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The Hall of Distinction

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Band’s Year in Review

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Our second year of publishing The Royal Gazette during the 2018-2019 school year has been an immense success! It has been another fun and amazing journey as we continue to demonstrate the power of student journalism and produce award winning publications.

To begin, we would like to thank *The Royal Gazette* staff for their commitment and enthusiasm in being apart of our team. From their outstanding writing, photography, reporting and designing skills, without their contributions and enormous amount of effort, it wouldn't be possible to publish *The Royal Gazette*.

It would also not be possible to produce the paper if it weren't for the incredible designing and illustrations of Grade 10 students, Anne Fu and Ananya Singh. Another thank you to our wonderful teacher advisors, Mr. Sheeler and Mrs. Bentham. Mr. Sheeler has been stepping in for Mrs. Bentham and has done a fantastic job with helping us maintain the newspaper in her absence.

We would like to acknowledge his dedication to meeting with us every Wednesday, editing every new publication and advocating for our club- his effort and support is greatly appreciated! We would further like to recognize the tremendous success of *The Royal Gazette* for placing runner up in the category of 'Best Newspaper with Over Fifteen Staff' at the Toronto Star High School Journalism Awards. We are astounded that our newspaper of two years has already achieved this honourable award! Thank you to our subscribers, parents, staff and students who read *The Royal Gazette*. We thank you for supporting Ancaster High's student journalism initiatives.

We will see you in September! Have a great summer!

Signed, The Royal Gazette Editors

Get the most important articles right away. Here's some of the **top stories of June.**

This Month's Top Stories

Hamilton Region

6

The number of Opens McIlroy has won – the Triple Crowns, as well as the Irish, Australian, and Hong Kong ones.



Above: Rory McIlroy tees off on the seventeenth hole during the final round of the 2019 RBC Canadian Open golf tournament at Hamilton Golf & Country Club on June 9, 2019. (Eric Bolte/USA Today Sports)

From June 3-9 at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club, golfers from across the globe competed in the 2019 RBC Canadian Open. Accompanying the sporting events were food and games, all adding to the festival-like atmosphere – but it couldn't have been much without this year's champion, pro golfer Rory McIlroy. McIlroy's Canadian Open trophy brought him the title of "triple crown", a status denoting golfers that have won the Canadian Open, the Open Championship, and the U.S. Open – the 3 oldest tournaments on the tour. He is one of only six golfers to do so in history, joining the leagues of athletes like Tiger Woods and Bobby Locke.

When interviewed, McIlroy, who hails from Ireland, said this about his win. "Some of the greats of the game have won this trophy, so for me to put my name on it is something I'm very proud of. It's a pretty nice club to be a part of."

Although it would have been awfully fitting for a Canadian to have won our national championship, it looks like that may not happen for a while. The last Canadian to win the Canadian Open was back in 1954, although Team Canada didn't exactly slack either this year, with B.C. native Adam Hadwin finishing 6th this year.

Making a Comeback

Although McIlroy had gained a previous reputation for coming close, but failing to secure major trophies, he certainly proved his worth on the green in Hamilton.

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"I played aggressively... what I think I'm proudest of was still playing with that freedom today. I just put my foot down and made this tournament mine."

— *Rory McIlroy*

Sudan Crisis Escalates to Violence, Deaths

World



Above: A Sudanese protester holds a national flag as he stands on a barricade along a street, demanding that the country's Transitional Military Council hand over power to civilians. **(Reuters)**

Here’s what Twitter users have to say.



@mafiasafia

#IAmTheSudanRevolution because my people cannot die in vain, cannot die in silence under an internet blackout. because peaceful protest was met with a massacre. because my people deserve dignity, deserve freedom, deserve for the world to know us and our fight

11:30 AM – Jun 6, 2019



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956

On June 3rd, 2019, the military of Sudan opened fire on a protest camp in the country’s capital, Khartoum, killing 13. After the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in 2018, Sudan has been in control of a military transitional government. However, civilians have been demanding that the power be handed to them, through peaceful protest. Since then, internet access has been cut off from the country, leaving many worried Sudanese in the dark - and in fear of their lives.

External movements, such as the viral Twitter hashtag #IAmTheSudanRevolution, have sprung up across the globe to raise awareness for those suffering in Sudan and describe the ongoing events. The country’s government has attempted to prevent the spread of news by disabling mobile access from the country, and by reportedly dumping bodies into the Nile River. Since then, at least 108 have been killed, and some 500 wounded. Blackouts have begun to become increasingly common weapons of silence amongst governments against protest groups. Movements like the Arab Spring, for example, depended heavily on Internet awareness.

