

A WESTGATE Retrospective 2022



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Coming to Our Senses

BY BOB HUMMELT

My wife Cathy is very good at finding things online. A few years back I mused about what I wanted in a used sports car and a little more than two years later she chimed, “Found it!” Sure enough, there it was, waiting for me in Saskatoon, right down to the “ordered” manual transmission and the right colour of retractable top and leather seats. Therefore, I was not fully surprised when more recently Cathy thrust her phone in my view to see an older Kevlar We-no-nah canoe available for what seemed a very low price. I had commented a ways back that another lighter weight canoe would be handy to have around at the lake to eliminate the need to schlep my vintage Souris River out to the cabin several times each summer. The We-no-nah is not the kind of canoe that comes up online very often and certainly not at the asking price listed, so I squealed, “Buy it! Buy it!”

Since Cathy responded to the post first, we were given first opportunity to see it; the seller’s phone apparently had been ringing off the hook. The owner was an elderly gent who had serious canoe “chops”, including paddling in the 1967 Pan Am Games here in Winnipeg. As soon as I saw it, I knew it was perfect for my needs. However, it seemed that the owner was more interested in matching the canoe to the owner rather than the other way around.

He wanted to know my plans for it, not to mention my ability to use it. “Pick it up,” he softly but firmly commanded. I hoisted it in one swing to settle the yoke on my shoulders without bouncing it on his driveway. I then had to explain that it would help me go on day and overnight trips with friends and hopefully soon with my grandkids. After more chatting about family and paddling, the deal was sealed. My sleek We-no-nah now winters under a colleague’s cabin, ready to be shared during the next paddling season, and though that colleague’s family has a canoe, it was made by a company that also produces camp stoves, lamps and coolers. I still think that tub should be filled with soil to serve as a flowerbed, but I wouldn’t want anyone to think I’m a canoe snob.

“Experience is your best teacher,” I have always told all our Marsh and Mountain students. I gained my first canoe experience at a summer camp in Cranberry Portage for northern Indigenous and inner city Winnipeg kids. It was 1976 and having just completed the first year of my Bachelor of Education degree, I talked my way into a camp counselor

position but then I actually had to learn how to canoe in the first two weeks of camp during counselor orientation. Despite this scrambling start where I didn’t know the difference between a J-stroke and a J-cloth, by the end of the summer I was hooked. As the years passed I learned to read the waves and the incoming weather to choose paths across big lakes, keeping the abilities of young paddlers in my care in mind. To this day, I know when to push off the shore and when to stay put. I always wear my PFD, not only because I swim like a wood stove, but because I am a safe canoeist.

The late Bill Mason, a Manitoban canoeing guru and a man of faith, playfully pondered whether God first created the canoe before creating the wilderness so it could be plied to best enjoy and appreciate God’s creation. No doubt, the canoe is an important craft among Westgate staff and our school community. During Alternative Education Week after



year-end exams in June, our Grade 9 students spend several days in the Rushing River area developing and acquiring canoe skills, while many senior high students choose to traverse the Experimental Lakes Area with experienced teachers who paddle. Over the years, our staff colleagues with very young families have planned canoe trips together and our Westgate parents have shared with us stories and routes they have explored with their kids. We also often hear from alumni about trips they have taken with fellow Westgaters.

I see more frequent paddles and canoe trips in my immediate future. After 43 years working in schools and 15 years as principal at Westgate I retire at the end of June 2022. Every September during those years, I have always wondered what a canoe trip in September amid glorious colours and limited bugs would be like. I am already planning a trip to find out. As I sit on my camp chair perched on a rock face somewhere, I will no doubt wonder what is going on at Westgate, but I will know the place is in good hands with James Friesen as its new principal. I might even reminisce about some key moments during my tenure, where like a trip leader, some decisions needed to be made. With darkening clouds of a deteriorating building that had implications for eroding enrollment, the board and I decided that we would leave the safe shore and venture out. Our metaphorical lake was whipped



up by neighbourhood headwinds as we secured permission to redevelop the campus. We miraculously found a small cove in Charleswood to shelter our kids while we rebuilt the school just in time to begin another year of learning.

I once shared at an opening program that I always look back from the stern of my canoe to the portage that I just covered. This helps me find it on the way back, but it also pays homage to the work it took to cross it. As I am about to formally leave this school, I look back at what we have: a finely designed and fully functional learning space, wonderful kids and staff, a dutiful board, and supportive parents. We also have a bit of

building debt. The *Retrospective* is designed to inform our wider school community about not only what is going on in the school but also about what its fiscal health is. I hope as you page through this journal and see that while my retirement is certain, the retirement of our loan is not. Several families have dug deep and often have blessed the school with their donations. I now would like to invite you and others among our community that value the work of Westgate to strongly consider joining them with your gifts.

I look forward to bumping into the many acquaintances I have made in my time here, and what a delight it would be to share a visit bobbing on some lake someday, somewhere, soon.



Evan Rogalsky

BY JAMIE ARPIN-RECCI

While he always showed a propensity for music, it was not until his time at Westgate that music became important to Evan Rogalsky ('05). However, it wasn't the music program that first sparked his interest but rather the music on the skateboard videos he loved to watch.

"I started singing along to all my favourite bands. After that, my skateboard became nothing more than a mode of transportation as I began to hone my craft both vocally and behind a set of drums," remembers Rogalsky. Westgate's choir and band programs provided fertile soil for his growing passion. "I was involved in every band and choir class Westgate offered, participated in two musicals, a tour to Ontario, and multiple talent shows. I wanted to learn music, learn *about* music and more than anything, perform music."

Evan credits Westgate for helping him harness and master his gift for music. Likening the school's music program to a highly competitive "Division 1 US college", he remembers being challenged to perform his very best to keep up with the exceptional staff and students. "The healthy

competition between musicians and the one-upmanship that came along with it is what helped me develop the skills I needed to be successful after high school and form habits I still keep to this day."

After graduation, Rogalsky's musical journey followed an exciting trajectory. In addition to performing in a couple of bands that received radio airplay, he also received invitations to open and perform at special events. "I've always thought the ultimate sign of respect in music is being asked to be a guest on stage, regardless of how big that artist may be." From being a guest musician in a local pub to playing "Let It Be" at Randy Turner's funeral, Evan values every opportunity to share his music. "Whether it's a pickup band, a one-off guest spot, or a regular thing, it's always nice to feel like you're bringing something to the table."

That said, few things reach the level of a Canadian musician's list of accomplishments like singing the national anthem for an NHL game- an honour Evan has had several times. "Being able to sing for the Winnipeg Jets is a big one. Recognizing how big a part of our city they are, and what that organization means to people isn't lost on me. It's an honour to present for them a few times a season and is something I hope to continue for many years."

Through it all, Evan Rogalsky looks back at his time at Westgate as formative. "My time at Westgate was definitely a factor in helping me harness my interest and abilities in music. The reputation Westgate has for its choir and band programs were both well known and the reason I ended up there."



