, Basil and Clem."

During the Second World War, over one thousand staff, students, and alumni served in the Canadian armed forces.

At Vaughan, inside the lobby, near the office, Clem looks up at the photos of 94 men and one woman. "Johnny, Bernie, and Don fairly leaped out of their frames at me and I sought out the rest." We are all familiar with this memorial. There are 107 names in the Book of Remembrance. We didn't know these students but we know where they came from. ▼

Distinguished Flying Cross

A. Glazer
 M. Pettit [and bar]
 R. Goudie
 B. Moffat
 S. Bernard
 E. Skilleter
 J. Foy
 W. Draper
 J. Powers
 R. Orr
 S. Morrison
 W. Leslie
 G. Dawning
 M. Smith
 A. Caine
 D. Johnson
 T. Sheppard

Distinguished Flying Medal

G. Mackenzie

Military Medal

W. Hutt

Air Force Cross

B. Moffitt

Military Cross

L. Calvert

Purple Heart

(United States)
 L. Spafford

Croix de guerre

(France)
 G. Armour
 E. Cameron



Squadron Leader Maurice William Pettit, RCAF.



Timeline



• Future home of Vaughan Road High School.



1926 [YEAR 1]

- FEBRUARY: York Township declared a high school district according to the terms of the Provincial High Schools Act
- A high school Board is appointed; buys the land the school sits on today, and hires the architectural firm Burden and Gouinick to design the building
- JULY 2: Construction of Vaughan Road High School begins
- First principal, Mr. G. E. Evans, is hired. First teachers hired, 12 in all
- SEPTEMBER 7: First meeting of staff and 400 students at Oakwood United Church
- For eight months, while the school is built, classes are held in portables. Ten classrooms at Rawlinson Public School for matriculation students and eight classrooms at Fairbanks Central Public School
- SEPTEMBER 18: cornerstone is laid at Vaughan Road building site

1927 [YEAR 2]

- APRIL: Students move into the new school building on Vaughan Road with 16 classrooms, three science laboratories, auditorium, gymnasium, library and offices
- MAY: Vaughan Road High School is officially declared opened by Sir Robert Falconer, President, University of Toronto
- First yearbook, Acta Studentium, is published with the aid of the school's Literary Society, which provided short stories

1928 [YEAR 3]

- Two classrooms and a girls' gymnasium added
- The school acquires status as a collegiate and becomes Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute
- Inauguration of motto: *In Medium Quaesita Reponunt*. Translation: They lay up in store for common use whatever they have gained. Today, the motto is interpreted as: Through study they restore community
- Newly formed Alumni association holds its first annual dinner in the school: March 27, 1928

1930 [YEAR 4]

- Student population: 780. The depression era keeps students in school longer

1931 [YEAR 5]

- New wing with 12 classrooms added, creating building with an L shape

1938 [YEAR 13]

- Student population: 1,550

1940s [YEAR 15+]

- Students volunteer or are drafted to serve in WWII. Student numbers drastically decrease
- Curriculum is dictated by wartime thought
- Students volunteered at the post office to fill in for the men and women who had joined the armed services. They also joined agricultural gangs to work on farms over the summer
- By the end of 1939/40 the entire senior boys' rugby team had enlisted
- War ended in 1945 and the process of reintegrating the war veterans begins



1948 [YEAR 22]

- Eight rooms added, including art room, domestic room, commercial rooms and accommodation for shop work

1951 [YEAR 25]

- Student population grows again to 1,350, making Vaughan one of the leading and largest secondary schools in Ontario
- 25th reunion celebrated at the Simpson's Acadian Club; attended by 400 alumni
- Revival of music program

1953 [YEAR 27]

- Dance band formed, followed by concert band in 1954, and the junior and senior band and orchestra in 1957

1957 [YEAR 31]

- Student Council collects hundreds of signatures on a petition calling for renovations to the school building
- September: oil burning furnace replaces coal furnace

- Principal Evans retires after 31 years of service; longer than any other teacher in Ontario. A retirement party was held at the Palace Pier attended by hundreds of students

1958/59 [YEARS 32/33]

- Construction begins on new auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria replacing old ones; gym is biggest in the city
- Swimming pool added

1967 [YEAR 42]