Dawit Bekele, the director of the Internet Society’s Africa bureau, noted the influential role social media plays in revolutions. “The Arab Spring was an awakening for governments. Governments realised that people can use social media without passing through the government-controlled media... Governments have become more and more afraid of social media since the Arab Spring.”

Across the international community, a great deal of western and African nations have shown support for the pro-democracy protestors. The United Nations, additionally, hopes to send monitors to the country to check for the alleged human rights violations.

“It’s frustrating, sad and making us angry but we are still holding on tight to our dreams of freedom and continuing our non-violent resistance and civil disobedience,” said one Sudanese activist.



LOOKING BACK

Concert Band's Year in Review

MAA member Sabrina Cagampan looks back on a year of music and collaboration in concert band.

Above: Students and MAA members work with Grade 8s for Day In The Life in the Music room. (The Royal Gazette)

by Sabrina Cagampan – *Junior Editor*



I can recall walking into band one morning to see that Ms. Wylie had written a very long list of things that the band organized and participated in. Needless to say, I was surprised, most of the band was surprised and I had to go through every point on the list and remind myself “Oh yeah, we did do that!”. Maybe I’m just forgetful, but to me what this shows is how much our music program has grown and all the spectacular things that we’ve done only within the span of 10 months.

This year we were thrilled to host our first ‘Family of Schools’ concert. We invited the concert bands from Ancaster Senior and Mount Hope to join ours and together the students of the AHS concert band lead sectionals with the elementary students instrument groups, then joined together to practice together as a collective band of over 100 students. Shortly thereafter, the

combined AHS, ASPS and Mount Hope bands played for several Ancaster classes, with oppertites for us to play as a mass-band, and for each band to individually show off what they’ve been working on. The event overwhelmingly positive feedback from the schools that participated and others from all over HWDSB and we are excited to be making it even better next year and welcoming new grade 9s into our band next year!

Once again, we hosted two successful Coffee Houses after school, one in the fall and one in spring, that invited Ancaster friends and family to enjoy a night of live music for a variety of the finest musical talent the school had to offer. Surely we are going to host a fall and spring Coffee House next year, so make sure to brush off your repertoire if you’re looking to perform next year, and be on the lookout for announcements if you are plann-

ing on attending what is always a fabulous night.

Other than just hosting events, we also played for many school events, where it be as a whole band, in small ensembles or as soloists. Though you may have not seen our faces, you surely heard us at the Awards Ceremony and during Remembrance Day where we played in the pit. Then during

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Even if the last time you touched an instrument was a recorder in 6th grade, we would love to have you next year to learn and to be part of our band family.



of the year to allow members Mental Health week, Grade 8 Parents’ Night, High School Musical, Theatre Ancaster’s *Chicago* shows and both Meet the Teacher Nights’ soloists and small ensembles played in the foyer to prove a welcoming atmosphere and to promote our band program.

Beyond just playing together, we also did plenty of bonding activities and outings that didn’t involve playing our instruments. Some of which included dinner at the Mandarin at the beginning to get to know each other, a potluck dinner to cap off the holiday season, and post-concert trips to bowling and laser tag to celebrate our successful performances.

The Musical Arts Association, who are a group of elected student representatives and band leaders, has big plans for next year. We hope to make Coffeehouse and Family of Schools long-running traditions at Ancaster High, to get even more involved in our school and community, attend more festivals and competitive events and to start the Ancaster High School Jazz Band!

Such a remarkable year would have not been possible for all the students, parents and teachers that support our events, so on

