

**Shaughnessy Public School was opened in 1966 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 in a combined reunion, open house and fun fair event.**

The school parent council, in coordination with school staff and volunteers, collaborated to organize the event. The in-school portion of the event focused on the history of the school and drew a gathering of staff and student alumni. The gymnasium had displays and speeches while the halls, lined with photos held spontaneous meetings of friends recalling fond memories of Shaughnessy. In the school yard, the annual fun fair provided games, prizes, music, fundraising auctions and activities. Many alumni took advantage of the combination to connect with former classmates and colleagues while their school age children enjoyed the fun fair atmosphere.

Former and current students and staff, as well as local political figures and community members, came together to mark the occasion. In the morning the local MPP, City Councilor and School Trustee offered words of support, praise and encouragement to the school community and those in attendance. **HFCIA** president, Namby Vithianathan, made a presentation and reflected on the longstanding relationship between Henry Farms and Shaughnessy School. A highlight of the morning program was the charismatic Lois Bertram, first secretary of Shaughnessy who was a staff member for more than 2 decades. She shared her recollections of the many speakers and celebrities who visited and contributed to the school throughout the years including the origin of the School Song; still sung in the school today.

Following the cake cutting ceremony, participants strolled the halls and reconnected with former colleagues or classmates. Middle school students elaborated "decade tables" under the supervision of retired school librarian Barb Cook. The photos, images and memorabilia were a great source of entertainment and nostalgia for those who attended. Throughout the day, visitors flowed through the school and gymnasium to walk down memory lane. The event received a great deal of praise and appreciation from those who attended.

Thanks again to all the individuals and groups who made this event a success through the many and varied contributions to the preparation and execution. Thank you to all who attended and showed your love and loyalty to Shaughnessy and Henry Farms. We hope to see you all for the next milestone!