- School changes from an L shape to a triangle with a new addition along Vaughan Road
- New classrooms, science laboratories, a larger library, guidance offices and administration offices added
- Loss of Home Economics and Shop programs
- Many teachers retire and new teachers are hired

1969 [YEAR 43]

- Wayne Fairhead introduces one of the first Theatre Arts courses in Ontario

1970s [YEAR 45+]

- To accommodate increasing enrolment, portables return in the parking lot
- Introduction of new courses: Space and Man, Computer Science, World Politics, Dramatic Arts, Screen Ed (Film)
- Exemption mark for final exams increases from 60% to 70%
- Introduction of individual timetables for each student, moving away from home form
- Rotating timetable is introduced with one-hour classes

1976 [YEAR 50]

- 50th anniversary and reunion

1977 [YEAR 51]

- Expansion of new library over the gym
- Third floor lockers added

1982 [YEAR 57]

- School hosts the First Terry Fox Run, a 10K fundraiser together with community; takes place at Cedarvale Park



- Introduction of the Co-operative Education program. Allows students to spend a semester gaining real workplace experience in a field of their choice

1985 [YEAR 60]

- Launch of INTERACT program designed for students working and training in the arts and athletics. Offers individualized academic programs geared to each student. Enables students to balance their education with careers in arts and athletics

1986 [YEAR 61]

- Announcement of new Ministry of Education guidelines for courses which will affect the entire curriculum
- Dance class introduced
- Launch of new Community Day Care. Enables mothers in the community to continue their education and provides learning opportunities for students in Vaughan's English and parenting classes
- Locker rooms transformed into classrooms

1987 [YEAR 62]

- Bill 30 extending full public funding to Catholic high school OAC courses declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada. Student population plummets to 581
- House Leagues are established. Students and staff are randomly divided into four houses. Houses receive points for participating in school activities. House with the most points wins a trophy
- Business department acquires Commodore PC10 computers (512KB of RAM) with plans to replace all typewriters
- Learning Enrichment Foundation expands the community day care and opens the new Vaughan Road Child Care Centre
- Introduction of word processing and office procedures in grades 11 and 12 complement Law, Marketing, Accounting, Data Processing and machine applications courses
- Introduction of public speaking into classrooms
- New grade 9 enriched English course as well as three grade 13 English courses

- Science: Ministry guidelines require grade 9 and 10 biology and physical science to be incorporated and taught together over a two year span
- Art Department opens a new art centre with one room for fine arts and one for graphic design
- Vaughan raises \$2,500 for Terry Fox Run cancer research

1988 [YEAR 63]

- Student population: 531
- Catholic School Board takeover of Vaughan is averted. The Metro School Board transfers seven schools to the Catholic Board; Vaughan was not on the list
- Enriched math program introduced
- Pool renovated along with two gymnasiums. New seminar rooms in the library, computer keyboard labs, extensive music rooms, five computer classrooms, darkroom, visual arts room.



1990 [YEAR 65]

- Student population and staff: 650
- First annual “Fiesta Latina”
- Under the guidance of art teacher Jill Sanders, Vaughan walls are transformed with imaginative murals

1991 [YEAR 66]

- September 14 announcement that Asbestos had been found in some areas of the school; removal begins.
- Vaughan students raise over \$6,500 for Terry Fox Run Fundraiser for an eight year total of \$30,000

1995 [YEAR 70]

- Launch of RUN (Ryerson University Now). Unique to Vaughan, students receive a psychology credit and preparation training for university. Students can use Ryerson facilities

1996 [YEAR 71]

