

50 year Reunion of the Class of '65C

The 1965 B.S.A. class held a 50 year reunion in Saskatoon on the weekend of Jan. 9 - 11, 2015, organized by Lorence Peterson and Irene Ahner. 23 classmates and many spouses gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn on the Friday night for an evening of renewing old friendships, exchanging gossip and memories. As usual the weather turned very cold for the weekend but we all survived.

Irene Ahner spent the early winter compiling a class history book to update the one created in 2005. Most of the class contributed their stories and pictures. All those present received a book and others were mailed later to those who weren't able to join us. One copy has been given to Bob McKercher '54C, and he will give it to the SAGA archives.

The number of 50th wedding anniversaries in our class which have been celebrated in 2014 or are coming up in 2015 is phenomenal. None of us can quite fathom that 50 years have passed since graduation. We were very pleased to find that we have not lost any class member since our last reunion in 2005.

Lorence organized tours for the class on Saturday. Many went to the Canadian Light Source in the morning to tour the facility to learn about all the various forms of research being carried on there. They reported that what they learned was mind-boggling! In the afternoon there was a tour of the Rayner Dairy Barn to see the very latest in dairy production and research.

We all enjoyed the annual banquet and mixer at TCU Place and had a class picture taken. Image Photography was the official photographer this year and we are pleased with the quality of their product. The pictures were actually received in March this year rather than nearly June.

. The weekend concluded with a scrumptious brunch on Sunday morning at Mano's on 8th St.. where we visited for another two hours.

What follows is a summary of the Class of '65 C for the past ten years, from those who contributed to the class memory book, in reverse order alphabetically for a change:

Neville & Joan Wohlberg live in North Battleford. Neville works part-time as an organic farm inspector. Joan works for Battlefords Residential Services Inc. assisting people with mild mental & physical handicaps to live independently. Their seven children and nine grandchildren are scattered from BC to Sweden.

Rodney & Gill Weber reside on an acreage out of Saskatoon, raising alpacas. They still have a grain farm at Wilkie. Rodney is a Director on the Canadian Llama & Alpaca Board. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Ken Warkentin is semi-retired, remarried to Anita Retzlaff, and living in Saskatoon. They have travelled to China, Europe, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

Doug & Sue Sword, Saskatoon, keep busy with their two daughters' families. Doug keeps an eye on his farm land at Unity but now enjoys helping his son-in-law on their farm at Beechy. They have four grandchildren, two of whom are in Saskatoon.

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Ernie Spencer is retired and has an acreage near Qu'Appelle, SK where he has a rustic but comfortable lifestyle with a dog, a cat and a wood stove. He says that if he gets lazy, the propane furnace cuts in. He has two children and three grandchildren.

Garry & Ruth Spencer built a home at Regina Beach following retirement. They have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all living in Saskatchewan.

Don & Donna Roy are based in Saskatoon. Their daughters live in Calgary & Saskatoon and have provided them with grandchildren who are ready for university. The Roys spend their winters in Sidney on Vancouver Island.

John & Lorna Rannie, Abbotsford, BC, have retired and moved into a townhouse. They enjoy cruises and plan to go to the Mediterranean this year. Their son & wife presented them with their first grandchild, Emerson John Herbert Rannie, on Dec. 6, 2014 and they are ecstatic over becoming grandparents.

Jim & Fay Puckett live on their acreage just east of Clavet, SK. They are technically retired but Jim still does some contract work and Fay does some part-time work with Public Health and the College of Nursing. Their daughters & husbands live in Saskatoon & Regina and there are two nearly grown grandchildren.

Arnold & Joan Petracek are trying to slow down at Esterhazy as the farm is being taken over by their sons and grandson. They are still into market gardening and raising rainbow trout. Arnold has been the treasurer of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Board for several years. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Lorence Peterson and wife, Lee Bristow, Saskatoon, have a combined family of four sons and a daughter, with twelve grandchildren, six on each side. They have done a lot of traveling in the last ten years, in North America and Europe. Lorence enjoys curling, golf & fishing. He works briefly each year visiting farmers who rent from Assiniboia Capital Corp.

Brian & Donna O'Keefe have finally retired to Saskatoon after selling the Nordic Lodge fishing camp at Raindeer Lake (yes, the one being shown on City-TV Sask. this spring). They plan to spend summers at their Candle Lake cabin. They have two sons, two step-daughters and seven grandchildren.

Lawrence & Doreen McNabb are still living on their farm, 2 ½ miles from the City of North Battleford. They are transferring part of it to a son but plan to stay there. Their four children are all back in Saskatchewan but their ten grandchildren are scattered from Ontario to Oklahoma. Doreen designs & sews grad & wedding dresses. She also cares for her 100 year-old mother in their home.

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Jim & Anne McGowan live in Saskatoon. One daughter is also in Saskatoon and the other is in Calgary. They have four grandchildren, two in each city. They still own their farm near Star City, SK which helps support their love of travel in the winter months. They enjoy golf, badminton, pickle ball, gardening and line dancing.

Glen & Frances McGlaughlin are happily retired in Cochrane, AB. They enjoy senior curling in the winter, short vacations to Arizona and golf plus RV travel in western Canada & Montana. Their family is located in Toronto and Calgary. They didn't attend the reunion in January as Glen has had enough of Saskatoon in the winter.

Doug McArthur lives in the city centre of Vancouver and continues to teach at the Graduate School in Public Policy at Simon Fraser University. His daughter works at UBC and has a small son. Doug's son is a professor at the University of Manitoba and has two sons.

Doug has been active in providing advice to First Nations for treaty negotiations. He has also been involved internationally in Afghanistan, Ukraine and Pakistan, helping to develop political and legislative processes.

