

The

## AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

Newsletter



VOLUME 18#1

JUNE 2024

# ICHS HALL OF FAME

by Carol Case



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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ICHS HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTEES

## MRS MARGARET CAMPBELL for Education.

A transformational leader, Principal of St George's College for 17 years, whose efforts moved the school from underperforming to a rating of "exceptionally high"

# MRS DONETTE CHIN-LOY CHANG for Philanthropy and Community leadership. A renowned communications strategist with a career in communications and media spanning 4 decades. She is a well-respected community leader and philanthropist, who was bestowed with honorary degrees from Toronto Metropolitan University and University of the West indies.







MRS MICHELLE GYLES MCDONNAUGH for International Relations and Public Service.

The Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General at the United Nations, New York. She is responsible for assisting the Secretary General and his leadership team to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development goals by 2030.

#### **President's Message** PAGE 2



We gather again to celebrate, reminisce, eat, drink, be merry giving our Time, Talent and Treasure for the students of Immaculate Conception High School. It has been worth it. They have made us proud, winning in Academics, Athletics and excelling in Aesthetics through the Performing Arts: the Orchestra, Steel Band, and Glee Club. Earlier this year on March 16, many of us from the Toronto Chapter traveled home to Jamaica to celebrate with two of our own alumnae: Cathrine 'Katy' Sani and Donette Chin Loy Chang who were inducted into the ICHSAA Hall of Fame. They were alongside three others being recognized for their stalwart support of ICHS over many years. It was a 'star studded affair 'held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, gracing Page 2 of the Observer for three days straight. Katy, as she is fondly known to us has been the

'Treasurer Extraordinaire,' overseeing the many projects that ran over one to two years in collaboration with the other Alumnae Chapters: Food and Nutrition Lab, Water Harvesting and Sewage Management for the entire campus and Convent. This year we have partnered with other Chapters in the repair of the Performing Arts Centre, repairs to the Grade 7 bathrooms and the overall infrastructure of the school buildings. Of course 'Katy' is 'dealing with the money.' We salute her, despite her threats of 'retiring.' Donette, journalist and philanthropist at large, recently outfitted the Jamaica Library Service and several High Schools with over one hundred copies of our own Maryanne Chambers book. She financed a number of projects of support for our students at ICHS and other students of Jamaica. I know Jamaica is so very grateful as we are too! This year's theme of our annual dinner dance, 'Play De Music' mirrors Festival time, celebrating the achievements of these inductees and the amazing honour of ICHS being ranked as the #1 High School on the island this year! The students past and present call it #macgirlmagic.

Ad Astra is published by the Immaculate Conception High School Alumnae Association-Toronto Chapter.

June 2024 Volume 18No. 1

I.C.H.S.AA. (TO) Newsletter

**Editorial Staff and Webmaster** Heather Bubb-Clarke

**Chervi Navior** 

Membership

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Tanya Tenn-Hugh Yvonne Lyew Francine Leung **Ina Williams** Annette Wong Sadie Wong

Mrs. Stacy Reynolds, the principal, has embarked on an ambitious campaign to raise funds for a Coaster Bus for the school. Our girls are now participating in many fundraising events to raise money toward this, as financially, it would be better for the school to have its own transportation instead of constantly renting. This project is spearheaded and being run primarily by the students. These are 'Phenomenal Women in training!' and we know they will accomplish this goal. The girls have made us so proud at home and internationally. Their academic ranking speaks for itself. In addition, this past school year they came fourth at Boys and Girls Champs and won GOLD at Penn Relays in USA. They also won a Robotics Competition in the USA and first in the National Swim Meet Competition. Two of our girls are going to the Olympics to represent Jamaica in Javelin and Discus. Our Orchestra now has National and International recognition, thanks to Stephen Woodham, the Director of the Orchestra, who was one of the 'Inductees,' in this year's Hall of Fame and is the 'educator extraordinaire' of our musically talented girls. It is a beacon of Hope and living example for the Performing Arts sector in Classical Music for all Jamaican students, especially our own girls. Ladies, let us continue to collaborate and partner so as to ensure the sustainability of success for the students of Jamaica, especially at our Alma Mater: Immaculate Conception High School.