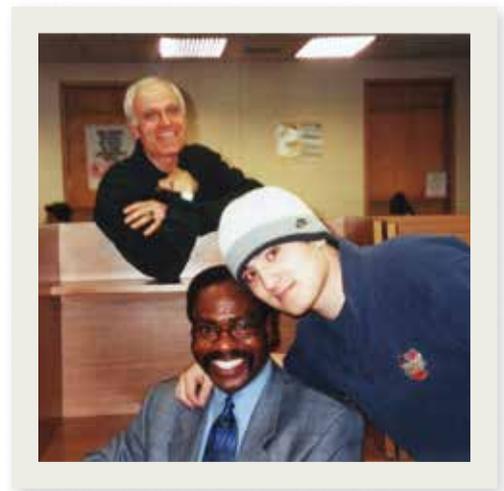
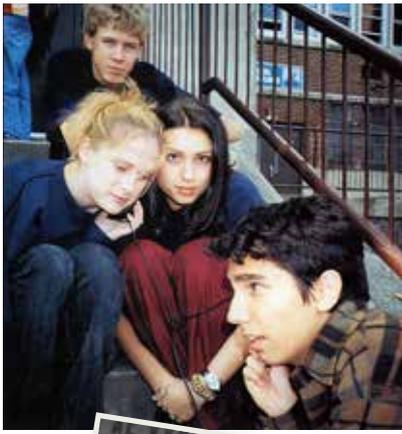
- Student Council organizes a walkout to protest the Harris government cuts to education
- Vaughan wins the most awards of any school in the 50th Sears Drama Festival

- Terry Fox Run Fundraiser brings in \$12,000 for a 14-year total of \$87,000
- Connections program for ESL/ESD students
- “Women in the Nineties,” a leadership program involving students from six schools
- Newly renovated Digital Arts Centre
- School embarks on a consultation process with parents, students, staff and community members regarding the revitalization of Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute

1997 [YEAR 72]

- A report based on the consultation process of the previous year is submitted to the York Board of Education outlining the plans for Vaughan Road Academy, all of which are approved
- Name change to Vaughan Road Academy
- All students required to wear a VRA top, shirt, blouse, rugby top, sweatshirt or polo shirt
- Expanded community service required of students
- A revitalized grade 9 program emphasizing the development and mastery of literacy,

- numeracy, critical thinking and communications skills
- Enriched French
- USSR program (Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading)
- Grade 9 level Pre-International Baccalaureate Program introduced
- All students are required to take an Information Technologies program
- The Idea Program – hands on experience for students in grades 11 and 12 who are interested in digital arts, multimedia technology or design
- New mascot: Viper
- Last graduating class of Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute
- Citizenship ceremony: 96 people sworn in as Canadian citizens
- Elevator installed
- New landscaping, heating and ventilation upgrades, new signage outside and fresh paint inside
- Creation of Hall of Fame



Left: last Vaughan staff, 2016/17.

1998 [YEAR 73]

- Student population: 672
- Education Finance Reform drastically changes the way schools are funded
- Double co-hort introduced. School implements the Ministry of Education's Secondary Reform program
- International educators arrive to evaluate the school facilities, and interview staff and students to determine whether Vaughan fits the profile of an International Baccalaureate school
- Students do school announcements
- Smokestack renovated. Accessible washroom installed. Benches installed in front of school

1999 [YEAR 74]

- Terry Fox Run raises \$14,000
- Students face two-week walkout by teachers. CUPE 4400 staff and caretakers' strike for two weeks. TTC strike
- First grade 9 class that will not receive five years of OAC courses in preparation for post-secondary education
- International Baccalaureate Program starts

"This was a year of change at Vaughan in many ways. Many cuts were made to this school and we lost a lot of very good people. On the same token, however, we had some very good teachers come in, and try to pick up the pieces and continue where we left off."

— Karel Blechta, student

2000 [YEAR 75]

- Amalgamation at TDSB brings major funding changes and limitations that affect city schools

2001 [YEAR 76]

- Grade 9 math testing. Grade 10 reading and writing testing
- Disruptions to extra-curricular activities

2003 [YEAR 78]

- Double co-hort graduating classes

2005 [YEAR 79]

- Premier Dalton McGuinty visits school

2016 [YEAR 90]

- JUNE 22: establishment of the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee to review the accommodation of students at local high schools
- DECEMBER 7: TDSB votes to close Vaughan effective June 30, 2017. Cite low enrolment. School is operating at 19% capacity
- Students will be divided between Forest Hill, Oakwood and York Memorial

2017 [YEAR 91]

- Student Population: 218
- FEBRUARY 8: TDSB decides that the Vaughan Road property located at 529 Vaughan Road will be retained for operating purposes
- JUNE 2: all library books due
- JUNE 14: locker clean out. Recognition Assembly BBQ
- JUNE 15: final exam week begins
- JUNE 23: last commencement ceremony
- JUNE 27: Result day
- JUNE 28 TO JUNE 30: PA day
- JUNE 30: last day of school for Vaughan Road. Doors closed ▼

