



**March 17, 2017**  
**Volume I Issue II**



# *News and Muse*

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## ***Message from the President***



Not being a snowbird, I am anxiously awaiting the nicer weather. Why does each winter seem longer than the last? And colder? But, the light at 7:00 p.m. is a great sign of better things – and weather - to come. We hearty Canadians have survived yet another one!

So, I'll dare to call this 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of *News and Muse* our "spring" newsletter. In it, you'll find information on upcoming events – note especially our spring outing in May and the special guest attending the event! Also, our Editor has initiated a new feature – an interview with an ACRA member. It's fitting that this issue's interview is with this year's Annual Dinner Dance Guest of Honour. I hope you enjoy reading the interview with Joe.

In the days and weeks to come, be on the lookout for information via email about new activities being offered to ACRA members as well as information on existing activities.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the newsletter – its content and what you don't see and would like added.

Be well,  
Maria

## ***Interview with Joe Jaroslowski***

*(Mario Tirelli)*

"If you don't hurry, I'm going to wait." This, I'm told, is what Joe says all the time. What follows is an *interview* with one of the founders of ACRA.

*Q: Tell us about your family.*

Joe: Both my parents were born in Canada, and while I have a Polish surname, my knowledge of the language is very limited. My father served with the Canadian Army in Europe during the Second World War so I didn't get to really know him until after the war. I was born in 1939 and my sister Maryanne was born in 1948. My mother was a seamstress and my father was a silk screen printer.

Helen Rychel agreed to put up with me in 1966 and continues to be a martyr. We have two daughters, Gayle and Patricia. Gayle and her husband, Patrick, live in St. Laurent and have graced us with a grandson, Simon, and two granddaughters, Gabrielle and Sophia. Patricia lives in Calgary with her husband, Colin, and our two granddaughters, Erin and Ava.

*Q: Where did you go to school?*

Joe: I attended St. Anselm School in grades 1, 2 and part of 3. We moved to Rosemount and I did the rest of my elementary school at St. Brendan's School. During this period, I was an altar boy at St. Brendan's Church with Father McManus. High school was spent at Cardinal Newman High where I suddenly learned how to be a pain

*(cont'd on page 5)*



## A 2016 Christmas Story

It began with Owen Condon, computer whiz that he is, personalizing each letter to principals of each EMSB and LSPSB school and centre. In early October, Charles Jeannotte brought the letters to LBPSB, while EMSB staffer Gina Mancini saw to her board's distribution. Twenty-two ACRA volunteers passed the muster and collected donations from 15 schools and one centre. Again this year Kevin Quinn and John Ryan rented and drove trucks for basket pick-ups and deliveries to homes. Kudos to all of them.



This year's grand delivery to homes took place mid-week, on December 21. After a slow start, gears meshed and the many hundreds of boxes flowed out of the church basement onto the trucks and away to homes in The Point. Our intrepid cheery ACRA volunteers were plenty, family and friends included. A special mention is for Sharon Meehan who again contacted her friend Loretta McCulloch and her dynamic daughter Vanessa Joy Lehman who in turn tapped their South Shore sports association. This year's contingent comprised of athletes from Université de Montréal's football team, Les Carabins, as well as players and coaches from Concordia's Stingers Football team.



ACRA provided a generous spread of sandwiches to sustain the volunteers through the afternoon. Merci.

In addition to our physical presence at basket time, the ACRA Christmas donations to the St. Gabriel's Food Bank totaled a very nice \$5415. These funds together with the proceeds of the annual ACRA Golf Tournament go a long way to help sustain the noble on-going efforts of Sister Dianna and her food bank helpers.



**Thanks again to all concerned. ACRA does good!**

Jerry Dunn

### Mario's Musings

"Work is expending effort on things we don't want to do. Passion is expending energy on things we love to do. The goal is to do no work."

"Good friends make us better people. They cheer us on when we hit bottom and keep us humble when we reach the top."

### Briefs from the Board

- ◆ The Board of Directors met on January 12 and March 2.
- ◆ \$1000 from ACRA's surplus will be donated to *Camp Caritas*, Fr. Baxter's summer camp. The donation will allow children whose parents cannot afford the cost to attend the camp.
- ◆ \$2000 from ACRA's budget will be donated to 1 or 2 other charitable organizations. Which one(s) will be determined at the April meeting.
- ◆ June Dinner Dance: it's becoming more and more difficult to maintain the cost to members at the same rate as in past years. After much work and negotiations by board members as well as other ACRA members, *Buffet Roma* has been reserved for \$62 per person which includes unlimited wine!
- ◆ Strathcona Credit Union is merging with the Education Credit Union. There won't be any changes for ACRA members as a result.
- ◆ Larry deGruchy has officially retired as the golf tournament MC. His inimitable style will be sorely missed!