PHOTOS: COURTESY K BALHARRY



Legacy

BY BOB HUMMELT

Seeing a grey-haired gentleman in the school's flower bed on a humid June day about to wield a sledge hammer normally would give a school principal some pause. However, it was most fitting to have Henry Dyck dent the caramel coloured stucco of the 1950s wing of the building with three mighty swings, symbolically commencing demolition to make way for the redevelopment of the campus we educate students

in today. A member of the first 1958-1959 class, Henry was a key member of the Redevelopment Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee that saw our school relocate for a year during construction and return to our wonderfully redesigned school just in time to start classes September 2017. Henry earned the reputation as an active builder of this institution by serving on committees of two previous building projects. The school formed its athletic program around a newly constructed gym in the late 1970s, and science labs and modern classrooms rose out of the basement of the irreparable "mansion" in the late 1980s.

A veteran of many other boards and committees, Henry worked doggedly on behalf of Westgate, using his skill and expertise honed managing the City of

Winnipeg's Planning, Property, and Development Department. Henry always seemed to know a guy who knew a guy to help move a project along, and his familiarity with members of our extended school community was invaluable when the school needed to raise significant funds to support the builds. Henry always spoke of his dedication to the school, but it was in his actions that these words always rang true; nearly every concert, Westgate worship service, musical, drama, sporting event or fundraising banquet featured Henry and Elsie in attendance. Not once in all of those functions during my time here as principal did Henry miss coming up to me to tell me what a great job I was doing and what a great school we have. With a firm handshake and warm smile, I knew he meant it.

Henry Dyck passed away with his beloved family at his side September 15, 2021.



Henry posing with Capital Campaign Chair, Ozzie Rempel at Charleswood Mennonite Church. Henry was thanked for his decades of service and presented with a Westgate jacket. Henry was always doing his thing: connecting with Westgate Alumni and Past Parents.





Camp Nurtures Faith and Community for Westgaters

BY NICOLIEN KLASSEN-WEIBE ('14)

Many students who have walked the halls of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate have also swapped their textbooks for sunscreen and their athletic jerseys for camp staff shirts in the summer. Camps with Meaning, Mennonite Church Manitoba's camping ministry that includes Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia, greatly impacts the faith of many young people, including Westgate students.

"I would say camp is probably one of the biggest impacts on my faith, because it was so different from my normal experience of faith," says Johanna Klassen ('18). Klassen, a long time student camper, has worked at Camps with Meaning for seven years as a counselor and Bible instructor. She loves that "being able to be outside and have fun are two really important aspects of camp's ways of expressing faith."



Johanna Klassen ('18) helping campers put words of scripture in their hearts and minds.



Current Camps with Meaning Associate Director Janet Peters ('92) agrees, "God is present and acts in real and tangible ways at camp." Peters, who began working at camp in her final high school years at Westgate, learned from camp to "Trust God and the Spirit's process" when things didn't seem like they would work out. When her pastoral ministry journey wasn't progressing like she'd hoped, she answered camp's call for leadership staff and returned as a Bible instructor and eventually the Associate Directorship. Her work at camp continually reminds her to notice God acting in the everyday moments of her life outside camp too.

Living amidst creation plays a major role in nurturing the spiritual health of staff and campers. "Because we're always outdoors,

we're always admiring creation and connected through creation to God," says Caleb Friesen Epp ('22), current camp staff and grade 12 Westgate student who has worked at camp for two years as a counsellor and ropes instructor. "Camp is all about life outside, whether that's sliding in the mud during field games in the rain or cooking food over a fire and sleeping in a tent on campout. Learning about God's creation is also an important part of Bible lessons - the 2020 theme was all about trees and their interconnected growth, which shows us that our lives, too, are bound up with one another."

"When I first worked at camp, I had the mindset that I would be teaching the kids about faith," Friesen Epp continues, "but I've actually learnt a lot from the kids:

Caleb Friesen Epp ('22) enjoying a summer cool off with campers at Camp Koinonia.



◀ Westgate students, staff and alumni make up a core of Camps with Meaning staff each year. Pictured here are Westgaters working at Camp Koinonia Junior High week 2021.



Janet Peters ('92) enjoying the time with a camper at Adults with Disability Venture Camp.



Lia Campbell Enns ('22) prepares tea from leaves campers collected as part of the Nature program at Camp Assiniboia.

how to be curious about faith, always asking who God is.” Lia Campbell-Enns ('22), another grade 12 student, also learned that “It’s okay to be unsure of where you are at in your faith. To participate in camp and Westgate you don’t need to be 100% sure of your faith,” she says. “Both spaces are a safe place to learn and grow and questions are always accepted and encouraged.” Campbell-Enns has worked at camp as an archery and ropes instructor and counsellor for the last three years and plans to work a full summer this year.

Camp is intense, both spiritually and relationally, and this strong sense of community compels so many campers to become staff. Camp Associate Director Peters says when she was young, that feeling of belonging and “being part of something bigger” shaped her faith. “But it’s a unique experience that can be hard to keep alive throughout the year. This is where the ongoing community of Westgate complements camp so well. Camp songs are often being energetically sung in chapel and Westgate provides enough of a stable community that reinforces those

same beliefs and way of being that I think it moves back and forth really well,” Peters says. Christian Studies classes, musical training, and the Middle East study tour expanded Klassen’s understanding of the Bible and equipped her to facilitate faith experiences at camp, like leading singing or cabin devotions or teaching the Bible. Friesen Epp says Westgate reinforces camp’s appreciation and respect for creation through Marsh and Mountain hiking, camping, canoeing, and cycling trips, and an elective course in outdoor education.

Camp transcends grade boundaries, bringing together people who otherwise might not have been friends. “It’s really fun to see a bunch of people you were at camp with the next year at school,” says Campbell-Enns. She used to see some of her counselors in the hallways; now in her senior year, she sees her campers.

Camp doesn’t only create bonds within Westgate, but connects students to the broader community. Klassen would say “Hi” to chapel speakers who had been pastors at camp, or recognize a camp pastor she had

previously met at a Westgate workshop. “There was just this constant feeling of being known and belonging in the Mennonite community of Manitoba,” she says. The special relationships camp staff have with Springstein Mennonite Church in Springstein and Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain are signs that camp isn’t something that exists only in summer.

“Camp has definitely strengthened my relationship with God, and so when I’m in church I can have deeper connections with God and with my community around me because of the stuff I’ve learned at camp,” says Friesen Epp.

The circle extends far beyond the Mennonite sphere, with many campers and staff coming from countless different contexts, even including different provinces.

After Covid19 forced them to scale down programming for two years, these camp staff are excited to be running overnight camp again this summer. They’re looking forward to building deeper connections, growing in faith, and sharing in the small in-between moments that make camp so special.