WALKOUTS, PETITIONS, PROTESTS AND DAYS OFF

1926

- Oratorical Contest. Afternoon off to listen to the speeches

1939

- Entire school got time off to attend a lecture on venereal disease

1942

- Vaughan teacher wins federal by-election. Half day off

1957

- Coal furnace replaces oil furnace; half day off
- Student Council collects hundreds of signatures on a petition for renovations to the school building

1968

- School walkout to protest “Memo 18,” which stated that school would remain in session for two weeks into June

1970s

- On their own initiative, students leave school to join anti-Vietnam war protests downtown
- Vaughan did not have a regulation football field, so home games were held at Keelesdale Park. Students get afternoons off to go watch the home games

1973

- Student Council organizes two days of Alternative Education with speakers and activities which range from learning crochet to Planned Parenthood. Most students take the days off

1976

- Metro Toronto teachers’ strike starts November 12, 1975 and ends January 12, 1976 with imposed arbitration. Extra-curricular activities are cancelled. School is officially open but classes are not operational. Classes resume January 19, 1976. Gives euphoric but eventually bored students two months off

1987

- Winter Carnival One. A full-day spare to attend winter fun and games at Cedarvale Park: tobogganing, skiing, tug-of-war and ice sculptures

1991

- School Trustee Elizabeth Hill leads a campaign to identify asbestos in City of York schools. Asbestos is found in some areas of the school. Three days off school while it is removed

1996

- School walkout and protest over the Harris government’s cuts to education

1997

- Fire drill during exams

1999

- Teachers close school and successfully protest Bill 160 that would have allowed non-certified instructors in charge of classes and courses. Two weeks off for students
- CUPE 4400 strike. Staff and caretakers on strike from 7AM to 3PM, every day for two weeks. Government recognizes several demands and strike ends

2001

- Walkout in support of teachers against cutbacks to education. Students leave class at 10:30AM to walk to York Memorial for a rally

2012

- NOVEMBER 21: Students walkout in support of their teachers against Bill 115 which forced contracts on education unions, froze wages and affected workers’ ability to strike

2013

- DECEMBER 13: Afternoon student walkout to join 2,000 other students from across Toronto at Queen’s Park, continuing the protest against Bill 115

Talk On VD Gets Principal in Trouble

“The school was progressive for its time, as can be seen in one incident in 1939. Dr. Luke Teskey, the CCF candidate for York Township at the time, one day gave a lecture to the whole school on venereal disease, a topic which wasn’t discussed so openly at this time ... **Mr. Evans** was brought before the School Board because of the controversial nature of the subject. But a delegation of students went to the meeting and stood behind him. The outcome: Mr. Evans wasn’t reprimanded.”

— *The First Fifty Years, 1976*

Vaughan’s English Teacher Wins Federal By-Election

Mr. Noseworthy, a Vaughan English teacher, ran as the CCF candidate in York in 1942, defeating former Prime Minister (1926), and Leader of the Conservative Party, Arthur Meighen, who was also a teacher before entering politics. Noseworthy served as Member of Parliament from 1942 to 1945 and again from 1949 until his

death in 1956. Many Vaughan students worked on his campaigns and greeted the victorious teacher with a big celebration when he won.

“The CCF captured 93 out of the 117 polls in the riding. Most of those won by Meighen were found in Forest Hill... When Noseworthy arrived at an assembly at Vaughan Road Academy (VRCA) the next morning, he was greeted with applause by 400 senior students. He told the crowd he was pleased to find out many of his former students had been out on the streets on election day, urging voters to choose him. After the assembly ended, the new MP was surrounded by students wanting his autograph before they were let out for an afternoon holiday. As Maclean’s magazine noted, ‘It is obvious that Mr. Noseworthy had won the confidence of the young people with whom he was in contact. That may cause the older parties to do some thinking.’”

— *“Historicist: York South or Bust,” Jamie Bradburn, torontoist.com*

“This metamorphosis is gratifying, because we of the fifth form have been fighting for a swimming pool, gym, and lunchroom for five years. And now it has paid off. Our children will have a swimming pool, gym, and lunchroom.”