## ACRA St. Valentine's Luncheon



On a frigid and frosty February 9, 56 ACRA members and friends gathered at Ristorante Meridiana in Laval to enjoy a wonderful lunch.

Our President, Maria Di Perna, warmly welcomed everyone and George Pajuk said grace.



Amid the smiling faces, handshakes, and kind embraces, it was heartwarming to feel the genuine camaraderie amongst those present!

As has become the custom, a red rose was presented to each lady at the luncheon. This year, an additional feature saw three lucky attendees, Carol Tynan, Gerry Carroll, and Suzanne Lukian receive a gorgeous exotic plant for their enjoyment!



Once again our St. Valentine's Luncheon was a most enjoyable and successful outing!



**To all former staff and former students of James Lyng:  
you are most welcome AND spread the word!**

**Yes  
You can go back!**

We're having a Homecoming  
on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 6 p.m.  
for all students who attended  
**James Lyng High School, 1967-2017**

We'll be celebrating at the school,  
5440 Notre Dame St. W., Montreal  
Admission: \$40.  
Light refreshments/cash bar/music and dancing

To buy a ticket or for more information,  
please email  
jihshomecoming@gmail.com

**19th Annual ACRA Golf Tournament**

Co-Chairs:  
K E P  
E V E  
N I R  
M Y A  
W O R  
S K I  
M A R  
C I N  
Z I A  
K

**Wednesday, July 5, 2017**

**Club de Golf Belle Vue - Châteauguay**

Arrival - 11:30am Shotgun Start 12:30pm  
Best Ball Format

**Registration Fee**  
Early Bird Special: \$110 (Register & pay by June 1)  
Regular Price: \$125 (After June 1)

All proceeds  
to St. Gabriel's Food Bank serving  
the entire Point St. Charles area

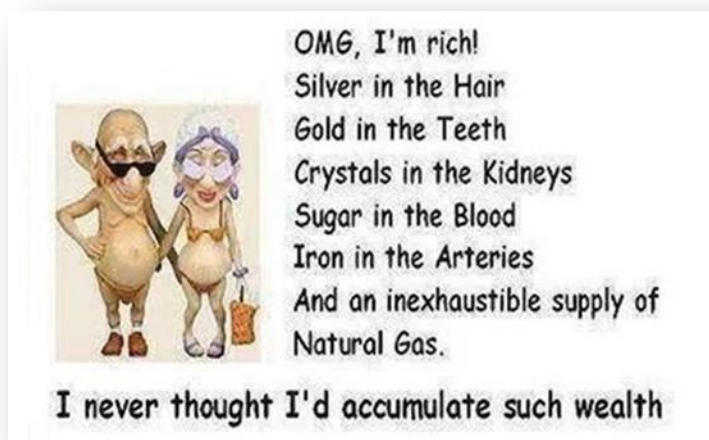
Complete details: [www.acracan.org](http://www.acracan.org)



## Olga Hrycak elected to the Basketball Canada Hall of Fame!

Olga Hrycak was a pioneer for female coaches in basketball. In 1984 she became one of the first females to be part of a men's Olympic coaching staff and she was the first female to be an assistant coach with the Canadian national team (1985-1987). Olga was also the first woman in North America to lead a men's university team, winning two provincial championships (2006 and 2010).

Congratulations, Olga! You continue to receive well-deserved recognition for your tremendous contributions to our youth through sports!



We hear that some ACRA members are causing quite a stir down south. That's the ACRA spirit!

**Mario Ferri** enjoying golf and BBQ on the beach!..... **Wally Martin** playing golf and enjoying politics with Mr. Trump!..... **Kevin Marciniak** and **Peter Yaworski**, our Golf Tournament chairmen, enjoying the warmer climates and sharpening their game!



# Save the Dates!

## ACRA Special Spring Event

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 11:00 am

McCord Museum  
Aislin 50 Years of Cartoon



ACRA's Special Guest:  
Terry Mosher!

More details to come  
via email re the visit and  
lunch.