Storytellers and Communicators

BY ADAM KLASSEN BARTEL

Throughout the past few years, we have all learned the importance of those who share information and who tell the stories of our individual and collective lives. These communicators and storytellers shape our culture and society. The work they do is very important: they share truth, they inspire us, they give us hope, they entertain and bring joy. We have gathered here stories of a sampling of Westgate alumni who have found their way into these significant professions. They each shared seeds of inspiration from their time at Westgate as well as where they have landed and currently work as storytellers in various forms.



Jackson Peters ('14)



Westgate memory: Throughout my time at Westgate I was spurred to pursue my interest in film through the school curriculum as well as extra curricular projects/study/competitions, particularly so in the 10th Grade Digital Filmmaking Class taught by Jarrett Rempel, with encouragement from Charlotte Kroeker and Lisa Martin. 12th Grade AP English with James Friesen solidified my love of narrative arts and the way different artistic mediums are able to speak.

Current Position: I am a Producer/Shooter/Editor for the FLORB YouTube channel. FLORB (Floating Orb Productions) specializes in short documentary profiles on individuals from around the world living in Alternative Living Spaces. I travel full-time out of my self-converted camper van (and occasionally sail) in pursuit of these stories.



Thomas Friesen ('12)



Westgate memory: English was my least favourite subject at Westgate. Then I took Jason Dyck's transactional English in Grade 12 and it changed my perspective. The four Cs — clear, concise, complete and correct — align with how I think and I looked forward to writing assignments for the first time.

Current Position: The Brandon Sun sports crew found my work online and asked me to apply for the job I've now held for three-and-a-half years. In sharing the stories of local athletes battling the most unusual time of their careers throughout 2020 and 2021, we found meaning in providing our readers with an escape from the pandemic doom and gloom.



Aaron Epp ('02)



Westgate memory: When I was a student at Westgate, my favourite subject was English language arts (ELA). I have clear memories of writing short stories in Jennifer O'Leary's Grade 7 ELA class and in Terry Dirks' Grade 9 ELA class, and really enjoying those assignments. Around this same time, I started reading magazines like *Guitar World*, *Rolling Stone* and *Spin*, which sparked my interest in journalism.

Current Position: In my current role as the online media manager at Canadian Mennonite, I run the magazine's social media, moderate web comments, and write and edit articles. Additionally, I write a weekly column for the Winnipeg Free Press about volunteers and volunteer opportunities. I've written more than 400 entries in that column and I never grow tired of shining a light on the good things people are doing to make Winnipeg a better place.



Cory Funk ('08)



Westgate memory: The Westgate Middle East trip in grade 11 was a game changer for me. It made me realize how little I knew about the people I was seeing in the news. Hearing deeply personal stories from people in mosques, shop owners and NGO leaders shed light on the complexity and humanity I hadn't seen in the news, and turned the post-9/11 narrative of the Middle East on its head for me. It made me want to know more.

Current Position: I now work as an associate producer, and sometimes reporter, at CBC Manitoba, mostly in the radio current affairs department. I also tech and direct the local radio shows. It's a bit of a dream job. It's a real privilege to help tell Manitoba's story, and it's not hard to draw a throughline from the love of writing, storytelling and learning that Westgate instilled in me and what I'm doing now.



Jason Friesen ('13)



Westgate memory: Having read the novel *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway, our teacher James Friesen gave us the opportunity to write our own ending to the story. The ability to write in our own creativity and perspectives to such a great novel was exciting for me, and was a project that didn't feel so much like schoolwork!

Current Position: I currently work as Coordinator of Communications & Content for True North Sports + Entertainment. In my role, I develop press releases and web content for community initiatives of the Winnipeg Jets and Manitoba Moose as well as True North's other entities.



Lauren Donnelly ('04)



Westgate memory: In Grade 9 I took part in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program with several other classmates. We learned about the Holocaust and other human rights violations and travelled to Washington, D.C. The experience shook me (honestly, it may have traumatized me). But it also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to affect change and do something about injustice.

Current Position: I'm a reporter and news presenter with CBC Manitoba and, these days, that means I do it all. I produce TV stories, write and read radio news and report for the web. It's a privilege to be trusted with someone's story. It's on us to build back trust, to prioritize being right over being first and to make sure our communities see themselves reflected in the news. Please consider this an open invitation to send me your story tips.

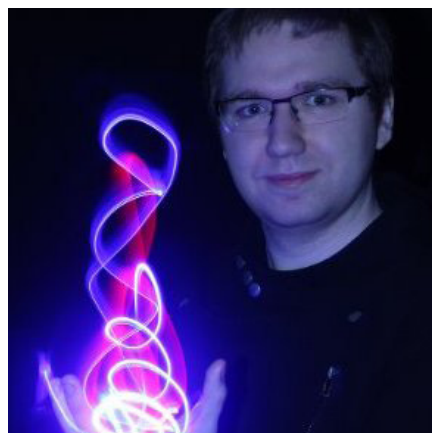


Mark Neufeld ('04)



Westgate memory: The first time I had an opportunity to use a video camera was in Grade 7 for a *Gods of Egypt* Social Studies project. I had a sleepover with my friends, we shot and edited our film, and the whole class got to watch it on Monday. It was a great feeling to make something that other people could see and enjoy, even if it was only to laugh at the bloopers reel.

Current Position: I love rap music, and two artists I was a big fan of were Mac Miller and Classified, both of who came to Winnipeg, and I got to film their shows. It was such a rewarding experience to be up close with the energy on stage and capture a concert of a musician I was such a big fan of, and I realised camera work could unlock more opportunities in the future. Currently I work as a Video Journalist with CityNews Winnipeg. I have been blessed to experience incredible and amazing events of people, places, and things because of the work I do.



Graham Wiebe ('10)



Westgate memory: I started by spending time in the computer lab every lunch working on blender and photo editing. My interest in art only started fully in later grades, but then I lacked the prerequisites to attend the art class in the first place. This caused me to double down on the digital art side of things since I could not attend the traditional art class.

Current Position: I have worked almost exclusively in the film industry. Recently as a lead effects artist at Tangent Animation, I received 2 Annie Award nominations (the Oscars for animation) for my work on two projects (*Next Gen*, *Maya* and *the Three*). As it currently stands, I work remotely from home as a senior effects artist at Sony Imageworks, with my most recent work being in *Spiderman - No Way Home*.



Nicolien
Klassen-Wiebe ('14)



Westgate memory: Terry Dirks reading a novel aloud to our attentive, hushed grade seven English class, intentionally taking time each class to slow down and savour stories together. Moments like this fostered my love of stories and my eagerness to write.

Current Position: I now work full-time as a writer, juggling two jobs and freelance work. As a writer in CMU's Communications and Marketing department and as the Manitoba Correspondent for *Canadian Mennonite* magazine, I'm constantly getting to learn new things and meet new people!



Zachary Peters ('05)



Westgate memory: I was in Ms. Terry Dirks' grade 12 English class in 2004 - 2005, and I remember thoroughly enjoying many aspects of the storytelling and reading assignments we did that year. Another Westgate experience that sparked my interest in storytelling would be the Three One Act Plays - from acting in them throughout junior high to being lucky enough to help direct one of the plays as a grade 12 student.

