

**THE ORIGINAL  
MAKERS' SPACES**  
For grads, careers have been  
built by hand...and heart

**DIY NOT?**  
Educated by YouTube with  
just enough knowledge to be  
dangerous. We go to the experts

**THE APPRENTICESHIP  
SHUFFLE**  
The original 'earn while you  
learn' is under construction

# voyageur



# THE Hands-On ISSUE



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 **Currents**

  
Alumni  
St. Lawrence College

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“There is a mindset that Trades aren’t fashionable, and we’ve been trying to change that.”

—Mark Fox (Civil Eng Tech 1985), Owner, Terra Nova Truss, page 14

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*By Christopher Clark*



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Celebrating our inventive students



## ON THE COVER

Plumbing apprentices aren’t the only trades who get hands-on learning.  
Photo by Johnny C. Y. Lam.



# Mind the Gap

The College is the original MakerSpace, and as we celebrate our Trades grads...we hope we'll see a lot more in the future.

The buzz around 'Makers' is everywhere. With a generation of digital natives who believe the computer is the source of all creation, they prove it every day with the products, ideas and apps that leap from their monitor and into reality.

But Makers have been around for centuries. And while their tools may change, our desire to create and to make has never wavered. In fact, as this issue of *Voyageur* demonstrates, the College is the original MakerSpace. For over 50 years we have provided the education and credentials for thousands of graduates in the Trades, who have gone on to literally build our communities, power our businesses, heat us, cool us, house us, feed us and provide so much more. I am regularly awed and humbled by the skills of the students we educate and the grads who they will emulate.

But we need more of them. We've been talking about the coming skills shortage for years. And if you've ever tried to hire a tradesperson for your business or your home, you know that it's here. In 2016, nearly one in three journeypersons in the province of Ontario were aged 55 or over. Meanwhile, the province predicts that one in five jobs over the next five years will be in trades-related occupations.

Recent announcements by the province are set to usher in a new era for educating our next generation of skilled tradespeople and apprentices, and they look promising. The apprenticeship pathways are going to be easier to navigate—for employers and students—and

## **Are the Trades on your mind?**

Find out more at Open House on April 4, or email [ask@sl.on.ca](mailto:ask@sl.on.ca).



a focus on portable skill sets will make it easier to earn while you learn and build competency over potentially many related trades.

I encourage any trades grads who are reading this to help close the skills gap and encourage your friends, family and neighbours to give the trades a second look. As our grads can attest, we're seeing greater diversity and exciting opportunities for those with the skills to meet the moment. We've seen electrician grads who have become leaders in wind energy, and esthetician grads who are influencing the personal products you purchase. SLC has a long history of providing world-class, hands on education. We need look no further than our current nine-year streak of national champions in the National Skills Competition, to see what the combination of engaged student and committed faculty can bring to the world stage.

I come from a long line of tradespeople. Three generations of the Vollebregt/Detmers can point to the fruits of their labour with pride in the homes, planes and structures they created. There's something about the artistry, pride and permanence of those accomplishments that are comforting in a world where everything seems so temporary.

My own path may not have led to a traditional trade, although I often say that "I'm an accountant by trade", however I believe the Trades takes real skill and talent and as a society we need to give it the prominence it deserves.

I for one am committed to maintaining SLC as a MakerSpace for those with the talents and the drive and together we'll aim to create the next generation of the skilled tradespeople we so desperately need.

**Glenn Vollebregt, President**  
[@gvollebregt](mailto:gvollebregt)



## St. Lawrence College

The Alumni Relations office exists to encourage positive engagement with our Alumni through lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships.

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## The Feed



### Voyageur 2019 Edition

“Feeling so much after getting my @whatsinsideslc Voyageur magazine delivered today. Let’s keep giving these amazing opportunities to learn digital skills in #CityofCornwall and @SDGCounties through @learningcode”—*Kelly Bergeron, Computer Programmer Analyst, 2004*

“Happy to have some of my photography in the newly designed Voyageur magazine @whatsinsideslc @SLC\_Alumni”—*Bernard Clark, Visual and Creative Arts, Fine Arts, 1985*

Letters to the Editor may be edited for length and clarity.

### Alumni Events

“Great time tonight connecting at the Police Foundations Alumni Mentor event. Remembering where you started and giving back to inspire those who want to be where you are is a humbling experience. Thanks again.”  
—*Fil Wisniak, Police Foundations 2010*

“Loving the Alumni Swag from SLC #slcalumni #slc —*Gabryella DeCoste, Hospitality Management, Hotel and Restaurant, 2017*

### Graduating Class Visits

“Wish I was there—best of luck class of 2019 from alumni of 2006.”  
—*Jennifer Heath*

“Good luck new grads! .... from 1991 graduate.”  
—*Colinda Thivierge, Animal Care Technology, 1991*

“LOVE to all ... proud of you :), hope you are all well & happy.”  
—*Laurie Beckstead, Environmental Technician, 2012*

### Convocation Messages

“Congratulations from happily retired IT consultant, class of ‘84! Enjoy your journey!”  
—*Michele Sabad, Business Administration, Data Processing, 1984*

“Congrats to all the graduates! May you all find joy in the career of your dreams.”  
—*Amanda Voss, Business Administration, Human Resources, 2013*

“I’m proud to be #slcalumni #kingstoncampus #proudalumni”—*Tanya Vigna, Office Administration, Medical, 2009*

### Currents SLC

This is amazing!!  
—*Valeria Puchetti, Advertising and Marketing Communications, 2019*



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- ▶ Therapeutic Recreation
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College**

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**Visit an open house event or join a webinar to learn more about graduate certificates**

# SLC Diary

Seen &  
Heard on  
Campus



(left to right)  
Cynthia Egbunonu,  
Julie Tompkins,  
Tim LaFortune and  
Wendy Millard.

UNCOMMON GRATITUDE

## Portraits in Philanthropy

As the largest campaign in SLC's history winds up, it seems only fitting that we would recognize those people and organizations who helped make it possible. The result? Portraits in Philanthropy, where our lead donors have been photographed in the places where their support made possible.

Empire Life is not only the largest private sector employer of our grads, but their VP Corporate Services & Chief Communications Officer Julie Tompkins (seated) is a proud grad, donor and a member of our Campaign Cabinet. →

In recognition of Empire Life's support, Julie brought along a few of her fellow SLC grads she works alongside. The campaign is in its final months, having raised \$12-million in support of all three campuses. Alumni collectively played a huge part in the campaign's success—recognized on our Donor Wall in Kingston, and the soon-to-be-mounted Alumni Wall this coming spring.  
#ProudtobeSLC



A LIVING CLASSROOM

## Partnership with Providence Manor for PSW students



Personal Support Worker (PSW) students at SLC will study on-site at Providence Manor, Providence Care's long-term care home in Kingston.

In this first-ever "living classroom" in Southeastern Ontario, students will have the opportunity to study all aspects of the program, from theory, labs, and clinical placement directly with residents in a functioning long-term care home.

"This innovative program delivery will provide the highest level of experiential learning possible," says Barry Weese, Associate Dean, School of Health Sciences. "PSWs play an important role in the healthcare system, and this program will help ensure our students are well-prepared to enter the workforce with excellent hands-on training behind them."

"This program provides an excellent opportunity for our current staff to share their knowledge with a future generation," says Kyle Cotton, Administrator, Providence Manor. "Hosting the program at the home offers an increased level of engagement between the students and our residents, staff, and families. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to deliver care in a compassionate and caring manner along with all of the current standards of clinical practice."



**"The placement would turn into a 20-year long passion that, at the time, I wasn't even aware I had. She smiled as I blathered on about how amazing the experience was."**

Former student of Carmeta Hodges



Brockville and Cornwall PSW programs have on-campus lab space. The addition of Providence Manor gives Kingston PSW students the opportunity to work with actual patients.

## A LEGACY OF CARE

## The Carmeta Hodges Memorial Award in Nursing will benefit generations of nursing students



For 23 years, Nursing prof Carmeta Hodges was dedicated to her students. From 1975 to 1998 she greeted each new crop of would-be nurses on the Kingston campus and guided them to careers of caring for others.

When she passed away in September 2018, one former student wrote in an online memorial: “I don’t know if Cam ever knew what an impression she had on me. I did go and have a word with her in regards to a placement she had chosen for me in our 2nd year of Nursing school. The placement would turn into a 20 year long passion that, at the time, I wasn’t even aware I had.”

And now, Cam’s impact on students will continue for many more generations of students—thanks to the creation of The Carmeta Hodges Memorial Award in Nursing.

Created by Cam’s son, Patrick, and his wife Lori Streefkerk, the unique bursary will start next year—supporting one nursing student for all four years of their BScN studies. And that’s not all. Another student will be added each year until—by year four—there will be four students every year whose education will get a boost from an award to honour what another former student called “a blessed angel”.

Patrick Hodges had planned to create a legacy for his mother for some time before meeting with the College to work out a



Carmeta Hodges was remembered by former students as a dedicated prof and advocate.

plan to make it a reality. True to his mother’s own nursing journey—which began when she left her native Barbados to study in Canada—he also chose to support students from northern and remote communities. The reason, he says, is because it was the Northwest Territories which made it possible for Cam to continue her nursing studies at the university level—funding her tuition and living expenses in exchange for returning as a nurse—primarily in Baker Lake,

NWT. She then took a position in London, Ontario, before arriving in Kingston in 1975 to work at St. Lawrence College.

The first student to receive the Carmeta Hodges Memorial Award in Nursing will be selected for the 2020-21 academic year.

“She was a brilliant educator. Decades of students have benefitted from her teachings,” wrote her former student in the online memorial.

Thanks to her son, future students will also benefit.

## GIVEN A HAND

## Artist and alumni collaborate on new sculpture on campus



Let the bad puns begin. Kidding aside, a new art installation on Brockville campus is in the right place at the right time.

The campus is the new home of *Ascension*, a nine-foot fibreglass sculpture of a hand by local artist David Sheridan. Installation on campus was completed at the end of November, and an unveiling ceremony will be planned in the spring, 2020.

The sculpture was offered to the City of Brockville, but when finding a suitable public space became a challenge, SLC offered an ideal location on Parkedale Avenue, ensuring its visibility and accessibility to the Brockville community.

*Ascension* should be right at home on Brockville campus—given its connections to faculty and alumni. The sculpture was made possible by the material donation and guidance of Built Right Utility Bodies—owned by Ted Ward plus Murray Golledge and his son, Steven (an SLC alumni family). Sheridan’s spouse, Diane, has been part-time faculty at SLC for the past 30 years, and Sheridan has been teaching oil painting at the College for the past two years.

### Stay Up-to-Date

Join Currents SLC or add your email to your alumni record [CurrentsSLC.com](http://CurrentsSLC.com) and [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca)



THE Q&A

## Hanna MacNaughtan

A Renaissance woman who has seamlessly stitched together a life of nursing, music and art

We catch up with our 1998 Nursing grad who has melded a career of care with a life as an artist and harpist.

**You say you were practicing DIY before it was cool. Can you elaborate on how you used your crafty and creative skills?**

I grew up on a farm in a small town outside of Rochester, New York. I was making bunny cages out of wire and wood, designing, and making my own clothes. My mom was a piano teacher, so music surrounded us. Creativity was very important and stressed. These skills continued with my three children—I was making crafts, elaborate Halloween costumes, paper maché masks. I always wanted to study art but did not get an opportunity until 1998, the year I graduated from Nursing.