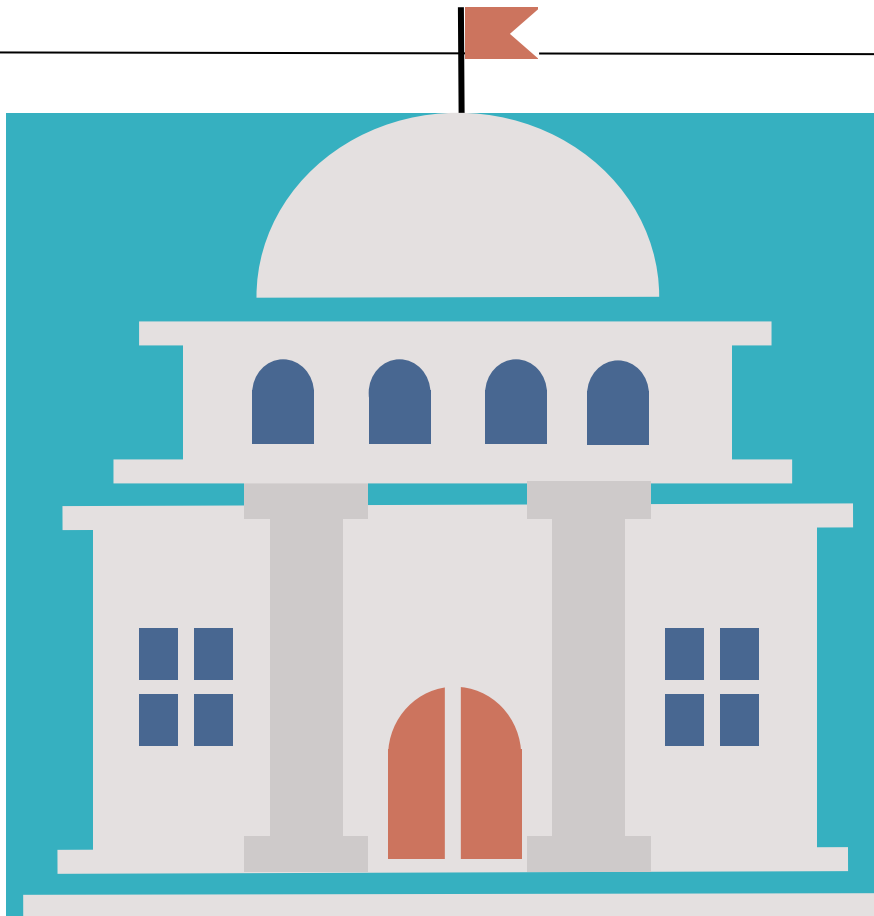


Above: Ancaster student Band “Undefined” practice for the CBC Music Challenge. **Right:** Band member Ryan Park-Lopez plays percussion at the HWDSB Honour Band concert. (MAA/The Royal Gazette)

behalf of the MAA and the Ancaster High Concert Band, I would like to thank everyone that attended our concerts, bought our fundraiser popcorn and drove to school at 7am every Tuesday and Thursday!

And to anyone that is even remotely intrigued by the fantast-

ic music program at Ancaster High, feel free to drop by the music room or talk to Ms Wylie or any of the MAA representatives! Even if the last time you touched an instrument was a recorder in 6th grade, we would love to have you next year to learn and to be part of our band family. See you in September!



INTERNALS

A Breakdown of Student Council Positions

Wondering what each elected Student Council member does? Learn here.

by John Kerr - *Writer*

Some members of the student body, as of late, somewhat unsure of the purpose and responsibilities of the elected Student Council members and others who play a role in making the students experience more enjoyable. In order to clear up any questions and explain the roles of the elected members of the council, here are their responsibilities and the elected students who are fulfilling those roles.

Co-Presidents:

The Co-Presidents in the student council are responsible for overseeing, planning, and leading the Student Council meetings that will take place weekly starting next year. They help to bring the issues of the entire school into the eyes of the Council and are meant to represent and be the ideal role models for their peers.

The Co-Presidents for the 2019/2020 school year are Jeremy Ippolito and Larissa Kouvourkis.

Vice Presidents:

The Vice Presidents share the same responsibilities as the Co-Presidents and are expected to act and perform in the same fashion.

The Vice-Presidents for the 2019/2020 school year are Liam Conacher and Yash Mathararu.

Secretary and Publicity Chairs:

The Secretary and Publicity Chairs are required to take weekly meeting attendance and record the minutes. They are tasked at providing advertisements ranging from announcements to posters in order to publicize school events and opportunities.

The Secretary and Publicity Chairs for the 2019/2020 school year are Denver Reitsma and Kyle Mandryk.

Positive School Climate:

The Positive School Climate representatives work to create a positive experience for the students of AHS by creating and endorsing events in the school that are beneficial to the students and community.

The Positive School Climate representatives for the 2019/2020 school year are David Chung and Skyler Rajasingham.

