ASSUMPTION ALUMNI NEWS

Winter Newsletter

Well, another year has passed. It has been a very busy year for your Alumni Committee, with many changes.

I personally want to express my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Rick and Lil Dumouchelle. Together they have served more than 10 years on the Committee, tirelessly working and handling countless duties, such as the annual Alumni Reunion, Newsletter Chairman and Editor, Director and Vice President respectively, etc., etc., etc. The Committee is going to miss

them tremendously. From all of us, Happy Retirement and best wishes to you both!

This leads me to the next issue. We need help! We need volunteers to join the Committee to write articles (as everyone surely is tired of my writing) and help us produce the Newsletter. We need new people with fresh ideas and opinions who can make our Newsletter even greater and reach out to more Alumni. Computer skills for technical support would be a bonus. Please! Please! Consider joining us! Our Committee, with lesser volunteers than ever, are being pressed with increasing responsibilities and work to maintain the status quo of the Newsletter, Golf Tournament, and Annual Reunion. Anyone interested can please contact the Alumni Office either by phone 519-256-7801 (ext. 2225) or email achalumni@gmail.com.

Finally, the Committee is entertaining the idea of having the ACH Reunion every five years. The reasons for this are as follows. First, after attending my class reunions for several years, specializing in 5yr increments, I never see the graduates from other classes near mine. By having the reunion opened up to all classes/graduating years, it may be more enjoyable for all alumni attending. Also, having it every five years is less work for your Committee and would make the reunion even more special when we do all get together. Please let us know what you think. It is your reunion, and the Committee wants your input. We are thinking of starting this after the 20 5 reunion, after that it would be in 2020, when Assumption College High celebrates its 50th anniversary (est. 1870), in conjunction with the University of Windsor.

What other high school has such a long history and tradition? Answer, 'None'. Go Purple Raiders!

Hunt Hool '79

ACH Alumni President

Born October 21, 1929. He was ordained on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29, 1958. A Basilian priest his ministry was in Education, both as a Teacher and an Administrator. He taught Religion, Physics, Canadian History and Mathematics at various Basilian High Schools: Catholic Central in Detroit, St. Mary's College in Sault St. Marie, Aquinas Institute in Rochester NY and Assumption College School in Windsor. In 1967 he became Vice-Principal at ACS. For two years he prepared for the merging of St. Mary's Academy. He supervised the planning and construction of an addition to accommodate an increase of population. In 1971, he moved to Michael Power High School in Toronto



and taught Mathematics for nine years. He was instrumental in establishing a new department, Campus Ministry. During those years he spent three summers teaching Administration to Principals in St. Vincent Island and Kano, Nigeria. In 1980, he returned to Windsor to be Principal of EJ Brennan High School. It took 3 years to get the school financially solvent and to restore curriculum and discipline to where a school should be according to the Ministry. In 1982 Brennan developed a basic level four year program for students who could never go to a Catholic private school and graduate in an Academic program. He established bursaries for students who could not stay in the Catholic schools because of tuition. In 1985 full funding had begun and the financial concerns were over. With the new Catholic High School Board they were able to grow from two schools to five in the next four years. 1984. On the last day of school before Christmas, the Brennan High School and St. Joe's Hockey Teams play for the Cup. More than 1100 people, including a large number of alumni from both schools make it a tradition. "Starting the day with Mass gave me my strength. To pray with staff and students was a JOY" (Fr. Fred). In 1995 he retired from Education. Fr. Fred is survived by his sisters Gladys Howe and Louise Shaway, seven nieces and nephews along with fifteen great nieces and nephews and many friends. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Najla Zakoor, brother Edward and great niece Aubrey. Special thanks to Barbara Gambriel for your care and compassion.

The Zakoor Cup celebrated its 20th anniversary this past December before a raucous crowd of 1,600 at the WFCU Centre.

"He was fantastic to work for, a real good administrator," said Mark McEachern, who was hired to teach by Zakoor and who has coached the Brennan Cardinals in every Cup game.

Zakoor hired both McEachern and Roger Dufour as part of his staff at

Brennan.

