

OVERSEAS OLD MARGARETIAN ASSOCIATION

THE LINK

March 2023



Photo of the new Sports Hall which officially opened September 2022.

Photo by QMS Student, Jason C. ('25)

THE PRESENT – 2023

Mary DeLury (Chair, QMS Board of Governors)

David Robertson (Head of School)

Sarah Milne (President, Overseas Old Margaretian Association – OOMA)

Heather Bartfai (Manager, Alumni & Community Relations)

Carey Pallister (QMS Archivist)

Cathy LaPointe (Chair, QMS Parents' Association)

Seonghee Park (Head Prefect)

Claire Nolli (Deputy Head Prefect)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICIAL NOTICE

To all Members of the OOMA, the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Old Margaretian Association will be held in person on
Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 11:15am
Karin Quinn Hall, Queen Margaret's School

Vancouver "Old Girls" Luncheon—Tuesday, March 28, 2023

QMS Founders' Day—Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Victoria "Old Girls" Luncheon—Wednesday, April 12, 2023

QMS Community Golf Tournament—Friday, May 6, 2023

Alumni Day—Saturday, May 13, 2023

QMS 2023 Speech Day—Friday, June 23, 2023

Details on these events will be on our website, QMSConnects.com and social media channels. For any questions, please reach out to Heather Bartfai, Manager Alumni & Community Relations at alumni@gms.bc.ca or 250.746.4185 ext. 105

Message from the Chair of the QMS Board of Governors



Dear QMS Alumni,

I hope that you are navigating the challenges of this time of year wherever you are. I find it very heartening myself to see how resilient our young people are, and it warms my heart when I walk onto the campus to be greeted by those smiling faces. I am happy also to let you know that the school continues to run very well with an encouraging culture underpinning everything.

In February, we held a Board Retreat where we conducted sessions with Senior Leadership on what 'our culture' means and what aspects of it we cultivate further, and what we must change to ensure we are being both authentic and effective. As a part of this, we enjoyed an uplifting presenter facilitating a couple of sessions, including one on 'Raising Resilient Children'. That is a topic that is close to our hearts as we wish to create that for the students at QMS, as resiliency is more important than ever with the speed we must adapt in our world today. After that, of course, we attended to all the usual Board business and our larger mandate of setting the school up for real success in its second century. Our Board continues to be nimble, and we are embracing change as we navigate the constant change of our current reality.

While travel may not have become as easy as it once was, we are all moving around much more freely so I hope that you will plan a visit back to campus at some point. I am sure you will experience the warmth and excitement of the QMS campus today.

On behalf of the QMS Board of Governors, I would like to express my deep gratitude once again for the support of the OOMA that we as a Board of Governors have felt over the years. We would love to continue to strengthen the bonds of community between all members of the QMS community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary DeLury'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary DeLury
Chair, QMS Board of Governors

Message from the Head of School



Hello QMS Alumni,

It's actually 'Robert Burns Day' as I write these words and, again, I've just subjected most of the school to what must have seemed an unintelligible rant in the form of 'An Address to the Haggis'! We did have way more than the Scottish dish available for everybody thankfully and we blended in some Lunar New Year dishes to reflect our multi-cultural school. It was something akin to the "Gung Haggis Fat Choi" event that is held in Vancouver (worth googling that)! All of that to say that we're making light of the often-miserable conditions that characterize this time of year where we come to school in the dark, go home in the dark and have often have a bit of rain into the bargain.

It's heartening to see the School of the present attend to the larger aspects of a complete education where the character, the values, the desirable traits and behaviours all combine to help form the type of people that we graduate from QMS. It seems to me that the Founders in particular were very committed to the qualities and characteristics that would help their students be prepared for life's inevitable challenges, and we are too.

As our Admissions Department has resumed travelling again, it has been very heartening to see reunions re-emerging in various locations around the country and indeed the world. Of course, those links can be maintained electronically too and I trust that you are enthusiastic about our new 'Graduway' program *QMSConnects*, that, as you will see, can keep as many of our larger QMS community connected as want to be. I hope that you will consider giving it a try. Well, it's still the 25th of January and I'm now thinking of the song that's brought more people together than perhaps any other and that's 'Auld Lang Syne', of course.

My best to you all wherever you are,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'D Robertson'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Robertson
Head of School

Message from the Manager of Alumni & Community Relations



Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying "*change is the only constant in life.*" In my almost 10 years at Queen Margaret's School, there has been a decent amount of change, but seeing it grow in student numbers (who, in turn become alumni) is wonderful to embrace.