Social Chairs:

The Social Chairs work with the Positive School Climate represen-

tatives to organise, support, and advertise school events such as dances and fundraisers.

The Social Chairs for the 2019/2020 school year are Victoria Lee and Jessica Sun.

Grade Representatives:

The Grade representatives are responsible for bringing the student voice of their respective grades and peers into the council meetings where they can be discussed. They work to improve the school spirit of Royals and enhance the school's positive environment. The representatives are also supposed to share the decisions made in the student council meetings with the student body and their peers.

The Grade Representatives for the 2019/2020 school year will be Erika Ehrenberg representing next year's grade 12 class, Ethan Hesler, Sarah Ali, and Hira Ishfaq representing next years grade 11 class, and me (John Kerr) and Gavin Liu representing next years grade 10 class.

This information only covers a certain area of the tasks of the elected members and does not include those who spare their own time to help in the decision making processes and organization of planned school events.

Right: Students enjoying the musical performance by *Undefined* at the Cut Cancer Carnival. (The Royal Gazette)



INTERNALS

CUT CANCER CARNIVAL

Learn about Ancaster High's very first Cut Cancer Carnival.

by Ashley Barry – *Club Advisor*



Left: Student volunteers of the Cut Cancer Carnival providing Barbequed items as well as other food items for \$1. This prevailed against harsh weather conditions such as rain and wind. (The Royal Gazette)

Through rain or shine Ancaster High Staff and students collaborated together and put forth a tremendous effort to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. They hosted a Carnival in the back East Wing parking lot and football field in hopes of reaching their fundraiser goal of \$5000!

Student volunteers barbecued hotdogs, hamburgers and sold pizza, cookies, Krispy Kreme donuts and brownies all for the cost of \$1. Ancaster students also participated in purchasing tickets for the raffle which included the prizes of Mr. Gallant's parking spot at the school for one week, brand new

Apple AirPods, dinner and a movie and a Raptors Swag Bag. Even with the torrential downpour of rain, Ancaster managed to raise \$4,500! Congratulations to the volunteers for achieving their fundraising goal and a big thank you to students for contributing to this important fund!



TEACHER INSIDER

Thank You Mr. Baker!

Learn about our beloved
Guidance Counsellor who is
retiring after 18 amazing years.

by Ashley Barry – *Club Advisor*



This semester, Ancaster High loses one of its most beloved Guidance Counselors, Mr. Baker to retirement. Although students and staff are happy to see him venture on a new chapter of his life, his absence will surely be missed.

This article is a tribute to his wonderful teaching career and offers an inside view of his life during school hours and beyond the 2:45 dismissal bell.

Life Outside of School:

Mr. Baker grew up in Kanata (long before the Ottawa Senators started playing hockey there) and went to A Y Jackson High School in Kanata. In high school, it took him a bit of time to figure out what he wanted to do. "I played Basketball and Hockey for the high school and took every Phys Ed course I could! My Guidance Counsellor gave me this advice when I told him I didn't really know what to do at university: "find something you like to do and take it at university". This advice worked out perfectly," he explained.

Currently, Mr. Baker lives in Waterdown and has lived there for the past twenty-five years. He has been married for thirty years and has three girls ages 28, 25 and 20. When asked about his hobbies and interest he responded, "for many years my spare time has been spent watching or coaching my girls in softball, soccer, volleyball or basketball. I really enjoy sports, especially basketball which I have coached for the past fifteen years with the Flamborough Fire organization. At home I spend a lot of time watching the History Channel and lots of documentaries on Netflix. My favourite movie of all time is Star Wars (yes the original one) but I have watched all of the Star Wars movies over and over!"

School Life:

Mr. Baker spent his early teaching years at St. Augustine Secondary School in Brampton and Scott Park Secondary School (until it closed down). "I think students would be surprised to know that I spent my first 9

years teaching Phys Ed in Brampton. I didn't actually become a Guidance Counselor until my 10th year of teaching," he said. After that, Mr. Baker landed his "dream job"- Guidance Counsellor at Ancaster High School. When asked about what inspired him to proceed with this path in his career, he explained that while he was teaching Phys Ed in Brampton, he was given a chance to teach the Peer Tutoring class and also become a staff advisor for the Peer Mediation Program at his school. "I really enjoyed these opportunities and thought I would like to work more closely with students who needed advice, support or planning to help them achieve their goals!" he remarked.