**What path brought you to St. Lawrence College to study Nursing?**

I married young and my marriage to Dennis MacNaughtan brought me to Canada. My husband travelled for work

and I had three young children while in my twenties, I babysat for a student nurse and one day mentioned I wanted to be something and have a career. She suggested I check out SLC. Everyone loved SLC grads—they were highly regarded due to their hands-on clinical experience, and so I enrolled. I graduated in 1998, and this was when I finally had an opportunity to take some private art classes.

**Nursing is a demanding career, did you find that reconnecting with your love for art was a balance for the intense nursing life?**

Oh yes! Initially I wanted to be in the Operating Room. But I was hired by Ottawa General Hospital and floated everywhere, but I was often booked to the oncology—which was so intense, physically and emotionally - yet I felt myself going there more and more and discovered this is where I could really use my healing skills. I ended up getting a job within this department and retired on June 1, 2019, after a lengthy career.

Nurse, artist, harpist. Hanna MacNaughtan sees the healing power of art.

**How did you become a harpist? It is such a rare skill.**

It is the craziest story. I was working part-time and they hired a therapeutic harpist. When harpists play the chords, the calming and soothing notes help the patients and those caring for them. It was a busy day and when I came back, I heard the heavenly harp chords. Months later, I met her; it was my first experience seeing a harp. I played piano and clarinet, but I felt compelled to learn it. I did not know how or why, but I got one, found a teacher, who also taught the harpist at the hospital. I wanted to share it. I could see the effects on the nurses, doctors and others at the hospital who would stop and listen. I wanted to be able to do that for people. In September 2011, I got my first harp and named it after a patient. All my nursing work connects with my art life.

**You are an artist that paints and sculpts as well. Tell us more about this.**

I do both, but I focus on the painting. I love a big white canvas, which can be daunting. I then turn it into something else. For those first few minutes, you forget yourself and just create. I hope to make a studio at home, but for now, I work in a small space with great lighting—it is my haven and hideout. I put on music and create. I do not sell privately, but I continue to show at galleries. Art is part of someone's life. Art is my legacy.

**Memorable moments at SLC**

When I attended college I was a mom in my early thirties, and I felt so old. The campus felt big, going to school in Brockville was a big deal, but it was the perfect spot for me. I was walking across campus and saw a friend of mine walking into school, turns out we were in the same program. Our kids played together. We were a small group, the comradery of our class was outstanding and we supported each other. I feel Henry Vyinkle had a lot to do with my art success. He was supportive—there is something about Henry.

**What is your advice for others as they wind down their careers and your plans?**

Enjoy nature, enjoy the simple pleasures every day and count your blessings. Now that I am retired from nursing, I would like to show my art in more galleries including out west and more in the United States. ✕

AT A GLANCE

3,751  
grads live  
abroad

# Global Reach

Just as the number of international students attending our three campuses has grown, our grads have shown they're not averse to taking their show on the road.

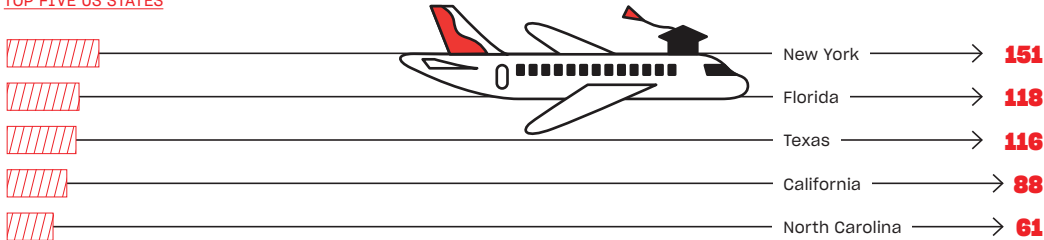
Where in the world will you find an SLC grad?

## 75 countries

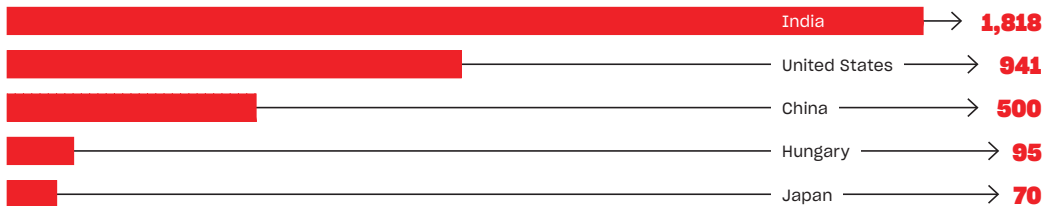
There has been at least one member of EVERY graduating class living outside of Canada

Where in the world will you find an SLC grad?

TOP FIVE US STATES



TOP FIVE COUNTRIES



Heading South\*

## 1991

Class with the most graduates in the US

## 2016 & 2018

Class with the least graduates in the US: It's a TIE – Class of 2016 and 2018 saw only ONE grad down south

\* **NOTE:** Every year since 1969 SLC grads have been heading south of the border. But there's likely a story to be told in the low points and the high points.

Programs with the most mobile grads

## 959

Computer & Information Systems (all)

## 911

Business (all)

## 377

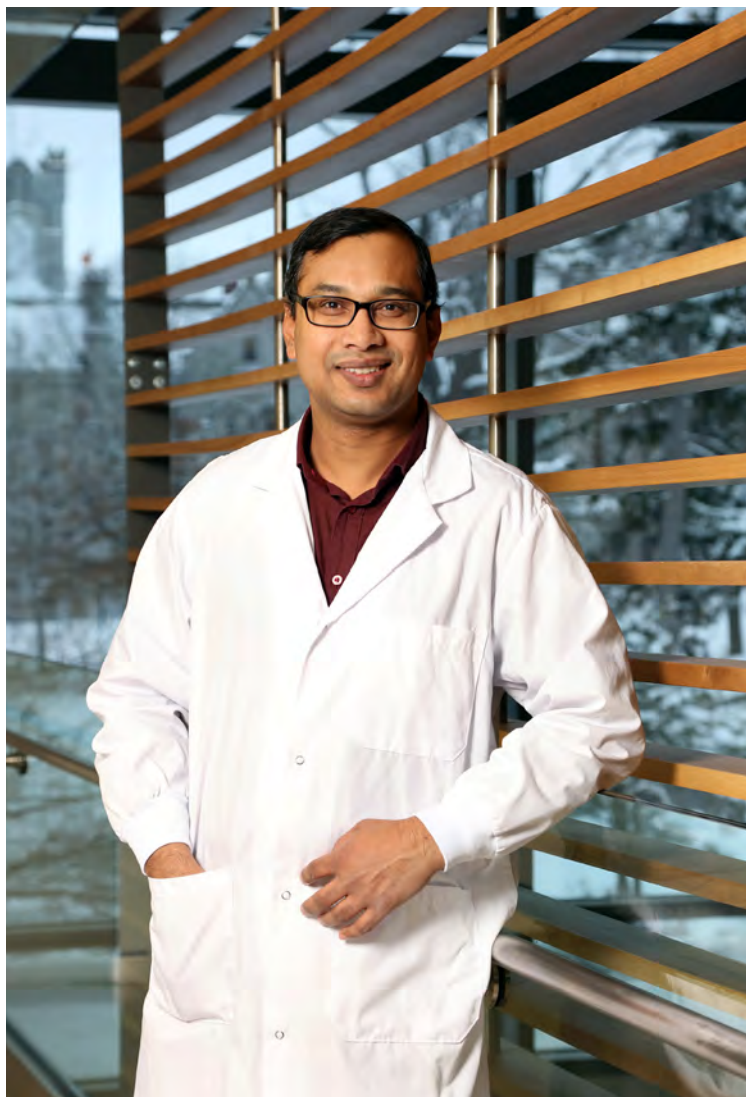
BScN, Nursing, Practical Nursing



## Lonely Planet

Here are the countries with only one grad each

ARMENIA  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
EGYPT  
ESTONIA  
GRENADA  
ICELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY  
JAMAICA  
KOREA  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
LUXEMBOURG  
NETHERLAND (ANTILLES)  
NORWAY  
PHILIPPINES  
POLAND  
QATAR  
ROMANIA  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SWAZILAND  
VANUATU



## FIRST-PERSON

# Hasan Alam

The man with a plan came to Canada with a masters in Chemistry. He found his fit at SLC

It takes courage to embrace challenges and carve out a new path, and in 2007, Hasan Alam left his native Bangladesh and immigrated with his young family to “the best country in my eyes—Canada.” No stranger to post-graduate studies, Hasan graduated from Dhaka University in 1999 with an undergraduate and Master’s degree in Chemistry.

He worked at BASF in their Paint and Paper division for eight years in Technical Support and Marketing and worked within their lab. He wanted new opportunities and when he arrived in Toronto as a newcomer, first he was a Chemical Technician for one of the coating industries, he then found employment at Apotex Inc., the largest

pharmaceutical company in Canada, which he followed with eighteen months at TEVA Canada Pharmaceuticals.

He discovered it was hard to find a job in the Chemistry field to match his ability and his passion, so he decided it was time to return to school and attend college in Canada. His uncle lived in Kingston and after visiting, he fell in love with the city and the St Lawrence College campus.

With his wife Rebeka’s support, Hasan enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Technology program as a mature student. His daughter was only three months old when he began his post-secondary journey at SLC, but he had a goal and was determined to succeed. Failure was not an option. Rebeka followed his example—graduating from Registered Practical Nursing program at SLC and now working at the same Centre. They are now parents to a son and daughter—Muhtasim, 16, and Arisha, 8, and enjoy being homeowners in the city they have grown to love.

I first met Hasan when he was a student recipient of awards through our Bursaries and Scholarship program. He attended a Donor Night event at the College to thank our donors and was so grateful for the support he received and was in awe of the donors who support our students. When asked what he considers one of his best SLC memories, he is quick to note it is the night where he met the donors. One was so inspired by his journey, they have stayed in touch and she considers him “like a son”. He also credits faculty for their encouragement and for fostering his confidence.

He found his calling with the Kingston Health Sciences Centre, where he was on placement for more than nine months. They liked his work ethic and offered him employment before graduation—working within the same position, rising from part-time to full-time, permanent.

He is cross-trained in microbiology and histology lab and is working in Microbiology Lab, which he loves. In addition to his role as Medical Lab Technician, he is the Lab Safety Officer taking care of all safety issues within the lab. Hasan’s involvement with SLC includes being part of the Med Lab Program Advisory Committee for several years.

Hasan’s advice for Canadian newcomers: Before beginning any program, research it and see if the job market matches their interests and abilities, and talk to people who succeeded in the field of their interest.

Hasan is a man with a plan. True to his scientific demeanor, Hasan he may be a man of few words, but his work in the health care of his community speaks for itself.—By Kris Ward



ASK-A-PRO

# Your Pet Questions

Advice from Vet Tech grads



We love our pets, but sometimes how to care for them can be a mystery. Tracy Rowsell, a Veterinary Technology graduate from 1998 has seen it all from her job at the Thousand Islands Veterinary Services. The part-time instructor in the SLC Vet Tech program gathered her former classmates and colleagues to curate a list of the most-asked questions.

