



HSC Class of 71

50th Reunion, September 22-25, 2022

Old Mill Hotel, Toronto

By Christel Kurz, ckurz@rogers.com

WE were a year late because of COVID, but was it ever worth the wait! It was such a wonderful reunion in every way! A huge thank-you goes out to our 50th reunion team, we are so appreciative of all the time and dedication you gave to make this happen, still during the pandemic with ever changing circumstances to navigate! Well done, Bravo - Judy Hardy, Patti Walter (Thompson), Lynda Vera (Munro), and Deb Seto (Whatmough). I know you each took on specific roles and responsibilities to divide the work, but everything meshed and ran so smoothly that I'll just keep referring to you as our team. Thank YOU!

Our team picked a great location, close to nature near the Humber River, in the historic Old Mill, which brought back memories of 1971 when we danced there in our mini-skirts with our fathers! The proximity to the subway made the Friday morning trip to SickKids easy and nostalgic as we noticed nothing much has changed underground – St Patrick's stop still has turquoise tiles!

Thursday Eve Sept 22

Ten gals had indicated they would arrive in time to meet-up in the hotel's HomeSmith bar for pizza and beer. More and more of us kept arriving – Linda Riordan (Kitchen) still towing luggage came straight from the airport! Eventually, 18 of us were cozied up on 4 couches and a few armchairs, which the patient staff kept adding to our back corner.

We likely blew their fire regulations for that corner, but the waiter seemed to be enjoying our boisterous comradery as much as we were!

There was one gal who had us (except the reunion team) perplexed that night! That's because we hadn't seen Patti Walter since our 15th reunion at Harbour Castle in 1986! We all welcome Patti back to the fold and especially thank her for jumping right in as a member of the reunion team. Patti is also the ONLY one of HSC 71 who is still employed at SickKids now! After many years of living in the USA, she came back and started working at SickKids, (I think she said 10 years ago) as a Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator in cardiac research. Keep it up Patti!

Friday Sept 23

On Friday morning all who were already staying at the hotel, as well as our early morning lobby arrivals, Donna and Linda Penny (Cross), took the subway to SickKids where we met more of the gang Judy Hardy, Sally, Ann Marie – we were 23 at the hospital event.

The SickKids hospitality was amazing! We were hosted in the beautiful Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning by Kathy and Gina from the SickKids RN Council.

We started with coffee/tea and pastries as we listened to stories of the past, with special focus on hospital events of early 1970's and show and tell of memorabilia, all by David Wencer, the hospital Archivist. Note that David is anxious to get his hands on a 71 yearbook as he has none and class pins, rings etc. I left my grad uniform and cap with him, but couldn't part with my pin just yet!

Next were impressive presentations about current days at SickKids. The research and inventions always leading the way in pediatric care. The skill and stress level of nursing has surely increased tremendously with all the technology that needs to be mastered and with the staff shortages! We all need to promote the nursing profession to our grandchildren, it seems!

After a tasty quiche and salad lunch, Christine Clark with Project Horizon gave us a glimpse of the future of SickKids. The new campus that is already underway is a huge 15-year development project to which you likely already donated via our 50th reunion fund drive, another great initiative by our team, raising \$3875 to date!

[Ctrl+click to go to Gofundraise page](#)

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the research centre (in lieu of a hospital tour which was not possible during COVID) and the official hospital photographer taking some great group pictures. (See the picture pdfs in previous email from Lynda Vera for the visuals presented and pics taken at this highlight event - Bravo team!)

Some gals wandered around our old stomping grounds a bit - the new patient tower is going up on Elizabeth St and the 20 year-old (but new to us) Atrium of the hospital sits approximately where our residence used to be. Others went to walk around Chinatown, but discovered that "it ain't what it used to be".

Jenny Dunbar (Newman) and Pat Hasen (McCausland) arrived at the hotel just on time to join us Friday evening and we're so glad you came, increasing our numbers to 25 attendees. We gathered in the Mill Room for

drinks and a casual buffet of delicious wraps and trays of appetizers. The team ran the very entertaining slide show they assembled from all the pictures everyone sent in ahead. We had lots of space to move around, display albums, etc., and to separate into teams of 3 for the challenging trivia game our team created! Who remembers the name of the laundry where our caps were starched or our curfew times weekdays and weekends, or when hospital visiting hours ended? How about the name of the bar in Sioux Lookout?