Current Position: I currently work as the Director, Marketing Services for the Winnipeg Jets and True North Sports and Entertainment and have been with the company for seven years now. My role is to be a brand storyteller; to share the Jets brand with our fans and our city.



Collin Friesen ('82)

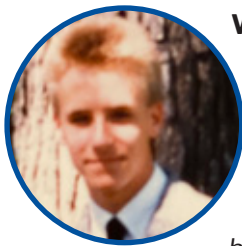


Westgate memory: At a Christmas concert, my friend and I were allowed to play kazoos during a composition by PDQ Bach. We got the laughs intended, and it was then I realized that I could be funny on purpose.

Current Position: Reclined on a sofa, freelance writer/director, travel app producer, pod-cast co host (ChemoSkinny) and all around support system for my wife's acting career.



Darryl Neustaedt Barg ('86)



Westgate memory: In grade 8 at Westgate, in the early 1980's, I created an epic (in my memory) radio play with another classmate for a class project. A gripping thriller, the very derivative plot was brought to life with homemade sound effects and peaked with Journey's *Don't stop believin'*, which was just a brand new song at the time. Incorporating two mono tape recorders, it was the beginning of the audio recording part of my career.

Current Position: Director of Communications, Mennonite Church Manitoba; Media Production Coordinator and Adjunct Professor of Communications, Canadian Mennonite University; Freelance audio and video production.

DEVELOPMENT

Financial Recap

BY PAUL KLASSEN ('83), WESTGATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR
AND OZZIE REMPEL, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

It is worthwhile to pause on occasion and reflect on the truly spectacular success that the new building represents. The expanded spaces and wonderful new facilities have not only proven to be as functionally efficient as was anticipated, but have transformed Westgate into a truly beautiful place of learning. It has also played a significant role in allowing our students and staff to remain healthy and safe throughout the challenges of the last two years.

We are getting closer – closer than we've ever been – to retiring the building debt on our 10.5 million dollar renovation and

redevelopment project. While fundraising events have been of COVID necessity curtailed - our August Golf Tournament and Fall Supper suspended - donations and pledges since July of 2021 are nevertheless nudging the quarter million mark. Individual appeals have encouraged many long-time supporters and previous donors to again open hearts and wallets for the cause. Please consider yourself wholeheartedly invited to join them in our efforts to retire this debt!

Back in 2018, when we moved back to our newly renovated school, we still had a shortfall of

We have
\$740,851
left to raise

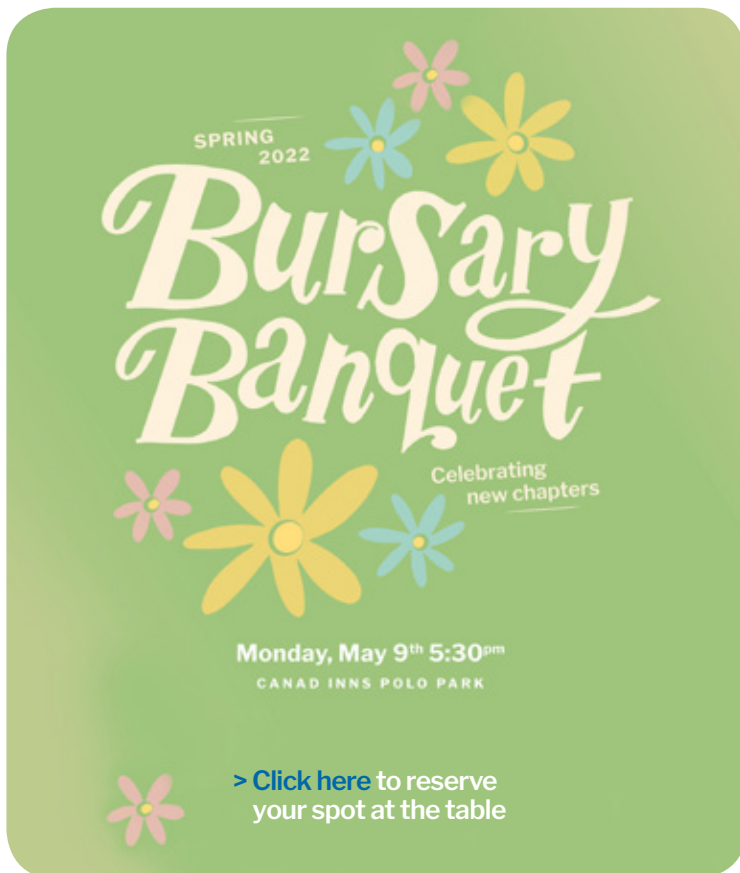


about \$2.5 million in funds raised toward the \$10.5 million total cost. However, as enrolment was strong which contributed to strong financial results and operating surpluses, and as fundraising and donations continued to come in, external borrowing has been minimal and the shortfall in the Capital Fund has been subsidized by the Operating Fund. That \$2.5 million shortfall has now been reduced to less than \$750,000. We are so thankful to the entire Westgate Community for the dedicated support through donations, fundraising activities, and prayers.

We are planning to release news soon about our Donor Recognition installation. If you have been considering making a contribution, you should know that there is still time for you to be included in the inaugural rendition. There is clear reason for optimism regarding a coming end to this pandemic; how great would it be for Westgate to be first to the finish and declare an official end to this capital campaign!



New atrium addition allowing for safe social distancing during the last two years.



The pandemic halted a lot of gathering...but now is the time to catch up! **Let's have some 10, 25 and 50 Year Reunions!**

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Contact Krista Neustaedter Barg at knb@westgatemennonite.org or call 204-775-7111:

- If you would be interested in **volunteering** to connect with your grad class to plan reunions for the following classes:

1970	1995	2010
1971	1996	2011
1972	1997	2012
- To **update your personal information** so folks planning can find you.

Stay Connected!





Alumna Coach Inducted into Disc Sports Hall of Fame

BY AARON EPP ('02)

A Westgate alumna is being recognized for her many contributions to the sport of ultimate frisbee in Manitoba. Vaughn Rempel Snider ('84) was inducted into the Manitoba Organization of Disc Sports Hall of Fame last October. In addition to playing in the MODS ultimate league for many years, Snider has served on the organization's board of directors and chaired one of its committees. She has also contributed to the sport through her coaching efforts and by starting the ultimate program at Westgate in 2009. "I was very surprised—I didn't see it coming at all," Snider says of her induction. "It's an honour, for sure."

Ultimate was relatively new to Winnipeg when Snider started playing 25 years ago. She had never heard of the sport until a

few friends invited her to play. "I was always into all the sports at Westgate—volleyball, basketball, track and field—and I wanted a new challenge," Snider says. "Playing a new, co-ed sport on a team with my friends—what could be better?" In addition to the athletic and co-ed aspects, one of the things Snider most enjoys about the sport is that games are self-officiated through ultimate's "spirit of the game"—an expectation that each player will be a good sport and play fair.