Zakoor was later appointed the founding principal of St. Joseph's and Dufour joined him there and started the school's hockey program.

Brennan coaching staff of McEachern, Dufour and Ron Donaldson who hatched the idea of playing a rivalry game between the two schools on the last day of

classes before the Christmas break.

The first Zakoor Cup was awarded in 1984. Zakoor never coached the team but he enjoyed all sports according to McEachern.

"He made it easy to teach," McEachern said. "He made school life easy. If you followed the rules you had no problem. I really enjoyed working for him."

A tough nononsense leader, he was quite popular with his students, McEachern said. "He was a good guy and the kids really liked him at our school."

Zakoor was ordained as a Basilian priest in 1958. He taught at Detroit Catholic Central, Sault St. Marie's St. Mary's College, Aquinas Institute in Rochester, N.Y., and at Assump-

tion College School. In 1967, he became vice principal at Assumption. He spent nine years at Michael Power high school in Toronto before returning to Windsor in 1980 to serve as Brennan's principal.



The Windsor Star 2014

Andrew Vasily('87) University of Windsor quarterback/punter and graduate from the Faculty of Education, made an impact in his classroom which earned him international attention. Andy is a physical education teacher at an International Baccalaureate School in Nanjing, China where is blog (www.pyppewithandy.com) has been named Best Individual Teacher PE Blog of 2013 by Physicaleducation.com.Andy, with his wife Neila, have taught in Japan, Cambodia, China, Azerbaijan over the past 15 years.

His blog is his ongoing message which explores the idea of using physical education as a way to develop children "cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically." The blogs is directed at people in education in general about the best practices in how to manage and teach kids. Since starting the blog three years ago he has had 74,000 + hits and has built up a network of contracts with whom he can exchange ideas. The blog is and was intended to be especially helpful to teachers in countries with limited resources for professional development and the list of testimonials on his website attest to its effectiveness and come from every continent.

Andy travelled to India in the 2013 summer to conduct a three-day workshop for teachers. These opportunities have enables, Andy, his wife Neila and their two sons, Eli and Tai, to soak up some life experiences that remain addictive for this adventurous family.

"There are incredible opportunities in the world to teach...don't be afraid to venture beyond your nation's borders," he ad-



vises

Now Mike Morencie can really say he's done it all for the AKO Fratmen. He played for them. He's coached them. Now he owns them. Morencie was introduced as the new owner of the Ontario Football Conference champions Wednesday at the WE-TV.ca studio in east Windsor. The AKO Fraternity and Morencie reached a long-term agreement a few days earlier. In addition to his new duties as owner, Morencie said he'll remain as the team's defensive co-ordinator under head coach Mike LaChance.

"This is going to be a bit of a strange relationship but I'm 100 per cent positive we can handle it," Morencie said.

Zucchet represented the service club at the announcement and said the club "unanimously resolved to sell the AKO football club."

Zucchet served as AKO's director of football operations last season but said he's now the spokesman for the fraternity's board of governors. "We are still a sponsor of the AKO football club," Zucchet said. "We have every intention of maintaining a strong relationship with the team."

Zucchet said the fraternity will refocus on its "core mission" of helping community youth through a variety of minor sports programs. Morencie said buying the club is "an easier way to be successful. We're going to run it like a business. The not-for-profit model ceased to work for us."

Morencie plans to assemble a management team and start searching for investors both individual and corporate. He hopes to add a director of football operations, a director of administration and a general manager in the near future.

Windsor's Joe Siddall ('85)

(Taken from Windsor Star)

Some Toronto Blue Jays thing that Windsor's Joe Siddal has played a role in their recent success by bringing some of that 'Detroit Karma' to Joe's new job as news analyst on Toronto's radio and television broadcasts. Joe Siddall, 46, had served as catcher and batting practice pitcher for the Detroit Tigers.