Karen-Marie Siyanbola-Ellington ICHSAA, Toronto Chapter -President







# Your 1st. Heavenly Anniversary May 12,2024

It is so hard to believe that you have left us so soon. Our Heavenly Father saw that you had fulfilled your Mission here on earth which you did to the very end. Our Founder, Our Mentor, Our Teacher. We could not have made it this far without you. You instilled within us high standards and disciplines to live by, setting goals to reach for the stars. "Ad astra per aspera". We, your students are extremely proud of our achievements and the guidance you provided throughout our student years and adult life. You will always be honoured and adored by many.

Sister Maureen Clare was truly a blessing from God. A leader for young women. Creating generations of resilient and determined women—"Phenomenal Women".

Your golden voice was so beautiful and pure. Soft hearted, but never made it too obvious. You are truly missed.

Thank you for being the example of what a woman should be.

We love you dearly, you will always be part of our lives.

Rest in Eternal Peace Sister Maureen Clare Hall January 11, 1935—May 12,2023

# ICHS HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page 1

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ICHS HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTEES



#### MRS CATHRINE SANI for Social Services and Volunteerism.

An accomplished businesswoman, with a lifelong passion for improving her community. She has served the ICHS Alumnae Association for 3 decades. She has a long list of accomplishments which include regular ICHS visits to investigate student needs, barriers to success, then engaging alumnae and community support to minimize barriers, renovate school facilities and provide equipment needed to prepare students for the future.

## THE INAUGURAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD for outstanding service MR STEPHEN WOODHAM O.D.

He is a concert violinist, composer, conductor and tutor with a passion to instill the love of classical music in his students. For the past 30 years he has devoted considerable time and energy as the artist in residence and conductor of the ICHS Symphony Orchestra which has performed with distinction at many public functions.





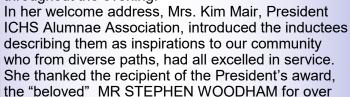


The 5<sup>th</sup> staging of the ICHS Hall of Fame event held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Saturday March 16, 2024, was truly exciting "like a Royal Affair" Cameras flashed as photographers captured images of exquisitely dressed dignitaries and attendees entering the event.

The pianist, the talented ICHS alum, Allison Wallace, welcomed and enchanted all on arrival. Some were even singing along. The hall was beautifully decorated.

The ICHS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE opened the event playing the Jamaica National

Anthem and touched our hearts with performances throughout the evening.





30 years of extraordinary dedication, commitment and service to the

#### ICHS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

NTS

In closing she invited unity, a spirit of collaboration and also challenged us to invest in the next generation of ICHS phenomenal women. The inductees were introduced, each one addressed the audience with inspiring personal stories of their struggles, motivation, passion, vision and persistence.

# ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION LTD ICHS HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page 5



The audience was thrilled when the ICHS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE escorted their beloved Stephen Woodham to the podium to receive his award. Groups of alumnae cheered when each decade was called.

Then the MC hesitantly asked for grads from the 40s decade..., the glamorous, gorgeous GLORIA MOODIE (over 90 years old) stood up to a standing ovation.



Hall of fame 2024 gala, a wonderful evening in Kingston, Jamaica, when time stood still as the ICHS COMMUNITY united and shared an exhilarating evening of bliss.



The 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees







# PAGE 6 WHAT'S RAPPENIGATIONS

## Did you know the following:-



ICHS celebrated 165 Years on Oct 1st., 2023 at the Holy Trinity Church



# WOLVES WOLVES

र त्रवात प्रकार मार्थ

A R O O

## True Blue Pride -Macmagic



The Girls are great achievers.

They make us proud



#### **Champs 2024—ICHS Wolves**







Our Hockey Team winning the under 19 hockey Championship. April 19,2024 against St. Andrew High School (Score 1-0)



April 17,2024—Our Table Tennis Team won the under 16 all island final

Did you know that ICHS has a Steel Pan Ensemble?

# ICHS Buildings are in need of repair.



# Your Assistance is Needed.

The ICHS Performing Art Centre renamed The Lisa Narcisse Performing Art Centre is one of the most used areas of the ICHS campus. Formerly known as the Commercial Block it now hosts the ICHS Symphony Orchestra, the Pop Band, the Beginner Wind and String classes and general music classes for the high school.