2023 is the first year that will see boys who have attended QMS from Kindergarten through to Grade 12, graduate. I am also thrilled to say that the Class of 2023 has 11 'Lifers' graduating. Lifers are defined as students attending QMS for six or more years. This is the largest groups of Lifers that I have seen during my time here and it just shows how much our families believe in our school.

Congratulations to all alumni who are celebrating a milestone reunion this year. If there is anything that I can do to help facilitate a reunion, please reach out. Alumni Day 2023 will take place on **Saturday, May 13** on campus and we would love to see you. For more details, please see the upcoming events and announcements page in *The Link*, or on our website and social media platforms.

Engaging with alumni has always been a top priority for me and I am so excited that we have brought forth our new social platform QMSConnects. This is the perfect forum for alumni to offer mentorship opportunities and jobs, for students to ask industry and post-secondary pathway questions, as well as for staff to provide insights and elevate the QMS student experience. We also welcome past faculty and staff to join, share memories, and connect with former students and colleagues.

On *QMSConnects* alumni can create groups, reunion events, share news and updates and everyone can add/create photo albums of special events, all within a secure, private and welcoming forum. There is also an area to promote your business and post job opportunities. The possibilities are endless and I encourage you to join at **QMSConnects.com!**

I am thrilled that travel is back and we here at QMS are taking advantage of it. I was in Montreal hosting an Alumni Dinner back in September 2022, and our Admissions team helped host a few receptions in Vancouver, Tokyo and Mexico. Keep your eyes peeled on social media, *QMSConnects* and our website for more upcoming events in Canada and abroad.

Finally, thank you to those alumni who have come to visit the campus over the last year. It was wonderful connecting with you and hearing your stories and memories during your time at QMS. If you find yourself in the neighbourhood, please stop in and say hi—you are an important link of the QMS chain and I love to hear of your adventures after QMS.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Bartfai".

Heather Bartfai
Manager, Alumni & Community Relations
250.746.4185 ext. 105 hbartfai@qms.bc.ca

Message from the OOMA President

Connection! OOMA's initial inception was to facilitate connection between the QMS family past and present. Thanks to a dedicated group of OOMA volunteers we have also supported Heritage students attending the school, and protected archive material until the School was able to create space that we could all use. Modern communication facilitates real time sharing; written updates, photos, live video, and quick check-in exchanges are all possible now.

Thanks to our new *QMSConnects* platform we have a live 'Link' to each other! In May we will be shutting down the OOMA Facebook and Instagram accounts. Our new platform for communication and sharing will be through *QMSConnects* at <https://qmsconnects.com>. Please take some time to not only create an account, but to also navigate through the site, exploring how you would like to participate and stay current with the QMS scene. There are many possibilities available and the School communication team is available to answer any questions you may have. On the QMS website you will find links to QMS Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube—connect and follow on all your preferred platforms as all alumni communication will be released these platforms. If you would like to receive standard mail information, please contact Heather Bartfai, Manager of Alumni & Community Relations at the School. I am happy to report that the phone number and mailing address hasn't changed since I was in school!

Embracing change! I am in the fortunate position of being able to read *The Link* before it is sent out, and I am delighted to read the various perspectives that our contributing team has made. The School has indeed embraced the constant change that is daily reality. Thank you for your leadership Mary! We are a resilient community, and seeing practical tools of resilience being taught inspires hope. I believe that in order to be resilient we must be flexible, this means embracing change. It is possible to honour our traditions, shift values when necessary, all the while protecting and nourishing access to education. During the up coming AGM we will be discussing whether it makes sense for OOMA to continue as a non-profit society, separate from the School. Please join us in person on Alumni Day, Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Milne
OOMA President

Message from the QMS Archivist



Change is not only an inevitable and inescapable part of life, but also very much part of the work of an archivist. In 2017, Queen Margaret's School made a strategic change by agreeing to create a facility to house the archives at the school. As part of this decision, there was a shift in attitude towards the historic records of the School.

The historical records were, until 2017, the de facto responsibility of OOMA who had a room in the basement of the residence. This room was, when I came onboard, bursting and bug infested. The task ahead—daunting and exciting.

In October 2018, Queen Margaret's School gave the Archives a semi-permanent home in the renovated maintenance building. This transformation was a huge step forward towards centennial planning and the integration of archives into the curriculum.