## Does my indoor cat need vaccines?

- Yes, indoor cats could venture outside and encounter viruses.
- Visitors can bring viruses to your pet on their shoes/clothing.
- It is the law. All pets require Rabies vaccines.

Not so fun fact: Bats fly into homes and cats can inadvertently play with bats that carry the rabies virus.

## My pet had this problem two years ago, why won't my vet give me a prescription as before?

- Your Vet needs to make sure that it is the

same thing. There could easily be differences or complications this time, which is no different from our health care.

- Your Vet's license is on the line. If your pet's health worsens or doesn't improve due to an inappropriate prescription, they are responsible for that.

## Do I need to give tick prevention to my dog in the winter?

- YES! Ticks are still active and can bite and transmit Lyme Disease at any time the temperature outside reaches 4°C.

Fun Fact: Feb 2015 was the only month that has failed to reach 4°C since 2010

## How do I prevent my dog from getting Lyme Disease?

Use a 3-pronged approach:

- A tick prevention medication from your veterinarian
- Check your dog for ticks each day
- Get your dog vaccinated against Lyme Disease

Yes, even an indoor cat should be vaccinated, says Rowsell

## Why is vet care so expensive?

- Your Veterinarian, Veterinary Technologists and Veterinary Assistants have specialized training to help you and your pets.
- Vet clinics are hospitals and they must be stocked like one, ready to handle vaccinations and wellness visits, your spays and neuters, as well as complicated and possibly lifesaving surgeries.

## Why is a dental cleaning so expensive for my dog or cat?

Unfortunately, your pet won't lie still and hold their mouths open. They need general anesthesia to do a proper cleaning that involves: x-rays, a thorough dental exam, cleaning and polishing the teeth (including below the gum line), anesthesia and post-op recovery that is maintained and monitored by a Registered Veterinary Technologist or Technician. Usually IV fluids and pre-anesthetic bloodwork are included.

## How do I stop my cat from peeing all over my house?

- Cats are complicated creatures. First things first, this can often be caused by an infection or possibly even crystals in his/her urine. Your vet team can help you to figure out if either of those reasons is at play.
- Something may have upset their routine. The litter box may need cleaning more often, or a new person or a pet to your household is causing stress.

## My old dog is stiff and sore. What people medication can I give to help?

- None! Animals are far more sensitive to medications that we take than we are, and it is very easy for a pet to develop an ulcer or worse with human medications. Humans and pets take different dosages for most medications. They metabolize things differently. They should have medications designed to be safe for them that offer reliable pain control.
- Your pet isn't usually going to moan and in pain. If they are slowing down, reluctant to do stairs, jump up into the car or onto the bed, assume that pain is involved and contact your vet! ✖

To the  
Classes of  
2020-2024  
Welcome!

THE BIG PICTURE

# The gang's all here

It's a whole new decade of grads as SLC enters the 2020s! (Are we calling it the twenty-twenties?) Our brand new double gymnasium was just the right size to welcome the incoming classes this past September. Kingston campus welcomed 2,289 first year students (and future SLC Alumni) who were able to gather in one space for the first time in a long time.



*Oh, the Places You'll Go!  
Congratulations!  
Today is your day  
You're off to Great Places!  
You're off and away!  
You have brains in your head  
You have feet in your shoes  
You can steer yourself  
Any direction you choose.  
—Dr. Seuss*



# Lawrence College







# THE ORIGINAL MAKERS'

SLC's history with the Trades and related sectors is long and deep. For grads, careers have been built by hand...and heart.

BY  
CHRISTOPHER  
CLARK

PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY JOHNNY  
C.Y. LAM

*A rare view of Plumbing lab at the College.*

# SPACE

# IT WASN'T THE COMMENT SHE EXPECTED TO HEAR,

which is why she can still remember it so clearly eight years later.

Rowena Jordan was wrapping up her one-year Business Accounting program at the Kingston campus of St. Lawrence College. She had excelled, after coming back to school at age 29 and juggling what was already a busy schedule raising two daughters.

In a quiet moment, she was talking to John Conrad, at the time Associate Dean in the School of Business. "He asked me what I planned to do, whether I was going to pursue an accounting designation. I said I probably would but that someday I wanted to open a carpentry business."

Jordan had learned carpentry from her father, Dennis, as a youngster and every spring felt a palpable yearning to be outside in the garage building something. She had just started telling Conrad about her dream when he stopped her.

"What are you doing here?" he asked. "Do you think that in five years when you have an accounting job and are making good money, you'll quit that job to pursue your dream?"

Jordan was stunned. "It was the most important thing that happened to me that year at college. It's the only reason I went ahead."

She went ahead by registering immediately for the school's one-year General Carpentry program. She graduated at the top of her class and was Valedictorian. Less than a year after graduation, she created a business that would become Dustica Designs, a mash-up of her daughters' names—Dustine and Damica. It was a lot of work, but she believes none of it would have happened without the push she got from Conrad.

"It was John who did it."

Not every student learning a trade at St. Lawrence can point to such a Eureka moment. But they can all trace their success today to the training they got at the school. For all the new programs colleges have added in recent years, trades remain the backbone of the curriculum. When St. Lawrence welcomed its first students in 1967—rather famously in the basement of a high school—many were there to learn a trade.

Much has changed since then, from the facilities on three campuses to the way classes are taught. What hasn't changed is the essential business of equipping students for a career in their chosen trades.

Mark Daigle had no idea St. Lawrence would come to play such a central role in his life when he applied to the Cornwall campus fresh out of high school, more than four decades ago. Applying to St.

Lawrence was the thing to do in his family of eight kids. "Three of my siblings studied electronics, nursing and welding. I chose auto mechanic, so half of us went there."

Daigle apprenticed at Roy's Garage in Green Valley, 30 minutes northeast of Cornwall. It became Roy's Chevrolet Buick GMC and still operates today. He enjoyed working as a mechanic but was interested in teaching as well. So, he got his teaching credentials from Queen's and taught high school for four years. Then, in 1987, he applied for a position at St. Lawrence, returning to the place where he had started. It was a perfect fit, and he spent 32 years teaching various auto mechanic courses before retiring in June of last year.

"It was a nice combination of teaching and keeping my hands in it, being able to work on my own stuff," he says. Among the things he worked on when not teaching was the 2007 GM Sierra pickup truck he drives.

"My message at the beginning of every year was a bit of a pep talk about trades. I said they would never be out of work. It's not the most glamorous career, but it pays well. And then I told them my story, to emphasize your education can lead to other opportunities." When he retired, Daigle knew of 14 or 15 former students who had gone on to teach somewhere. "Even if you have no interest in teaching, this education can lead to different aspects of a given trade. Who knows how things will change? You're ready for what opportunities come along."



*Opposite: Rowena Jordan, in her happy place building Dustica Designs furniture in her workshop*





*Russ Phin reflecting on his lengthy career at St Lawrence and the strides made in the trade facilities and programs.*

‘Seizing opportunities’ could be Zoe Slumkoski’s mantra. Like Jordan, she can thank her father for introducing her to what would become her chosen trade. In Jordan’s case, her father was an accomplished woodworker who passed along his knowledge as she was growing up. In Slumkoski’s case, her father, Jeff, was simply looking for a way to spend some time with his daughter, doing something they both enjoyed.

“I was 15, growing up in Ottawa, and my dad took a welding course at Algonquin College just to see what it was like,” Slumkoski recalls. “He’s a general manager in sales and had never welded before. He enjoyed it and asked if I wanted to give it a try. So, we took a night course together. And then another. And another. I ended up taking four courses while I was in high school and then worked in the field for a year after I graduated.”

She then enrolled in the two-year Welding Technician/Technology program at St. Lawrence in Cornwall and graduated in 2012. “It was a great launch pad for me. I’ve had lots of opportunities after St. Lawrence in all sorts of areas that people don’t really know about.”

Breaking into a traditionally male job market was not as daunting as she feared. “Honestly, I had a pretty easy time, but I’ve

also specialized in gas tungsten arc welding, which uses smaller, thinner parts and more exotic materials. There are no sparks like in regular torch welding, and women have gravitated to it because it’s a more delicate process. I’m not physically built for the kind of all-day welding you see on construction sites.”

Her goal is to develop the skills needed to work on complex projects in such fields as aerospace and defence all over the world. She is also interested in the science of welding, using a microscope to do microstructure analysis.

To gain that knowledge, she enrolled in a three-year co-op program at the Kirkland Lake campus of Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology. She spends the working portion of the program back in her hometown of Ottawa, working for BMT Canada

**“I WANT TO BUILD FURNITURE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, AND I REGRET NOT STARTING WITH THAT EARLIER. SO, I TELL MY KIDS TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS NOW, WHILE THEY ARE YOUNG.”**

—ROWENA JORDAN

Ltd. “You learn about the science and procedures behind the project. I like being in front of a microscope more than being in the shop, doing research projects and solving problems, getting down to the atomic level.”

She’s in the homestretch of the program, having started in 2017, and is already looking around for her next adventure. “I get bored easily and I’m always looking for things that are exciting and challenging.” When she completes her current program, she’ll be qualified



*A behind the scenes view of some Plumbing lab welding.*

to work in 55 countries on the large-scale projects that interest her.

Including the initial night courses that sparked, as it were, her interest in welding, she’s now at her third Ontario college, building on the foundation she established at St. Lawrence.

Although trades have always been central to the mandate of Ontario colleges, it requires an ongoing commitment to maintain that focus. Schools have to offer relevant training that responds to the job market and the interests of students—both of which are moving targets.

For 30 years, Russ Phin worked for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Based in Kingston, he was an area manager and spent much of his time connecting colleges with employers and trainees. In 2001, St. Lawrence asked him to find someone who could join the College to help expand the scope of its trades training.

“I decided to apply for the job myself,” he recalls. “The idea was that it would be a short-term project to get some new programs up and running. I wasn’t sure about leaving my government job, even for a short time.”

In 2016, Phin retired from St. Lawrence, where he was Associate Dean, School of Skilled Trades and Tourism, ending a 15-year run. “I really enjoyed it. Working at the College was more challenging and rewarding than what I had been doing. After I had been there about two years, I decided I wanted to give it a try long-term.”

Trades were well represented at the school when he arrived, but some programs had slowed or stagnated. Phin’s job was to evaluate all the programs, looking for areas that needed improvement. “But more importantly, areas we could grow,” he says.

Relying on his connections in the Ministry, he applied for a half dozen or more provincial grants to upgrade existing facilities or build entirely new ones. Soon the College was building state-of-the-art carpentry and plumbing facilities and growing programs like millwright, brick and stone masonry, and mechanical technician. There were also new labs for electrician, esthetician, and hairstyling programs. And there was a new teaching kitchen, built to exacting professional standards, supporting the popular Essence restaurant on the Kingston campus.

“When I retired, I was surprised how much I missed it. St. Lawrence is a great place to work and learn.”

Craig Sims had never heard of St. Lawrence College in 1976 when his former high school history teacher gave him a brochure about a



specific program he thought Sims would like. Growing up in Ancaster, near Hamilton, Sims developed an interest in history and architectural drafting. He went to Carleton for a year to study history and was back in the Ancaster area working for the summer when he had his own Eureka moment.