These buildings are in great need of general maintenance and cosmetic services. Here are some of the following repairs necessary: Walls need scraping and a special solution wash for mold - (health risk); Termites; Replacements of windows, air conditioning units, ceiling and bathroom tiles; urinals needed (for teachers and visitors); Electrical units need to be brought up to standard (recent fire). Buildings require painting. The list is long.

Please help to change these conditions . Your generosity will make a difference. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20. Donations can be made by e-transfer to

tres.ichsaatoronto@gmail.com or by cheque (payable to The Alliance of Jamaica Alumni Associations) mailed to ICHSAA Toronto Chapter, Attn: Katy Sani, Treasurer,

C/O 104 Lavery Trail, Toronto, Ont., M1C 4Z2





# ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION TORONTO CHAPTER



	<b>Donation Form</b>
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ddre	ss:
city: _	Postal Code:
el: _	Email:
Му	<b>Donation is:</b> (a tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more)
	I am Paying By: Cheque Cash
	I hereby <b>give permission</b> to ICHS <b>to use my name</b> and photographic likeness in all forms and medi
	for club/district newsletters, ICHS promotional materials and any other lawful ICHS specific purposes.
	Signature:
	Date:

#### IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT,

Please make your cheque payable to: THE ALLIANCE OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS MEMO - For ICHSAA (Toronto Chapter).

Please mail your donations to THE TREASURER, ICHS AA TORONTO CHAPTER, c/o Katy Sani, 104 LAVERY TRAIL, TORONTO, ON M1C 4Z2, Tel 416-320-7117

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PHENOMENAL WOMEN OF TOMORROW!!!!

# Festival highlights Jamaican Composers

**Extracted from The Gleaner (Micheal Reckford)** 

On June 1, 2024, a concert was held at Andrews Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hope Road, St. Andrew, Jamaica. This concert was enthusiastically received as it showcased the music of two outstanding—though little known— deceased Jamaican composers, and introduced the work of an upcoming one.

The deceased musicians were Sir Frederic Hymen Cowen (January 29, 52 — Oct6, 1935) and Lisa M. Narcisse, LRSM,OD (May25,1912— July 2, 2001) The contemporary musician is Mickel Gordon, a young pianist/composer. This was one of the Jamaica Choral Scholar's Festival, and annual two-week programme dedicated to the study and performance of Caribbean music, with an emphasis on choral works.

Dr Andrew Marshall was the concert's conductor, the choir's founder and musical director, and assistant professor of music and director of choirs at Northern Caribbean University (NCU) Mandeville.

Ms. Narcisse's **Folk Mass** was the centerpiece of the evening. Lasting about 15 minutes, it had six sections—**Lord**, **Have Mercy**; **Glory to God**; **Holy**, **Holy**; **Eucharist Acclamation**; **Lamb of God** and **Recessional**— with a pleasing mix of joyous and solemn moods. It was sung by a soloist Samara Marshall, supported by the 24 singers of the Choral Scholars. **Accompanying them were a steel pannist**, a drummer and Mickel Gordon on the piano with Dr Andrew Marshall conducting.

Dr Marshall stated the edition of Ms Narcisse's mass used was a choral adaptation of the her Original work. He explained that "in her original publication, the music existed as a single vocal line with keyboard accompaniment. It appeared to have been handwritten and published directly from her manuscript. He continued: "In arranging the work, attempts were made to adhere to the spirit of the work, guided by her philosophy that her music was written to be simple enough for the 'common man' of Jamaica to understand.

## The Performing Arts Centre receives a gift





In a private ceremony alumna Patricia Sharpe donated her Bosendorfer grand piano to the ICHS Symphony Orchestra in memory of her beloved son Sean P.A. Sharpe. The ICHS family extends our heartfelt thanks for her generously and kindness.