## ACRA Annual Dinner Dance

Thursday, June 8, 2017



Guest of Honour  
Joe Jaroslowski

Join us as we honour Joe for his many years  
of work and immeasurable commitment to  
ACRA. Mark your calendars!

If you would like to be on the planning committee to help with this tribute, please contact Peter Yaworski at (450) 656-7722 or [yaworski.ja@sympatico.ca](mailto:yaworski.ja@sympatico.ca)



# St. Patrick's Day Lunch

## ERIN GO BRAGH!

On a sunny March 16th, amidst smatterings of green and chattering's of winter weary ACRALites, our 47 luncheon attendees gathered to celebrate the end of winter and St. Patrick's Day.

Our President, Maria Di Perna, in a resplendent bright green top, gleefully greeted our members and Gerry Carroll said grace in his own Gaelic tongue!

Charles O'Jeannotte graciously provided entertainment in the form of his Karaoke machine. Charles graced us with his dulcet tones including some Irish drinking songs! Thank you, Charles!

After lunch, some ACRA members joined in the fun and sang their favorites while others sang along to some Irish and other choice ditties.

A random draw was held amongst the members present for some Irish spirits to be enjoyed on St. Patrick's Day! Fittingly, the winner was Gerry Carroll! Drink in good health, Gerry! A strange-looking leprechaun left some edible gold coins for the other members!

At least for a few hours, all the Irish eyes and non- Irish eyes were smiling as another successful ACRA luncheon came to pass!



### Interview with Joe Jaroslowski (cont'd)

in the "...". I did manage to get my high school diploma, but just! At that time I worked on weekends at Steinberg's as a wrapper. At graduation time, Steinberg's had an event for graduates and I was offered a job in Junior Management (whatever that meant). I went to work for them that July and began training. However, early in September, I was called to the personnel office to meet with a Mr. Rabinovitch. He had received a call from Brother Daniel at Cardinal Newman telling him that I had applied to go to 5<sup>th</sup> high in a commerce course and that I should follow this (I later learned that there were so few applicants that there was a danger that the course would cease to exist.). Mr. Rabinovitch urged me to return to school and guaranteed me a better job after completing 5<sup>th</sup> high.

*Q: What made you decide to become a teacher?*  
Joe: After completing 5<sup>th</sup> high I was ready to take on an office job! I was hired by C.I.L. Paints as a

shipping clerk. Because I had completed 5<sup>th</sup> high, my salary was \$185 per month, rather than \$180 per month. Within a year I became the production scheduler at the plant replacing a person who had done the job for 10 years and was retiring. My salary went up to \$300 a month. I got ulcers! At about this time I purchased my first car, a 1951 Hillman convertible. I held this job for a couple of years. My friend from my wrapping days at Steinberg's, Steve Pavelko, had enrolled at Saint Joseph Teacher's College. It sounded good to me but I needed advice! I went to see the personnel manager at C.I.L., a man named Harry McBride, and asked him what he thought. His reply was to go teacher's college and, if I needed a summer job, one was open for me. So for the second time a personnel manager offered me good advice.

*Q: How did you enjoy teachers' college?*  
Joe: Teachers' college was a real adventure. Here I was a guy who attended an all boy's high school and

suddenly was surrounded with a student body that was 3 to 1 female. Wow! The first year went well enough, but at Christmas of the second year, I was told that I was expelled for lousy grades! Yet I was still expected to take over the class my partner Frank Fitz filled before Christmas. So off I went to St. Alice School for my grade 6 class. The following year the shortage of teachers was still there and I taught another year at St. Alice. In September 1962 the principal, Mr. Bill Burns, asked why I was not returning to St. Joe's and I told him that they would not accept me. His response was, "we'll see about this." Fifteen minutes later I was called down to the office for a phone call. It was St. Joe's and I was back in.

*Q: How and when did you become a school administrator?*

Joe: They let me loose with a teaching diploma in 1963. I taught for seven more years. During this time I was interested in the teachers' association, FESCT, and served as Vice President. I also worked with Steve Pavelko as the assistant manager of the FESCT Credit Union. While teaching grade 7 at Edward Murphy School, a position became available at the MCSC for a personnel officer. Because of my experiences with Mr. Rabinovitch, Harry McBride and Bill Burns, this seemed like the ideal job for me. I saw myself being able to help people as I had been helped. This lasted a little over a year but politics at the board annoyed me and when an opportunity to return to a school as vice-principal came up, I jumped ship! I was a vice-principal for 6 years. Suddenly the surge of new students began to ebb. I was promoted to principal at St. Anthony's School, but it only lasted a couple of years as schools were closing and seniority took its toll — back to being a vice-principal and then a principal and then a vice-principal, over and over again. Although I never taught a day of high school, because of seniority, I became Vice-Principal at Vincent Massey Senior High School. I felt very unsure of myself but a marvelous staff and a great principal, Jim Tetu, made this a very positive experience for me. After three years, I was back as principal at St. Edmund of Canterbury and St. Brendan's Schools. I retired as Principal of St. Brendan's in 1997.