"My history teacher, Allan Stacey, told me about a program at St. Lawrence in Brockville," Sims recalls. "Civil Engineering Technology-Restoration. It was exactly what I was interested in doing, and I fell in love with Eastern Ontario."

Sims graduated in 1980 and never looked back. He has worked on historic buildings across the country for four decades, self-employed for the last 30 years. Normally, he's hired by architectural or engineering firms that are restoring old buildings, very often National Historic Sites. He also consults regularly for the federal government. The Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office helps federal government departments maintain their historic properties and often relies on his expertise.

"I tend to be involved in all stages of a project, starting with research and a survey of the condition of the property, looking at how it's evolved. A lot of things you have to do are hidden, so you have to check to make sure they're completed before you put on the new roof, of whatever else is being done."

Sims is an expert in multiple areas, among them the restoration and upgrade of historic windows. He has worked on many buildings in Ottawa, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, the chapel in the National Gallery, and the East, Centre and West Blocks of Parliament. He's also worked on Fort Henry in Kingston, his hometown for more than two decades.

He lives in historic Barriefield Village, in an 1830s home protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. He wouldn't have it any other way. "I'm lucky I've been able to work in an area I've always been interested in."

You don't see a lot of Mark Fox's work in Barriefield Village, but in virtually every other part of Kingston, you can't drive five minutes without seeing something his company built.

"In any subdivision built in the last 30 years in Kingston, about 90 per cent of the houses have our roofs," he says. Fox owns Terra Nova Truss, a company he founded in 1991, six years after

**"I'M LUCKY I  
HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO WORK IN  
AN AREA I'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
INTERESTED IN".**

**—CRAIG SIMS, RESTORATION  
TECHNOLOGY, 1980**

graduating from the Civil Engineering Technology program at St. Lawrence. He employs nearly 60 people and does projects throughout Eastern Ontario.

"Our bread-and-butter is residential, but we have done some other projects as well, including a 100,000-square-foot barn in Napanee this year," Fox says. The company designs and manufactures pre-engineered floor and roof trusses at its Kingston plant and has invested heavily in technology over the years.

"It was a significant step for us when we were able to do four-storey wood construction projects. We've done many of the Braebury Properties apartment buildings, for example. Now, we can do six-storey buildings," he says. "As technology has developed, architects have better design tools, which means buildings are far more elaborate. We need to invest in laser tools and automated cutting tables to deliver what the designs require."

He also needs to hire skilled workers, something that can be a challenge. "There is a mindset that trades aren't fashionable, and we've been trying to change that. But there has been an exodus to the tech industries. It's not just the framing industry, but also brick layers and masons. We could see it happening for the last 20 years, but it was never really fixed."

Ironically, the increase in the province's minimum wage has hurt Terra Nova, although the company was paying well above the minimum for years. "We used to offer a higher hourly wage to attract people, but now you can make \$15 serving coffee or doing something else that requires less training than building roof trusses. That's increased our costs, just to get someone in the door. Then we have to work hard to keep them."

When he thinks of his three years at St. Lawrence, he remembers his professors first and foremost. "I had great profs. And a good group of friends. My experience was very positive."

*Zoe Slumkoski  
specializes in  
sparkless gas  
tungsten welding*





Fox arrived at St. Lawrence with a clear idea of what he wanted and started in the roof truss business right after graduating. After five years working for someone else in Ottawa, he created Terra Nova Truss.

For Rowena Jordan, it was the question of where she would be five years after graduating that sent her down a whole new path, prompted by one simple question from an associate dean. His interest in her future went well beyond classrooms and courses and prompted her to evaluate what she really wanted.

Today she refurbishes, rebuilds and repurposes furniture for her clients, often

homeowners but sometimes contractors and builders. She also builds pieces from scratch, filling a demand for custom-furniture she knows not everyone appreciates. "A lot of people don't recognize the value of custom-made furniture, but people who do really do. They are thrilled to find someone who can make exactly the piece they want."

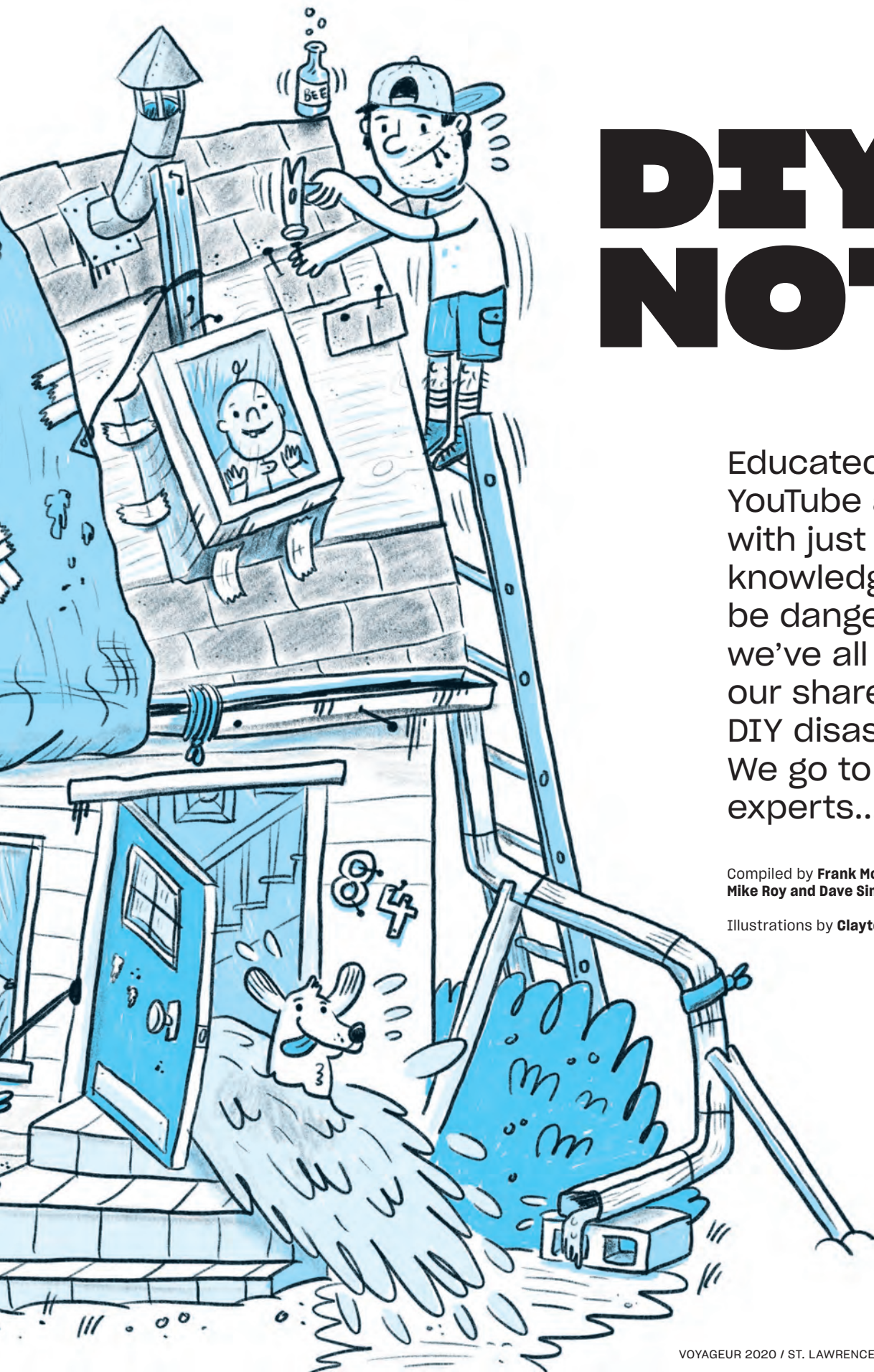
Jordan is now in a position to encourage her daughters in the same way John Conrad encouraged her. "I want to build furniture for the rest of my life, and I regret not starting with that earlier. So, I tell my kids to follow their dreams now, while they are young."

Her daughter, Damica, is in the Veterinary Assistant program at St. Lawrence. Her dream is to open a dog kennel. She'll face plenty of hurdles along the way, but she knows exactly where to find someone who can build kennels and other structures she'll need. ✕

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*Mark Fox oversees Terra Nova Truss production facility which he founded in 1991 after graduation.*





# DIY NOT?

Educated by  
YouTube and  
with just enough  
knowledge to  
be dangerous,  
we've all had  
our share of  
DIY disasters.  
We go to the  
experts...

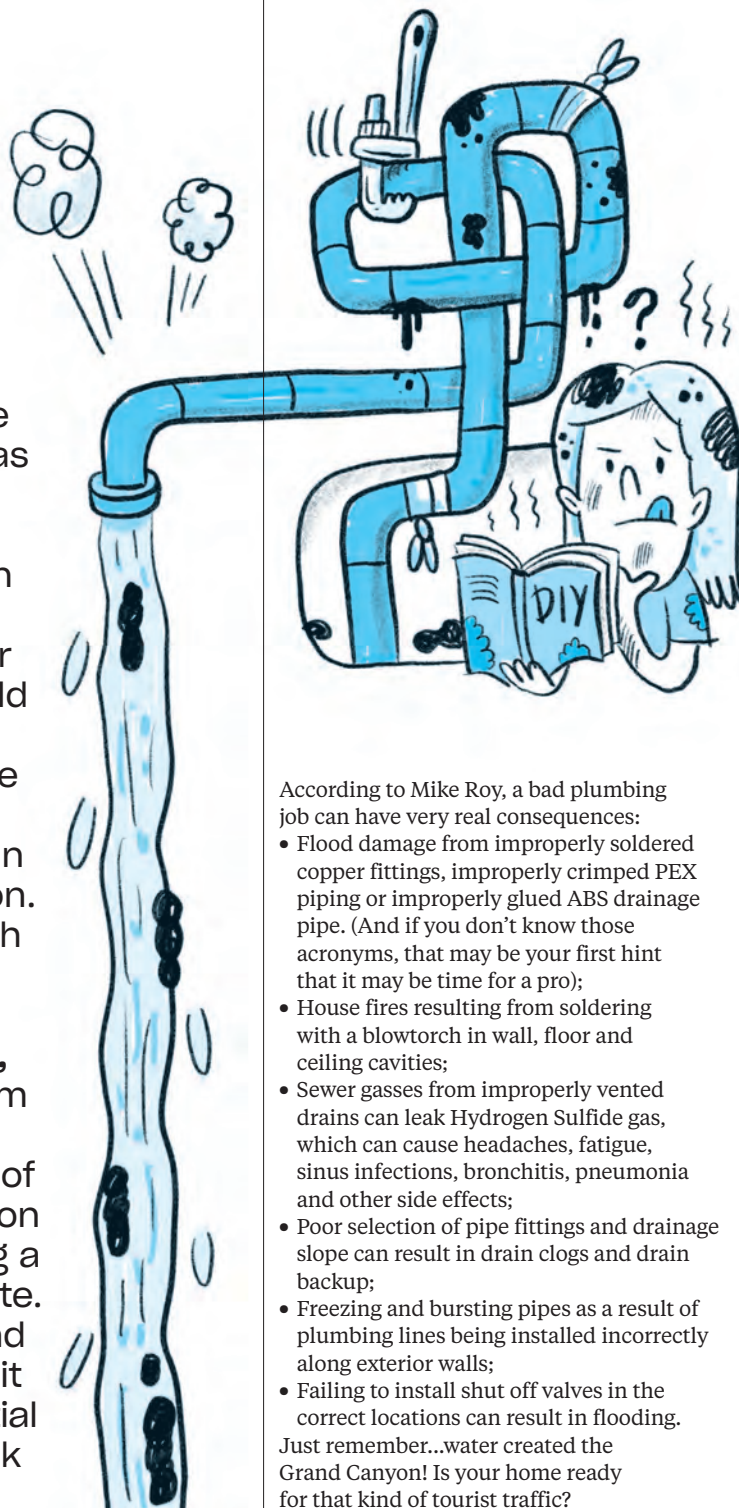
Compiled by **Frank McLaren,**  
**Mike Roy and Dave Simms**

