



The AD ASTRA PER ASPERA Newsletter



VOLUME 15 # 1

MAY, 2020

Sr Angella retires...last nun as Headmistress of ICCHS

By Carol Case

Special Edition

A TRIBUTE TO
SR. ANGELLA

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

President's Message 2

Tribute to
Sister Angella 5

What's happening at
ICCHS 6

Event Photos 4,8,10



Be Safe

While the foundations of ICCHS remain firmly rooted as a faith based Roman Catholic institution "committed to the total education of young ladies of high school age in an enriching environment where Christian values are promoted and exemplified and where excellence is encouraged", 2020 marks both the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter.

The Immaculate Conception Academy was established as a private school for young ladies, in January 1858 by the Franciscan sisters of Glasgow, under the leadership of Mother Veronica, who was also the foundress of this order. Mother Veronica had previously journeyed to Glasgow from the Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels in Tourcoing, France. Mother Veronica brought the same sense of "prayerful determination" with her that has characterized the Franciscan headship of ICCHS for the past 162 years, navigating dramatic changes in the world, country and Jamaican society, while adhering to the religious principles, discipline and academic excellence. Sister Angella Harris penned commitment to "prayerful determination" in her 2018 "Message from the Principal", celebrating the 160 year anniversary of ICCHS. "Throughout these 160 years, the ever present constant was, and continues to be, our faithful God. May all of us who are writing this part of the school's history that will be read in years to come continue to seek and trust our loving God"..... "But the legacy continues only if we build a home where our students are formed into women of integrity, guided by God. That is our challenge in these modern times, but the legacy will live on".

The retirement of Sister Angella Harris OSF, (officially celebrated January 2020), marked the end of an era of nuns in the leadership of Immaculate Conception High School. Her tasks included preparing her beloved school for an unprecedented transfer of leadership. In 2005, when Sister Angella became Principal of ICCHS,



Sister Angella Harris

she was the only Franciscan Sister on Staff. The school had less than 1600 students and 82 teachers (including over 10 male teachers). Other staff included 12 administrative and 15 ancillary workers.

In 2018, ICCHS had over 1720 students, 94 academic staff, 20 administrative and 14 ancillary staff. Over 40 school clubs and Societies of extracurricular activities exist where students develop additional expertise in academics, arts, service and sports! In addition to the longstanding Girl Guides, swim team and glee club, students now have the computer club,

robotics club, chess club, animation club, Jamaica automobile association, ICCHS symphony orchestra, United Nations, Junior optimist society, tutoring program, Christians in Actionplus access to 24 others. ICCHS has repeatedly won awards in track and field, tennis, swimming and other sports, locally and internationally.

The school website states "ICCHS students continue to excel in academic performance on the GSAT, CSEC, and CAPE evaluations. Between ninety-five percent (95%) and ninety-nine percent (99%) of the graduates go on to tertiary studies."

It was spectacular to see over 1700 students assemble quietly and orderly into the courtyard. Suddenly there was a joyous eruption of cheering and waving as the assembly glimpsed Sister Angella trying to slip away, quietly, from her office to leave for cancer therapy. We were touched by the heartwarming proof of the loving relationship shared between Sr Angella and her extended family.

We all hope for a long, healthy, meaningful life where we use our God given gifts and opportunities to contribute to our world. Cancer changed the anticipated trajectory of life and Sr Angella has spent the last few years in a battle for her life, with many days spent receiving aggressive cancer treatment, then returning to office and continuing her work as Principal.

Continues on Page 3



Greetings ICCHS Sisters,

My message comes to you at this unprecedented time when we are all facing tough health and economic challenges due to the Novel Corona virus. I convey my heartfelt sympathy to you who have been affected by the virus. You will always be in my thoughts and I join my committee members in wishing you a speedy recovery.

This pandemic has drastically disrupted the lives of every individual by transforming our world. "Social Distancing" and Self-Isolation" are now the new norms of our lives. As a community, we must do our best to contain the spread of Covid-19 by adhering to physical distancing in every way we can. By practicing this simple action, we can mitigate the spread of the virus.