# **Upcoming Events**



JOIN US FOR OUR COMBINED ALUMNI

# Pierce in the park 2024

SATURDAY | 17 AUGUST | 11 AM - 6:30 PM MILNE DAM CONSERVATION PARK LAKEVIEW B SHELTER

8251 MCCOWAN ROAD (MC COWAN/HWY 7)
MARKHAM ONL3P 3J3

PARK ADMISSION

ADULT \$5.00 SENIOR \$3.90 CHILD 15 & UNDER FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ICHSAATORONTO@GMAIL.COM

STGCONTARIOPRES@GMAIL.COM.

ALPHAALUMNAETORONTO@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE **BY SATURDAY**, **JULY 13** SO THAT A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH TICKET CAN BE PROVIDED TO YOU AND EACH OF YOUR GUESTS.

# **ALUMNA GIVES BACK**

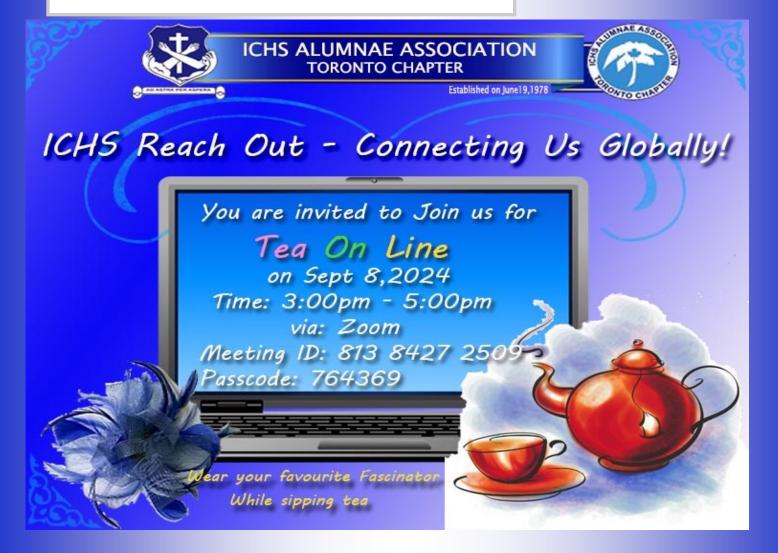


Beverly Valentine, Class of 55 and member of the Toronto Chapter made a personal donation to ICHS in the amount of \$1 million Jamaican Dollars toward the Steel Pan Ensemble. Over the years, Beverly Valentine has been a generous supporter of the Toronto Chapter's ongoing projects including the Food & Nutrition Labs and Water Harvest Project. We appreciate Beverly's unwavering support.





A visit to ICHS in March,2024 by Members of the Toronto Chapter and other Chapters



# Save the Date September 22,2024

For our Annual Luncheon
Sweet Reflections

# ICHSAA Toronto-celebrated 45 years



# CONGRATULATIONS - We; lcome Sweetie Pies



**Zayne Simon Wong Sarvaria** born October 31, 2023. Parents - Justin Wong & Nicole Sarvaria. Proud grandmother Annette Wong.



**Jade Carolyn Lucia Lue**, born in January to proud parents Nicole & Craig, and just as proud grandparents Jackie and Derrick Lue.

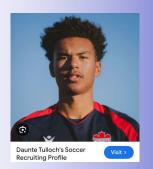


**Siena Rose Jureidini** born on November 20, 2023 to Kristyn and Nicholas Jureidini. Proud grandparent Debbie (Williams) and Ian Jureidini.



**Asher Matthew Kears** born on April 24,2024 to Shawn Kears and Sarah Kears. Proud grandmother Debbie Banderob.

### CONGRATULATIONS



Daunte Tulloch, 18 year old grandson of Mary and Lloyd Mogg, has been awarded a 4 year Scholarship to Fairfield University in Connecticut, run by the Jesuits. He was scouted for his soccer talent and will major in Biology. Parents Howard and Belinda Tulloch and grandparents are very proud and wish him all the very best.





# Back On The Rock By A

By Annette Wong

A holiday back on the rock is always a memorable one ... no feeling better than "back a yard"!

It began with a relaxing chill at the RIU in Ochi — basking in the warm sun, laying/walking on the sand and swimming in beautiful blue waters. Not to mention the taste of the always great Jamaican food — jerk chicken, oxtail, ackee and salt fish, festival etc., etc... To be completed with my hips rocking in the evening to some good vibes.