Joe was hired by the Jays in March 2014, about a month after the death of his son Kevin, 14, who lost his fight with cancer. "It's been a whirlwind...before I know it, I'm broadcasting big-league

games." Joe's wife Tamara and daughters Brooke and Mackenzie have also been swept up in that whirlwind visiting Joe on the road in Florida, Texas and Pittsburgh; oldest sone Brett plays NCAA baseball at Canisius in nearby Buffalo and visits has dad more regularly.

On the job training is ongoing and the results are paying off as he absorbs as much as he can from his colleague announcers. "Have fun. Talk baseball. That's your expertise," says Joe. When it comes to television "...take a look

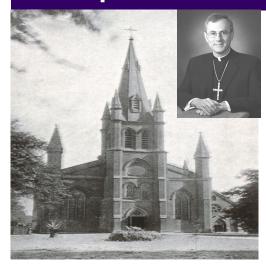
into the camer and pretend you're talking to your son about baseball, just like you would at home. Be casual. Be friendly. Be yourself." For the down-to-earth Joe Siddall that's the only way he knows how to be



New!!
Assumption
Alumni
Extention
519-256-7801
Ext. 2225



Assumption Parish Closed



"Only \$10 million 'miracle' can save Assumption Church."

Bishop Fabbro announced in September that Assumption Church will be shut down. Assumption, a community icon and the nation's oldest Catholic Church west of Montreal, closed November 3, 2014. The inability of two fundraising campaigns over the last four years to generate %\$10 million reguired to save the crumbling 169 year old historic landmark has become too much for the parish and the Diocese to ignore.

The Church is closed despite routine high attendance and a passionate community effort to save it. The masonry, exterior support walls, roof, plaster, a storm drainage system and mechanical and electrical systems all need to be repaired or replaced. Also, the building contains asbestos that has to be removed. Parish Council Chair, Kevin Alexander, stated that the church remains structurally sound otherwise.

Bishop Fabbro did leave the door ajar for the church to be saved if somehow huge donations came rolling in and the \$10 million target can be reached.

The Diocese will shift the congregation to Holy Name of Mary, located about 12 blocks away on McEwan Ave.

Ed Agnew, member of a fund raising group of Our Lady of Assumtpion Church since 2013 claims to have the means to acquire the

\$10 million needed to repair the historic landmark.

Currently the Church's renovation account sits at around \$1.1 million. A facebook page, created by one of the parishioners, called Our Lady of Assumption: Operation Basilica, has generated hundreds of hits.

It was stated that some people may not be aware the extent of work the Church needs to stay open. As a designated historical site it would require the work of many specialists. You need to replicate everything historically. You need people who have experience working with heritage buildings to to the repairs.

"I would be very happy to see \$10 million." Bishop Fabbro said. "everything would change."

Teach Me; Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge

Purple Gang Reunion News

Ms. Lucile Caron—Thank you for your donation to the plaque and century dub.

Michael A Birch '69—"Warried Kathy and moved home and business to Shawnee. OK"

Bert Hubbard—"Still enjoy reading the newsletter in hardcopy."

Ray Souliere '49—So appreciate being on the mailing list.

Mary Dondero—Thank you for your donation to the plaque.

Patirck Hucker '39—"Just happy to receive the newletter. Just turned 93 and still going strong."

Ronald Klamt '48—"83 years old and still in good health. The good meals at Assumption did for me. Ha Ha"

Joseph Frank Roman '57—"Married, healthy, retired CPA. I received an exceptional education and value system at Assumption which has yielded happiness."

The Honourable Mr. Justice Richard H. Donald, Ontario Court of Justice (retired) "I continue to enjoy each edition of the newsletter."

It really is nice to continue receiving the newsletters from Assumption to keep in the know of what other folks are doing in their lives.

The last time I was in Windsor for a reunion was for my 40th for the graduating class of 1972. It was grand to see so many familiar faces from the past.

Here is a bit of info. After a short time transfer to the Yukon in 1988 for my husband's Robert's work with the RCMP. Since June 2001, I answered had heartfelt calling back to the North Country and plan to be here indefinitely. Presently, I am employee of the Yukon Government with Motor Vehicles. This past summer my mother, Lois Comartin and a former classmate came for a visit.