Snider's husband, Luke, started playing ultimate a year after she did. Their three children, Anya ('13), Caleb ('14) and Quinn ('16), grew up attending their games, and Snider started the ultimate program at Westgate so that they would have the opportunity to play themselves. Her three children have all gone on to compete in ultimate at elite levels around the world. Quinn currently plays professionally for the Minnesota Wind Chill.



Westgate alumna Vaughn Rempel Snider, pictured in the summer of 2021, is well-respected in Manitoba's ultimate community.

Snider started Westgate's program with one middle school team made up of what she describes as a "motley crew" of students. Over the years, it snowballed into one of the most respected programs in the province, with the high school teams always finishing in the top five. Some years, the sport has been so popular at the school that it has fielded three middle school teams and three high school teams, with one-third of the student body participating.

Snider's strong presence in Manitoba's ultimate community over the last quarter-century has made her a natural fit for the MODS Hall of Fame, according to Jennifer Stark, who nominated Snider for the recognition. "It always seems like it's been her goal to uphold and strengthen our ultimate community," says Stark, who has known Snider for more than two decades. "She not only lives and breathes the sport, but she instills confidence and excitement in the hearts of young players in our province. Snider is a well-respected coach," Stark adds. "She's always a pleasure to coach



It's that Westgate culture – that we're so proud of these boys 43 years later. ... As soon as that final kill came through, our social media exploded.

against, regardless of the outcome of the game. She's level-headed, knowledgeable and skilled."

Snider attributes her interest in giving back to the community to her mother, who modeled volunteering when Snider was growing up. Coaching at Westgate is also a way for Snider to say thanks to a place that encouraged her athletic pursuits when she was young. "I went on to play university sports and become an athletic director (at Canadian Mennonite University)," she says, "and all of that probably started with having such wonderful teachers and coaches in my early years at Westgate."

louder: the Sturgeon Heights gymnasium or his basement.

It was 43 years ago that Rob's Westgate Knights famously captured the first provincial A title in school history (A is the equivalent to AAAA today). This year spectators weren't allowed due to COVID-19, so Rob and his former teammates tuned in via YouTube and talked over a group chat as Westgate Wings swept Vincent Massey 3-0 (25-22, 25-23, 25-21). His nephew, Rowan, capped each set with a thundering kill. "It's that Westgate culture - that we're so proud of these boys 43 years later," Rob said. "As soon as that final kill came through, our social media exploded."

"We'd lost 15-12 in the fifth set. We knew it couldn't happen again. It was all in us already."

But their biggest challenge was pushing themselves in practice with such a small roster. Krahn missed the first month with a sacroiliac (SI) joint injury in his hip, which leads to lower back pain. A roster of eight left Coach Westwood little flexibility and meant everyone had to step up to fill a provincial-all-star-sized void. They also had to make the most of four-on-four or three-on-three practices since a few players were balancing other sports. But they still got better every day. "That was because of Maiya," Grade 12 middle Harry Ens ('22) said. "She worked really hard coming up with drills that really worked for our small group size. Maiya's a great coach."

While Ens was motivated, he was still not quite confident the gold-medal moment would come. "I knew we could do it but didn't think we were actually going to do it," Ens admitted, adding his tune changed when the Wings swept the Sabres in Steinbach to open the South Central Athletic Conference season. "We felt more confident, we were better ... it shifted, that first game for us."

Westgate steamrolled its competition for two weeks, not dropping a single set in four league matches or seven best-of-threes at the MBCI tournament on Oct. 14-15. Then, Winkler's Northlands Parkway delivered the wakeup call on Oct. 20, stealing the second set



Volleyball – What Makes a Championship Team?

BY THOMAS FRIESEN ('12)

As Rowan Krahn ('22) crushed the final kill of the 2021 Varsity Boys Provincial AAAA Volleyball Championship, Rob Krahn ('80) wasn't sure which room was

While a few Westgate men's teams since that 1978 squad have made the leap from AAA, none emerged victorious against Manitoba's powerhouses. The closest one was this group just two years earlier when they fell in a five-set JV provincial final to Steinbach. The Wings liked their chances in 2020 but the season was cancelled.

They returned in 2021 with Head Coach Maiya Westwood, who had run the team every year since Grade 9, and setter Sammy Ludwig's mother Assistant Coach Lorriann Ludwig ('90), as a small team with big-time dreams. There was no grand motivational speech to set them on their way to a perfect 31-0 season. Just nine guys who wouldn't allow a repeat of 2019. "It didn't even have to be said," Rowan Krahn remembered.



1979 Championship Team

BACK ROW: Coach Gerry Grunau, Rick Hildebrand, Howard Epp, Rob Krahn, Doug Pankratz, John Fast, Hal Loewen, Art Pries, Coach Frank Ens
FRONT ROW: Manager Mike Sawatzky, Harry Toews, Erich Ens, Bernie Krause, Greg Guenther, Walter Murovec

by 26-24. "It was awful," said Ens. "We played really bad. It did not feel good."

"After that," Coach Westwood added, "sometimes when the guys weren't playing well or not practicing hard enough, one of the boys would be like 'Guys, we lost a set to Winkler. We've got to pick it up.'"

The Wings dropped a set to Steinbach and one to Sturgeon at their home tournament that weekend, but then beat the Sabres in four sets on Oct. 25, before sweeping their way to a 10-0 conference record and cruising past Jeanne-Sauve and Steinbach for the Zone 2 Banner.

When the quantity of players is limited, quality becomes premium. That's something both Westgate squads 2021 and 1978 had in common. Where the 2021 team had Krahn and Dylan Martens ('23) on left side, the 1978 group had a big lefty in Harry Toews ('79) on right side with left sides Doug Pankratz ('79) and Erich Enns ('79), who Rob Krahn called "an animal" for his play in the final. Krahn chuckled that if performance-enhancing drugs were used back then, Enns would have been the first one tested.

The youngsters had a tremendous middle tandem in Harry Ens ('22) and Jonas Mackenzie ('22); the old guard featured Bernie Krause ('79) and John Fast ('80). "It came naturally to (Fast)," Rob Krahn said. "He had an incredible vertical and could do magic with the ball in the middle position."

32 THE TRIBUNE, Brandon, December 21, 1978

String ended Knights upset Buckeye plans

By George Johnson
Tribune Sports Writer

Movie star Harry Ensley took the long ball from the top of the wall Saturday at Kildonan East Collegiate, and all the king's horses and all the king's men, not to mention Jim Harrison, couldn't put them back together again.

Westgate Knights ended Buckeye's six-year rule of Manitoba boys' volleyball by coming back from a two-game deficit to capture the Provincial "A" title in five emotional games.

Which is remarkable when you consider Westgate has just 10 boys enrolled as senior students, and that Miles Mac had won the last four championships, and six of the last seven, before Saturday.