Congrats to Marilyn Berezowski (Arthur), Linda Bitton (Ledwith) and Ann Marie who remembered the most! The winners were rewarded with a colourful HSC 50th reunion mug, designed by our team!

Besides all the laughter and good cheer on Friday night, we also dedicated time to what we called "A Memorial Moment" to honour our three classmates whom we know to be deceased. (There may be others among the 10 names on our inactive list, we just don't know and we include them in our thoughts!) We silently watched a short slideshow displaying pictures and the obituaries for Kristi Neill (Legaarden) dec. 2016, Jane Rutherford (Bleakley) dec 2019 and Linda Sadler (Morasiewicz) dec. 2021. We ended with a candle-lighting (25 candles) just outside of the dining room, in the beautiful courtyard. It was very moving and we all felt our solidarity even stronger, going forward.

Saturday Sept 24

After such a busy and exciting Friday, it was well planned to leave us at our leisure on Saturday, with just a suggested list of activities, until all 25 gathered again for the full-service delicious dinner.

In smaller groups, we spent Saturday enjoying the beautiful walk along the Humber River Trail or exploring shops and restaurants in Bloor West Village, or going to the AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario), or checking out a designer kids store "Snug as

a Bug” on Dundas West, belonging to Nancy Roblin’s (Frost) niece, who was celebrating 30 years in business that day! Also, a large group sat for tea together in the courtyard at the Old Mill, after whatever other activity.

Saturday evening, we gathered “more formally” in the beautiful dining “Drawing Room” where white linens and fresh cut centerpieces adorned the tables! The flowers were the courtesy of SickKids on Friday. Our hosts had insisted we take them back to the hotel to enjoy, and so, they served double duty! Good thing, Sally had her car at the ready that day to load up with flower arrangements!

The served 4-course meal with choice of red or white was delicious and the chat was so comfortable by now (3rd night for most) that the room was just a buzz with laughter, enthusiasm, and memories. Lynda Vera kept the slideshow going on the large screen, new pictures had been added almost instantly of our reunion weekend!

On behalf of all of us, and very spontaneously, Linda Ogilvie, Mary McIntyre, and Marilyn Berezowsky somehow arranged for and presented each gal on our reunion team with a lovely card – black and white artistic sketches of the Old Mill buildings - filled with our words of thanks! There obviously wasn’t enough room on the card to express our full appreciation of the amazing teamwork that was carried out for over a year and on display all weekend!

All attendees received two white and blue ceramic coasters imprinted with traditional HSC logo and 50th Reunion. Thanks again!

Gosh, I was also presented one of the colourful HSC 50th reunion mugs by Lynda Vera as a thank-you from all of you for being class rep for 50+ years! It hasn’t been a time-consuming job! I forward alumni messages here and there and check on your addresses, hoping to keep track of everyone until we meet again! So please let me know if your contact info changes.

I challenge everyone to reach out to fellow classmates (class list is circulated with this newsletter). If you happen to be traveling and land in one of our hometowns, why not give an impromptu call and meet? I should have done this with Liz when I passed through Sault Ste Marie on our drive west in summer of 21! Next time, I will.

Sunday Sept 25

We checked out Sunday morning. Many people gathered in the lobby for last hugs and farewells as everyone gradually departed for home in one way or another, or for other destinations to visit family and friends, before flying back out west.

Nancy Roblin was probably the earliest and bravest departure as she hiked back to the subway to get to Union Station and catch her train to Kingston. Good job Nancy!

Three of us were the last to leave as we (Linda Riordan and me) waited gratefully to catch a ride with Patti who was going in our direction, but had a later departure scheduled (logistics) so we decided to enjoy the impressively expansive and expensive Old Mill Sunday brunch together!

Spring 2026, Victoria BC

What’s this you ask? It seemed to be the popular idea about our next reunion that was circulating on Saturday eve! I think the idea came from Mary McIntyre, who had just visited Victoria a few weeks prior and was so thrilled with her trip. I may have thrown in that spring would be such an amazing time to go for us ON folk, who would still be buried in snow when blossoms abound out there! It’s also noteworthy that we have 3 classmates who call the island home! Shouldn’t be hard to form a reunion team - no pressure implied!

We all agreed that we would do “something” in 4 years and not wait 5, to get back on track with “our” year.

The main thing is that we meet AGAIN, no matter where!