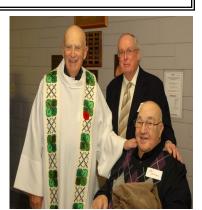
I am a proud grandmother of two wonderful grand-kids, Michael 15 and Julia 9. Even though family is at a distance, this northern place so far is where a gal belongs.

Since being north, I have learned to kayak, have sky dived and plan to do white water rafting in northern Alaska later this year. My bucket list is getting shorter.

Best Wishes to all Alumni

Diane Bergoine (Comartin) "72

Reunion



2014



ACS REUNION—November 7, 2015 Calling ALL classes ending in 5 or 0!

Mike DeLong

From: Bob Duff's The Windsor Star, July 4th, 2014



Every time the door opens to the White Sands Pupfish bullpen and Windsor's Mike DeLong comes charging out, he figures he's taking another step toward opening the door to a long career in professional baseball. The rookie reliever is enjoying a splendid rookie season with the Alamagordo, N.M.-based Pupfish of the Independent Pecos League, which on talent level is comparable to class-A minor league baseball. In 12 appearances covering 27 innings, DeLong, who played high-school ball at Assumption before pitching for Detroit's Henry Ford Community College, shows a 1-1 record with one save, a 2.66 earned-run average

and a 0.92 WHIP. He's allowed 22 hits and just eight earned runs, while striking out 32 against a mere 11 walks. The 6-4, 220-pound right-hander who played his highschool ball at Assumption thinks his biggest break came when he threw NCAA ball for West Texas State. In 2010, they moved him to a relief role. As a senior, he became the team's closer. "I like coming out of the bullpen," DeLong said. "I think I'm more effective as a 1-3 inning guy. "A big thing that's helped me be successful is having command of my secondary pitches, my slider and my change-up. Throwing those over for strikes in fastball counts, or starting off with a slider and then coming back with a fastball is working for me, because guys are a little more aggressive in this league. "Everyone's hungry. Everyone's trying to make a name for themselves, so the hitters are a lot more aggressive. Everyone wants to hit home runs." Thinking the game is another positive development that's allowed DeLong to make progress as a pro. "It's all about being smarter than the hitter," DeLong said. "At this level, everyone can throw 90-plus and everyone can hit 90-plus. It's just a matter of what's coming. If you can outsmart the hitter in different counts, you'll have success. "That's been a big step for me in jumping from college to the professional level, being more of a pitcher than a thrower trying to blow it by guys. Now it's more, 'OK I've faced this guy before, so I can start him off with this pitch.' "It's about using more of the mental aspect of the game and knowing which pitch to throw at certain points in the count that has been really helping me." DeLong travelled to Michigan regularly during the winter to work with a professional pitching coach, his brother Ray tagging along to catch. He earned a tryout with the Gary Southshore Railcats of the American Association, but the team was overstocked with 14 pitchers and he was advised to go to the Pupfish. "They said, 'Go here and put up the numbers and doors should open up for you," DeLong said. "From there I drove out here and it's been a pretty good choice, because I've been doing quite well." A desert community lying in the Tularosa Basin and bordered on the east by the Sacramento Mountains, Alamagordo is a military town. Fort Bliss, the second-largest U.S. military base covering 1,700 square miles is nearby. "It's hot here," DeLong said. "It got up to 107 (degrees Fahrenheit) yesterday. It will drain you if you're in the sun every day. "All our games are at 6:30-7 (p.m.) because the sun will kick your butt if you're out in it too long. "DeLong finds himself facing the likes of the Trinidad Triggers, Roswell Invaders and Las Vegas Train Robbers and loves every minute of it, hoping it will lead to chances to further his pitching career. Since 2011, 161 Pecos League players have moved on to higher levels of baseball. Nine signed with majorleague clubs. "I've been in touch with a couple of teams," DeLong said. "This league ends the end of July. The other (minor) leagues go until September-October, so other doors should open up if I keep putting up the numbers and hopefully, I'll sign with an affiliated team."