And for eighteen years, Mr. Baker has helped Ancaster High students achieve their goals. "My BEST days at school are when I see students creating good things for themselves. I get SUPER excited to hear that students are loving their coop placement, or signed as an apprentice, or got accepted into

the university or college program they had as their #1 choice. The students at Ancaster High School are so diverse in their interests and goals that I really like hearing all their great ideas and love to see their plans come together when they graduate,” he exclaimed. Another important factor that has helped Mr. Baker effectively work with students is the use of new technology. Mr. Baker comments: “Technology has made guidance counselling WAY easier. In my first couple of years, we were still filling out college and university applications on PAPER and mailing them in. We didn’t have email to communicate, we had to phone everyone. We couldn’t just look things up on the internet (because there was no internet) we had to look everything up in print form. I am able to accomplish way more in a day than I could twenty one years ago when I first started as a Guidance Counsellor.” Surely technology has made the job easier however, I was curious to know about the highs and lows of this career and Mr. Baker shared the best and toughest moments in his job. “The best thing about Guidance is when you feel like you actually made a difference for a student or a teacher or a parent. The toughest thing is, you can’t actually change someone’s life for them, they have to do it. There have been many disappointing days when students do not follow through with their plans and end up not happy or in bad situations in their lives. Fortunately, at Ancaster High I have had tons of good days and not many bad ones.”

Reflection of Experiences at Ancaster High:

1. what are some of your fondest memories at AHS?

“Graduation is always a highlight for me. By the time graduation comes, I have gotten to know so many of the students and even lots of their family members that I really feel close to them. It gives me such a good feeling to know our graduates are going to move forward and have great

lives. I have also made some really good friends here at Ancaster High School, especially in our Guidance Office. The fun times and also the tough times, that Mr. Nicholson, Ms. O’Sullivan and Ms. Desrochers and I share in the Guidance Office after hours will stick with me for the rest of my life.”

2. What has it been like working with some of the same, and new staff over the years?

“One of the best parts of being a teacher is that there are so many people to work with. I have found some really positive people (new and old) on staff that give me energy and make me want to come to work every day. I have to say that it makes me very happy to see students of Ancaster High return as teachers! I always hope to find some connection with my fellow staff members, we all come from different backgrounds and areas of interest, but usually we can find something in common to talk about and share.”

3. “Why and when did you decide to make this semester your last at AHS before you retire?”

This was the year that made sense for me to retire. My years of teaching experience and my age added up the retirement criteria and I also wanted to retire while I was still enjoying what I do. I have known some teachers who feel they want to retire, but can’t and they didn’t seem happy continuing on. I wanted to finish teaching while it still brought me lots of happiness.”

4. Any future plans going into retirement?

“Nothing big is on the horizon. I have some travel plans with my wife and friends and I plan on getting some part time work to keep me busy.
5. Do you have a message or legacy you would like to leave for students and staff?”
“I wish I had something impressive to say, but all I would want to leave people with is this message:

Ancaster High will not be the same without the presence of Mr. Baker and the Royal Gazette staff along with Ancaster High students and teachers would like to wish him a safe and happy retirement!

“

Find the things you like and are good at and do more of them. Find the people that make your life better and spend more time with them. If you are kind to other people and think about how they feel, it will always help to keep you going in a good direction.

”



CELEBRATIONS

The Making of a Movement

The story of how Pride came to be is not an easy one.

by Sabrina Cagampan – *Junior Editor*



2019 marks the 50th anniversary of one of, if not the most recognized moments for the LGBTQ+ community and LGBTQ+ activism, the Stonewall Riots. Though gay rights movements did not start because of Stonewall, it's considered by many to be the catalyst for modern LGBTQ+ rights movements, as it forced people to pay attention to, and no longer ignore the voices of the LGBTQ+ community.

During the 60s homosexuality was a chargeable, criminal offence in the vast majority of States in America. Acts of homosexuality, gender nonconformity or anything that the police deemed 'abnormal' could result in fines or in imprisonment. This forced people to hide their truth in public, which lead many to frequent gay bars.

It all started at the Stonewall Inn gay bar in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. Stonewall Inn wasn't exactly the safest or nicest place for queer people seeking refuge. Patrons noted that bar was 'run down' and 'dirty', that the drinks were

watered down." In fact, Stonewall Inn was actually run by the mafia, who would both pay off the police in order to keep them in good favour, and blackmailed closeted gay business men and societal figures, threatening to tell their families that they are homosexual.