As a means of complying with the guidelines of the provincial health authority, the Executive Body of the chapter has decided to cancel our annual dinner and dance scheduled for May 30th. All our remaining events are being constantly monitored by your Board-members to determine whether to proceed. Please visit our web page for all updates with regards to any cancellation.

Despite being isolated, our marketing and communication team has compiled articles and created this special edition of our annual newsletter dedicated to Sister Angella Harris. The many tributes to Sister Angella, from a wide cross-section of ICCHS alumnae and presidents of chapters worldwide, provide an amazing addition to our newsletter. As you read this newsletter, I hope you will get an insight into the outstanding work Sister Angella has done during her time as principal of our alma mater.

In closing, I want to extend a warm welcome to those who are new to the chapter. A special "thank you" to the committee members and our unwavering supporters of the Toronto Chapter.

Stay safe in God's blessings.

Novelette Graham-Hart, CIM
President, ICCHS Toronto Chapter

Ad Astra is published by the
Immaculate Conception High School
Alumnae Association-Toronto Chapter.

May, 2020
Volume 15, No. 1

I.C.H.S. Newsletter

Editorial Staff and Webmaster
Heather Bubb-Clarke

Cheryl Naylor Membership

I.C.H.S. Executive Committee 2015-2017

Novelette Graham-Hart	President
Sandra Hardie	Vice President
Cathrine Sani	Treasurer
Jo-Anne Haddad	Assistant Treasurer
Cheryl Naylor	Corr. Secretary
Francine Leung	Recording Secretary

Floor Members

Heather Bubb-Clarke	Nicole Lyew
Carol Case	Yvonne Lyew
Michele -Ann Cardozo	Tanya Tenn-Hugh
Jeanette Chin	Ina Williams
Dianne Collins	Annette Wong
Jacqueline Lue	Sadie Wong



Sister Angella addresses the Hall of Fame attendees 2019

I had the privilege and pleasure of working with Sister Angella on Rebuilding the Food and Nutrition labs; and currently, interviewing her for our ICHSAA (Toronto Chapter) 2020 newsletter



When and where were you born?

Hannah Angella Harris was born at Spaldings Hospital on Feb 20th 1960, the 5th of 6 children. She grew up in the hills of Clarendon with 4 sisters and 1 brother.

What is your most cherished family tradition?

My most cherished family tradition was on Sunday, when the family went to the early service at St Michaels Anglican Church. I delighted in watching the sun rise through the east-facing stained glass at the altar.

Why is this important?

The overwhelming beauty and sense of nearness to God and His creation.

Describe a person or situation from your childhood that had a profound effect on the way you look at life.

In grade 9 my group of close friends included a Catholic girl who invited me to come to a Catholic youth camp. Special permission for me to attend, was granted by Father Charles. The camp was life changing. Miraculously, the Catholic church rectory was on the road beside where I lived, and I went almost daily for mentoring focused on becoming a Catholic nun.

Father Charles amusingly reminded me that one first had to be Catholic, before becoming a nun.

(Sister Angella became a Catholic at age 22)

What was the most influential experience in your life?

At 17 years old, while attending a Christian meeting, I was strongly struck by the fact that society forces the belief that one must get married to be happy. I had a revelation and insight that a person can live a happy and fulfilled life, while remaining single.

Who is the person who influenced your life the most?

Sister Francis and Father Charles were the mentors who influenced my life the most. The first nun I ever met was Sister Francis, an Alleghany Franciscan from Highgate.

We met while attending a 1-day Girl Guide patrol leaders conference, and among other interests, shared a love of writing. When I told her that I wanted to become a nun she offered open communication and was always available to respond on church related matters. We exchanged many letters.

Sister Francis and Father Charles were the mentors who influenced my life the most.

What was the greatest thing about your career as ICHS Principal?

I was functionally married to ICHS! Our students were already academically sound on arrival. ICHS provided these young ladies wide opportunities to develop other talents in Arts, music, sports and excel in other areas.