Illustrations by **Clayton Hanmer**



## MARIO'S A PLUMBER. HE'S ALSO A CARTOON. WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

It seemed like a simple enough job. Stripping wallpaper isn't fun, but it should be simple – right? But for one homeowner (we'll call her 'Jane') it was anything but...because behind that wallpaper lurked a secret: An entire room whose walls consisted of a thin board nailed over the original (and crumbling) plaster, and held together at every seam by duct tape. ¶ It would have made Red Green proud. And a homeowner cry. ¶ We've all heard the stories. Armed with Youtube and an expensive array of tools, even you can damage your home beyond recognition. So we called on the people who teach our trades: **Mike Roy**, our plumbing guru, **David Simms**, our carpenter extraordinaire and **Frank McLaren**, our Electrical Apprenticeships program coordinator and resident expert, to enlighten us on the very real dangers of DIY. ¶ Consider their important reflection questions and pitfall list before tackling a project you may not be able to complete. Sure, you may want to save money and have the bragging rights to say, "I did it myself", but avoid the tears and potential health and legal issues before you pick up that hammer, wrench or drill.



According to Mike Roy, a bad plumbing job can have very real consequences:

- Flood damage from improperly soldered copper fittings, improperly crimped PEX piping or improperly glued ABS drainage pipe. (And if you don't know those acronyms, that may be your first hint that it may be time for a pro);
- House fires resulting from soldering with a blowtorch in wall, floor and ceiling cavities;
- Sewer gasses from improperly vented drains can leak Hydrogen Sulfide gas, which can cause headaches, fatigue, sinus infections, bronchitis, pneumonia and other side effects;
- Poor selection of pipe fittings and drainage slope can result in drain clogs and drain backup;
- Freezing and bursting pipes as a result of plumbing lines being installed incorrectly along exterior walls;
- Failing to install shut off valves in the correct locations can result in flooding.

Just remember...water created the Grand Canyon! Is your home ready for that kind of tourist traffic?

## MIKE HOLMES CAN MAKE IT RIGHT. YOU CAN MAKE IT HOLMES-LESS

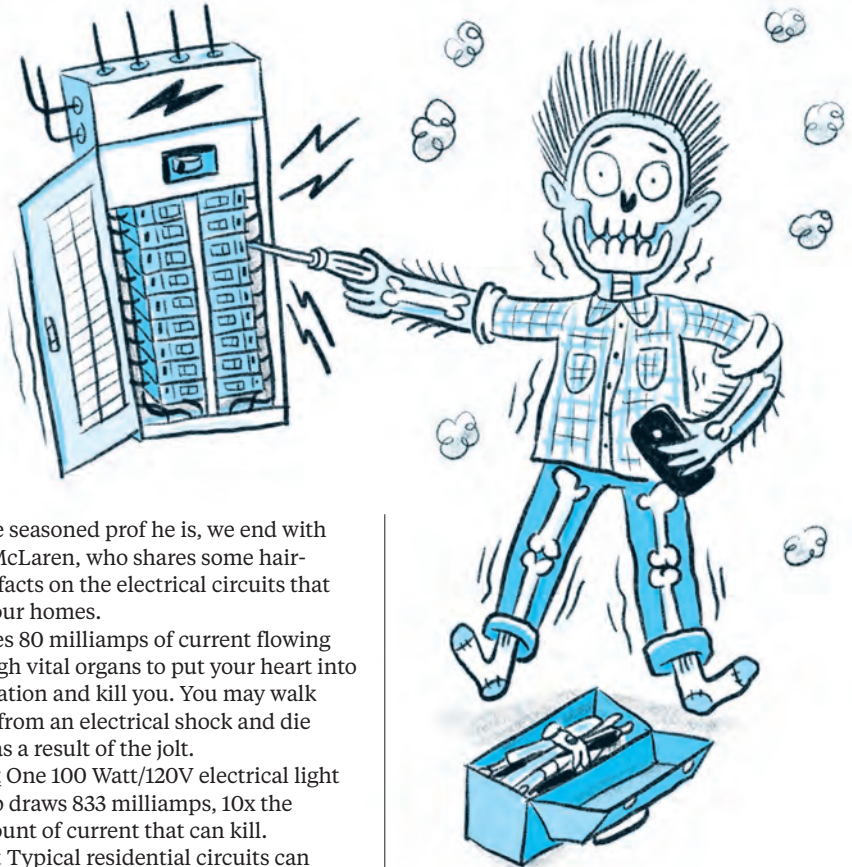


According to carpenter Dave Sims, there's a lot more to construction than slinging a hammer. Starting with building code and ending with a frank self-assessment of your time.

Before you dive into that home project, there are some things to consider:

- Do you need a permit for the project you are planning? If so, then obtain one before you proceed;
- Are you familiar with the building code regulations regarding the project?
- Do you have and know how to safely operate the tools required for the project?
- Do you know and have the required PPE Personal Protective Equipment for the project?
  - Fall arrest harness
  - Steel-toe footwear
  - Respirator mask
  - Safety guards on equipment
- Are you aware of the potential health risks associated with the project?
  - Underground gas, water, electrical utilities (Call before you dig)
  - Lead paint, Asbestos
  - Working at heights, ladder/platform safety
  - Electrical, plumbing in walls, ceiling and floor cavities
- Do you know the structural function and components of the project?
  - Load-bearing walls
  - Floor Joist and Rafter Span Codes and Standards
  - Proper wall construction
  - Insulation and vapour barrier standards
- Do you have the time to complete the project?

## THAT 'FLASH' MAY NOT BE YOUR BRILLIANCE



Like the seasoned prof he is, we end with Frank McLaren, who shares some hair-raising facts on the electrical circuits that power our homes.

- It takes 80 milliamps of current flowing through vital organs to put your heart into fibrillation and kill you. You may walk away from an electrical shock and die later as a result of the jolt.
  - Fact One 100 Watt/120V electrical light bulb draws 833 milliamps, 10x the amount of current that can kill.
  - Fact Typical residential circuits can carry have up to 12,000 milliamps, more than enough to kill a multitude.
  - Fact Many circuits in the home carry much more than that.
- It takes approximately five years of training (9000 hours), three levels of Trade School and Government Certification after training to become an electrician.
- Electricians need a thorough understanding of the Electrical Safety Code Book to install electrical equipment and wiring safely. There are just under 1,000 pages in the present Code Book

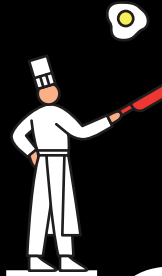
containing Definitions, Rules, Tables, Diagrams, Formulas and Appendices. There is no easy reader edition.

- Failure to follow the Safety Code could easily result in death—either yours or someone else's.

And if all of the above hasn't scared you away from the switchplates and wire cutters, Frank asks you to consider this: Many good, well-educated and well-trained electricians have been electrocuted. There is no room for amateurs. ✕

So faced with a project that tests the limits of your knowledge and attention span? Consider going with a pro. SLC has graduated 6,500 carpenters, electricians, plumbers and masons. And our society needs a whole lot more of them. So hire a grad or become one... because the only place for duct tape in your next home project is on actual ducts.

# THE APPRENTICE- SHIP SHUFFLE

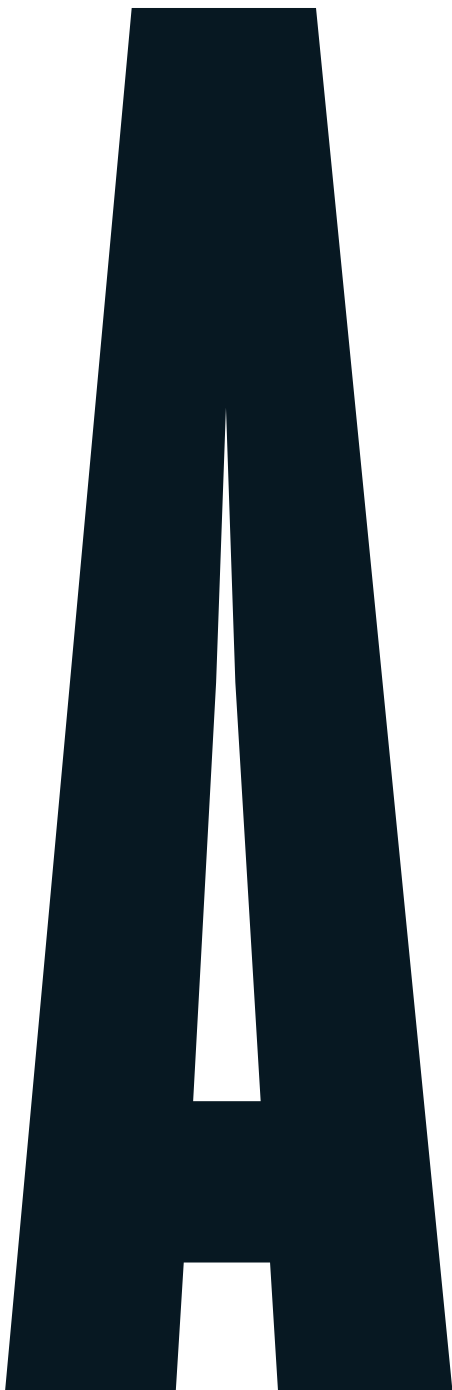


Looking from the outside in, apprenticeships seem like a great 'earn while you learn' deal. But getting there is half the battle.

BY CHRISTOPHER CLARK







among the various interest groups connected in some way to Ontario's apprenticeship training program, there is agreement on only two overarching statements: 1) The system is far too complex and needs to be overhauled. 2) Doing so is much more complicated than casual observers realize.

Released in the spring of 2019, the first budget of the Ford provincial government stressed the first point in dramatic fashion. It repeated a pledge to scrap the body in charge of apprenticeships—the Ontario College of Trades. And it promised, in general terms, to

reinvigorate and modernize the apprenticeship system.

The lack of specifics then or since highlights the reality of the second statement. After decades of operation, Ontario's apprenticeship system is a Rube Goldberg-style contraption of overlapping programs and confusing requirements. Each of the province's 24 community colleges participates in a unique fashion, offering both mandatory and optional apprenticeship programs, alongside more straightforward post-secondary programs. Colleges bid for apprenticeship spaces, known as seats, which are allotted by the province, making it difficult to plan long-term.