After 9 days of savouring this idle beach days — there had to be a little drama. My brother picked us up from the hotel and we were on our way to Kingston. We stopped at Caymanas because he was going to play golf and I fortunately remembered that we had unfortunately forgotten to take out our travel documents from the safe in the hotel... oh my goodness! I immediately called the hotel and would you believe they already had my travel documents at the front desk. I was so happy and relieved all was intact! Of course we had to retrace our tracks but it was an enjoyable journey in the beautiful Jamaican scenery and with the nice highway now — what a smooth ride!!

The next few days in Kingston were busy. Enjoyed family time and met my new niece who was born just a few weeks before – of course sweet and adorable. Of course, my brother is a real foody ..so plenty to feast on of dis and dat. We went out one night for a culinary experience evening where we had a lesson in wine pairing to an unusual and delicious Easter menu of Jamaican dishes – Fried Spraat with Pickled Onion, Seafood Run Down with Fried Bammy, Crunchy Bun with Cream Cheese Filling. Another night out to a nice night market with various food stalls, crafts and arts.

Immaculate Conception High School - the grooming years of my life. I went to the school on Friday morning to relive and re-appreciate my past. Inspite of the worn, weathered look of the buildings and the obvious need of much repairs in many areas, the school was still beautiful to me as it enveloped so much beautiful memories with the teachers, nuns and friends! It was a mixed bag of pride, joy and nostalgia .... but with a sorrowful heart - so much help is needed to restore the school to what it was when we left. A group of us alumnae went to the school and we were asked to give an impromptu talk to some Grade 8 students as we tried to encourage them to continue to strive to be phenomenal women but to remember not to forget that their success would be the result of the phenomenal background gained at ICHS so they have an obligation to Pay It Forward to other future students when they eventually leave. Mrs Reynolds, the headmistress spontaneously asked one of the students to thank us - I must tell you, I was overcome and tears came to my eyes as I listened with great pride at how eloquently and confidently she spoke.

I graduated from 5th form in 1974 so counting up the years – 50 years already! So to celebrate this milestone a group of us from my year had a mini afternoon reunion – pool party at a beautiful house in Cherry Gardens area. A wonderful afternoon with much chatter and laughter about everything from school days, family, what a gawn...etc, etc! Time and age meant nothing and we easily, warmly and lovingly recon-

nected.

Then nothing like a nice evening hanging out with other friends in an outdoor back yard setting – just perfect with good food, music, chatter and laughter! When you in Jamaica.. there always is a lyme!





Saturday night was another story as there was a huge gala as we gathered to celebrate the Hall of Fame event at the Pegasus Hotel. The Hall of Fame honours and celebrates the achievements of an ICHS alumnae who have distinguished themselves in various fields and made outstanding contributions to ICHS, community building and nation building for posterity. This event for me was particularly memorable because of the 5 inductees, 2 were from the ICHS Alumnae Toronto Chapter – Cathrine Sani and Donette Chin-Loy Chang - so I was so proud to share in this event with them.

I must tell you it was a splashy affair and well orchestrated literally with our ICHS symphony orchestra, pomp and ceremony to be memorialized by the Jamaican Observer. We mek news for





Our Jamaica... so beautiful but yet still there is so much poor. I had over the last few months become involved with MOP – Missionaries of the Poor chapter in Toronto and I was glad to have the opportunity to visit two of the missions in downtown Kingston. I visited with the men's and women's missions and met Brother Alfonso and Sister Joan - saw the wonderful caring work that they unselfishly do look after so many poor, disabled young and old individual. The place was simple, clean, well kept and you could feel the quiet love. This has strengthened my resolve to try to give back to help the less fortunate of our beloved homeland. I ask God to guide me as he sees fit.

So yes back on the rock was filled with many wonderful memories.

### The Daphne Chung Memorial Scholarship

Daphne Chung class of 1948, passed away on January 19,2021. In honour of their mother, the Chung family, have established the "Daphne Chung Memorial Scholarship".

The scholarship seeks to invest in the next generation of phenomenal women who are educated and have strong moral character and are involved in their communities.