"I guess we've been expecting this to happen for the last few years," stranger Harrison, Buckeye's head coach. "They wanted it more than we did."

The major reason for Buckeye's early success was Blair Brundel, their 6'3" emotional evangelist. His teammates continually found themselves cheering for him to pass a spike through, and as he grew in strength and confidence, so did the Buckeye.

"I tried to tell the guys beforehand that all the pressure was on Miles Mac," commented Knight's coach Frank Ens. "I don't think they believed me, though. Our backcourt defense was terrible in the first two games."

Although Westgate had played some no-name opponents in its first two tournaments, making them feel like they were about to dump John Taylor and Marlow Mackay, nobody in the large throng were giving them a chance after Buckeye's record 15-1, 15-0 victories.

"At the beginning of the year I had a decision to make," commented Ens after it was all over. "I let me could end up playing them in the final, or I had to decide whether to start them in tournaments or not. I finally decided to go right at them and take our lumps and learn."

Knights obviously learned some very good lessons. Busting from a 7-1 deficit, they turned the tide in Game Three. All of a sudden, Brundel, Buckeye's catalyst, was being rejected rather heroically at the net. Three players, not usually John Fast and Erich Ens, guarded him closely. Without their leader dominating, Miles Mac seemed confused, and ended up on the short end of 15-12 sets.

"We knew we could come back, we'd done it all week," said Fast. "A lot of balls were on the third game. We knew we had to shut off Brundel."

The fourth game produced more of the same, with Knights ending up 15-14 winners.

"The word went right out of our mouths after the fourth game," admitted Harrison, a previous loser. "Brundel was upset because he thought he let us down, but the bumping wasn't very good and our sets were predictable. I think they probably enjoy the best team."

Westgate bounced Buckeye's invincibility all over the floor in the fifth game, building a 10-2 lead on a 15-9 title-clinching decision. Miles Mac, completely overwhelmed, was seen committing all-Buckeye-like blunders. There were several bumps that sailed high into the crowd, spikes never being dropped on the net, and, on one stage, Brundel and John Taylor watched in horror as the ball dropped backwards between them for a point.

"I wanted to play Miles Mac in the final," admitted a shocked Ens. "If you're going to win the provincial, this is the way you've got to beat the best. This is something for the guys to be proud of."

Westgate's James Krause was named tournament MVP.

Westgate threw a dinner over Buckeye's Blair Brundel (3) in the final three games.

Royals' teamwork dumps Miles Mac

And then there were none.

Selkirk Royals eliminated all the great provincial volleyball, capturing an emotional victory by winning the Provincial "A" girls' high school volleyball title with a straight-games victory over Miles Mac.

It was Royals' third provincial title in a row.

"It's a continuation of relief and happiness," smiled Selkirk's middle head coach Mike Brundel. "We didn't play a very good match, at times we were a little disorganized. We won, but I'm not doing either one."

Royals, behind the down-you-throat spitting of 5'4" Lisa Clements, played tough when the cards were on the table in the first two games, winning 15-12 and 15-11.

Wanda Gorenstein, Miles Mac's brilliant attacker and the tournament's MVP, said her wonderful blocking and spiking skills gave Buckeye an 11-4 lead in the third game, but Selkirk rebounded behind the

outside hitting of Shirley Butler for a 15-12 victory and the title.

"With the group I've got 15 more outside a game," offered Brundel. "I don't care how far down we are. It's a credit to the girls' mental toughness."

"He (Brundel) told us about Murphy's Law at practice," said Clements. "Everybody that runs go wrong, will go wrong. When I play I don't look at the score, I just play like we're losing 15-1."

Brundel had some anxiety moments Friday night, however, when Clements and Butler came down with severe stomach cramps.

"Any other year we would have won," admitted Buckeye's coach Shirley Butler. "But that's a great team we played against. I think we surprised some people out there. We showed Gary there's a lot of things a girl before first and second. If we had continued Lisa Clements a little more it could have gone five games."

Selkirk Royals are making the girls' Provincial "A" crown their personal property.

... they were total underdogs. They didn't have super big star players but they all would go out there, try their best no matter what and were just that scrappy team.

Both teams had full faith in their superstar setters. Provincial MVP Ludwig towered over opponents at six-foot-four, serving as a dual-threat on offence and a massive block. Walter Murovec ('79) could set the ball from any place and any position, right on the money.

Both teams made adjustments along the way, possibly none bigger than the Wings swapping right side Nolan Gawne ('22) and libero Caleb Neufeld ('22) midway through the season. Gawne ended up as a provincial all-star.

Like his counterpart Westwood in 2021, Head Coach Frank Enns brought the most out of all of the guys in 1978. "He was such a technician for somebody who had never played the game," said Greg Guenther ('81), a Grade 10 student that season. "It wasn't just that year. It was the three years leading up to that year he did so much to establish the boys' program at the school."

There were a few stark differences in the Knights' and Wings' paths to the top. For one, the 1978 team still had to play through the B provincials, as the winner would earn a place at the A event the following week. Coaches Enns and Grunau knew that could be them. "They said, 'We're good enough to play A-ball, so we're going to play all the A tournaments,'" Rob Krahn remembered. The team took the No. 2 seed into A provincials, but as a definite underdog to Miles Mac, which they hadn't beaten all year.

The Knights began their quest for greatness with a quarterfinal against John Taylor, dropping the first two sets and they appeared destined for a quick exit. Rob Krahn recalled Frank En's powerful challenge, " 'So what do you want to do? Do you want to bow out now or continue playing?' We didn't look back," Krahn reminisced, "We just annihilated them after that."

The same thing happened on Friday against Murdoch McKay. "Frank said, 'Just do what you did last night,' so we did," Rob Krahn continued. Then, when Miles Mac Buckeyes took a 2-0 lead in the final, which prompted the majority of the fans to duck out to the Kildonan East parking lot and start their cars in the -40°C weather, Murovec walked up to

the net and chuckled, "Now we got ya," the Knights stormed back once again and claimed the crown in a 3-2 thriller.

The Buckeyes had been so confident that one player had brought a bottle of champagne to the game to pop after an easy win. "I remember Walter going in and saying, 'I'll give you 20 bucks for that,'" Guenther said with a laugh. "It was so funny ... they just figured they were going to kill us and it was just a thing of beauty."

"That was insane," Rowan Kahn commented on the 78ers team. "By my understanding, they were total underdogs. They didn't have super big star players but they all would go out there, try their best no matter what and were just that scrappy team."



