

50th Anniversary OPENING CEREMONIES

Clarkson Secondary School - Cafeteria

Saturday, May 25th, 4:30 pm

(Script updated: May 25, 2019)

1. ANNETTE - Welcome

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome back to Clarkson Secondary School. I'm Mrs. Kurjanczyk, but some of you - and only some of you - can call me Annette. I'm thrilled to be here with Francis D'Souza Class of 1996 and together we are pleased to be your emcees for the afternoon. *(applause)*

2. FRANCIS - Treaty Acknowledgement and O Canada

Thank you, Mrs. K., and many thanks to the Clarkson Concert Band for playing that great set from the five decades of music leading up to this moment today. I know that I join all of you in saying that it is great to be back, and we would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that the land on which we gather is part of the treaty lands and territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Peel Region as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many Indigenous peoples. As we

gather today on these treaty lands we have the responsibility to honour and respect the four directions, land, waters, plants, animals, ancestors that walked before us, and all the wonderful elements of creation that exist.

Please stand for the singing of the national anthem by current student, Letecia Hurlock-Padron.

(Letecia Hurlock-Padron will sing the National Anthem)

(applause)

3. ANNETTE - Councillor Karen Ras, Director Peter Joshua, Superintendent Nina Jaiswal and Trustee Brad MacDonald

It is my pleasure to introduce some very important guests who have joined us here today. It is no accident that Mississauga is one of the best places in Canada to live, work and raise a family, and to that end we welcome Councillor Karen Ras.

(applause)

The Peel District School Board is a leader in public education, setting the standard here in Ontario and from coast to coast.

We welcome Peter Joshua, Director of the Peel District School Board, Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent and Brad MacDonald, School Board Trustee.

(applause)

4. FRANCIS - Ann Cameron, Steve Kostiuk and Jim Kardash

As you can imagine, running a school is no easy task. Hundreds of people walk these halls every day - students, staff, custodians, office managers, technicians and contractors - all of them under the watchful eye of The Principal. It is with great pride that we introduce you to the current and the former Principals here with you today: Our current principal is Mary Zammit. Also with us is former principals Mrs. Ann Cameron from 1996 to 1998, Mr. Steve Kostiuk, principal for 1998 to 2006, and Mr. Jim Kardash from 2013 to 2016.

5. ANNETTE - Vyju Janakiraman, Tom Wollschlaeger, Mary Pat Dietrich,

And what would our celebrations be without some very important students and former students who have joined us here today. Please welcome Vyju Janakiraman, Student President Class of 2019, Tom Wollschlaeger, Former Mudder, Class of 1974, and Mary Pat Dietrich, Class of 1976, the remarkable woman who started Clarkson's now legendary Cancer Drive.
(applause)

6. ANNETTE - Introduces Peter Joshua's Address

I would like to welcome Peter Joshua, Director of Education to bring greetings from the Peel District School Board.
(Mr. Joshua will bring his greetings from the PDSB - 2 minutes)
(applause)

7. FRANCIS - Introduces Councillor Ras's Address

Thank you Mr. Joshua. We now invite Councillor Karen Ras from Ward 2 to bring greetings.

(Mrs. Ras will deliver her address - 2 minutes)

(applause)

8. ANNETTE - Introduces Brad Macdonald's Address

Thank you Ms. Ras. We now invite Brad Macdonald, School Trustee for Wards 2 & 8 to share a few words.

(Mr. Macdonald will deliver his address- 2 minutes)

(applause)

9. FRANCIS - Introduces Dance Team Performance

Thank you, Mr. Macdonald. Clarkson has had a proud tradition of 50 years of rich academics and extra-curricular opportunities for students. Performing for you today is one of our newest clubs the Clarkson's Dance Team.

(The Dance Team will perform on stage.) (applause)

10. ANNETTE - Introduces Daria Voznyuk's Performance

Thank you Clarkson Dance Team. Returning to the Alma Mater is a wonderful trip down memory lane. Our alumni will laugh at all the moments: fun, awkward, goofy, happy and recall

some time that were sad. And now, 50 years in, we realize that this school has been an important part of our lives. Such a place of opportunity - arts, athletics, academics, clubs, teams, buy-outs, assemblies, dances, proms, - the list goes on and on. We also have many specialty programs, including French Immersion. Please welcome grade 12 student, Daria Voznyuk who will perform "Va Va Vis" by Florina.

(Daria will sing "Va Va Vis" by Florina)

11. FRANCIS - Introduces Steve Kostiuik's Address

Thank you Daria. Students are not the only ones with fond memories of this place. As the former Head of Creative Arts at Clarkson for many years, I do find myself with a smile on my face as I walk these halls today.

One such memory is of my dear friend and colleague, Mr. Steve Kostiuik. Mr. K. was our Principal from 1998 to 2006, and during that time, he really was a father to us all. As a matter of fact, there was this one thing he used to do at Commencement

every year, and the kids loved it. In his most fatherly voice, he would read to us, and I can see some of you nodding your heads. Yes...he *insisted* on reading to us *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, by Dr. Seuss. I don't know if he's going to read it to you today, but it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Steve Kostiuk.

