



THE COMMUNICATOR

WE SHOULD CELEBRATE

50th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

BY ED BOELENS

Wow, 50 years. For those who are not 50 years old yet – 50 sounds like a long time.

For those of us over 50 – it is just a start. Either way, 50 years is a milestone, worthy of celebration.

For LCS, 50 years means a lot of people have been involved and/or graduated from this school. A lot of people and a lot of stories. If only the walls could talk, I wonder what they would be telling us.

I've heard stories of the start of the school – a group of people committed to providing Christian education for their children. After some planning, it almost stopped but some determined families plowed through with their vision and commitment to ensuring their faith was integrated in every part of their lives – even education. We can chuckle now at the actual dollar values it took at the time, but that was extreme financial sacrifice for them to follow their beliefs. We are thankful to those who initiated this school. I am sure they questioned their efforts but today we see the rewards.

I've also heard stories of membership meetings in hallways because there was no gym. In those days, everyone

showed up for membership meetings and I can imagine the hallways were packed. But it worked. It also led to the need for our first gym. We are thankful to those families who made those investments to provide the best possible educational experiences for their children and grandchildren, who worked

together in crowded membership meetings, and shared their commitment to LCS. I am sure they questioned their efforts but today we see the rewards.

And 50 years isn't always glorious. I've heard stories about those times in our history too.

Disagreements, differences of opinions, financial challenges, transportation challenges, staffing challenges, and more. But commitment, vision, faith, and our Lord carried us through each of those challenges. We are thankful to those who worked through challenges and probably lost sleep. I am sure they questioned their efforts but today we see the rewards.

And more recently, we have moved locations and grown in diversity of the families and students we serve.

**Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

*Looking back -
Looking forward*

**CELEBRATING
50
YEARS**



Listowel Christian School

2024 - 2025

STAFF

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And can you image all the graduates? Where have they gone? How are they using their gifts and education to serve God? They have become engineers, contractors, doctors and nurses, farmers, and even teachers! Graduates provide a whole other set of stories.

There are lots of stories, those are only a few to get the conversations started. There are the stories we share as adults and there are the stories the students share – often completely different perspectives! Hopefully, you will be sharing some of them with each other as the day continues. Regardless, here we are – 50 years later. Much has changed,

much is different. But one thing has remained consistent and that is what we celebrate today. The verse the Anniversary Committee selected as a theme is from Psalm 100:5

For the Lord is good
and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.

Psalm 100:5

God is good and God has been the one who has carried us through the 50 years. We serve and praise a faithful God: 50 years ago, 25 years ago, today, and into tomorrow.

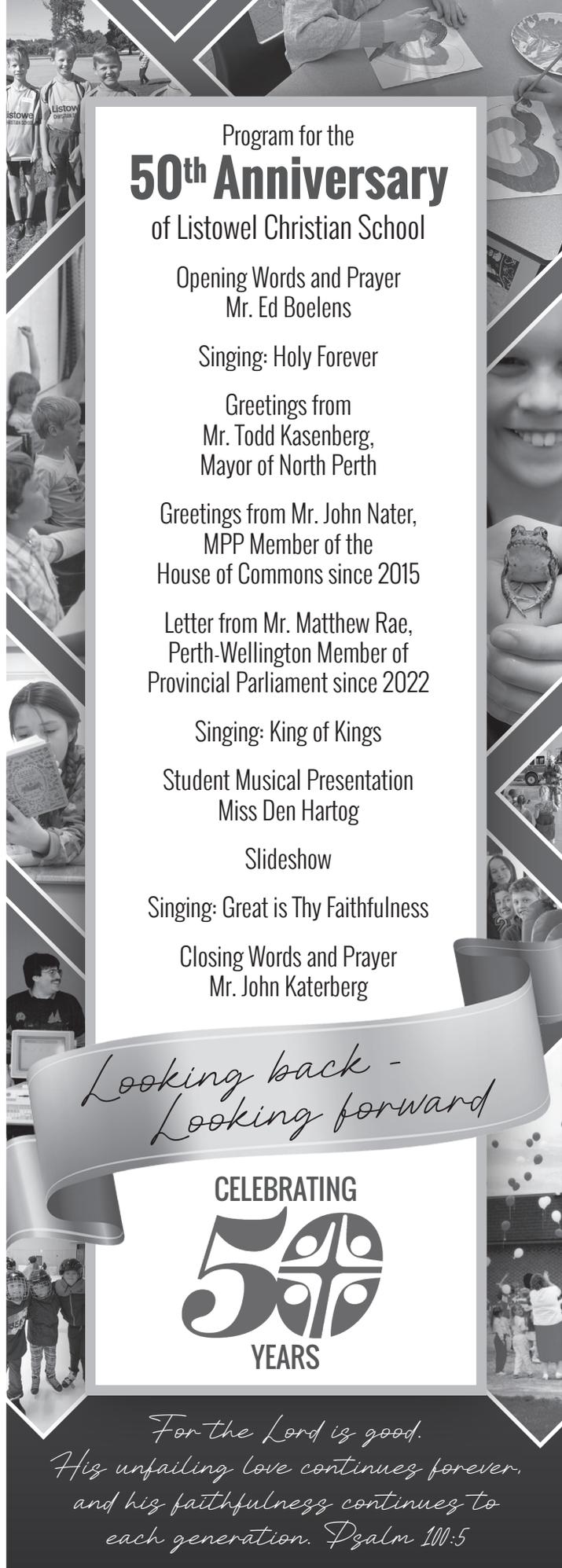
During those exciting times, through the challenges, God has been there, and He has been the rock on which we built this school. What a blessing.