BACK ROW: Coach Lorriann (Sawatzky) Ludwig, Rowan Krahn, Nolan Gwane, Caleb Neufeld, Harrison Ens, Jonas Mackenzie, Sammy Ludwig, Coach Maiya Westwood
FRONT ROW: Carter Sagel, Dylan Martens, Cruz Correia

Fast-forward to Dec. 4, 2021 AAAA Provincials where the Wings dropped their opening set to Glenlawn in the quarterfinals before storming back to win 3-1 (22-25, 25-16, 25-21, 25-22). Then they met Steinbach in what many felt should have been the final. Again, Westgate went down a set. "I was constantly talking to guys, reassuring them that we had been down this season, we were down right now but this was a long game," Rowan Krahn said. "I remember emphasizing 'We have to restart, wipe it clean.' We had a good talk and we came out fresh." What followed was unbelievable. Ludwig and Ens built a wall no one could score on. Krahn and Gawne dug everything and Martens chiselled kill after kill off the block as the Wings raced ahead 10-1. Westgate won 25-11. The coaches were careful to ensure the team didn't get complacent and the players rode the momentum to a commanding third set win. Up 24-22 in the fourth, Mackenzie blasted a 31 set off a Sabre and out, to send Westgate to the final.

Normally, the gap between the semifinals and final was four days. Since the event wasn't at one of the universities as MHSAA didn't allow fans for any provincials, it was at Sturgeon Heights. And, the gold-medal match was just four hours later. "That day was physically and mentally exhausting," Rowan Krahn said. "We had just had the semi-final, we had played our hearts out and now we only had a four-hour break. You

go back to a buddy's house, you're lying on the couch trying to rest, but just can't sleep. . ."

The final was Westgate's first meeting with the Vincent Massey Trojans, who were perhaps the one team with middles that could keep up with Ens and Mackenzie. The first set went down to the wire. Up 21-20, Ludwig found a matchup he liked and exploited it, feeding Krahn time and time again. He rattled off Westgate's last four kills to go up 1-0. Tied 22-22 in the second, Krahn scored off hands. Then Ludwig made a block to bring up set point. Krahn got blocked once but redeemed himself with another thundering kill to make it 2-0. Up 22-21, Ens nearly dented the floor on a quick set; then Krahn dug a middle tip Massey was scoring on all game. It was time to put it away.

"I yelled 'Inside' as loud as I could and got to the 33 area," Krahn said. "Sammy jumped up, set it and it went over the middle. I jumped and knew I had a late block so I could go hard sharp cross. I remember crushing that thing and turning to the guys, saying, 'We gotta go hard for one more and this is over.' " After a Trojans timeout, it was Martens with a dig to the three-metre line - Ludwig to Krahn - Krahn to open hardwood - History.

"It felt amazing," said Coach Westwood. "After all the boys had missed the last couple of years, to help them get to this point and

have such a great memory from their last year of high school was amazing."

"It was awesome," added Krahn. "A weight lifted off - 'It's over. We did this.' And a bit of sadness too, because it was the last time I'd play with some of my good friends.... But I was so happy for our team and everything we went through together."

The Wings celebrated at Ens' house, rewatching the game with their parents that evening. The Krahns gathered for Rob's father's 90th birthday the following morning and snapped a picture, each holding up a No. 1.

The question inevitably arises: Which Westgate team was better? Rob Krahn admitted, "It's not much of a contest. These kids are so much more talented than we were," he said. "They can jump higher, they can hit harder, spin serves, 'Holy Toledo' they are good."

Rob and Delores Krahn have found themselves in the Westgate bleachers many times since that 1978 season (as have many alumni) to watch their kids Kayla ('07), Jami ('08) and Dallas ('12) in blue and white. That old 78 triangle banner hangs among dozens of memories, but that simple letter "A" makes it stand out profoundly - the same way the 2021 Banner will for years to come. "You look at that banner," said Rob Krahn, "and go. That was a major accomplishment for a very, very small school."

Nyamal Jack Kuon Coming From Afar

BY TERRY DIRKS

“We did not know we were sponsored by a church until we arrived,” Nyamal Jack Kuon (‘22) smiles as she recalls the lively scene at Winnipeg’s airport in September 2017. “At least thirty people were there from the Presbyterian Presbytery of Winnipeg. We were amazed. Our relatives in Calgary did not have such a greeting as refugees. We were driven to our new home – an actual house which was rent free for a year!” Nyamal marvels at this generosity. “There was even a delicious homemade supper waiting for us,” Nyamal’s beautiful dark eyes sparkle as she remembers these early Winnipeg Days.

Nyamal’s story begins in Africa. She is careful to explain that she is actually South Sudanese – part of the Nuer people - but when the mapmakers drew the lines her birthplace was officially Ethiopia. In 2014, as international refugees due to the Ethiopian-South Sudanese conflict, Nyamal’s family was sponsored by a Kenyan church to move to Nairobi. “My dad was really pleased as we would have better schooling there,” Nyamal explains. “In my cousins’ refugee school one teacher could have as many as 400 students,” she clarifies. Then in 2017 Nyamal’s family became eligible for an overseas placement. “We didn’t know where we would be going,” Nyamal continues, “and



Nyamal (front left) and Westgate friends enjoying the outdoors.

when we found out it would be Canada, my mom forgot that we had relatives in Calgary, so she just said anywhere in Canada would be fine.”

Nyamal agrees that Winnipeg was a lucky choice, especially after such a warm welcome and amazing support in their early days. Nyamal and her five siblings attended school in the St. James area but Nyamal was very much responsible for the care of her family members, while her mother attended newcomer classes or sought employment. In 2018 Nyamal was offered a grade 9 spot at Westgate where she has become a vibrant member of our student body. “At Westgate,” Nyamal reflects, “I never once have had to question that I was different here. I belong to this group, to these people now.”

Nyamal continues to extend her own good luck to other refugees here in Winnipeg. The South Sudanese community has a

program for kids in summer – essentially a day camp. “The new Nuer families wanted their kids to attend, so the person running the camp asked me to translate daily activities for the kids.” Nyamal has been working at this camp for two summers in 2020 and 2021. On their own time, Nyamal and her mother visit the Nuer families and help them make sense of their schooling and government paper work. Although hard at times, Nyamal loves giving back to her communities – her Nuer people and her newly adopted Winnipeggers. “For me the hardest days would be when I’m not patient with myself when translating big words, and a good day would be helping the families order take out.”

In keeping with her generous spirit of helping others, Nyamal hopes to attend University of Winnipeg and eventually enter the Faculty of Medicine at University of Manitoba after her graduation from Westgate this June, 2022.

The Finish Line: A Tribute to Bob Hummelt

BY KARL LANGELOTZ ('83)

As a track athlete, Bob Hummelt learned the importance of good preparation and training in the pursuit of excellence. This philosophy also transferred to his professional and personal life. But Bob didn't have his eyes only on the finish line. This is someone who enjoyed the training runs – taking time to soak in the experiences and relationships along the way. The journey was as important as the result. As a mature runner, Bob enjoyed his solo runs, but his group training with others is where he really found his stride.