— *Sy Landau, editor, Acta 1959*

Deep Dissatisfaction With Cuts to Education, May 10, 1996

“After the morning announcements, those who wished to participate in the protest walked out of their home form classrooms and assembled outside in front of the school. After a few speeches and a wonderful act of disobedience (students walked out on the road and prevented traffic from moving; which, in turn brought the police, who were kind enough to remain as our escort for the rest of the protest), the group marched to George Harvey where students from that school were urged to join the march and lend their support. Then, the protesters marched to the York Board of Education Office, where the march ended.”

— *Acta 1997*

“Rather than act like the vacuous and apathetic beings that teenagers are so often and ignorantly compared to, students in Ontario have demonstrated the power of organization and youth empowerment in supporting their beloved and respected teachers.” ▼

— *Aiden Flynn, 2012/13 Yearbook*



HELLO, GOODBYE



Graduating class, 1928, and the last graduating class, 2017.

Murals created by students and artists over the years grace the hallways.





Acknowledgements

Norma Meneguzzi Spall ('71), Committee Chair, would like to acknowledge all the members of the alumni committee for their herculean efforts in making this Farewell Tribute possible in five short months.

Vaughan Road Alumni Committee Chair
Jack Parker '52

Commemorative Booklet
CHAIR: Katie Pellizzari '77
Elizabeth Cinello '77
Louis Fishauf '68
Uno Ramat '77

Décor
CHAIR: Bonnie Belfer '75

Era Room Chairs
Bonnie Belfer '75
Margaret Arscott '55
Richard Meneguzzi '67
Dina Moreira '80
Dorothy-Mae Dunsmoor Paterson '54
Josephine Pica '77
Raj Sooknanan '88
Donna Trawinski '77

Graphics and Website
Katie Pellizzari '77

Hall of Fame
CHAIR: Arn Bailey '51
Jack Parker '52

Intergenerational Mixer
Sonia Taylor-Miglioni '05
Xanthi Phardis '05

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Drew Barot '17
Jim Grosso '77

Volunteer Coordination
CHAIR: Raj Sooknanan '88

VRA Student Liaison
Drew Barot '17

The Alumni Committee would like to especially thank the staff, faculty and students of Vaughan Road Academy in helping us make this event a success. A special thank-you goes to Cynthia Zwicker-Reston, Principal; Janet Allen, Vice-Principal; Jason Kunin, faculty; Anita Mehta and Susan Chambers, administrative staff. We also are grateful for the support of Alex Meyers, a member of the community, for his research support.

Booklet
COVER DESIGN: Louis Fishauf
DESIGN: Uno Ramat
WRITER AND RESEARCHER: Elizabeth Cinello
PRINTING: Britannia Printers Inc

PHOTO CREDITS: Unless otherwise noted, photos were sourced from Vaughan Road school archives and yearbooks; TDSB Archives; Toronto Archives; York Museum, Bryce Collection; City of Toronto Heritage and Museum Services; and personal collections.

Banner Design
Louis Fishauf

Tribute Day Show
SOUND: Apex Sound & Light
STAGE MANAGER: Fran Fainer '73

Musical Performances
Andria Lewis-Alexander '89
Robert Davis '75
John Farrell '71
Mike Katz '68
Larissa Obediente '16
Tom Skublics '75
Allan Soberman '68

A special thank-you to the members of the VRA Band and Friends.

Farewell Tribute Band
Lenny Solomon, violin '71
Dan Farrell, piano '73
John Farrell, guitar '71
Allan Soberman, bass '68
Steve Heathcote, drums (non-alumni)

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the alumni who stepped forward to take on roles to ensure today's events happened smoothly. If we have missed anyone, we are truly sorry but know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Visit us on vralumni.com



Janet Allen and Cynthia Zwicker-Reston.





SCHOOL SONG

Colours red and blue and gold

Vaughan Road Academy we hail

For your honour we uphold

The torch and we'll never fail

Raise your glorious banner high

And forever let them fly

Cheer, cheer, all cheer

Shout for all your might V.R.A.*

Music and lyrics attributed to
STANLEY RUSSELL NORTHWAY
(1928-1985).

*Lyrics modified in 1997 to reflect
Vaughan's change to an academy.