It is our confidence that God will remain faithful to His people in the years to come. We have read about it in the Bible, we have witnessed it in our own history, and we will count on it in the future of LCS. It is our prayer that we will remain faithful and committed to Him so that our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren will also be blessed by LCS's purpose to Educate Children, while Nurturing Faith in Christ, to interpret and impact God's world.

God's faithfulness, what a gift. LCS, what a gift. We should celebrate!







Program for the
50th Anniversary
of Listowel Christian School

Opening Words and Prayer
Mr. Ed Boelens

Singing: Holy Forever

Greetings from
Mr. Todd Kasenberg,
Mayor of North Perth

Greetings from Mr. John Nater,
MPP Member of the
House of Commons since 2015

Letter from Mr. Matthew Rae,
Perth-Wellington Member of
Provincial Parliament since 2022

Singing: King of Kings

Student Musical Presentation
Miss Den Hartog

Slideshow

Singing: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Closing Words and Prayer
Mr. John Katerberg

*Looking back -
Looking forward*

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

*For the Lord is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
and his faithfulness continues to
each generation. Psalm 100:5*

Thank You

Wow! What a wonderful time of celebration! A big thank-you to all who took on a task so this anniversary could happen. Also, a big thank-you to everyone who came to celebrate Listowel Christian School's anniversary party! The coming and going of many different generations was wonderful to see.

We give much praise and thanksgiving to our God for 50 years.

MARLENE, CHERYL & SOPHIE

We were blessed to be able to take part in the celebrations and acknowledge God's faithfulness to Listowel Christian School for the past 50 years.

We enjoyed looking at old photographs, making new acquaintances and sharing good food.

We pray that Listowel Christian School gets to celebrate many more wonderful anniversaries just like this one.

HENRY & MELANIE MEINEN

LCS MEMORIES

FROM BETTY DENHARTOG
Former teacher

Many fond memories often flood my mind
When reflecting back on my time at LCS
Being part of a school community...
Stimulating students to do their best!

Feasting in the hallways
When a Thanksgiving feast occurred -
And harmony in assemblies
When choir rehearsals would be heard.

I enjoyed writing songs to scripture
So most memory work had a tune
And students could say it or sing it
When I told them it was their turn.

I have a specific memory
of a class that made my heart melt
They ALL sang that week's verse together
Before I could get my making book out!!
Then we sang it again with piano
And with guitar at the end of that day
Moments again recaptured
Moments I can share with you today.

Yes, it's so many special moments
That bring joy to this heart of mine
May our God bring more joy into our lives
As we all help LCS continue to shine!!!

MRS. UYL'S MEMORIES

THE ADDITION OF THE GYM TO THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL BUILDING

One of the greatest blessings to LCS was the addition and renovation of the original building. Imagine having a classroom, on a wintry day, after lunch, full of students pushing aside desks to get space to do jumping jacks, running on the spot, stretches etc. All the post lunch flatulence made the room very pungent!

Also, imagine pushing the weather envelope to do the same, but outside!

I know that the gym was finished almost 25 years ago because my husband Andy and my wedding reception was the first official event there on July 14th, 2000. The painting ladies, Mary Slotegraaf, Yoka Koersen, Helen Greydanus, Trudy Wilting (Anyone I forgot?) worked SO HARD to make sure it was ready on time! Also, the Willing Workers, who went on to cook for many more subsequent events, served us a wonderful meal!

Following that, our gym was used as a wonderful venue, not just for Phys Ed but for school chapels, Grandparent's Day (always a very special day!), Christmas Programs, Graduation, School Plays and so much more!

GRADE 3/4 CLASS TRIP MEMORIES

One memorable trip from Grade 3 and 4, was when we attended a free noon hour concert at Roy Thomson Hall to watch Johnathan Oldengarm perform. After the concert, I had arranged for us to eat our lunches in a classroom at the historic St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church across the street.

Upon my original request, some weeks earlier, the church directors had been baffled by the need of a group of rural kids to have a "picnic spot" in downtown Toronto! But they did graciously allow us to eat there and use their facilities.

Our ultimate destination was St. James Cathedral, a kilometer down King Street. The students loved the walk past all the "temples of mammon", bank head offices. The exteriors are done in rose, white and black quartz, exactly what some of us had been studying in Science!

We went to visit St. James upon invitation of Jonathan. He was practicing there for an upcoming concert. Because of his

kindness, my students were able to visit a beautiful historic church and the 1863 organ within it!