What did you love and value the most?

The time spent helping my “children” navigate through so many struggles endured during their teenage years.

What was your happiest or proudest ICHS moment?

My happiest and proudest moment was when our grade 13 student entered an international competition on Climate Change and was one of the finalists invited to Dubai. She won the international competition.

The other happy and proud ICHS moment was when the Solar project got going and we were the first school in Jamaica to achieve this and realize the benefit of the huge savings in electricity costs .



Solar Power now at ICHS

Continues on Page 7

ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
TORONTO CHAPTER

Invites You to Established on June 18, 1979

"Step 'N Strut"

Dinner & Dance
Saturday, June 1, 2019

Sts. Peter and Paul Banquet Hall
231 Milner Ave., Scarborough, Ont.
North of 401 and West of Markham Rd





On behalf of the Executive body and members of ICHS International Alumnae Association, I salute you Sister Angella, for the exemplary, dedicated and outstanding educator you are. Your passion and vision of fostering “an environment where goodness and honesty are exemplified and promoted, where excellence is encouraged and the potential of each individual is patiently nurtured” is evident not just in the school’s ranking as one of the top schools on the island, but also in the majority of young ladies who endeavor to further their academic journey with excellence. You have diversified and brought this academic institution to the 21st century with additional studies and interests, such as Computer Science, Sociology, Film Making, Sign Language, Steel Band and Orchestra to list a few. These areas of studies were practically unheard-of decades prior to you taking the reins as Principal of that prestigious academic institution. You carved other career-focused paths and made it possible for those students who had other dreams and aspirations outside of the traditional medical or secretarial fields to flourish. Your total commitment to the development of well-rounded ladies to take on the challenges that this world will bring will never be forgotten. These young sisters are well prepared to manage their dreams, goals and life. Your legacy will truly stand the test of time and will impact the trajectory of Immaculate Conception High School for years to come. Rest well and easy, Sister Angella, confidently knowing your years humbly serving as a former teacher and principal was a job exceptionally well done.



Sister Angella sharing special moments with past students and clergy



The Students are helping to clean up their environment—the beaches and road sides



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HIGH SCHOOL AND HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENT

Sister's Praise

A RETIREMENT GOSPEL CONCERT FOR SISTER ANGELLA HARRIS

PASTOR SHIRLEY CAESAR

KEVIN DOWNSHIRE, JERMAINE EDWARDS, GEORGE WOODS, DESSI-ANN YETMAN, DJ REBIRTH, ICHS VINTAGE BAND, SHERLON RUSSELL

TICKET PRICES

PLATINUM \$7,500.00 (INCLUDES UNLIMITED FOOD AND OPEN BAR (NON-ALCOHOLIC))	GOLD \$4,000.00 (INCLUDES FOOD AND OPEN BAR (NON-ALCOHOLIC))	SILVER \$2,000.00 BRONZE \$1,000.00	CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$3,000.00 AND UP
---	---	--	--

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS
STARTING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8-22, 2019 - \$2000.00 OFF PLATINUM AND GOLD TICKETS
\$500.00 OFF SILVER, BRONZE AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 TICKETS ON ALL TICKET PRICES

SPECIAL GATE PRIZES!!!

FURTHER DETAILS AT: **Open**
FOOD AND DRINKS ON SALE

PROCEEDS IN AID OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HIGH SCHOOL'S SOLAR PROJECT

A concert was held honouring Sister Angella

FUNDING REQUIRED YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...

We are seeking funding for a Water Harvesting and Sewer Management System (WHSM) for the Immaculate Conception property which will be suitable to meet the present and future needs of all facilities on the premises, and reduce demand on the city's inadequate water supply.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

SISTER ANGELLA RETIRES...

Cont'd from Page 3



Looking back on the last five years of your ICHS career, what is the highlight?

Our dedicated teachers struggled to embrace new technology. Working with them as they embraced and achieved competence in technology was a highlight of the last five years of my career as Principal. The other highlight of the last five years, was watching our students excel in so many areas.