"If you map it out, it looks like the New York City subway system. It's so complicated," says Linda Franklin, president and CEO of Colleges Ontario. "Somehow, we've accepted that our apprenticeship program should be hard and complicated. We need to fix it."

Colleges Ontario represents all the province's colleges and is among the groups consulting with the province as it charts a new apprenticeship course. "At every stage of the apprenticeship system, it should look like the post-secondary system," Franklin says.

Courses and programs at St. Lawrence and all Ontario colleges fall into two broad categories: apprenticeship and post-secondary. The latter is relatively straightforward. A student interested in studying Business Administration or Culinary Management or a myriad of other available subjects applies, pays and starts classes. There are hiccups about prerequisites and class size, but nothing beyond the general expectations of how Ontario colleges and universities normally operate.

However, a student who wants to become a carpenter, cook, electrician, welder or any of a long list of careers including hairstylist, attends school as an apprentice. Although they share hallways, classrooms, parking lots and recreational facilities with post-secondary students, the truth is their college experience is completely different, starting the day they apply to the school.

Before attending even one class, an aspiring welder must find someone to hire him or her as a welder, agreeing to provide work experience as the student alternates between classes and work for the duration of the program.

"That can be a real barrier. You should be able to apply to college, and if you have an employer, great. But it shouldn't be a requirement," says Franklin.

"There are incentives for employers to take on apprentices," says Stephen Finnagan, Associate Dean at St. Lawrence's School of Skilled Trades and Tourism. "Grants to

employers amount to about \$15,000 per apprentice over a three-year period."

There's also a significant benefit to students. They pay \$400 tuition and alternate between the classroom and the workplace, gaining valuable hands-on experience. The piecemeal nature of the current system means some apprenticeships are mandatory, while others are optional. The advantages of the apprenticeship system are demonstrated by the number of students who opt for the program even if it's optional. Observers are hoping a reworked system will address the oddities of the mandatory/optional split.

Although it may be the first choice for students, the challenge of securing a "registered plan" with an employer and becoming an apprentice created demand for more post-secondary courses covering some of the same material. If a prospective cook can't line up an apprenticeship, he or she can take some courses and search for a job while studying or after graduating.

On paper, demand for apprentices among employers reflects needs in the economy, ensuring colleges train the right number of people for jobs in the right fields. In practice, the system has trouble reflecting actual demand in many sectors. Part of the reason for the mismatch has been rules in some sectors designed to protect existing workers.

Unifor, the union that represents many trades in Ontario, has been critical of proposed changes. Current rules limit the number of apprentices to ratios of 3:1 or 2:1, current tradespeople to apprentices. In other words, existing workers are offered some protection from being replaced by apprentices, who cost less for employers.

The province has floated the idea of changing ratios to 1:1 in many sectors. That idea is partly in response to employers in the red-hot housing industry, centred largely, but not entirely, in the GTA. Builders cannot hire trades such as electricians at a pace to keep up with demand. The Ontario Home Builders' Association has long been critical of ratios and appears to have convinced the government to move in this area.

The manner chosen by the province to address this and other issues could affect St. Lawrence and all Ontario colleges profoundly. Finnagan and his counterparts at other schools are watching closely, trying to be ready for whatever changes take place.

"There is a massive number of tradespeople retiring," he says. "With ratios of 2:1 or 3:1, there's no way to replace them all. That has been one obstacle on the pathway to apprenticeships."

Besides changing ratio rules, the province is likely to approve "micro credentials." Rather than requiring an electrician, for example, to complete a full three-year

program and receive a Red Seal certification that covers all aspects of his craft, he could specialize in something more focused and be out in the workforce sooner.

Finnagan recognizes the appeal of getting people out onto job sites, filling needs and reducing bottlenecks in construction projects. But he also has some concerns.

"There is a skill shortage, and we need to take steps to counteract that. But right now, if you earn your Red Seal certification, you're recognized as the top of your field and can work anywhere across Canada. If we train people so they can wire a house but not a commercial building, that prevents mobility. They are more restricted in the work they can do."

The addition of micro credentials will require St. Lawrence and other colleges to revamp their programs. Teaching a trade requires not just classrooms but equipment and other infrastructure. It will take time to put those in place and to hire qualified instructors to match demand in new, more focused programs.

"We have to keep our options open as the province considers what it's going to do," Finnagan says.

Another thing to consider is a new provincial funding formula that will measure how successfully colleges deliver apprentice programs. The so-called "pay on performance" system will be fully implemented by 2022 and

will affect how an entire college is funded, not just the specific apprenticeship programs. The effect is impossible to predict, but as Finnagan says, it means programs across the school could be affected by how well St. Lawrence adapts to the new apprenticeship system.

Like Franklin, Finnagan is hopeful each college will have more autonomy in registering students into apprenticeships. "There's lots of potential for change. Perhaps the college system will have more ownership of its apprenticeships, rather than negotiating seats with the Ministry. In that way, it would be more like our post-secondary system."

In her position advocating for all 24 Ontario colleges, Franklin is cautiously optimistic. After the initial announcement that the government was going to remake the system, things have slowed down a bit. "The good news is they've brought in advisors," she says. "They're consulting now and will release consultation documents. They're also going to do public consultations in the new year. I expect it will take a while to finalize the decisions."

Following a cabinet shuffle, the new Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities is Ross Romano. "We're pleased with what he's done," Franklin says. "It's a hard system to understand on its face. We hope by the next provincial budget to have some direction."

There may well be a third thing on which

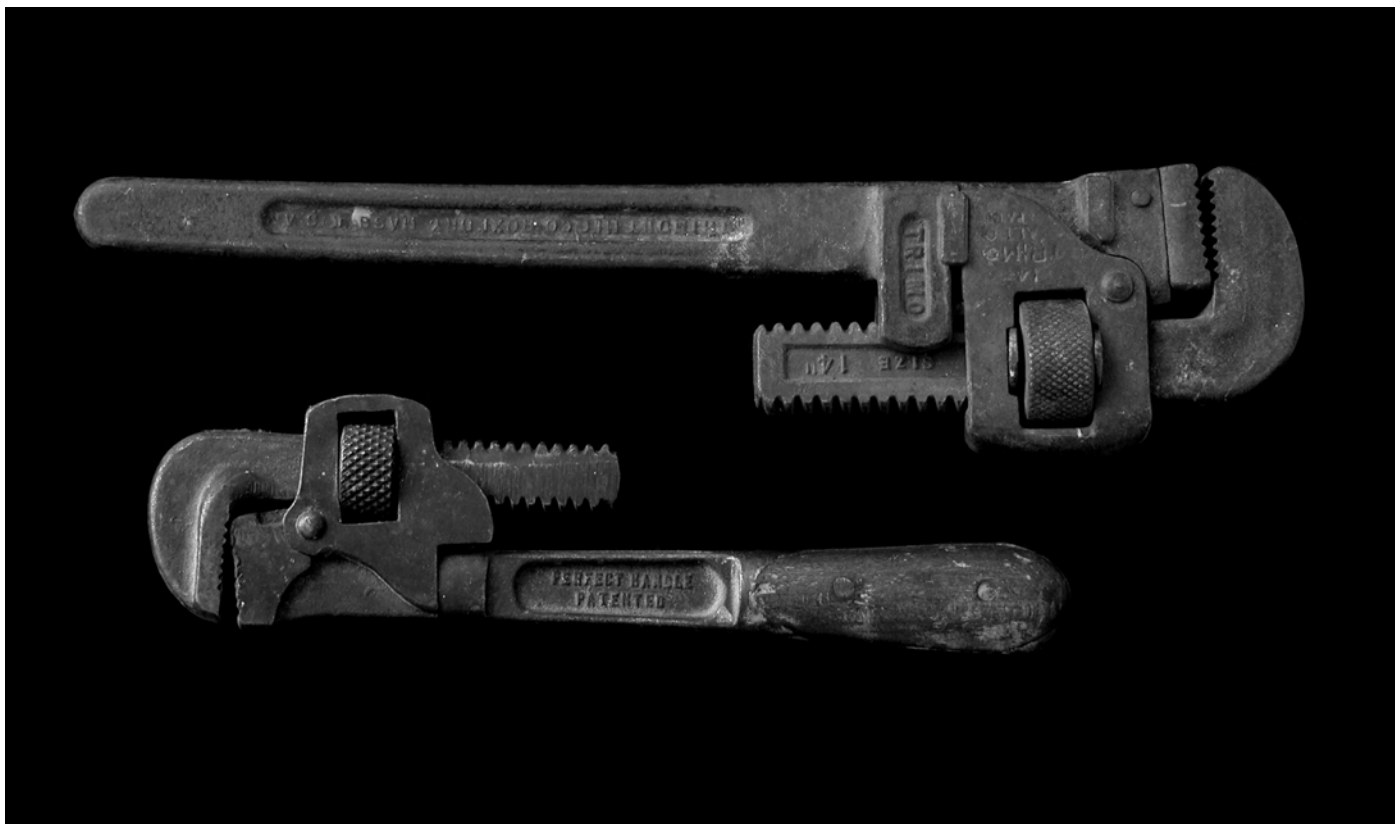
everyone involved with apprenticeships in Ontario can agree. One of the best things that could happen to the system is a change in attitudes toward trades. "We need to ask how we can change the way people think of trades, so in North America we look at trades the way they do in Europe," Franklin says.

"It's not just guidance counsellors. We don't need to give them more information about trades. We need to contextualize it. Perhaps most importantly, we need to convince parents that trades are an admirable pursuit. Tradespeople are well paid and in demand. We need to get that message out."

Until he retired in 2016, Russ Phin was Finnagan's predecessor as Associate Dean in the School of Skilled Trades and Tourism. He recognizes the reluctance of students to head down the apprenticeship/trades path. But he knows for a fact the path leads to employment and success.

"During my time, our electrical program went from 20 students taking one program per year to three intakes per year with 60 students each time," he says. "That was simply because of demand. There are good jobs out there, and we need to get students into apprenticeship programs to learn the skills they need."

Everyone involved hopes the new system will achieve that goal, making things better for students, colleges and employers alike. ✕



# 1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts

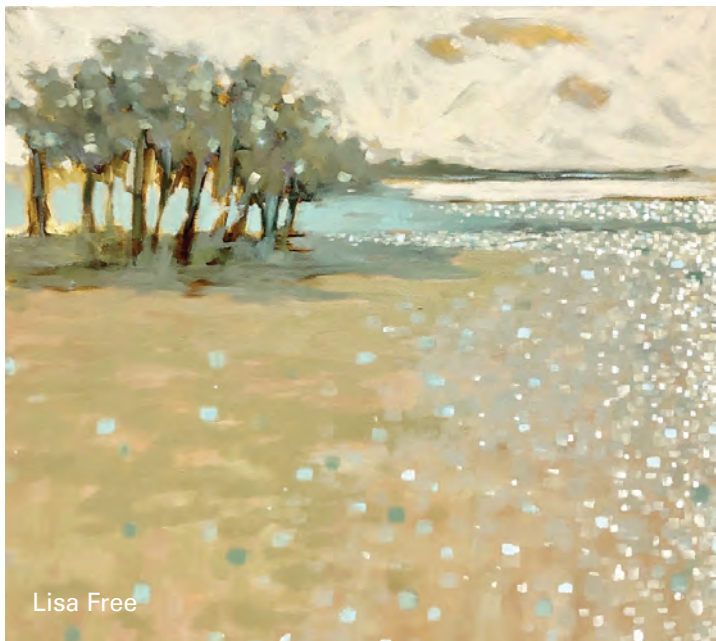
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Join us this summer for  
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## QUESTIONS?