*Q: How did you become involved with ACRA?*

Joe: During my time as a school administrator, I served on the boards of QACSA and ACPM, and,

in the year I retired, as president of ACPM. During the time that I served on both the boards, I looked after hotel arrangements for workshops and social events. On retiring, I remained on the Board of ACPM as the representative of retired members, because the ACPM always had a very close relationship with retired members. Such things as the annual workshop and annual dinner were attended by all. I continued in this position until the merger of the school boards. The board of ACPM wished to continue its contact with retired members. In 1998, after the merger of boards and associations, ACRA was formed. I have had the opportunity to serve on the board of directors of ACRA as Social Chairman, Treasurer, President and Past-President.

*Q: Tell us about your community involvement.*

Joe: For the last forty years I have been a member of the Saint Bruno Lions Club and have filled just about every position. Unfortunately, membership growth has been very low the last few years and we now have only five members. This has hampered some projects but we continue to raise about \$10,000 per annum and support many causes such as guide dogs for the disabled and food banks. I have been active in my parish, St. Augustine of Canterbury, and have served as a warden on numerous occasions as well as serving a seven-year stint as chairman of the fabrique.

*Q: You're renowned for your numerous travels since your retirement. Tell us about that.*

Joe: Since my retirement, one of my goals has been to spend my children's inheritance and I have pursued this goal through travel. Helen and I have been to Australia and New Zealand, a dream I had for a lifetime but didn't know why. We've been to China, taken a few cruises in the south and even a Mediterranean and trans-Atlantic cruise. Our latest kick is European river cruises. We have taken three so far and are scheduled for a two week river cruise of France this summer. Aside from all these foreign trips, we have travelled from coast to coast in Canada and the U.S., both by air and by car. Of course there are usually two trips per year out west to see the crew in Calgary and to witness our star ringette and lacrosse players in action.

*Q: I hear you were quite a prankster. Would you like to share one of your favourites?*

Joe: My funniest and most satisfying experience



was a prank I pulled on Wally Martin. Wally would not attend an annual dinner because he claimed the buffet used paper napkins. Of course the napkins were cloth and I gave the waiter five dollars for one. I then passed it around to all the tables and had people autograph it and make comments on the napkin. I then mailed it to Wally, but put Larry DeGruchy's address on the envelope as a return address. Larry accepted the joke but Wally was not happy with me. I think I lost seven minutes of sleep over this.

Today:

Joe enjoys the "ROMEO" lunches and hitting the golf course on Wednesdays, especially for the camaraderie, as he doesn't take the game seriously. When asked about some pet peeves, he answered, "I hate politics and dislike people who take themselves too seriously." As we all know, Joe continues to be a most important part of what makes ACRA special. Thank you, Joe, and we wish you, Helen, and all your loved ones the very best!



The Irish have the lowest stress rate because they do not take medical terminology seriously .....

Medical Term	Irish Definition
Artery	- The study of paintings
Bacteria	- Back door to cafeteria
Barium	- What doctors do when patients die
Benign	- What you be, after you be eight
Caesarean Section	- A neighbourhood in Rome
Cat scan	- Searching for Kitty
Cauterize	- Made eye contact with her
Colic	- A sheep dog
Coma	- A punctuation mark
Dilate	- To live long
Enema	- Not a friend
Fester	- Quicker than someone else
Fibula	- A small lie
Impotent	- Distinguished, well known
Labour Pain	- Getting hurt at work

**Calling ACRA members,  
"Get yourselves in "gear"!"**

ACRA cycling returns on Tuesdays starting in April.

We now have two groups for your cycling pleasure:

**CARRAVELO**

(for information contact Richard David at 514-637-6495)

**VELOAMIGOS**

(for information contact Al Fitzgerald at 514-626-1060)

**Happy cycling to all!**