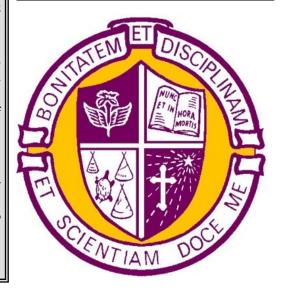
Remembering...

Spickett, Ernest '72
Zakoor, Fr. Fred
Miskiewicz, Vincent '71
Kennedy, John Sr.
Deluca, Albert
Russell Nantais
Vince Sadai '92
Flynn, James `59
Peltier, Lionel `59

Help us remember those Assumption Alumni who have died. Please include Graduation Year if possible.

Email:
Linda Presello
(Lesperance '81)
Campus Minister
Assumption College
Catholic High School

linda_presello@wecdsb.on.ca







Mount Allison student receives prestigious Killam Fellowship from Fulbright Canada

Norman Nehmetallah is studying at Tennessee's Vanderbilt University as part of the bi-national exchange program—Assumption High School 2012 Graduate



SACKVILLE, NB — Third-year Mount Allison University honours English student Norman Nehmetallah is spending this academic year down South. Nehmetallah is the recipient of a Killam Fellowship from Fulbright Canada and is studying at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

"It's amazing. A little dizzying, and a total shift," says Nehmetallah, who is from Windsor, ON. "I wanted to get to the United States, mostly the South. I'm interested in Southern literature, especially poetry, and a few of my favourite working writers and poets teach here, so I wanted the opportunity to learn from them. I'm taking a course on Ulysses, which is easily my favourite right now."

"We are pleased to have another Mount Allison student receive the prestigious Killam Fellowship from Fulbright Canada," says University Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research Dr. Karen Grant. "I would like to congratulate Norman on this accomplishment and wish him all the best during his studies at Vanderbilt University."

In addition to his studies, Nehmetallah is also hosting a radio show, *Whisper Shout*, on WRVU Nashville. He plans to pursue a career in poetry and barbering.

At Mount Allison, Nehmetallah is a recipient of the Bell Scholarship, one of the University's most prestigious entrance awards and has had his poetry published twice in *Seven Mondays*, a journal of undergraduate art. He has also self-published a collaborative broadside, entitled "dimensions of exhaustion." Nehmetallah has played rugby, served as an executive member of the debate society, put on screenings with Cinema Politica, edited for the ATLIS journal, and served as the entertainment editor of *The Argosy*, Mount Allison's independent student newspaper.

Mount Allison currently offers 26 programs in 17 countries across four continents, including the Killiam Fellowship through Fulbright Canada. Nehmetallah is the 11th Mount Allison student to be awarded this exchange opportunity in the past decade.

The Killam Fellowships Program allows undergraduate students from Canada and the United States to participate in a program of bi-national residential exchange. This program, administered by Fulbright Canada, is supported by the American Killam Trusts, Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada, and the Foundation. It is an integral part of the Foundation's multidimensional strategy to foster mutual understanding between Canada and the United States of America.

Fulbright Canada is a joint, bi-national, treaty-based organization created to encourage mutual understanding between Canada and the United States of America through academic and cultural exchange. Fulbright Canada is supported by the Canadian Government through Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, by the United States Government through the Department of State, and by a diverse group of corporate sponsors, charitable trusts, and university partners. It is governed by an independent Board of Directors and operates out of Ottawa.

WELCOME ALUMNI

Row I: Phil Zakoor, Dick Maheau, Lido Sandre, Dom DePalma, Dino Marcus, Don Caron, Ron Sooley, Des McGuire, Ed Zelma

Row 2: Larry Bannon, Rav Ohlman, Erv Peitz, Tom, Dea, Dick Pougget, Eddie Carriveau, Len Graves, Joe Matz, Digger Duroucher, Nish Mascarin

Row 3: Nish Mascarin

Thank You Century Club Donations Thank You

The Century Club is composed of those former students and friends who have contributed \$100.00 or more within a given year to the Alumni Fund to sponsor Alumni activities including the newsletter. Following are the individuals who have generously made a contribution. Thank you for your support.

