

St. John's - Chundikuli Girls Colleges Past Pupils Association - Canada

Secretary's Report for the year 2006-2007

The course of a river does not end by bending; it gradually tapers and enters into the lake or a sea. Like wise the human chain grows bigger under the banner of past pupil association of our schools. Words cannot express my great pleasure, my gratitude and my sense of pride in having served as honorary secretary of the Alumni for the year 2006/2007. Like most of you, I was also able to draw on the merits of having studied at these colleges and the influence they had on us in shaping our future. Though serving on the committee was voluntary, it calls for devoting personal time, it has nonetheless been fulfilling and gratifying for me. This year, our event calendar was filled with a lot of successful events under the dynamic leadership of our chairperson Mr. Parmeswaran Rajkumar. Thanks for his dedication towards the association and the moral support expressed by Chairperson Mrs. Eillen Chinniah. My sincere appreciation goes for Mrs. Chinniah for contributing towards the association in spite of obstacles she experienced in her personal life. It was indeed a collective effort of the executive committee members, past pupils and well-wishers and we are thankful for their contribution.

This year created the biggest loss of two important personalities, who dedicated their life and time to serve with distinction at St John's over a period of time. One is our beloved principal late Mr. S. Thanabalan and other is the former vice-principal late Mr. S. Panchalingam. We salute these personalities and their memories will remain with us all time.

The following are the highlights of the year under review.

Executive committee meetings: The Meetings were held once in two months in the activity room at 83, Parkwoods Village Drive or at the multi-purpose room at 350 Alton Towers Circle. The committee met six times during the past year. Out thanks goes to Mrs. G.E.S.Chelliah for arranging the venue of our meetings whenever it is held in the activity room at 83, Parkwoods Village Drive.

Membership: We have ninety-one life-members (St. John's - 70 & Chundikuli - 21) to-date, which also include the current year in review, and we have thirty-five regular paid members. We welcome two new life-members newly enrolled this year. Our special thanks go to Mr.Deva Nalliah and other members of the membership drive committee who compiled and updated the membership list in cooperation with some others.

TSSA Badminton Tournament: We congratulate and thank Mr. M. Balakumar for representing St. John's and winning the over forty single championship in June 2006.

Annual Cricket Match: The annual 19th Central – St John's match, called in Jaffne as the "Battle of the North" was played on July 3, 2006 at Sunny Brooke cricket grounds in glorious weather with a huge crowd in attendance, and culminating in a thrilling encounter. Our team captained by Mr. K. Prashanthan provided their best effort and unfortunately lost by a small margin to Jaffna Central College. Well, not all was lost. The "Tenth Annual Masters over Forty" game, with many parents

participating with their families and cheering for the team. St John's captained by Mr. Andrew Balasudaram won the match against Centralities. Nevertheless, we extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who played, contributed and participated in both battles.

TSSA Sports day: We took part only in the Netball encounter held on August 6, 2006 at Sir John A McDonalds Sports Ground. We won the championship in Netball and did not participate in the regular march past. Our special thanks goes to all participants and sub committee in making this event a reality. Mrs. K.Thavarasalingham and Mr. Yoga Arulnamby sponsored the uniforms for the senior and junior teams. Our special thanks goes to Mr. A. Muraleetharan for his contribution in donating a tent for the association which will be utilized for our annual events. We continue to call for more participation and encouragement for this event from past pupils.

Vani Vizha: It was held on September 23, 2006 at 65 Green Crescent's circuit auditorium with more than one hundred people attending. The program consists of well-performed dances, vocal and instrumental programs performed by the past pupil and their children. We thank the sub-committee for their dedication and courage for making the event a successful one and evening concluding with a "prasatham" prepared by the committee members. Our special appreciation extended to Mr. T Gunaseelan for arranging the venue and the sub-committee lead by Mrs.Thulasi Ragunathan, Ms. Shiranee Vijendra, Mrs. Gowrie Muraleetharan and the team for making the event a great success.

Memorial Service: The memorial service was organized for our departed beloved principal on October 29, 2006 at St Ninian's Church and the service attended by huge number of past pupils and family members of Mr. S. Thanabalan. Our sincere appreciation goes to Mr. Para Sathiyaseelan for arranging the venue, Mr. Joel Joseph and family for organizing service and Mr. Vincent Sinnathuri and Mile Ahilan for providing refreshment for the evening. The contribution of seven hundred and fifty from the attendees and a special contribution from Dr. Thurai Ponnampalam were deposited to "Thanabalan Memorial Fund" in Jaffna. Thanks go to the contributors and members involved in organizing the service. The memorial service for Late Mr.S.Panchalingam is in review and the details will be informed to members by the new committee.

Carol Service: "The Glory of Christmas" is the brainchild of Mr. Joel Joseph was held on November 25, 2006 at Milliken Methodist Church. The singing by the Chundikuli and St John's Alumni Choir was excellent. We thank Mr. & Mrs. Joel Joseph for their untiring efforts in making the service a great success and may call the service as a mega event of the year. Our special thanks are also goes to the choristers, the musicians, the Milliken Methodist Church for their use of the facility during rehearsals, financial sponsors and the sub-committee who help co-ordinate the event. The committee appreciated the great responsibilities shouldered by Mr. Joel Joseph and requested him to continue his service with the team in coming years.

Eagle News: The new version of electronic eagle news named "Canadian Eagle" was released by the editor Mr. Para Sathiyaseelan and was highly commended by our members. The committee decided to release and circulates the printed version of the news in coming years as requested by some members. We thanked Mr. Para Sathyaseelan for his new approach and kindly request him to continue his vision in coming years.

Dinner Dance: Another new approach by our chairperson Mr. P. Rajkumar for organizing “Eagle Nite” which turned out to be a master blaster in profit, format and the attendance. It was a well-organized evening with a blend of the fashion show and skits, live dance, live musical band and visitors from outside Canada. The foreign participants include members from the United States, London, England and Australia. This event was held on February 24, 2007 at Princess party hall. Thanks to the sub-committee, all sponsors, advertisers and donors for making the event a very successful event.

Investment funds: The Association invested seven thousand dollars from life members fund in a secured investment fund under the guidance and advice provided by Mr. Para Sathiyaseelan the details are mentioned in the year’s Treasurer’s report.

Thanks

Before I conclude, it is my duty to thank old boys who have been always in the forefront of extending their financial support to us, in the form of advertisements and in kind. Also, people always spoke highly of our fellowship at the end of a Carol Service or Vani Vizha or Cricket Match or at the TSSA sports festival. All short eats and drinks served at these functions are voluntary contribution from members of the executive committee and few other well wishers. I take this opportunity to thank all of the above contributors for their sincere support, year in and year after.

My sincere thanks to some of the dedicated past pupils such as Mrs. G.E.S Chelliah, Mr. T. Gunaseelan and the vice-patron Mrs. Lydia Senthivel for their advisory support given to us.

I wish to thank the Social Secretaries Mr.S.D.Kulanathan and Ms.Kamalini Muraleetharan for their contribution towards this year’s activities.

I also would like to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated and energetic co-chairpersons, Mr. P. Rajkumar and Ms. Eilleen Chinniah for their advice and support.

Last but not least, thanks to all others in our executive committee and their spouses for their enthusiasm, support and their most valuable time for coordinating all activities.

Hoping this coming year will remain another successful one, with greater participation from past pupils. I wish the new committee and its members all the very best. Before concluding my report, I appeal to all members that in order to forge ahead and achieve continued success, we take serious note of the quotation:

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out”

Lux in Tenebris Lucet! (Light Shines in Darkness)!

Thank you.

Yoga Arulnamby

Hon. Secretary