

Minutes of the BSSAA General Membership Meeting on 2002 04 24

In attendance: Ruth Scherer, President	Judy Adamczyk, Vice-President	
Nicole McReavy, Treasurer	Jeanette Wilson, Secretary/Executive Assistant	
Gord Macfarlane, Registrar	Michael Robinson, Executive Director	
Jen Prouse, Director	Peter Weldon	Linda Horne
Dan Nichol	Wendy Jessop	Cheryl Anderson
Rich Gaskin	Wayne Fox	Teresa Kobos
John Giroux	Pat Richards	Gary Mugford
Ajay Chadha	Jennifer Coombes	

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

End time: 8:45 p.m.

Call to order: Michael Robinson, seconded: Gord Macfarlane
Introductions and Registration forms (for new members only).
Minutes from the last General Membership Meeting (March) could not be read as there was no printed copy.

Discussed: Registration of Bramalea Secondary School Alumni Association and set up of bank account for Association still on hold due to OPSEU strike.

Discussed: Posters, logos, bumper stickers. We need Peel District School Board permission to use any school logos on anything we print. Jen Prouse has designed a bumper sticker to read "Bramalea needs YOU! [Http://members.rogers.com/bssalumni](http://members.rogers.com/bssalumni)" which will also be made into a poster for local grocery stores, community centres, libraries, etc.

Discussed: Dates for 2003 Bramalea 40th reunion. August 22-24, 2003 confirmed with both the school and International Centre (for dinner/dance on Sat. Aug. 23).

Discussed: Peel District School Board update. After we register, we will be able to use a charitable registration number through the Board in order to solicit donations. They will set up a trust account for our Association, manage it, invest for us, etc. There are currently over 700 trust accounts within the Board, some of which we may manage in the future on their behalf. The Board will give us web space after we have registered the domain name. They like what we are doing, as we will likely become a boiler plate for other alumni groups. In the future, the Board would like us to talk to high school students about successful alumni, to boost staying in school.

Discussed: Our website. We may use an e-commerce type service (at a cost of approximately \$10/monthly) to help organize some of our business, such as the selling of souvenirs (mugs, shirts, etc.). Michael added chat and discussion board abilities to our website: <http://members.rogers.com/bssalumni/index> through Microsoft MSN communities. To access these new features (and a calendar), one needs a .Net Passport which can be obtained through a link with our website and is free. Anyone with a hotmail or msn email account automatically has the .Net Passport. Follow the instructions on the link to either sign in (if you have a hotmail or msn email address) or register.

Discussed: Boxes of memorabilia at BSS office. BSS Principal John Chasty has discovered a number of boxes of memorabilia in the drawers of the office that he has given us permission to look through. We may be able to take some of this to use at the reunion. The school is currently cataloguing it all but Ruth has been invited to look it over.

Action: Ruth to continue to go through the boxes of memorabilia in the office of BSS.

Discussed: Theme for the 40th reunion. Two suggestions were discussed.

- 1) Remembering the original students and staff. To perhaps include a slide show during the dinner at the International Centre.
- 2) Ruby Anniversary (40th), hence ruby slippers and the yellow brick road from the Wizard of Oz (presented on behalf of Melanie Porter). Following the yellow brick road, there would be a path leading off for each decade, including a memorial wall for those alumnae who have passed away, one for those who have gone on to be famous or very successful and one for the future. Members who were present at the meeting liked this theme idea, as it can quite easily incorporate the first idea.

Discussed: Committee updates. Peter Weldon, chair of the 40th Reunion Celebration asked all new members to think about where they could be of help among the committees struck for the reunion.

- a) Decorating Committee - To go with the ruby/yellow brick road theme, Melanie Porter has begun to price related products and services (i.e. ruby coloured twinkle lights within netting). She has ideas about painting a yellow brick road that could be followed to each pathway. She will report on her work at the next meeting.
- b) Communications and Marketing - We need a crest/logo/motto to put on all our correspondence (letterhead, posters, bumper stickers, etc.). This committee asks all members to think of something as a motto and email the BSSAA Executive at bssalumni@rogers.com to the attention of Jen Prouse. The top three suggestions will be voted on at the next General Membership Meeting (May 29).
- c) Hotels - We have 310 rooms confirmed at three hotels on the airport strip (Quality Inn \$109/night, Radisson \$119/night and Holiday Inn \$119/night) and are waiting to hear from one more hotel with another 400 rooms (International Plaza, which used to be the Skyline). These are for Sat. Aug. 23/03 to allow alumni to take shuttle bus service so as not to drink and drive. Local Brampton hotels will be contacted as well, since some alumni may prefer to stay closer to the Bramalea area. Once the date is closer we will get a booking number that we can tell alumni to quote when booking their hotel rooms.
- d) Events and Activities - Two distinct paths are being followed here: one for BSSAA and one for the reunion. The objectives for the events and activities for the reunion are to provide a variety of activities to provide student and teaching alumni, including their children, opportunities to meet and socialize with other alumni; to provide events and activities to meet the varying age groups of alumni, including their children; to ensure appropriate security and medical attention is available at events and activities; and to have contingency plans in place in case of inclement weather. The suggested events include, but are not limited to, a warm-up informal dinner at various venues with babysitting services provided for Thurs., Aug. 21; golf, bowling, registration, opening ceremonies, slide/video presentation, classroom memories, souvenir photography or video availability, snack, beverage and souvenir sales as well as babysitting services for Fri., Aug. 22; registration, reunion breakfast, flag football, basketball, volleyball, classroom memories, souvenir photography/video, barbecue lunch, snack, beverage and souvenir sales as well as babysitting services for Sat. Aug. 23; ecumenical service, classroom memories, registration, souvenir photography/video, snack, beverage and souvenir sales and brunch for Sun., Aug. 24. Suggested activities for the Alumni Association include, but are not limited to, sports events (i.e. golf, bowling, volleyball, flag football, curling), non-sports events (dinners, dances, scavenger hunts, picnics) and club type events (band, yearbook, tutors, arts & crafts, alumni activity pack). These activities could occur annually, once per quarter, etc. The main objectives for activities are to maintain opportunities for social contact for BSS alumni and to raise funds for BSSAA. The first alumni event has been planned for Sat., June 8, 2002. It is a bowling event at Brunswick Lanes on Chrysler Dr. from 7-9 p.m. It is to raise funds for BSSAA.

Discussed: Update on Hi-Notes being sent to BSS alumni on classmates.com. The only years that have been contacted are 1978-1981 and 1983. The original message was to encourage alumni to register at www.BramaleaSecondary.Org. Any future Hi-Notes will have BSSAA email address (bssalumni@rogers.com) instead. We will ask alumni to provide the information from our registration form.

Adjournment: Moved by John Giroux, seconded by Michael Robinson. Approved.

Next General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, May 29, 2002, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at BSS staff room.

Next Executive Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2002, 7:00-8:00 p.m. at BSS staff room.