The recipient of the inaugural Daphne Chung Memorial Scholarship is Daesha Brown. She is in her first year of Pharmacology, at the University of the West Indies. She is the first person in her family to pursue a tertiary education and is working part time to support her studies.

A special Thank You to Daphne Chung's daughter Dr. Maureen Chung MD, PHD, for initiating the scholarship process and also to the Florida Chapter, Cathrine Sani, Carol Case and Sadie Wong for helping to make this possible.

# 'Mac Magic ' - Chin-Loy Chang Follows in Her late Husband's Footsteps



'Another Mac Girl shines', following in the footstep of our own Mary Anne Chambers, the first ICHS Alumna to become Chancellor of a University in Canada. Donette Chin-Loy Chang is the 6th appointed Chancellor of the Toronto Metropolitan University and begins a three year term on October 10, 2024. Her late husband G. Raymond Chang was the third appointed chancellor of the TMU.

Donette has dedicated her time and philanthropy to many influential organizations. She is dedicated to transforming lives through education, health care, social justice and the arts in Canada and globally.

The ICHSAA Toronto Chapter congratulates their Hall of Famer Donette Chin-Loy Chang on her appointment.

Photo: Clifton Li



Remember to pay your Dues ... Only \$40 per year.





## Prayers and Condolence are extended to the families of ...

**Shirley Ngui Chun Tait/Williams** who passed away on April 25,2024 in London, U.K. She leaves behind brothers: Nelson Ngui Chun Tait(Megan), Edward Williams (Ina), Peter Williams (Iris), nieces and nephews.



Nadine Therese Richards passed away on Nov. 27,2023 leaving husband Erick Bhattacharya, sons Liam and Ethan. Sister of Karen-Marie Siyanbola-Ellington, Toronto Chapter's president (Morris), Melaine (Simon) Tricia Marie. The 4th daughter of the late Joe and Beverly Richards.

**Jena Veronica Chong** passed away Feb. 16, 2023. She was an honorary ICHSAA, Toronto Chapter member and a past Bursar at Immaculate Conception High School. She is mother to Gloria Hoo, Adrienne Aarons, Beverly Lue, Pauline Chung, Leslie Chung, Larry Chung and mother-inlaw to Patricia Williams-Chung.



**Phyllis Lyn, nee Lue**- Celebrated her 100th birthday on April 9, 1923 passed away on Aug 21, 2023 leaving daughter Annette Wong (Class of 74) and 5 other children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren

**Allan Lyn** (Skippy) passed away on Feb 25, 2024 leaving wife Eileen, sister Sadie Wong, children, grand-children, great grandchildren and extended family

**New Member** 

Over the past 12 months, many of our Membership have lost love ones.

We, the executive members of the ICHS Alumnae Toronto Chapter would like to extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to all that have experienced a great loss.

May their Souls Rest in Peace!



Out of touch with class mates? Join Facebook



Newsletter will be emailed unless otherwise indicated:



#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$40.00 - CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: ICHS Alumnae Association

Mailing address: ICHS AA TORONTO CHAPTER
c/o 2851 John Street, PO Box 42005 John Woodbine PO,, Markham Ont. L3R 0P9, CANADA
Or e-transfer to: <a href="mailto:tres.ichsaatoronto@gmail.com">tres.ichsaatoronto@gmail.com</a>

Renewal

	email	mail	
Name:		Maiden Name:	
Graduation Year:	Tel:	Cell:	
Street Address:			
City:		Province:	
Postal Code:		Email:	
Signature: I authorize the verification of the information provided on this form			
Signature of applicant:		Date	



Did you miss our Annual Dinner Dance?

It was held on June 1st., at St. Peter and Paul Banquet Hall.

Over 250 were in attendance including representatives from St.

George's College, Alpha Academy, and other school alumni. We were entertained by Victor Lyn and DJ Audiotainment. Members of the Class 74 made a special evening of it.

The feedback from one of our dear Alumnae Dr. Maria Schleifer "What a wonderful evening of celebration! Thanks so much to all who make this a truly memorable event. Can't remember

when I've seen so many smiling faces and such joyful laughter in a long time! May God continue to bless you all and alsó ICHS."