Despite the mafia having the police on their payroll, police raids on the bar were still frequent. Early on the morning of June 28, 1969, nine police officers entered the Stonewall

Inn, they arrested employees for sell bootleg alcohol without a licence and bar patrons that we not wearing 'at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing', and roughed-up many other people at the bar.

It is unclear how the riots exactly started, police removed people from the bar but many still gather outside the establishment in protest. Many will often question 'who threw the first brick at Stonewall', some point to Marsha P. Johnson or Sylvia Rivera - both prominent LGBTQ+ activists - as the person who threw the first brick, but both have gone on record to say that it wasn't them. Some people that were even there that night do not believe that it was a brick that ignited the uprising. Nonetheless people decided that they were done with the discriminatory treatment by police, this marking the start of the Stonewall riots that would last until July 3rd.

From the Stonewall Riots emerged the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance, two of the first big

In 1999, President Bill Clinton commemorated June as Gay & Lesbian Pride Month. In 2009, President Obama declared June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

LGBTQ+ rights.

The first Pride parades were held in streets of New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles on June 28, 1970, marking the first anniversary of Stonewall. Now, Pride parades have become a global and annual event taking place during June, which is why June is also known as Pride Month.

June 28, 1969 is one of the most important and influential days in LGBTQ+ history. In 2016, the Stonewall Inn and surrounding areas where the riot took place has been designated as a national historic monument by formed U.S. President Barack Obama.

In the years since, many organizations have recognized and honoured the groundbreaking progress done by the Stonewall Riots. 1971 the American Library Association has been recognizing books with outstanding representation of the LGBTQ+ experience with the annual Stonewall Book Awards, highlighting the best in fiction, non-fiction and children/young adult fiction the year had to offer.

Since 2014, the Playbill logo for Broadway plays and musical has changed from the typical yellow logo to the colours of the rainbow flag during the month of June, Pride Month. This year the Playbill pride logo features a bri-

ck pattern with the rainbow colour as an homage to the Stonewall Riots.

In the 50 years since the Stonewall riots society has come a very far with in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Unfortunately life isn't perfect for many people in the LGBTQ+ community, but like how the patrons at the Stonewall Inn fought for their rights, we look back at them both in recognition and as inspiration to continue to fight.

EXTERNALS

The Impact of Media on Climate Change



by Anika Kanagarethnam - *Writer*



Climate change is a rising issue that is becoming a bigger problem everyday. However, it has become a popular topic that people talk about on multiple platforms. Media has a huge role on the impact of climate change. Nowadays, everyone uses devices to keep up with what's happening in the world around us. I feel like the media's image of climate change has definitely gotten notice from people.

There are also some celebrities that are involved with media and climate change. Some

celebrities are positively helping this issue and are trying to save the earth. A few of them are Leonardo Di Caprio, Emma Watson, Pharrell Williams, and Brad Pitt. However, there are some celebrities who have other opinions on climate change, and viewers could get influenced by anyone in the media. Overall, I believe the influence of celebrities could be positive, depending on how the viewers see it.

The media's image of climate change can be effective. People go onto media to find all

the information they need. Talking about climate change brings more awareness to more people. It also reaches all ages of people. Some people might hear about it on social media, not knowing much about it at all until they see it in the media. Others may read about it in news articles. Some people that follow celebrities on media can even be more aware of climate change that way. Due to media, we can learn more about the long-lasting consequences of climate change. Not just how it affects us today, but in the future as well.



INTERNALS

The Hall of Distinction

Ancaster High celebrates some of this year's stand-out students.

Above: Inductees in the Hall of Distinction stand in the Library Learning Commons. (The Royal Gazette)

by Ashley Barry - Club Advisor



Since the first graduating class in 1959, Ancaster High has influenced success in the lives of students for sixty years. A countless number of former Ancaster High students have gone on to accomplish amazing things in their personal lives and career and have been inducted into our Hall of Distinction. The school has produced many esteemed individuals such as Daniel Lanois who previously in 2015, was inducted into the HOD. Daniel went to Ancaster High from 1966 to 1969. He is a seven time Grammy Award winner, five Juno Award winner and produced U2 album 'Joshua Tree' which one the Grammy for Album of the Year. Daniel Lanois is just one example of a former student who has left a positive impact in our society since leaving the halls home to the Royals.