What would you like your students to remember about you?

That I cared deeply about them.

What do you do for fun? What do you look forward to now?

When I was at Mount Alvernia, I enjoyed gardening for fun. Once I arrived at ICHS there was no time for that however I continue to enjoy our many sports.

What's your best piece of advice for living?

Since dealing with cancer, I have grown even stronger in the belief that one should stay away from negative people. *(Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart above anything else you have, because it determines the kind of life you will live. Paraphrased: Be careful how you think, because your thinking results in actions that have either a positive or negative effect upon your sphere of influence.)*

As ICHS transitions from the "end of an era" to the "new chapter", we look back on the 2008 interview for the

publication "150 years- A Commemorative Journey", when Sister Angella envisioned ICHS of the future as a school comprised of a cohesive family with strong bonds between students, parents, staff and administration,... and 10 years later, as she prepared to transition from Franciscan headship... ending an era and beginning a new chapter. "In this 160th year, we are building new structures, (Food



and Nutrition labs and a 9 room block). But the legacy continues only if we build a home where our students are formed into women of integrity, guided by God. That is our challenge in these modern times." (ref 3).

An echo of the same sense of prayerful determination of Mother Veronica in 1858, that characterized the Franciscan headship of ICHS for the past 162 years.

Thank you Sister Angella Harris, for investing 15 years dedicated to serving God at ICHS

Welcome to the new ICHS Principal, alumna Ms Bridgette Pinto, in our prayers as you continue the legacy of building a home where students are formed into women of integrity, guided by God.

Ref 1: ICHS Mission statement

Ref 2: Franciscan Centenary 1857-1957

Ref 3: ICHS Celebrating 160 Years (1858-2018) pg6, Message from the Principal

Footnote: In 1879, when the Franciscan Sisters of Glasgow were no longer able to send sisters to Jamaica, their vision and work in the field was taken over by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegheny, New York, who continue to provide strong governance structure for the institution.

Our Annual Old Fashioned Picnic



Upcoming Events

ALL EVENTS FOR 2020

ARE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

- ANNUAL OLD FASHIONED PICNIC
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON
- ICHS HALL OF FAME 2021

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome little Ones



Welcome Landon Derrick Cooper, 8lbs 13oz, 20 inches May 27, 2020 @ 3:19am
Proud grandparents Cheryl & Chris Naylor
Mummy Stephaine
Daddy Kai



His name is Sean Sebastian Lue. Proud parents are Craig & Nicole Lue. He is the first grandson of Derrick & Jacqueline Lue. He was born on July 8, 2019.

A tribute to a special teacher...

Teachers play an important part in shaping the minds of every student. A teacher is more than an educator. He or she can be the guiding force in our lives even after we pass through the gates of our school. Our successes and triumphs are in part due to the tireless devotion of our former teachers; we do owe them a debt of gratitude.

Today, I would like to honor Ms. Angella Harris (my Grade 9 math teacher), now known as Sister Angella Harris, our recently retired principal. Sister, you have been that teacher who never turned away any student who sought your help after class.

Thank you for inspiring me to develop my obsession with the art of problem-solving through the concept of arithmetic. My career in the financial industry is a testimony to your teaching-related attributes. I will forever be grateful to you.

God bless!

Novelette Graham-Hart (class 85)



Sophia Robinson Garriques and Sister Angella

 **ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**
TORONTO CHAPTER 
Established on June 14, 1978

Invites you to a
Raptorus Brunch
Let's Celebrate Toronto's Victory
September 15 2019, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Rembrandt Banquet Hall
930 Progress Ave., Scarborough, Ontario M1G 3T5
Contribution: \$60 /person (Non Refundable)
\$55/person Early Bird, before August 31, 2017

Prizes & Surprises





Gone too Soon

Prayers and Condolence are extended to the families of ...



