

# BRICK BY BRICK

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BUILT ONE BRICK AT A TIME

## St. Augustine's Faith & Foundation News



Summer • 2009



Dear Parishioners and Supporters of St. Augustine's,

### *A Generous Act...*

In this Sunday's second reading, St. Paul reminds the community of the "*generous or gracious act of Christ*"; who became poor that we might become rich. He exhorts the Corinthians to imitate the Lord and "*excel in acting generously*" as well. As I look back over the past ten years I am reminded of the many, many good folk in the community who have "*excelled...in the generous act*" of committing themselves totally through time, treasure and talent to our '**Legacy**' to build a new school. In this generous undertaking

they ensure that our children and future generations will benefit from the richness of a good education, well seasoned in the Christian life.

As I prepare to step aside to make way for the new Pastor at St. Augustine's, I write this last Capital Campaign newsletter with a great sense of indebtedness to those in the past, some deceased and others who have moved on, and to all of you who continue to support our **Faith and Foundation Campaign** for our new school. I am confident the new Pastoral leadership can rest assured that our Legacy to build a new school will continue with as much vigour and enthusiasm as in former years. 2009 can best be described as a year of 'retreat', a stepping back to evaluate, reassess and rally for a new strategy. The Campaign Committee continues to brainstorm and dialogue in creative and innovative ways to raise awareness, fund-raising and partnering. Proceeding in construction phases has been discussed and hope shines brightly with the success of our first alumni gathering with the prospects of another in two years. We continue to keep the lines open in dialogue with the Chancery Office, keeping them aware of our intentions and progress. There are many irons in the fire and a lot of effort being invested. I'm convinced the school will be built! Mary Mother of Eternal Light will not let us down!

I would like to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work and determination you have put into this dream. I am profoundly grateful for your constant support, inspiration and lively spirit. I shall miss this campaign, and had secretly hoped the school would be built during my watch, but such is not to be. I am content to allow the Lord to work out His plan. Meanwhile, I continue to pray that He will provide for us, and in His time, a "*school all bright and new!*".

God bless and Best Wishes to you all. Au revoir!

Father John Brioux, OMI  
Pastor, St. Augustine's Parish  
*Mary Mother of Eternal Light, Pray for Us*

### St. Augustine's Capital Campaign

Total Donations/Pledges:

**\$ 2,571,473**

Please continue to donate. Donation forms are available at the back of the church or contact the Capital Campaign office.

*All funds are securely maintained in a special account administered by the diocese and parish.*

*Participate in the Legacy. Help Build Our School. Brick by Brick.*

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## From Fr. Gordon Cook

As I reflect back on my past three years at St. Augustine's, I have been deeply moved by the many dedicated people who are working so hard to raise the money to make a dream come true for the future of the children of our Parish. Perhaps they are saying to us, "Don't let anyone steal your dreams of a new school. Follow your heart, no matter what."

I am reminded of a story of a group of frogs traveling through the woods, and one of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around, and when they saw how deep the pit was, they told the frog that he was as good as dead. The frog ignored the comments and, with all his might, he tried to jump up out of the pit. But the other frogs just kept on discouraging him.

The frog was determined though and he continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. This only made him jump even harder and he finally made it out!

After he got out, the other frogs said, "Didn't you hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was hard of hearing and thought they were just cheering him on the whole time.

Symbolically, the pit may seem deep when we think of the large amount of money that needs to be raised for our new school, but we too are hard of hearing. As a Parish, we must continue to cheer on the Capital Campaign to jump out of the pit and reach its goal for our new school.

As your Pastor I will work closely with and support the Capital Campaign Committee and the Parish in following their hearts, no matter what, to fulfill the dream of building a new school that we can all be very proud of.



## Passing the Torch at PTT

It was a night of bittersweet endings and exciting new beginnings. This year's Pass the Torch was a celebration of Fr. John Brioux's commitment and contribution to St. Augustine's community and the capital campaign during his service at the Parish and the School. We toasted him – and roasted him – remembering his wisdom and wit as well as his deep love of our students. Cathie Oberndorf was as eloquent as usual in her speech wishing Fr. Brioux "God's blessings as he ventures into the next piece of his journey away from St. Augustine's."

It was also the night that we launched our new school website created by Brian Moylan and Mark Wan after months of hard work and dedication. Christie Clark was master of ceremonies with humour and energy, and a stroke of luck (and a missing auctioneer) allowed former premier Bill Vander Zalm to step in and run the live auction. In fact, we want to thank everyone who participated and helped to make this year's event such a success.

Despite falling on the night of a Canucks Stanley Cup playoff game, we managed to pack the hall with 330 attendees and to raise \$88,000 for the Capital Campaign.

## New School Site

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the new school web site at [www.faithandfoundation.com](http://www.faithandfoundation.com)

## St. Augustine's welcomes its Alumni back

St. Augustine's held its first Alumni event on Sunday, June 13 in the school gym organized by Cathie Oberndorf and Donna O'Hara. The School is trying to get in touch with its alumni in advance of our big 100th anniversary party in 2011 and to create a data bank of contacts for Faith and Foundation and alumni outreach. More than 150 people showed up to reminisce and reconnect after hearing about the event via Facebook and the BC Catholic.

Alumni visitors ranged from two most senior alumni who attended the school in the 1930s to last year's Grade 7 students who just wanted to come back and play in the gym. Another family came from Georgia to visit and reconnect. Gladys Brown, a retired teacher from St. Augustine's, also showed up to make the day.

Donna O'Hara said it was a great experience. "I was waiting in anticipation to see all of the alumni – especially the ones I had taught," she said of the many students who have gone through her classes over the past 17 years – particularly her very first class. "To my surprise I still recognized most of them."

In addition to reconnecting, the school also received boxes of photos from alumni and their families – and heard many stories dating back to the old building.

In the end the event shows the importance of legacy and community to all of us St. Augustine's and the support for a new school.