Contact us at [oceregistration@sl.on.ca](mailto:oceregistration@sl.on.ca)

# Alumni News

Celebrating your milestones, testimonials and fondest memories



Juno Alert-SLC grad Chris Huot and his band the Glorious Sons are nominees for 2020 rock album of the year Juno award and will be performing.

ALUMNI

## Homecoming

The Glorious Sons returned to play to their hometown crowd in Kingston this past summer—including bassist Chris Huot an SLC Plumber-Apprentice grad. He may have left plumbing behind, but with good reason. The band was called “Canada’s Best Export” in a recent Washington Post article. Learn more about them on their website [theglorioussons.com](http://theglorioussons.com).

A LAST BLAST

## IT Grads to gather to say goodbye to Donna Graves



After 38 years, Donna Graves is retiring and we're gathering the grads from the Kingston Campus IT related programs to bid farewell.

From bulky data processing to streamlined mobile applications, Donna's seen it all and been at the helm, guiding students as they explore information technology. We're sending her off in style, with an all-computer program reunion on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 6 pm to 9 pm., in the new event centre on the Kingston campus.

We're calling on all computer grads and former

faculty from the Computer Networking and Technical Support, Computer Programmer, Computer Programmer Analyst, Business Administration-Information Systems, Business-Information Systems, Junior Programmer, Business Administration-Data Processing and Business Data Processing programs for an evening of fun and reminiscing.

Join us on Currents SLC ([currentsslc.com](http://currentsslc.com)) and share your photos, memories and goodbye messages on the IT Group.

Watch for your invitation by email and posts on our social pages and our new platform, Currents SLC. Update your records on [slcalumni.ca/](http://slcalumni.ca/) update, so you don't miss out on this great sendoff. It will be a night to remember.



UNITED FORCE

## PFP Grads become mentors



Police Foundation alumni are sharing their career insights and recommendations for future success, as role models for PFP students on the Kingston campus. The PFP Alumni Mentorship project launched at the Innovation Centre in November—bringing together grads and second-year students.

Graduates shared their current role, their path, and how the program has benefited their careers. The evening culminated in a networking event where they spent hours discussing their plans and getting the reality check of

being a grad and pursuing their individual goals. From uniformed officers to corrections, to security, to mental health managers and a firefighter who changed paths thanks to the training in the PFP program, opportunities are abundant. The career paths spanned fields, locations and post-grad opportunities. The future grads revelled in the real-world experiences that the mentors were sharing.

Kingston Campus Police Foundations program coordinator Randy Zabukovec worked with the Alumni office to bring together Police Foundation grads to mentor the students following in their footsteps.

Not all the participants could attend the event, however, but that didn't stop them from participating. Many have joined Currents SLC to continue the discussions: review resumes, offer post-grad advice and listen to the students. The next mentoring gathering is on April 1, 2020. To learn more, join Currents SLC at [slccurrents.com](http://slccurrents.com) or contact [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca).

A Golden Celebration

Nursing alumni have always honoured their history.

That's why planning is already underway for the 50th anniversary of Nursing at SLC in 2023—at all three campuses. Keep up to date at [currentsslc.com](http://currentsslc.com)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SLC ARCHIVES; ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROSE WONG

ARE YOU IN?

## Currents SLC is the hub for grads, careers, mentoring and more



**“Just joined Currents SLC. Impressed with the concept and marketing! Looking forward to re-connecting. Any alumni in Texas?”**

Kyle Moore, Business Administration, Marketing, 2008 (K)

Barret House had an opening for Residential Counsellors, and they knew exactly what they were looking for in the ideal employee—a Police Foundations grad. They had found in the past that PFP grads have worked well with their clients and gained valuable field experience before going on to more traditional roles in Corrections or the Kingston and Ottawa police departments. But how do you reach PFP grads with an outside-the-box career opportunity?

Susan Waycik, Robbie Fenton and other Music Theatre grads are building their performance careers in Toronto, and that means sometimes creating their own opportunities through self-produced shows. They’ve got the talent, but where do they find an audience?

Randy Zabukovec, the Police Foundations program coordinator in Kingston, knows the value in mentorship. He is piloting a new mentorship program for his second-year students and grads to connect. But reaching those grads and organizing those mentoring relationships is a huge job. Where can he find grads and facilitate discussions?

### We’ve got an app for that! (In fact, it’s an entire online community)

We quietly launched Currents SLC last year as a place for our grads to connect with each

other and the College, and to provide opportunities that are tailor-made for SLC alumni. Today, we’re over 700 members and, best of all, more than 60% have indicated they’re willing to help their fellow SLC grads by providing advice, opening doors or meeting in person.

They’ve also posted Career Opportunities at their workplaces, shared the events they are involved with (business and personal) and connected with their former classmates to plan reunions and gatherings.

Currents SLC is the online meeting place for our grads, and as more sign up, so do the opportunities. Go to [currentsslc.com](https://currentsslc.com) to join them today.

It’s your platform. Are you in?



#### iOS (Apple)

Go to the App Store and download the «Graduway Community» app and select “St. Lawrence College”

#### Android

Go to the Google Play store and download the app «St. Lawrence College»

### Make the most of your Currents SLC experience

Log in using your Facebook or LinkedIn account or sign up using an email of your choice. <https://currentsslc.com>

Scroll through a personalized news feed, view job opportunities and events, get in touch with old classmates, find a mentor/mentee and tell your friends.

- ☐ Make sure your profile is complete including program(s) and year graduated
- ☐ Add a profile photo
- ☐ Sync your LinkedIn profile
- ☐ Share your website, Twitter and Instagram accounts
- ☐ Post an update to let everyone know what you’ve been up to and start building your network interactions
- ☐ Post your events including PDFs-your website link and direction map will be available to increase awareness and help them find you
- ☐ Reach out to grads who are willing to help, or be one to help
- ☐ Share some photos or start a photo album
- ☐ Post some throwback photos and share some memories
- ☐ Join or create a group
- ☐ Plan a reunion
- ☐ Win some great Alumni swag!

# What was your favourite song and or artist from your college days?

Music truly is the soundtrack of our lives. We posed this question on the SLC Alumni social media, and the responses ranged from pop to hip-hop, rap, rock and country. So whether you listen to vinyl, digital, or cassettes, there is something about a mixtape that elicits memories. Here's a taste:

"Kenny Chesney, *You had me from Hello*. The song my husband & I danced to at our wedding. We got married two months after I graduated in 2003 and met in the Schooner's pub!"  
—Erin Vallentgoed, *General Arts & Science*, 2002

"Every Thursday Friday and Saturday night you would find the class of 1999-2001 Hotel and Restaurant Management at Stages dancing to to Eiffel 65's *Blue*....mostly I remember Mike Galvin on the speakers Shawna Copas, Dave McDermott, Wade Paul—oh I miss you all so much xoxo."  
—Chantelle Webb, *Hotel and Restaurant Management*, 2001

"My favourite tracks, and songs that were on replay in my ear while in class: J Cole, *Lights Please*; Lupe Fiasco, *Show Goes On*; Nas, *The Don*; Kendrick Lamar, *Hol up*; Kanye & Jay-z, *Church in the Wild*."—Paymon Afnan, *CNTS* 2012

"April Wine. *Weeping Widow*. Saw them at Queen's in College years."—Bruce Patterson, *Child and Youth Worker*, 1976

"Patio Lanterns by Kim Mitchell, he played for my orientation!!!"—Kally Porteous, *Business Administration, Human Resources Management*, 1996

"Geez 80's music. Came and left so fast. Anyone remember Sneakers school pub? The Hip playing there Oops I'm off track lol. Ok a song. *Money for Nothing*!!!"  
—Brent Anderson, *Business Administration, Marketing*, 1986

"Just A Friend, Mario (2003) and When I Grow Up, The Pussycat Dolls (2009)"  
—Tanya Vigna, *Office Administration, General*, 2003 (K) and *Office Administration, Medical*, 2009

"Modern Love & Let's Dance from David Bowie's Let's Dance album ('83). Use to fall asleep daily in a library cubicle listening on my Sony Walkman"—Linda Trenholme, *Secretarial Arts, Executive*, 1985

"Dancing in the Dark and Footloose at Brockville Pub in the 80's...Schooners(?)"  
—Paula Ball, *Developmental Services Worker*, 1986





"The Hip, bring me back to Kingston every time I hear them I'm home in Sydenham."—*Colleen Kerri O'Connor, Graphic Design, 1999*

"I Wanna Dance with Somebody by Whitney Houston. A group of 8 of us took the elective class of sign language, and learned to sign this song."—*Monique Levac Branchaud, Behavioural Science Technician, 1989*

"So many favorites back in my College days but *Run to You* by Bryan Adams..... couldn't resist it!!"—*Debbie Lloyd, Behavioural Science Technician, 1981*

"Under the Boardwalk."—*Joan Appleton Boyd, BST, 1999*

"Black Eyed Peas back in 2003-04."—*Sara Barrie, Hairstylist, 2004*

"2010. *Tik Tok* by Kesha."—*Stephanie Bassett, Early Childhood Education, 2010*  
—*Elle Carlyle Murray, Hairstylist, Basic, Apprenticeship, 2015*

"Thinking Out Loud by Ed Sheeran. I was in my 30s when I went to College though, so I didn't know a lot of the cool songs then. LOL."—*Tasha Coughler, Culinary Management, 2016*

"Chainsmokers, Closer. My other favourite artist: Drake, and I loved *Back to Back*"—*Risahb Kumar, Computer Networking and Technical Support, 2018*

"I don't know how many times I listened to *Hello* by Adele."—*Gabryelle Decoste, Hospitality Management, Hotel and Restaurant, 2017*

"Early 90s, Celine Dion—just saw her for the first time in Ottawa a couple of weeks ago!"—*Jennifer Henry, Office Technology Administration, 2006*

"Can't Touch This, MC Hammer. Loved the party dance music—Great Times!"—*Larry Doyle, Business, Marketing, 1996*

"Don Mc Lean, *American Pie!* I am dating myself but those were the days. Also INXS *I Need You Tonight!*"—*Dawn Elizabeth Coates, Business, Human Resources, 1989*

"Turn me Loose by Loverboy (1980)."—*Marilyn Magee, Business, Retail Management, 1979*

"2001 Drops of Jupiter by Train and How you remind me by Nickelback!"—*Erin Agostinelli, Human Resources, 2010*

"Black Water by the Doobie Brothers 74."—*Jill Hodgson, Secretarial Arts, Medical, 1976*

"This Is The Best, USS (2014)."—*Cara Joan Cochrane, Business - Accounting, 2014*

"Hmm, late 90's, *Change The World* by Eric Clapton maybe? *Streets of Philadelphia* by Springsteen?"—*Nicholas Kaduck, Nursing, 2001*

"Dropkick Murphys was my favourite band, can't pick just one."—*Leigh Keeler, Paramedic, 2005*

"I Gotta Feeling... The Black Eyed Peas (2009)!!"—*Meg Kendall, Advertising, 2008*

"1977...Dancing Queen. ABBA"—*Kathleen Youmans, 1977*

"At the Carwash (1978)"—*Judy Lowe, Business Admin, Finance, 1978*

"We listened to a lot of *Don't Stop Believing* by Journey from 2005-2009... College jams!"—*Blair Stinson, CYW, 2009*

**Be a part of the conversation**  
Follow us on social media  
[@SLC\\_Alumni](#)

# PROUD TO BE SLC



Every year  
we search for  
SLC Alumni  
to nominate,  
and it's a  
tall order.  
Our 2019  
nominees  
embody  
the spirit of  
the College  
and our grads

---

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
BERNARD CLARK  
&  
KENDRA PIERROZ

ILLUSTRATION BY ROSE WONG



BUSINESS

## **Julie Tompkins**

Business, Advertising & Public Relations, 1984;  
Empire Life, Vice-President Corporate Services and Chief Communications Officer

Julie Tompkins is a master communicator who brings a journalist's curiosity, a publicist's enthusiasm and a marketer's strategy to her role as a VP of one of Canada's top insurance firms. With almost 1,000 employees spread over seven provinces, she has held diverse portfolios as VP—overseeing investor, regulatory, employee, customer and community relations—while never losing sight of the unifying power of storytelling to connect audiences and ideas. Julie has never lost touch with the college student whose mission was to be fully engaged.