This year, Ancaster High inducted five more former students in the Hall of Distinction. Chosen by the selection committee: Reg Varghese (head of science),

Jeremy Russell (head of humanities), Ralph Hankenberg, former staff members, Joan Milliard, Cathy Dunn, Jason Smith and community members, Mike McKague, Al Zucker and Jan Lucas; these were the 2018-2019 inductees: Zigmund Misiak (Ziggy), Dr. Lawrie Oliph-

“

It was so moving to hear from former students, who have gone on to accomplish great things, and their impact they've had on a lot of people. To hear them talk about the influence Ancaster High had... was very inspiring.”

— Mr. Gallant

ant, Monte Hummel, Jennifer McCartney and Brad Martin.

Held on the evening of June 6th, Ancaster High hosted the Hall of Distinction Ceremony in the Library Learning Commons. Different from the previous years where the ceremony was held assembly style in Ancaster High's auditorium, inductees had the opportunity to be honoured in front of their friends and families, while chatting with students and former teachers and enjoying a spread of food. The ceremony commemorated their outstanding achievements and celebrated their experiences at Ancaster High and Mr. Gallant, Ancaster High's current principal of six years was very proud to be a part of this fantastic event. He shares that “It was so moving to hear from former students, who have gone on to accomplish great things, and their impact they've had on a lot of people. To hear them talk about the influence Ancaster High had in their lives when they were students here was very inspiring.



Above: Superintendent Jane Macpherson, Mr. Varghese, Mr. Currie, Chair of the Board Alex Johnstone and Mr. Gallant at the Hall of Distinction ceremony. **(The Royal Gazette)**

to listen to,” remarked Mr. Gallant, explaining how the event impacted him.

And their speeches were inspiring. These former students set an example for current students by showing that hard work can be rewarding.

The evening overall, was successful and is important to our community and Ancaster High, as we continue to discover the honourable accomplishments of former students who were once a part of this great school.

Mr. Gallant would like to conclude about the Hall of Distinction on this note:

“It’s events like this where we recognize students and whatever field they happen to be into and celebrating the great heights they have accomplished and the amount of people they have impacted in different ways. I think this is important as an educator to show that we can inspire our students and that great things are achievable for you when you put your mind to it and work hard, and I think that is the most important part and that the stories the inductees tell

are really telling them to our current students - these people who we’re recognizing for all their accomplishments sat where you sat too and were involved in clubs, activities and sports. So dream. Dream big and always remember the impact you can have by doing the little things. I feel privileged to be the principal of a school where all the inductees have attended.”

This year’s inductees include Brad Martin, an Olympic snowboarder; Jennifer McCarthy, a NYT bestselling author; Dr. Lawrie Oliphant, a clinic founder; Zigmund Misaki, an educator and author; and Monte Hummell, the president of WWF Canada.



Above: Mackenzie Smith presents Jennifer McCarthy with her Hall of Distinction award.

INTERNALS

Fun Fridays with the Spec-Ed Class

We take a look at a weekly musical tradition here at AHS.



by Vita Rao -
Writer



For the last six years, it has been a tradition for Mr. Gallant to sing and play the guitar for students in the special-ed program. The long-standing tradition began prior to his arrival at AHS when he recognized the rewarding aspect of performing for special-ed students. The experience gives students the opportunity to end their weeks with positivity and enjoy the music played. This year, he played along with Mr. Valance and Mr. Perkins singing a variety of songs including their routine ending pieces *Froggie Went a Courtin'* and *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*. The weekly event is filled with joyous laughing and singing. In fact, I had the opportunity to speak with one of the students, Mustafa. He has attended the weekly celebration for four years now and expressed that his favourite part of the tradition is the music. According to the staff involved, music has assisted them in reading and identifying words. Evidently, the weekly event is greatly beneficial and enjoyable for the students in the special-ed program. The event was an overall pleasure to experience!



Above: The special education class, along with Mr. Gallant, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Valance. **Below:** Mr. Gallant, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Valance playing songs for the class. (The Royal Gazette)



REVIEWS

Stratford’s “Little Shop of Horrors”

Stratford’s production of the legendary horror musical “Little Shop of Horrors” leaves its audiences hungry for more.