Donnald Kummer Hool, Jack (deceased) Caron, Lucille Birch, Michael **Delbert Ruth** Vollmer, Brad Dondero, Mary Canil, Dr. Katherine Fisher, Richard Klamt, Ronald Donald, Richard Roman, Joseph **Other Contributors** Birch, Cecil Hanan, John Hucker, Patrick Limarzi, Burno Hubbard, Albert Henri, Richard Ryan, Gary Hoffman, Maureen Comartin, Lois McTavish, William Devine, John Joseph Matz Hool, Hunt

HELP!!!

New members needed to help with future reunions. New members needed to sit on Alumni Committee. **Please contact:** acsalumni@gmail.com **Alumni Help** If you would like to be a contact person for your year please contact: acsalumni@gmail.com

Purple Gang Reunion

They came from afar, and from Assumption's own backyard. From Florida, Michigan and Massachusetts. From Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec. Even from the mountains of Peru. Others came from the Toronto area, from Owen Sound, and of course, from Windsor.

They came to share stories of days gone by, to rekindle old friendships, to play a round of golf, to catch a Tigers ballgame, and to revisit their long-lost youth, if only for a weekend. But most of all, they came to honour Fr. Ronald Cullen, their former Assumption hockey coach, and what he meant to them.

Fr. Cullen - a.k.a. The Elk, Clancy, or Fat Man, as he was nicknamed by his players (never in his presence, of course) - left a towering impression on all who knew him. Tough. Demanding. Imposing. Shrewd. Loving. A big man with hearty laugh and an addiction to milkshakes. A stern disciplinarian with a surprisingly soft side, who read poetry like no one else.

The life lessons he taught still burn bright in the hearts and minds of former players like Bob Brennan, Rick Martinello, John Noonan, Wayne Lamphier, Rudy Feimer, Hunter Henley, Jerome Morse, Neil Ungar, Mark Boisvert, Greg Ciungan and so many others who played for Fr. Cullen's championship hockey teams. About 30 of these ex-players from the late 1960s and early 1970s gathered in Windsor in late July.

Wayne Lamphier got the ball rolling by suggesting the players reconnect. From there, the idea

took off like wildfire.

Former Assumption goalie Bob Brennan spearheaded the event, with help from Rudy Feimer. Glen O'Neil, owner of the Sports Zone shop in LaSalle, had Purple Gang t-shirts made up for the occasion, while John Yates arranged tickets to a Tigers game. Other donors, who wished to remain anonymous, contributed \$250 toward beer and nourishment, and nearly 20 participated in Rick Martinello's annual golf fundraiser at Roseland. Brennan, ever the style maven, was resplendent in yellow silk shorts, a purple t-shirt with an alien motif, and knee-high black socks.

More than \$7,000 was raised in this year's tournament. All proceeds went to the Siro Martinello Memorial **Bursary** Fund, which was formed when Siro passed away in 1983. Over the years the fund has dispersed roughly \$250,000 to the community in the form of scholarships for local high school grads who plan to study at the University of Windsor or St. Clair College. Six students received \$6,000 in scholarships from this year's event.

Of course, there could be no such gathering of former Assumption players without an explosion of storytelling. Such was the impact of Fr. Cullen on their lives that these stories are told and re-told to families and friends, decade after decade.

Here are just a few that were shared over a few cold ones at Windsor's Waterfront Hotel, courtesy of Bob Brennan and Rick Martinello:

"We had been playing

very well in league play and Fr. Cullen thought we might need to be brought down a notch or two," Brennan recalled.

"So he scheduled an exhibition game for us to play the Riverside Farrow Rangers at Riverside arena. These guys were young and very good, and won the Ontario juvenile championship that year. I think they had about five players who eventually made it to the NHL including Pat Boutette (Maple Leafs), Gordy McDonald (Black Hawks), Jim Grotto (Rangers) and Billy McKenzie (Red Wings). Several others became major junior stars.