This new space evolved to become a place of gathering and learning. The Archives welcomed alumnae, students, and other visitors between 2018 and 2021. The QMS Archives was growing and donations from alumnae and staff as well as from members of the local community were steady.

In 2019, I was so pleased to be asked to be part of a project for the first class of Grade 8 boys where we took an in-depth look at the life of former QMS student, Major Charles Ferguson Hoey VC, MC (1914–1944). This project, under the guidance of faculty member Danika Farrugia, brought the potential for the Archives to be used as a tool for teachers into the spotlight.

Change came again when we moved the Archives to its current space in the summer of 2021—this time into the 1990s addition to the rear of the Head's House (631 Brownsey Ave). This space, while not perfect for an archives, is certainly the nicest space I have ever worked in; with two large rooms, one for storage and one for gathering and working, there is lots of light, air and even a fireplace!

For the past two years, there has been an increase in interest from staff wanting to incorporate the use of archival records and primary source research into student projects. This is such an exciting and rewarding opportunity for me to share my knowledge and expertise with the next generation. The students (and staff) are amazed that this facility exists and students have done some incredible work as a result.

A few weeks ago, I think I may have made professional archival history when I introduced archives to the Grade 1 class at the request of their teacher, Heather Andrews. We talked about some of the animals who had lived on campus, and I was able to read to them a story that Miss Geoghegan had written about Edward the cat in 1950. We talked about caring for old paper and looked at some old photographs. A great-grandmother of one of the young student's had attended QMS in the 1940s, and also wrote the School Prayer, which I was able to show them.

Change, flexibility, and creativity keep the QMS Archives growing and relevant in the ever-changing milieu of school life. Archives, and the historical records that they hold, are not just old, lifeless records neatly arranged and stored, but are a living, ever growing legacy of a community whose spirit and steadfastness brought learning to students. The story was begun by the Founders and must be continued by us.

Carey Pallister
QMS Archivist

Message from the QMS Parents' Association (PA)

Hello QMS families both past and present! What a fantastic start to this school year! I'm happy to report that we are able to meet in person, host events and attend socials without restrictions this year. It's been a long time coming but we're really embracing this change as it's so refreshing to finally feel more connected with our school community.

This year the elected Parents' Association members are: I, **Cathy LaPointe**, PA Chair, alumni **Natalie MacGregor** as Vice Chair, **Kathy Henderson** as Secretary, **Sherra Collett** as Treasurer, and **Kirsty Grant** as Community Welfare, with **Sherra Collett** as Past Chair. The meetings are set for the first Monday of each month and are available via Zoom and in person. Our School now has 500 students and we are always looking for new members with fresh ideas or just to connect with more of our community. The growth of our Senior School has been very successful and we are loving the changes on campus. This change has happened quickly over the last couple years and we are very excited about it. As the PA Chair, I'm inviting you to come join us, meet some other parents and be more connected.

The PA has had two fundraisers so far this year. The first was "Created by Kids," an opportunity for art work to be completed by students and sent in to be made into a variety of wonderful gifts. What a fun and creative fundraiser! I'd like to send out a huge thank you to Cynthia Lockrey for single-handedly taking on this initiative earning \$1,859.40. The other was our traditional annual QMS Christmas Bazaar. I can't even begin to tell you how happy we were that we could host this inside this year. We had another amazing team of people organizing and hosting this event. A huge thank you to this devoted team of volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you. The vendor style market was so successful last year, we kept it the same for this year. We offered an authentic Christmas market experience with most of the vendors selling handcrafted merchandise or food. It was fabulous to have everyone under the same roof and share the experience together. The gym was full of local vendors, OOMA's historically wonderful gift table, crafty QMS, the used book sale, house hoodie pre-orders, poinsettia and wreath pick ups and a HUGE silent auction table with wonderful donations by the staff and families of QMS. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for contributing, you all blew me away. Presales of hot food were a hit again this year, the Stigma Free Club sold hot dogs and snacks during the event and our Model UN Team sold popcorn and baked treats to fundraise for their travels. Lastly, but certainly not least, was the main raffle which is always so well organized and distributed by one dedicated parent. Thank you so much Alana Smith for always stepping up and managing this for us. Our vendors were very happy with all their sales and can't wait to get invited back. This was such a fun event and we really were super excited and thankful to be back together again inside. The support from the QMS community was overwhelming, the QMS Christmas Bazaar raised over \$25,000. What a success!