Bob's race began humbly at Happy Thought School in East Selkirk, Manitoba. As an elementary school teacher, he heard they needed a track coach at some private school downtown. So, the former university athlete drove down after school to volunteer. Our Westgate track team – sprinters and middle distance runners alike – trained together, learning our "As and Bs", the pain of Fartlek training and, most importantly, about ourselves. Bob spoke of his own life in ways we teenagers rarely experienced. I talked about my own struggles and insecurities because Bob shared many of his own experiences – stories about renting a room from kindly, elderly Mrs. Lake and about his own thoughts and feelings during the early stages of a relationship with his now wife



Cathy. We learned about his love of classic cars (who else owned a Desoto?) and too many stories about his stamp collection.

But that is what made Bob who he is. These shared experiences came from a genuine place of caring and inviting others in. Needless to say, when Mr. Hummelt joined the Westgate teaching staff in 1982, he was embraced by both colleagues and students alike. His dedication to the craft of teaching was evident in his engaging geography lessons as well as his involvement in all aspects of school life. Who can forget the vast collection of Halloween costumes that Bob invented over the decades? His early years of simple cross-dressing evolved into a complex mix of creativity and innovation that was the envy of all. Talent shows and Spirit Week activities almost always included a "Hummeltonian" debut of some kind. This career was not going to be a sprint.

As most students will share, it's the extra-curricular activities that really allow for relationship building and memory making. And, this is another area where Bob excelled. His dedication to coaching and building our cross-country program started modestly but grew and expanded with time. Bob was rewarded for his years of dedication in 2012 with an MHSAA Award for coaching excellence.

Bob was also instrumental in the formation of the Westgate Marsh 'N' Mountain Club, where he was able to share his love of the outdoors. From canoe trips through the Whiteshell to hiking trips in Alberta, Bob planned and led these outdoor education trips, modeling sustainable camping practices while inviting students to learn about the outdoors in practical ways. This even included introducing winter camping to Westgate's smorgasbord of after school entrees. How can one forget building quinzees with Bob,

*"Little Bo Bob" and Helen Riesen
dressed up for halloween in the 80's.*



waiting for him to seal us into our frozen coffins for the night? Or cooking meals in frigid kitchens carved out of snow? Shared experiences like these led me back to Westgate – first as a volunteer and eventually as a colleague of Bob's.

You might think that working with Bob was different, but this same honesty and love was there for us as his colleagues and later in his life as our administrator. Bob's sense of humour is only one characteristic that draws others in. "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story" is Bob's motto. As anyone who has heard one of Bob's Opening Program introductions can attest, these stories, while sometimes rambling, eventually found their way to a

truth that Bob was wanting to share. Finding God's truth in all of life is another lesson Bob has taught me. Even in a story about his elementary school love affair with Patsy ..., there is a nugget of learning waiting to be found. These Hummelt parables were always a treat that many a parent and student would anticipate with eager expectation.

Bob himself might admit to putting the "Baptist" in Anabaptist. His church upbringing grounded him in a faith that allowed him to fully embrace the Mennonite Church as an adult. While never preachy or "tambourine jingling", Bob's faith is quieter and more subtle in form as evidenced with his actions. Even after leaving Westgate to test his administrative "chops" in Sunrise School Division, an

opening at Westgate a few years later had him back in the saddle – perhaps just looking for a second retirement party? Of course not. Bob's dedication to and love for Westgate is evident in everything he does. Need a chaperone on a sports trip? Drive the white bus down to Winkler during Covid? Bob is there.

Never one to sit back and just coast, Bob earned his Master's degree in History while teaching and helping raise a young

family. Perhaps that's why Bob the administrator has always been a champion of professional development for his staff. If teachers were interested in learning, Bob would find a way to support that interest and encourage the Westgate Board to invest the necessary finances. I've traveled to Calgary for volleyball coaching training and Cambodia and Laos as part of an MCC Learning Tour thanks to Bob's encouragement. Even our study tours became fertile ground for new staff to learn. Bob was intentional about including rookies on these tours and involving them in the planning and leading. This allowed for mentoring by senior staff so that these important tours wouldn't rely only on particular staff members to move forward.

This philosophy also carried over into Bob's hiring practices. Not only was he interested in hiring good teachers, but good people. He recognized the importance of staff that could not only teach certain subject areas, but those that could address the "hidden curriculum" that exists in Christian



Mount Robson Hike 1990.



schools: the integration of faith into all aspects of school life, not just during chapels and class devotions. Influenced by writers such as Palmer Becker and Robert Greenleaf, Bob embraced the role of “servant leader”. He understood that leadership meant getting your hands dirty and leading by example. Of course, Bob couldn’t resist jokes about delegating responsibilities (“putting the YOU in Team”), and he trusted staff to do their job. But when there were fundraising visits to make or sports games in the gym, Bob was omnipresent.

His tenure as principal was filled with “extras”. Besides running a school, Bob’s leadership involved years of searching possible locations for a new school, followed by more years of fighting for renovation approval at 86 West Gate. Along the way, he was able to create a vision of what this new place could be, not only physically but spiritually. Yes, Bob was fixated by the idea of an atrium and certain physical aspects of this renovation, but even the atrium represented a more important aspect of what Westgate needed to be. Those old enough to remember the previous entrance to the school might recall climbing a stairway in order to reach the office. The foyer was a small uninviting space. This new atrium represents the big welcome that Westgate (and Bob) has always offered: a space where people can gather, connect and be embraced by a community that wants to include all.

But there were hiccups along the way. Like so many marathoners,

Bob often felt like he was hitting the wall. Students and staff needed to be out of the building for a full school year in order for these renovations to happen. Where to go? A search for possible options kept turning up negative. Old warehouses, the Hudson Bay building – every possibility was explored. Time was running out and Bob was not shy to call the discovery of Chapman School in Charleswood a modern day miracle – a literal answer to prayer. After this, all the moving of our physical spaces seemed easy – in hindsight! And, Chapman became Westgate West – a building transformed by the students and staff that form this inclusive Westgate community.

Including all was another goal of Bob’s in the area of student recruitment. Naturally, a school like Westgate needs students to survive and Bob worked tirelessly to fill the halls. He also worked hard to find the right students: the children that would make Westgate better but also the students that needed Westgate in order to flourish. Building and transforming our annual Bursary Banquet allowed the school to raise funds that created space for families who otherwise would not be able to afford Westgate as an educational option.

Even during these last years of “Covid school”, many lesser administrators might have seen this as an opportunity for an early retirement. Not Bob. Even late in the race, when the lactic acid was building and the muscles felt

tight, there was a commitment to the school that required an extra push. Leaving the school in good financial and physical shape was an important goal for Bob before the finish line. And, what better way to do this than to mentor the next principal during these last years and pass that baton to another fine runner, James Friesen.

Bob Hummelt’s legacy will be multi-faceted. His love of the outdoors, the outrageous costumes and even some attempts at acting. And, who can forget the multitude of “Bobisms”: expressions and turns of phrase that only Bob can pull off. But his lasting legacy will be that of the good and faithful servant: the one who ran the good race – the “hands and feet of Jesus” – with honour, commitment and courage. The one who loved and cared deeply for students, colleagues and community. When one runs with passion and endurance, the result is always a success. Thank you Bob for your model of determination and love.