Bob Mason & Cora Greer are still planting Christmas trees and have established a fruit orchard at Kenaston, SK and do all their marketing from the farm. Weather and birds have taken their toll on the

plantations in recent years. One daughter and her husband live in Midale, SK. with the Masons' grand-daughter. The other daughter is at the U.of R.

Rick & Colleen Koller have lived in Saskatoon for over thirty years. Rick is finishing his term on the SIA Act & By-Law Committee. Colleen does a lot of volunteer work in the city. Rick takes classes at the U. of S. to keep current. They spend two months at the lake and two months in California each year. Their two children and four grandchildren all live in Saskatoon.

Jerry & Verna Lynne Knipfel remain on their tree nursery near Swift Current. They are both supposed to be retired but are very involved with community organizations, social groups and hobbies. Jerry was Reeve of the R.M. of Swift Current for one term. They have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Allan & Renata Klassen, of Saskatoon, are among those who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014. They are involved with large community gardens in the city, having sold their farm at Laird in 2009. They enjoy camping, fishing and watching their grandchildren's sports. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Gary & Birdene Keefe live in Weyburn and are retired from farming & nursing. Gary was part of the United Church lay ministry for a few years and still takes services when needed. Birdene has been a member of the Sask. Midwifery Association for many years. Their daughter, son-in-law and two children are in Saskatoon so Gary & Birdene are frequent visitors.

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Lorne & Darlene Hovdestad reside at Outlook, SK and have retired from active duty. Over the years they have made trips to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Thailand and Ethiopia for PFRA consultant work and to visit children. They keep busy with hobbies, motorcycle trips and short term volunteer stints in Maui, as well as involvement in their church and community. All four children and sixteen grandchildren now live in western Canada.

Jim & Jean Harren are established in the SE corner of Calgary. They spend time at their cottage at Sicamous, BC in the summer and also visit relatives in Saskatchewan. Their two children and three grandchildren are all close by in Calgary.

Peter & Alice Gradauer farm near Lloydminster, SK. They have been down-sizing but still keep a small cow herd and put up feed for them. They have daughters in Edmonton, AB & Maple Creek, SK and have two grandchildren. The Gradauers have done a bit of traveling and hope to do more soon.

Fred & Joanne Funk make their home in Melfort, SK. Fred retired from the computer shop and now conducts a handyman, light construction business. He still does over seventy-five gigs a year, playing for seniors in care homes and other venues. Their six children and five grandchildren are all doing well.

Jim & Eileen Ewart, of Drake, SK, are semi-retired on their farm, keeping active in their church and community. They are members of an Antique Auto Club. They have become grandparents in the last ten years. Their two children have each provided them with three grandchildren.

Howard & Sue Duncan make their home in Regina where they are retired though still have a minor roll in the farm at Rowatt, SK. They spend the winters in Phoenix and have done some traveling in Europe & China. The Duncans have one daughter, two sons and one grand-daughter.

Marcel & Lynda Dubois farm near Rosetown, SK and are down-sizing a bit. They remain very active in their community though Marcel has retired from his lead-singer role in the "The Pull of the Land" musical

and sequels. He has received several awards from his community, the province and SAGA. They have two sons and two young grandsons.

Don Dowdeswell & Celia Baldwin continue to farm near Pennant, SK though son Keaton now does most of the running of the operation. They grow pedigreed seed and raise purebred cattle. Son Riley is an accountant in Swift Current. Keaton is Mayor of Pennant.

Ron & Carol Dagleish are retired in Cobble Hill, BC on Vancouver Island. Two sons and their granddaughter will be living near them. Their third son lives in Winnipeg. Ron underwent surgery for a large brain tumor in July, 2014 and recovered very well. He takes daily walks and spend a lot of time on YouTube. They enjoy winter travels in Asia, Africa and warm places in North America.

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Don and Wendy Church, of Red Deer, AB, are supposed to be retired. Don is now a councilor for Red Deer County and keeps a few cattle in the summer. He also has a hobby restoring antique autos. He still does some contract veterinary work which prevented them from coming to the reunion in January. They have four boys and five grandchildren between them.

Irving & Marlene Carlson, Melville, SK, have sold their cattle and rented out their land, leaving more time for their four children and sixteen grandchildren. In recent years they have made trips to explore their ancestry in Ukraine and Sweden. They have spent two winters in Arizona and made a trip to the mid-west, exploring family roots.

Albert & Olympia Boyko, Sherwood Park, AB, are the class champions of travel. Every year they are off to exotic places all the way from the Arctic Ocean to Antarctica. They have been from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Express and on a river cruise through Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. They also visit their two children in the USA frequently.

Don & Janet Barber are in Regina, SK where they are retired. They spend their time volunteering for church and other organizations, golfing & gardening in the summer, and visiting their three children in Calgary, Edmonton and Bermuda.

Derald & Irene Ahner are still holding down the fort on their cattle ranch/farm near Maple Creek, SK. though there is talk of retirement sometime. They are totally involved in community organizations, SAGA and provincial politics. Their two daughters, in Calgary and Saskatoon, have excellent careers as do their husbands. The biggest change in the last ten years was the arrival of their grandson, Alexander, in Calgary in 2007. He is in French Immersion Grade 2 and takes part in karate, swimming, hockey and summer camps. Alex loves his visits to the farm.

There was no response from Jerry Danyluk, Jerry Gramiak, Dale Derkatz or Larry Lubyk. Some of them are in warmer climes for the winter and we are not sure if they received their e-mail notifications. We were very sorry to learn from Elmer Bittner's brother that Elmer is currently confined to an Alzheimer's unit in Edmonton. Such are the hazards of aging.

The Knipfels at Swift Current have offered to host a summer reunion for the '65 C class in five years or perhaps sooner.