The PA is launching one last spring Fundraiser. Look for this on the Community Resources tab on the qms.bc.ca website.

On behalf of the QMS PA, we sincerely thank OOMA for their dedication to QMS, its students, and their willingness to help us.

Sincerely,

Cathy LaPointe
QMS PA Chair, 2022–2023

Message from the QMS Equestrian Centre



It is commonly known that people fear change. Maybe not the kind of change that is brought about voluntarily in their own lives, but certainly a healthy concern for the kind of change caused by others.

Consider the following situations: your neighbour puts up a large fence made out of cheap construction materials, a local stand of trees is cut down to accommodate development, your work swaps out premium coffee for a cheaper (and far less tasty) alternative, your boss tells you the company has hired someone new above you who you will now be reporting to. How many of these situations would you naturally and comfortably 'embrace'?

The truth is, there are two sides to change. There is the side viewed from the initiator's perspective—generally welcomed or perceived as improvement—and the side viewed by those imposed upon. This side of change is far less appealing and the side that often strikes the fear of change in those impacted.

The key to embracing change starts with acceptance, for without it there would be no evolution, no progression, no innovation. By accepting that the only constant in life is change (a true oxymoron if ever there was one), we can begin to regain the sense of control we feel has been lost when change is thrust upon us.

Being a party to the change can help accelerate our level of acceptance—and comfort—with it. There are many "Change Management Professionals" who specialize in bringing the two sides of change together to make transition easier for all parties. These specialists act as a type of mediator; they strategically introduce the change to those impacted and solicit constructive feedback. This helps all parties feel valued as an integral part of the process, in turn encouraging buy-in and speeding up acceptance.

So, if you find yourself initiating change, take the time to communicate the change to relevant stakeholders and be prepared to listen. And if you find yourself being impacted by change, seek out the initiator and ask if there's anything you can do to help structure the change. You may just find your input will create something you can embrace.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Dobbie'. The signature is stylized with overlapping loops and lines.

Angela Dobbie
Director of Equestrian

Message from Head Prefect—Seonghee Park



Being a Grade 12 student with four months to graduation makes me feel like a bird leaving its nest to explore new places. Although many senior students have shared their excitement about the journey after graduation, as I look back, I realize how much the School has helped us embrace the changes. In our school's learning environment, students constantly challenge themselves in various areas such as leadership, academics and athletics. Although staying in the same place is comforting, it does not improve us as individuals; our School has prepared us to be motivated for those challenges that come with becoming a better person.

QMS Alumni Day 2023



Saturday, May 13, 2023

10:00am	Chapel Service
11:15am	OOMA AGM
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Alumni, Staff & Students Field Hockey Game

Campus tours will be available following Chapel until lunch.

Please RSVP for lunch and/or the field hockey game by
Tuesday, May 8, 2023 to alumni@qms.bc.ca

QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL

Graduating Class of 2023

	Country of Citizenship	Years at QMS		Country of Citizenship	Years at QMS
Cayman Atkins — L	Canada	13	Heyang (Catalina) Liang	China	2
Marie Bindan	Germany	2	Aya Mabee Mukohata	USA	5
Georgia Bond	Canada	3	Noah Marston	Canada	1
Lyndie Brizzi	Canada	3	Fernanda Mata	USA	1
Davina Burton — L	Canada	8	Aimee McCracken	Canada	2
Meixi (Margaret) Chen	China	4	William McDermott Holzapfel	USA	2
Chloe Cheng	China	2	Alexander Munro —L	Canada	13
Sua (Lucy) Cho	S. Korea	3.5	Cheuk Yan (Dee-Dee) Ng	Canada	2
Adrian Chow	Canada	2.5	Claire Nolli – DHP/L	Canada	10
Jessie Eakins — L	Canada	13	Meiling Paras-Charlton – L	Canada	13
Taidi (Teddy) Feng	China	2	Seonghee Park – HP/L	S. Korea	6
Paul Gammie	Canada	3	Ivy Sacobie	Canada	2
Shang (Angela) Gao	China	4	On Yan (Anson) Shiu	China	3
Maya Harbo	Canada	2	Jackson Smith	Canada	4
Savannah Heard	Canada	4	Jenna Stinka – L	Canada	8
Risa Ishida	Japan	2	Bennett Telfer	Canada	3
Minseo (Christine) Kang	S. Korea	4	Xinke (Coco) Tian — L	China	6
Safal Sev Kaur	India	2	Denzel Van Oyen — L	Canada	8
Thoran Koyote	Canada	3	Gracie Williams — L	Canada	8
Aaliyah Lalonde	Canada	3	Piaoyi (Cloris) Zhang	China	4
Changmin (Daneil) Lee	S. Korea	2.5	Youzhen (William) Zhao	China	4
Siqi (Cinky) Liang	China	2			