Above: Starr Domingue as Crystal, André Morin as Seymour Krelborn and Vanessa Sears as Ronnette in Little Shop of Horrors. (Chris Young/Stratford Festival)



by Jocelyn Mattka – *Writer*

On May 13, Ancaster High’s drama students had the chance to go attend the production of Little Shop of Horrors in Stratford. This one of a kind musical follows the events surrounding a floral shop, owned by Mr. Mushnik, after it has become the home of a rather peculiar plant that was affected during a total eclipse. Seymour, a meek florist, becomes fascinated with the plant and names it Audrey 2 after the girl, Audrey, who he is pining over. As the plant begins to grow at an astonishing rate it attracts both business and fame to the shop, changing Seymour’s life for the better. However, this plant requires human blood as its form of sustenance, creating for a Seymour an unfortunate dilemma; is holding on to the life he so desperately wants really worth everything it is going to cost? This production was incredible, keeping audiences engaged through the talent of the actors, the eye-catching choreography, and the deceptive

complexity of the set design all while exploring the answer to this unsolvable question.

A major part of what really made the production thrive was the cast. André Morin (Seymour) was able to portray the character in a way that made him both endearing and entertaining to watch. His nervous demeanor really projected the internal conflict of the character throughout the show and his constant high-energy performance kept audiences engaged from start to finish. Both Gabi Epstein (Audrey) and Steve Ross (Mr. Mushnik) were also very strong performers, keeping their characters both grounded and comical in a balanced manner. This allowed audience members to feel connected to the characters while also enjoying the lighter comic aspects of the show. These leads all played off of each other in such a way that the overall cast felt very cohesive. In addition, they all

also brought a high degree of vocal talent that was a pleasure to watch. Aside from these actors, what made the performance interesting was the investment and smaller comical roles from the supporting actors.

Did You Know?

In the film, a second, darker ending existed where all the main characters died - but it was deemed to disappointing for the movie, after test audiences reacted poorly to it.

As a whole, this cast worked together really well, constantly captivating the interest of the



Above: Gabi Epstein as Audrey and André Morin as Seymour Krelborn in Little Shop of Horrors. (Chris Young/Stratford Festival)

audience.

The next piece that really made this show stunning were the choices made for blocking and choreography. Although the musical is not incredibly dance heavy, the moments in which choreography was used were very effective. For example, the roles of Ronnette, Chiffon and

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This strange combination of musical theatre with semi-dark horror/science fiction is unique, hilarious and enrapturing.

was both precise and artistic. Crystal serves as the major source of narration for the show. In order for them to really come together as a coordinated storytelling unit, their movements are all required to be crisp and intentional. So much of their movement was precisely in sync and when they deviated from each other, the differences in their choreography still melded together in a way that

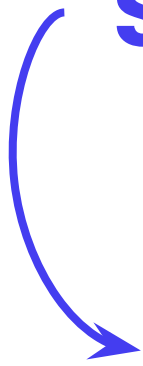
Throughout the rest of the show, the actors were constantly blocked in such a way that the space was being used effectively, but without making the audience feel like there was too much going on. This was also a great way to create contrast between the lighter atmosphere of the busy city streets in the beginning of the show, to the more serious atmosphere in the end when there are times when Seymour and the plant are alone on stage together and the feeling is much more still and ominous. Overall, this portion of the show was quite impressive and well done.

The final element of this show that stood out to me was the use of set. From first glance, it doesn't really seem overly complicated, with the floral shop serving as the major set piece for the show. However, upon looking closer it is clear just how much detail was put into it. All of the shelves were filled with various little jars and objects as well as the flowers, which was key to setting up the environment. As the show progresses, this set piece is also used to communicate the plotline. With the increase in the shop's business success, it physically

becomes filled with more brightly coloured items. Then again, later on still, when these shelves and details become blocked by the increasingly massive Audrey 2, it shows how literally the plant has taken over the store and the lives of those involved in it. All that aside, the plant itself was beautiful (or at least as beautiful as a man-eating plant can be) and the time put into creating it was very evident. Although there weren't really any other large parts to the set, the smaller details that were used to create the environment of Skid Row around the rest of the stage, such as a garbage can with a fire burning in it off the top, were also clever and interesting.

Little Shop of Horrors was a wonderful experience all around and I am extremely glad to have had the chance to go see it. This strange combination of musical theatre with semi-dark horror/science fiction is unique, hilarious and enrapturing all at the same time. The cast and crew in Stratford did a phenomenal job with the production, making it a must-see for anyone who has the means-it is sure to amaze! In the meantime, just remember: "Don't feed the plants!"

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