Phillip Williams Oct 10,1926—Oct16,2019 is survived by his wife of 65 years, Irene Rose, his children Debbie (Ian), Randolph (Lisa), Patricia (Lawrence) and Christine (John). Beloved Grandfather to Nicholas (Kristyn), Lauren, Chelsea and Julia. He will be sadly missed by his siblings, Michael (Louise), Anna (Steve, predeceased) and his many relatives and friends.



Gerald Romanus Lew, Jan 31,32 –Dec 28,2019beloved husband to Yvonne Lyew (nee Chung) and the late Barbara Lew (nee Wong). Loving father to Andrea Lew (Anthony Henderson) and the late Jerome Lew. Grandfather to Aaron Lew and Joey Henderson. Brother to Gloria Lew, Evelyn Wilson (nee Lew) and the late Zillah Low (nee Lew). Gerald will be lovingly remembered by his extended family and many friends.



Jerome Stephen Lew April 10,1970—Nov 25,2019 Is survived by Step-mother Yvonne Lyew, sister Andrea (Antonio) nephews, aunts, uncles and his many relatives and dear friends

Herbert (Humphrey) Lue , Aug 16,39 - Feb 25, 20 beloved husband of Audrey (Lee), and father of Christopher (Joji), Deidre Cheryl (Soong Joon Kim, decd) and Michael (Cecelia), grandfather of Darren, Megan, Alexander, Breanna, Lucas, Marcus and Kelly .



Margaret Alexander - mother of Debbie (Wendell), Matthew and John. Passed away on March 21,2020. May she rest in peace

Maxine Theresa Chin (nee Yee) July 3rd, 1941 – August 14th 2019 sister to : Herman (deceased) (Cherry), Patricia (deceased) (Hans), Kay (Desmond), Winnie and Conrad . She was the devoted wife to beloved husband, Tony, and a loving mother to Antonio (Silvia) and Farina (Gary).



Merline (Monica) Heypha (nee Chen) Watson, RN Feb 3, 49—Apr 2,19 beloved wife of David, mother of Michelle (Peter Blythe) of Toronto and son Stuart (Nancy Watson) of Calgary survived by her sisters Colleen and Margaret Chen and her brothers George, Winston, Carl, Philip and Timmy Chen

Sister Maureen Clare

Happy
85th Birthday

From The Toronto Chapter

Fay Young

Fay Dorothea Young passed peacefully on October 1 around 9:30 pm at Aurora Resthaven Nursing Home.

Fay was born on May 16th, 1928 in Kingston Jamaica to Alfred and Lily Wong. She married Joseph Michael Young in 1950 and they had 3 children: Michael, Dorothy and Wade. In 1966, they immigrated to Toronto and later sponsored and hosted many family members who settled in Canada.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, her son Michael, her sisters Minette, Sister Mary Agnes, Colleen, Alma and brothers Eric, Keith, and Maurice. She is survived by her loving husband, Joseph of 69 years, her sisters Luyette, Lesleen, brother Lee, children Dorothy (Roland), (Karina), Wade (Cynthia), grandchildren Katrina, Stephanie, Alia, Jason, Vanessa, Renata, Joseph, Philip, Mikay, Shaun, Alyssa, Kyle, great-grandchildren Elias, Taiya, Andrew, Austin, Kaden, Lucas, Alessandra, Kiana, Nicholas and 2 more who are on their way, and many nieces and nephews.

MEANY- Jeanne Yvonne, nee Blanchet: Age 92, late of Immaculate Conception High School and Immaculate Conception Convent passed away on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 after a short illness. She is sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 7th, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, Stony Hill, St. Andrew, at 10:00 am. Interment follows in the Family Plot in Toms River Cemetery, St. Andrew. Cheerful

Remember to pay your Dues ... Only \$30 per year.

Out of touch with class mates? Join Facebook

ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION TORONTO CHAPTER

ICHS Alumnae Association Toronto Chapter School

Established on June 15, 1975

Learn More Like Message



BOWER
HOTEL + SUITES



MH

**MANOIR
HIGHFIELD**

102 HIGHFIELD

MONCTON, NB E1C 5N5

506-381-6761

WWW.STAYBOWER.COM