HP = Head Prefect

DHP = Deputy Head Prefect

L = Lifer (6+ years at QMS)

Overseas Old Margaretian Association – OOMA

Minutes of Annual General Meeting May 6, 2022 at Queen Margaret's School and via ZOOM

Attendees

Hilary Nixon, Sarah Milne, Chris Compton, Lily Anne Millar, Nicole Bond, Mel Thiede, Emma Major, Eileen Peltier, Kirsty Grant, Heather Bartfai, Melissa Montgomery, Trudy Byers, Gillian Charpentier

Discussion

1. Call to Order and Welcome -- 10:45 a.m.
 - a. Absentee ballots received from:
 - i. Tara Benham (proxy to Nicole Bond)
 - ii. Rita Webb (proxy to Nicole Bond)
 - iii. Lianne Lefsrud (proxy to Nicole Bond)
 - iv. Denise MacDonald (proxy to Nicole Bond)
 - v. Sheila Protti (proxy to Kirsty Grant)
 - vi. Peggy Begon (proxy to Kirsty Grant)
 - vii. Elizabeth Moss (proxy to Kirsty Grant)
 - b. Confirmation of quorum (min. 10)
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion by Mel to approve agenda. Seconded by Lily Anne. Unanimously approved.
3. Approval of Minutes, 2021 OOMA AGM
 - a. Corrections: Added financial report from 2021
 - b. Motion by Nicole to approve 2021 OOMA AGM minutes as corrected. Seconded by Kirstie. Unanimously approved.
4. Correspondence (Hilary Nixon)
 - a. Nothing to report
5. President's Report (Sarah Milne)
 - a. Welcomed all of the attendees.
6. Treasurer's Report (Nicole Bond)
 - a. Reviewed status of the three bank accounts. Total balance is \$36,579.66
 - b. Update on revenues from fundraising, donations, and interest.
 - c. Update on expenses which is only the CRA filing.
7. School Liaison's Report (Heather Bartfai)

- a. Update on the centennial celebrations.
 - b. Speech Day on June 24. OOMA executive are welcome to attend.
 - c. Likely plan to keep Founders Day in April (coincides with the actual day the school started).
 - d. Sarah noted that having more opportunities for alumni to engage on campus multiple times throughout the year.
8. Grade 12 Representatives' Report
 - a. No report presented. All grade 12s introduced themselves during chapel.
9. Old Business
 - a. None
10. New Business
 - a. Update to bylaws
 - b. Motion to approve the updated bylaws by Hilary. Second by Kirstie Grant. Unanimously approved.
 - i. Hilary to file updated bylaws along with the AGM in accordance with the BC Societies Act
11. Election of the Directors of the Board
 - a. Three open positions — all three willing to serve again. Terms: 2022-2025
 - i. Melissa Montgomery
 - ii. Mel Thiede
 - iii. Nicole Bond
 - b. Motion to approve the slate by Emma Major, seconded by Nicole Bond. Unanimously approved.
12. Closing Remarks
 - a. Heather presented gifts to the executive board.
 - b. Thanks for Melissa for preparing The Link. Thanks for Mel for all of her work with the annual bazaar.
13. Meeting Adjournment - 11:05
 - a. Sarah motion to adjourn, Kirsty Grant seconded. Passed unanimously.

OOMA Financial Report 2022

March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023										
Regular Bank	Acct # 2289486								Bal forward	\$744.62
	DEBITS				CREDITS					
	Student Bursary	Financial Services	Gala Donation	Transfers		Interest	Fundraising	Transfers		
Mar-22			\$500.00						\$244.62	Gala Donation
Apr-22										
May-22										
Jun-22							\$342.00		\$586.62	Preserves
Jul-22										
Aug-22										
Sep-22										
Oct-22		\$315.00							\$271.62	Accounting
Nov-22		\$110.00							\$161.62	Float for Bazar
Dec-22							1,071.00	1,000.00	2,232.62	Transfer in from Term 3, bazar and float return
Jan-23										
Feb-23										
									\$2,232.62	Balance at Year End
TERM 3									Bal Forward	\$13,879.21
14-May-22						\$72.27			\$13,951.48	Interest
25-Nov-22				\$1,000.00					\$12,951.48	Tranfer to chequing
									\$12,951.48	Balance at Year End
TERM 4									Bal Forward	\$21,955.83
14-May-22						\$114.32			\$22,070.15	Interest
									\$22,070.15	Balance at Year End