(Mr. Kostiuk will deliver his address - 2 minutes) (applause)

12. ANNETTE - Introduces Patrick Chen's Performance

Thank you Mr. Kostiuk. As some of you may know, Clarkson was the first host site for Peel international students. Today over 150 students from around the world are Clarkson Chargers. These students add to our diversity and global connections. Here today to perform *Horse Racing* on a musical instrument called the Erhu (arhoo), please welcome grade 11 student, Patrick Chen who will perform *Horse Racing*.

(Patrick Chen will perform Horse Racing - 5 minutes)

(applause)

13. FRANCIS - Introduces Tom Wollschlaeger's Address

Thank you Patrick. Some of you may remember when the school was surrounded in mud. In the early 70's, there was so much mud around here that they called the original students The Mudders. They didn't have grass - they had mud. They didn't have asphalt like other schools. They had mud. Here to help us remember is Tom Wollschlaeger, Class of 1974.

(Mr. Wollschlaeger (Grade 9 Mudder, 1969) will deliver his address - 4 minutes)

Hard to believe 50 years ago I was only 15, when my fellow classmates and myself entered a brand new high school named Clarkson Secondary School in 1969. Construction of the school was still on-going when classes began, having to walk through construction areas and muddy sidewalks. Hence the name 'Mudders' was bestowed onto these inaugural students and myself.

In September 1969, all Clarkson students were actually DP's (displaced pupils). Our school could not be opened for another

4 MONTHS due to key construction delays. Consequently, we were bused to Lorne Park High School, where a split shift was implemented. Lorne Park students had the morning shift and Clarkson students had the afternoon shift. As you know, teenagers are not morning people, and so we had a sweet deal for a time.

When we finally entered our own school, it was still gray concrete walls, no music room, no pool, no stage, but it was ours. Our classrooms are another story. They only had 3 walls. Open to the halls.

Was this due to construction shortcuts or bricklayers with a sense of humour. Nooo! It was called "Open Concept", designed by the Peel Board of Education. Somehow they thought it would tone down students, out of respect for other adjoining classrooms. It did. But as you see from history, a 4th wall was added years later, mainly due to noise leakage.

Other innovations included no exams, only short quizzes and tests weekly or bi-weekly. I suppose the idea was to put less

pressure on students in cramming for mid-term and term exams, and have them sharpen their knowledge weekly. For many, it proved a hardship when attending University, having to write exhausting 3 to 4 hour exams.

Also, our first principal, Colmar Russell, wanted young teachers for his new school, so many were as little as 5 years older than our senior students. I suspect he wanted to bring new energy, new ideas and new structure to our learning experience. Thankfully for us, many of our original alumni teachers are still here to celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Coming from the end of the Hippie (Flower Power) era, we had typical school days full of open sex, drugs and rock'n roll. (pause) FAKE NEWS - I was just testing you to see if you were still listening.

A lesser known fact is that the school in 1969 had classes only to grade 12. A school before it's time you ask. No. It proved less disruptive for those grade 13 students to stay at Lorne Park for their final year. This meant that our Grade 12 seniors

remained our "student elders" for 2 years, once Grade 13 was added back the following year. Enrollment then was 875 students and 52 teachers. 50 years later, total student enrollment is a near equivalent of 762 students and 54 teachers.

Pretty good sustainability for a high school.

So let's now have a show of hands from the audience who attended Clarkson Public School

OK, now a show of hands who attended

Clarkson Secondary School

Yes, somewhat expected

And finally, a show of hands who attended

Clarkson University

You'll have to work on that.

I attended Clarkson University in Potsdam in upstate New York in 1983 for my MBA.

So, I can proudly say, I AM, A TRUE, Clarksonian.

Happy 50th

14. ANNETTE - Introduces Mary Pat Dietrich's Address

Thank you Tom. Once a Charger, always a Charger, and now to a matter that has been close to the heart of any Charger since 1975 when our annual Cancer Drive began. I don't know if there is any way that she could have known how big this thing would get, but here today is the person who started it all. Please give a warm welcome to Mary Pat Dietrich, Class of 1976.

(Mrs. Dietrich will deliver her address - 5 minutes)

(applause)

Thank you, Mary Pat. Thank you for your inspiration and thank you for the same inspiration that fills the heart of every Charger even to this day.

15. FRANCIS - Introduces Student Council President Vyju Janakiraman

Leading our Student Activity Council for the 2018-2019 school year is President, Vyju Janakiraman.

(Vyju will deliver her address - 2 minutes) (applause)

16. ANNETTE: Introduces Mary Zammit's Address

Thank you, Vyju. We would now like to call upon current Principal, Mrs. Mary Zammit for final words to close our ceremony.

(applause)

(Mrs. Zammit will deliver her address - 5 minutes) (applause)

(When Mrs. Zammit cues Mr. Arthurs, the band will strike up and the celebrations will continue.)

17. ANNETTE & FRANCIS – Closing

Thank you to everyone for being with us today and celebrating 50 years of Clarkson Charger pride! We invite you to continue our celebrations. For those of you who have purchased the

Social Package, our evening events begin at 6:30 pm. In the meantime, you are welcome to continue to enjoy the Decades Rooms, Silent Auction and food trucks at the rear of the school. Thank you for being with us and we officially close our ceremony by inviting the Clarkson Band to play.