"They were giving it to us pretty good and the Elk put me in goal to play the second half of the game. Not too long after that, one of these hot shots took the puck from behind his net and let a worm burner go from centre ice that never even left the ice. Somehow it got passed me into the bottom right corner of the net," Brennan said. thought to myself, 'What the hell was that?' Next thing I see is Dwight Barron skating directly towards me from the bench. He said he had a message from Cullen, and I quote: 'Clancy says to wake up or go home Stupid!'

Of course, Fr. Cullen was also a great baseball coach, and several hockey players, including Brennan, played on those Assumption ball teams. Here's another tale told by Brennan from one of those games in Detroit.

"It was spring and a less than delightful day. It was cold and damp and we were playing a team of all black kids at Clarke



Park on the westside of Detroit," Bob recalls.

"After the first inning Fr. Cullen rounded us all up and said he was going out to the van to say his daily prayers. The van was parked in right field but it was in foul territory. He then told us to watch the van and he would relay the signals from there. A left turn signal meant bunt, a right turn signal was a steal," he says.

"Anyway a couple innings later, we were up to bat with a man on first. Not only were we watching the van like hawks, but the other team had caught on to this as well. The pitcher gets set, and then we heard a couple of their guys say, "He goin', He goin!" So we had to get Father to change the signal indicator. He promptly faked them out by hitting the horn instead."

Assumption grads of a certain vintage will remember the natural outdoor ice rink behind the boarders' residence. Hockey teams used it for practice in the cold winter months. "We practiced on this rink every day except game days and days when we had a practice at a real arena," Bob remembers. "On Sundays we practiced outside and after a shower, Father would

say a mass with us. I think it was after one of these Sunday practices, I remember being in the shower with some of the guys. You had to be careful with the hot water because some of your extremities had yet to thaw out," he says. "So I was washing my hair and standing under the same shower head that I always used. It came to pass that I could feel a stream of water that was warmer than the rest of the water coming down on me. Once I cleared my eyes of soap, I was finally able to peer out of one of my eyes only to see John Yates standing right beside me and relieving himself on my right leg. So I chased him up one hall and down another. Both of us were naked as hot dogs without a bun. He got back to the dressing room just before me and locked the bloody door ahead of me. Man, and they say goalies are a strange brew."

Of course no collection of time-honoured Assumption hockey tales would be complete without a retelling of what has come to be known as "the Illiad story," and no one tells it better than Rick (Sy) Martinello:

"Assumption was playing Brennan in a playoff game at Riverside Arena. The referee tandem that game was Jerry Bocchini and if I remember correctly Dale Jones, who just recently passed away," he says. "We were the recipients of three penalties in literally the first 10 minutes of the game. So Fr. Cullen called time out after Brennan scored on a power play and he called me over to the bench," he recalls. "Cullen looks down at me and he says: 'Now go over and ask that referee

(Bocchini) who wrote the Iliad."

"I was a bit confused by that, so I say: 'Pardon me Father?'" That only seemed to make Cullen even more pissed off. So then he yells at me, saying: 'You heard me! Ask him who wrote the Iliad!'"

So I skate over to the ref and I'm feeling a bit sheepish, but I ask in a really polite voice: "Mr. Referee," and he says "Yeah Rick" and I say Father Cullen asks if you know who wrote the Iliad." He starts to laugh and says: "Homer." I say "thank you" and skate back to the bench where Clancy is waiting for me, standing right in front of the bench.

"What did he say?" The Elk asks me. And I say: "He said Homer wrote it, Father,' at which point Cullen shouts: 'Well he is not much of a referee but he at least remembers his grade 11 English !!" "The bench just went crazy. We all laughed our "butts" off. Then Ciungan and I skated out to the faceoff circle for the puck to drop, and Greg leans over to me laughing and says: "What a fat man !!" Brennan got the next penalty - a bench minor - less than a minute later, plus the next five penalties in a row. Tom Taylor, the Brennan coach, was going wild because of all of the penalties. Eventually the ref tossed him out of the game.

The final score was 5-3 for Assumption.

Written By:

Bob Brennan Rick Martinello John Yates Gary Lamphier