OOMA AGM 2023 Agenda
Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 11:15am

- 11:15am** Call to Order and Welcome
- Absentee Ballots
 - Verification of Quorum
- 11:20am** Approval of Agenda
- 11:25am** Approval of Minutes, 2022 OOMA AGM
- 11:30am** Correspondence
- 11:35am** President's Report (Sarah Milne)
- 11:45am** Treasurer's Report (Nicole Bond)
- 11:50am** School Liaison's Report (Heather Bartfai)
- 12:00pm** Grade 12 Representatives' Report
- 12:05pm** Old Business
- 12:10pm** New Business
- Dissolving OOMA as separate Society
- 12:25pm** Election of the Directors of the Board
- 12:30pm** Closing Remarks
- 12:35pm** Meeting Adjourned

**Overseas Old Magaretian Association
General Meeting of the Association - Assignment of Proxy Vote**

I, _____ of _____ in the
Province/State/Country of _____ a voting member of the association in good
standing, hereby appoint _____ of _____
Province/State/Country of _____ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at
the Annual/Special General Meeting of the Association to be held on the _____ day of _____, 2023 and
at any adjournment thereof.

In the event that the above name proxy is unable to attend the meeting, I hereby appoint
_____ of _____ in the
Province/State/Country of _____ as my alternate proxy.

Signed at _____, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Signature _____

This proxy allows you to record your decision in absentia at the General Meeting by having another voting Member represent you at that meeting. Anytime a vote is required, if any Member wishes to have the proxies used, a call for proxies must be honoured by the President. The valid proxy votes, as well as the votes of the voting Members present, will be counted to reach a decision.

By completing and submitting the proxy form to the Secretary (below) prior to the meeting, by mail or email (with form attached), your vote can be cast, as you wish it cast, by the person to whom you have assigned this proxy.

If you are aware of an item of business which is forthcoming at the meeting and wish your proxy directed either "for" or "against" that item when it comes to a vote, advise the holder of your proxy by telephone, by letter, by email or by writing it in the space below.

If you provide no direction to your proxy, it will be employed at the discretion of the person to whom you have delegated your voting privilege.

ITEM OF BUSINESS: _____

DIRECTION: APPROVE _____ OPPOSE _____

REASONS: _____

News from Alumni

Anne Houdling (1977–1983)

I left QMS in 1983 as Deputy Head to be with my mother in Toronto when she was battling cancer. I continued teaching until 2011, when I retired. I was fortunate to work with Margaret Glide, Phoebe Spurgin, and Shirley Burr, all remarkable women. I also knew Miss Denny and Miss Geoghegan, both of whom I admired greatly. I have many fond memories of my time at QMS. I am especially gratified to know that the Bazaar continues to be an important event, since I started the tradition. It makes me happy to know that QMS continues to thrive.

Jennifer Spencer ('82)

Jennifer Spencer (QMS Grad 1982) is a working actor, director, playwright, and voice/text coach. She is a sessional instructor at MacEwan University in the Theatre Department. She makes her home in Edmonton, Alberta. @jennspenvoice

Erica McCuaig ('82)

My name is Erica McCuaig (QMS 1982). My name was Muffy. I live in Vancouver. Currently, I am a Family Justice Counsellor/Report Writer for the Family Justice Report Service. Dumbest job title in the world. What it means is I travel around the province on behalf of the government, interviewing divorced or separated families and writing a report for the court so they may decide on the child(ren)'s parenting arrangements. It is akin to an investigator too as I always hear two sides of the "story" and must interview collaterals to understand what may be going on.

I have been doing this work for almost ten years. Prior to that I worked at the Court of Appeal of British Columbia (commonly known as Court of Apples) and felt privileged to have been the court clerk on the case that eventually became M.A.i.D. I was a Justice of the Peace for several years in the criminal court on Main Street and regularly conducted bail hearings and search warrants until the law changed along with my position. I was a court clerk at Main Street as well and did the circuit court to Bella Bella, Bella Coola, and Klemtu.