Another cross Toronto walk started with an educational visit to the beautiful Ontario Legislature. After our lunch there, we did a 2 km walk to Kensington Market. Of course a number of our students were wearing their Orange Holland World Cup Soccer t-shirts. The cafe patios were open and the old Portuguese gentlemen were watching a game on the TV. When they saw the group of orange t-shirts, they loved it and we shared some humorous rivalry!

The cap on that day was going to the souvenir shops on Spadina Avenue!

I loved these trips because they educated not only my students, but their accompanying parents as well! And I always debriefed later about how the big city can be such a great place!

The class trips we took to the Big Smoke - Toronto - are among the best we have ever had! One trip we sailed in Toronto Harbour on a Tall Ship. One trip we did history at Black Creek Pioneer Village. One trip we wrote letters on old fashioned paper at Toronto's First Post Office. As a wrap up of our study of Ancient Egypt, we went to the Royal Ontario Museum.

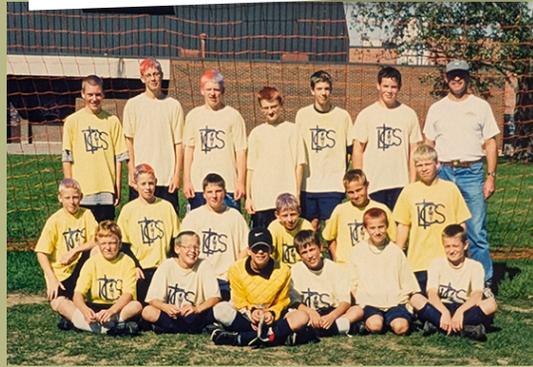
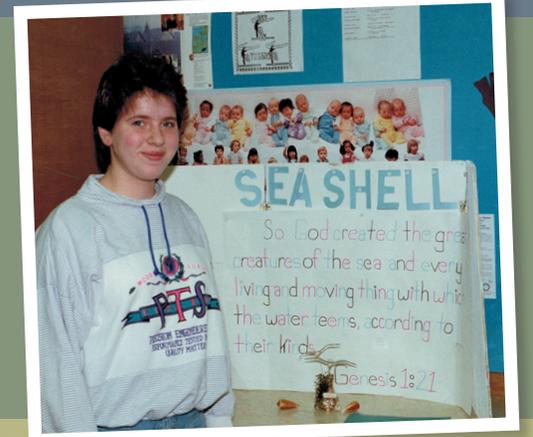
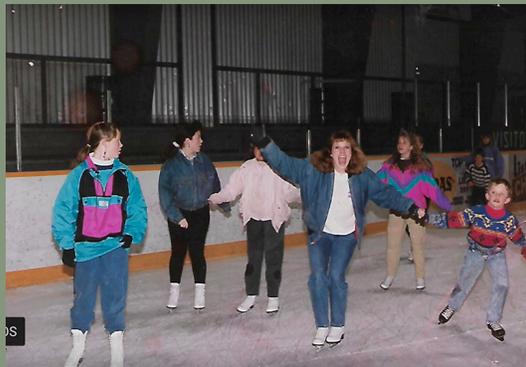
TEACHING MEMORIES

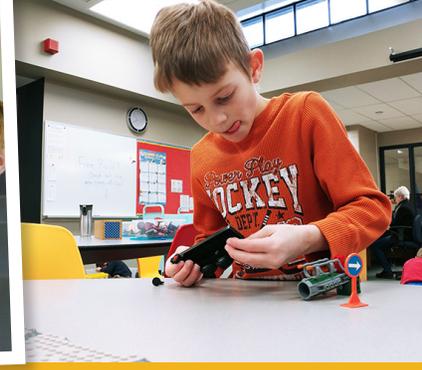
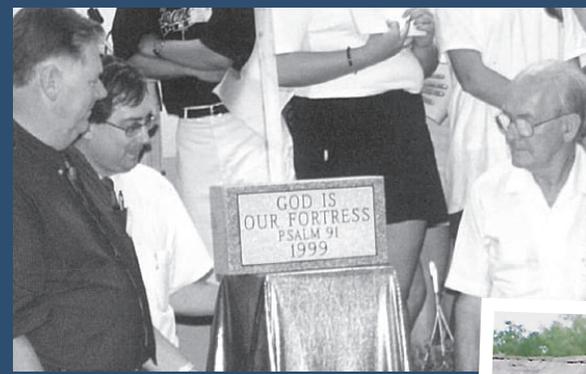
Some of my best memories of teaching at LCS were the non-classroom experiences. I was always thankful to our Board that we had funding to rent a bus to go to a distant location and grateful to parents who drove twice to school to accommodate our long school day. For a number of years, we did a combined Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 trip with Mr. Katerberg's class. Some more distant destinations were Ste. Marie Among the Hurons in Midland and Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene.





LCS THROUGH THE YEARS...





Learn - Love - Lead



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Looking back -
Looking forward*

CELEBRATING



YEARS

FROM 3 - 8 PM ON

September 7, 2024

*For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever,
and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Psalm 100:5*