



The Sundial

My hours are made of sun and shade
Take heed of what your hours are made.

Newsletter of the Elmwood Old Girls' Association
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Reuniting at the Headmistress' House

As I put together this edition of the Sundial, I am again so pleased to see all that we as Old Girls have done this past year both for and with our school. I hope you are too!

One lovely evening in late June, the Old Girls had a wonderful year end wrap up at the new home of Cheryl Boughton—one we all know well—the Headmistress' House. It was great to see it so nicely decorated and being lived in again. It was also fun to listen to many of the old girls at the party share their memories of being in this house with whoever was their headmistress. There was much laughing and smiles over some of the stories.

I think the best thing though was that we had in attendance women who graduated over 40 years ago and those who left within the last four years. It was wonderful to see such a diverse group truly reengaged in caring for and helping their school and the school truly caring about them. I feel that for this, the OGA has also come home.

May you all have a wonderful and relaxing summer. I look forward to connecting with you again in the fall.

Take care – Elanor Brodie '89

BACK TO SCHOOL

Joan Brodie '68 organizes a workshop

Alumnae are finding new ways to stay connected with their school, sometimes by leasing space for special events. Old Girl Joan Brodie '68 came back to Elmwood on May 1, when she

was Program Chair for a workshop for Teachers of English as a Second Language (a local affiliate of TESL-Ontario). The meetings were held in the old dining room, which was much appreciated. "We have held our meetings in public schools before this," says Joan, "and our members really liked Elmwood. It was comfortable. It was lovely."

Strolling down memory lane

by Jeanette Marrett '64

How could one ever refuse a chance to once again enter the hallowed halls of Elmwood, especially when Janet Uren '68 approaches you with a proposition that cannot be refused.

So for the past several Friday mornings Janet and I have been trying to be junior Agatha Christies, tracking down "lost alumnae" and organizing alumnae records. It's great fun. Many familiar names and memories of former classmates and friends have been evoked. What interesting pathways we alumnae have trod. Hopefully we are indeed helping with the information database while having lots of practice using the marvelous systems available. As yet we have not been put in the corner with dunce caps on heads!

The sound of the bell and the cacophony of voices—the scurrying of feet creates a wonderful experience to be once again back at Elmwood—back home.

Editor's note: To help Jeanette and Janet with these efforts you can always email the school directly at anytime to eeuert@elmwood.ca to provide us with your current contact information. This great project of database updating is in support of the 100th Anniversary.

IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH

Heritage preservation

Sandy Smallwood—brother of Old Girl Cathy Smallwood '69 and father of a former Elmwood student—is an expert on old buildings. He is also a passionate advocate of heritage preservation and restoration. He is working with the school to identify and rescue heritage assets and to make sure that, as the physical fabric of the school changes and develops, the physical past is not lost. He is also helping to identify important areas, such as the dining room and the former library that might be returned to their former state as areas that alumnae will recognize and feel at home in.

Sandy is also trying to understand the old layout of the school—for example, where the cloakrooms used to lie off the Stone Corridor, where a telephone was once tucked into a nook in the Front Hall, where new doors were punched in old walls to create more office space.

In early June, Sandy led an expedition into the basement of Elmwood to see if any old furniture and fittings had been stored there. Ellen Ewert, Director of Advancement, Jeanette Marrett '64, Janet Uren '68 and Cathy Smallwood '69 joined the expedition and had a wonderful time crawling around a complex warren of rooms and crawl spaces. As well as finding a dozen or so old dining room chairs, a modest sideboard that shows up in old pictures of the dining room, the framework of an old bed, an old door and the ancient tuck shop cash box, they also came back clutching an abandoned cigarette package that is easily 70 years old—a relic of the time when Elmwood students used to retire to the basement to smoke.

IN THE SPIRIT OF FUN

An Old Girl production of Noel Coward

The Linden House Theatre Company—a creation of Old Girl Janet Uren '68—will produce *Blithe Spirit* in October 2010. This is one of the most brilliant comedies of master comedian Noel Coward. Janet will be taking the role of a dotty medium, Madame Arcati. Once again, proceeds from the Elmwood Preview on October 21 will go in their entirety to the Old Girls' Scholarship Fund. Please mark it on your calendars and plan to bring children, spouses and friends.

Thank you

As we finish another busy year of the OGA, we want to thank all of our volunteers and most especially Kinga Petrovai '99 who has been our co-chair for the past two years. Kinga has been instrumental in ensuring the success of Connections 360 which she started 3 years ago. Kinga also urged us to start an annual reunion with an elegant touch. Last year we hosted our first reunion with a sit down luncheon and Margaret Dickenson was our guest presenter.

In keeping with our plan to only ask Old Girls to commit for two years Kinga will be stepping down as co-chair, though she has kindly agreed to continue coordinating Connections 360 for us. We wish Kinga every success this fall as she embarks on a teaching degree. Stepping into Kinga's big shoes is Rosemary (Nesbitt) Bickerton '78. Rosemary will work alongside her cousin Susan (Reid) Senn '77 and has agreed to coordinate this year's reunion function.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer and hope to see them at the reunion activities on Saturday, September 25th.

Connections 360

On April 27th, Elmwood welcomed back Elizabeth Toller '02 as part of the Connection 360 Speakers Series.

Elizabeth studied Social Anthropology and International Development Studies at Dalhousie University, where she graduated with a Master's Degree in 2008.

Elizabeth spoke passionately about her Elmwood years and the path her life has taken since graduating. Elmwood provided Elizabeth with a challenging academic experience, active extra curricular life as well as the support and freedom to discover her passions. It was in part because of this support and encouragement that Elizabeth found her inspiration for humanitarian work, which would help shape her future studies and career. Two memories that Elizabeth said she cherishes most was the work she was able to do with an organization called Warchild Canada, which helps to raise awareness about children affected by war through music and other creative activities.

Her other fond memory is of the work she did with a close friend at Elmwood to organize a community service trip with Canada World Youth to Thailand. She recalled the two of them staying up all night developing a proposal for their teachers to consider; and, although they seemed hesitant at first to support the idea, the trip was endorsed and 11 girls and 2 teachers took off for three weeks of travel.

This kind of initiative and passion continued in university where Elizabeth further explored different angles of humanitarian work which included volunteering in East Africa and Kenya.

Today Elizabeth works in yet another angle of the humanitarian work she loves, by working on food and drug policy and regulations at Health Canada.

Experiences such as these helped prepare Elizabeth to strive and make the right choices in order to follow a career she feels passionate about. She showed our

students that although it may not be clear exactly what your career will be, if you work hard, take initiatives in areas you're passionate about, the right career will find you. Elizabeth exemplifies the true Elmwood girl and we were very happy to have her return and talk about her wonderful experiences. Thank you Elizabeth!

SAVE THE DATE

Elmwood School Reunion
Saturday, September 25, 2010
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Experience an Elmwood High Tea in the Dining Room
Tickets and more information to follow

Get together with old friends at the Elmwood Reunion. Participate in activities such as tours of the school and see a classroom of today. Reminisce with Old Girls over tea. Make plans to book a table for your year.

Also, if you would like to plan a reunion for your graduating class, please contact Ellen Ewert at ewert@elmwood.ca

FROM THE EDITOR

As always the Sundial is a great opportunity for you to tell other Old Girls about your news. If you have anything you would like to submit, just send it at anytime to elanorbrodie@yahoo.com or call me at 613-745-0631.