While doing all the above, I wrote screenplays and had several optioned. I am still waiting for the BIG BREAK and am hoping to have one of them produced. Writing is my thing, and I will undoubtedly do it until my dying breath. Too dramatic? Probably. But true.

I have one year and four months left until I retire with the BC Government after 35 years. Yeah, even I am shocked that I stayed beyond six months as my friend who recommended me suggested. However, I own two houses (one I built during COVID), have been married to the same woman for 28 years and we have two sons 19 and 14 years old, an Australian Shepard/Border Collie, and two cats. We plan on moving into our smaller house, house swapping, writing, and travelling the globe on an electric airplane Elon Musk or General Fusion must launch soon so we won't kill the planet with our globe trotting.

I often ask the children I interview what they plan on doing with their lives. Sometimes the answers are fruitful (especially from the six-year-olds) but sometimes they shrug their shoulders. Well, maybe it hasn't been invented yet. The world is yours.

Melissa Spencer Montgomery ('84)

Melissa lives in Vancouver and manages Old Southlands Stables. Melissa is also an actor. Melissa was last seen in Upload on Amazon Prime. @majormelissaonduty

Lisa Redding ('84)

Lisa is passionate about helping people.

A native Vancouver Islander, I'm well practiced at the art of listening. Before embarking on a career in real estate, I spent years working closely with people in a variety of situations—as a teacher, as a caretaker in my family's long-term care facility, as a small-business owner and as a parent all of which helped me master the ability to identify and understand what matters most to people and communicate key information in terms they can understand.

When I'm not busy helping people find their home, you can find me buried deep with in my bee hives talking with my honey bees (and yes all us bee keepers talk with our girls) or exploring the west coast in my kayak or motorbike—appreciating the fabulous vistas, marveling at the local marine life that Vancouver Island is known for.

Kirsty Grant ('85)

Kirsty and her family enjoy life in Cowichan where she works in Tourism Relations at The Cowichan Regional Visitor Centre. Alex (Grade 12) and Dane (Grade 10) are both QMS students.

Kristy Searle ('85)

The True Value of Travel

For most people, travelling is an opportunity to escape the mundane and experience something new. For me, it has been a way to gain insight into different cultures and connect with people from all walks of life. But travelling isn't just about exploring the unknown—it can also be a source of profound personal growth and development.

I recently spent 4.5 months traveling throughout North America, Europe and Asia while working remotely for my human resources/business consulting practice Peoplebiz Consulting Inc. I stayed for free everywhere except for a week in Nice, France through home exchanges that allowed me to have all the comforts of home while being able to immerse myself into the culture and daily life of each new location.

On this journey, I was forced out of my comfort zone: whether it was ordering breakfast in French or having to navigate a city without GPS or cell service, I faced countless challenges that required quick thinking, problem solving and adaptability—all skills necessary for professional success. I had numerous conversations with locals who told me stories about history, culture and politics which broadened my worldview.

I also reflected upon my own accomplishments; as someone who graduated from Queen Margaret's School (QMS) back in 1985, I am proud of how far I have come in life personally and professionally. Spending time reflecting on the past enabled me to think more carefully about my future goals—after all, there's nothing like travel to make one appreciate how much potential lies ahead!

Ultimately, travel has taught me that we never really know what kind of experiences we will encounter outside our homes: some may be uncomfortable or challenging; others may be filled with joy and excitement. But either way, each experience will help us grow as individuals if we take it in stride—so live for today not tomorrow!

Keeping Connected

Please take a moment and join [QMSSConnects](#). Want to find an old classmate? Need a job? Want to promote your business? Need a mentor? QMSSConnects will be the home of everyone's latest and greatest news!



QMSSConnects brings our community together by providing you with access to:

- ❖ A running feed of alumni updates, interesting content, photos, and conversations.
- ❖ A directory that connects you to the full Queen Margaret's School community around the world.
- ❖ A mentoring program, giving you the opportunity to be a mentor or a mentee.
- ❖ A job board with current opportunities, posted by alumni, students and strategic partners.
- ❖ Group conversations allowing you to engage at a more granular level with those with the same field of study, interests, careers, industries, and locations as you.
- ❖ Invitations to upcoming events, including virtual get-togethers, webinars hosted by subject-matter experts, and other organic engagement opportunities created for and by you.

This is all within a secure, private and welcoming forum.

Please contact alumni@qms.bc.ca with any questions and happy networking!