TECHNOLOGY

## Sandra Powell

Animal Care Technology, 1975; President, LifeStream Animal Bloodbank Inc.

Since starting her company only 15 years ago, Sandra Powell has become the best friend of man's best friend. Lifestream Animal Bloodbank is the only facility in Ontario—and one of only two in Canada—to provide blood and plasma for transfusions to treat canines with life-threatening needs.

A lifetime career as a research and laboratory technologist—with a focus on bleeding disorders in dogs—inspired her to provide the lifeline to dogs in need. Today she sets up doggie blood clinics across the province to provide blood and plasma to veterinarians in Canada and around the world.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

## **Patrick Cousineau**

Business Administration, Management, 1992; Director, Parliamentary Affairs, Senate of Canada

Patrick Cousineau likes to say that if he's doing his job properly, you will not find him in a Google search. A lifetime of work in the background of politics means he is focused on making things happen and solving problems from behind the scenes. And while his work has had national impact—serving as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Parliamentary Affairs to the Cabinet Minister in three federal ministries and now the Senate—it is the seamless melding of competing interests, expertise and vision that is his 'day at the office' on Parliament Hill.



RECENT GRADUATE

## **Susan Waycik**

Music Theatre – Performance, 2015; Artistic Producer, Waycik Productions; Producer, Queer and Present Danger; Box Office Supervisor, Young People's Theatre

Susan Waycik is a one-of-a-kind voice. She is creating opportunities to showcase the talents of LGBTQ+ comedians and actors because she saw a need for safe spaces for comics and audiences and decided to create it. According to a Toronto entertainment lifestyle publication, just four years out of college, she is at “the top of the Queer Comedy scene and becoming one of the best independent producers in Toronto, Susan has become a beacon for everyone who works with and around her. Her rise is nothing short of meteoric, and shows no signs of stopping.”



CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

## **Robert Smith**

Graphic Design, 1989; Creative Director, Greenmelon Inc.; Author; Business Owner; Public Speaker

In his 30-year career as a graphic designer, Robert Smith has demonstrated creativity without boundaries. An award-winning designer behind such iconic images as the Farm Boy brand, he is also an author and an advocate. His design work has won over 100 awards, and his expertise has made him a sought-after judge in design competitions nationally and internationally. But he counts his advocacy for the creative process—teaching, mentoring, speaking, and as a founding member of the Registered Graphic Design association—that is his legacy. His motto of ‘pencils over pixels’ encourages others to find their creative inspiration.



# Echoes

1981

**Janet Smith**

Business Administration (K)  
I am a marketing graduate from 1981. I will be retiring in July 2020, just over 29 years with Kingston Police. I was a Civilian employee when I started my career in dispatch then after 5 years accepted position in the property/evidence/quartemaster unit where I will retire.

1986

**Christopher Varley**

Civil Engineering Technology (K)  
He is the recipient of a Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Governor General of Canada, in recognition of his involvement with the research, preservation and promotion of Canadian naval history.

1991

**Daniela Tedesco-Derouchie**

Business (C)  
Married Gary Derouchie on July 13, 2013. Had 2 kids, Joey and Alessandro. Also working as Executive Officer for Rideau-St. Lawrence Real Estate Board since January 2018. Previously worked for Member of Parliament Guy Lauzon.

2001

**Darlene Walsh**

Practical Nurse (C)  
I found Nursing to be very rewarding. Hoping to be able to pass on my education knowledge on to others. I have 4 grown children. Organizer of Community Lunch for the Lonely, 5 years in a row. Loved having students to follow and teach on surgical unit in the past.

2005

**Jo-Ann Tessier**

Industrial Management (C)  
I graduated with a Certificate

in Industrial Management, Diploma in Gerontology, and Certificate in Community Nursing from SLC. I currently teach part time in the BScN program. I have furthered my education. BScN, University of Ottawa, 1999; Master, Health Studies, Leadership, Athabasca University, 2006.

2014

**Nicholas Revell**

Pre-Service Firefighter (B)  
Although my program was only 1 year, it was the greatest year. Pre service fire taught me to value every moment of every single day the memories I have from one year will span a lifetime.

2015

**Andrew Couturier**

Environmental Technician (C)  
He is the recipient of the OACETT Outstanding Community Service Award for exemplifying the distinct virtues of community service.

2017

**Constantin Mugenga**

Social Service Worker (K)  
I organized 10th Annual Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival on September 8th at the Confederation Park. Kingston Immigration Partnership, Co-lead KIP. Also would like to share that I am starting a Cleaning business: Imperial Cleaning.

**Holly Taylor**

Veterinary Technology (K)  
Straight off placement, I received 2 job offers. A full time position in a clinical practice & the other, a weekend position in a research facility. I worked in clinical practice for 2 years & earned my RVT within the first year. I received an offer for a full time position within the research facility I had been working weekends. I accepted & am now the Animal Care Technician in the Comparative Bioscience Animal Facility at Brock University. I still work the odd weekend shift in clinical practice & adore my jobs!

## Passings.

1972

David James Andrew, *Business Administration - Finance (K)*

1975

Dianne Campbell, *Diploma Nursing (C); Hilda M. Thompson, Diploma Nursing (K)*

1977

Derek Creaser, *Animal Care Technology (K); Alice Davina Golden, Registered Nurse - Management Skills (K); Jane Grant, Education des Petits (C)*

1978

Richard Mallory, *Electrical Engineering Technology - Power Systems (B)*

1979

Catherine Huffman, *Diploma Nursing (K)*

1984

Garth Elliott, *Mechanical Engineering Technology (K); Alfred J. Kitson, Nursing Assistant (B); Patricia Ransom, Nursing (C)*

1985

Edward T. MacDonald, *Business Administration - Finance (K)*

1988

Marilyn Liddell, *Home Support - Level II (B)*

1989

Beverly Cross, *Home Support - Level II (B)*

1991

Joseph Hogan, *Electrician - Construction and Maintenance - Advanced - Apprentice (K)*

1996

John A. MacKay, *Business Administration - Information Systems (K)*

1997

William Cassidy, *Business - Information Systems (K); Christina Wilford, Municipal Tax Administration (K)*

2004

Natasha Francis, *Business Technology - Information/Communication Systems (C)*

2011

Jarrad Fairborn, *Energy Systems Engineering Technician (K); Paul Watson, Police Foundations (K)*

2016

Jessica Alguire, *Practical Nursing (B)*

2017

Michael Zvaigzne, *Biotechnology - Advanced (K)*

**SLC Staff**

Jane Anderson (Robertson), David Andrew, David Ashton, Barb Astbury, Dorothy Bird, Diane Brennan-Campbell, Jarrad Fairborn, Eleanor "Joan" Gowsell, Jane Grant, Laurence Hardy, Gabrielle Rouleau-Strople, Edward Zuber

# Ruminations about computations

The theme of this Voyageur issue inevitably led me back to the very early years when “punching your card” had a whole different meaning. I refer, of course, to the rectangular cards that were punched and fed into the entry level IBM 1130 computer located in the “temporary” structure on Kingston Campus that continues to this day as the Leeds Building.

This photo from 1968 or 1969 shows the 1130 computer, with Steve Graves (on the right) explaining the finer points to students of the time. The 1130 was an IBM computer and Steve joined St. Lawrence from IBM. Coincidence? I think not!

## Punch Card Heaven and Hell

Judy Hartlen, who joined the college in the summer of 1968, was the first computer operator. This meant that she was key punching Cobol programs, loading the cards into the computer, and doing a daily backup. The latter step turned out to be invaluable because when work began on constructing the Dundas and Stormont buildings on Kingston Campus, the blasting would wipe out the discs on the computer and Judy would have to reload from the backup tape.

Those punch cards were a critical element in the registration of students in the early years. Nancy Sudak recalls the huge bins set up in the Gym at registration time, with what seemed to be a million slots holding data cards, each representing one course per student.

As she describes it:

The musty smell of these

monoliths permeated the gymnasium and slivers abounded from reaching into the cavernous holes to build a deck of 5 to 8 cards per student. Once in hand, these bloodstained cards made the rounds to an unforgiving mainframe to ensure that all students were registered in their individual program of studies.

According to Judy, her department grew to include several programmers, six key punch operators, and a *smart boss* [emphasis added] named Jerry Zabel. The department became responsible for the student record system and financial and payroll systems written by our in house

programmers (many of whom were St Lawrence graduates). Others involved in the early years of college computing, included Bill Harris, David Bell, Edith Adam, Connie Edwards, and Betty Hunt.

Jerry recalls that programming with punch cards was very slow and laborious. Some students needed 2,000 cards (two boxes) to code their Cobol programs! The computer card reader was slow and in the early days there would only be one “run” of student cards a day because the computer was also running the payroll, finance, and student record systems. After a run, students would get a printout of their errors. They would

review this, re-punch the cards as necessary, and resubmit the program for another run—and this would be repeated several times until the printout showed no errors. To give students an opportunity to have more runs per day, a third year student was hired to be a computer operator from 6 to 9 in the evening. After a few months, it was discovered that this student slept in the computing centre each night and then stashed his sleeping bag above the ceiling tiles each morning.

Another college computer pioneer was Larry McCurdy, who reminded me that SLC employees played a significant role in the development of one of the earliest microcomputers ever built and commercially sold—the MCM Model 70 launched in 1974. The Micro Computer Machines Company (MCM) had been founded by a couple of Queen’s Professors and they were joined by programmer Gord Ramer and then software engineer André Arpin, both from SLC. Faced with increasing competition from others including Commodore, Texas Instruments, and Microsoft, MCM ceased operations in 1983.

## Closing Note

In the course of preparing this story, I gathered more information (and photos) about the early years of IT at SLC than could be included in the space available for this column. That additional material is now posted at the SLC Retiree Association website [www.slcretirees.weebly.com](http://www.slcretirees.weebly.com).

—By Dick Tindal



Professor Steve Graves (right) takes his students through the finer points of the IBM 1130

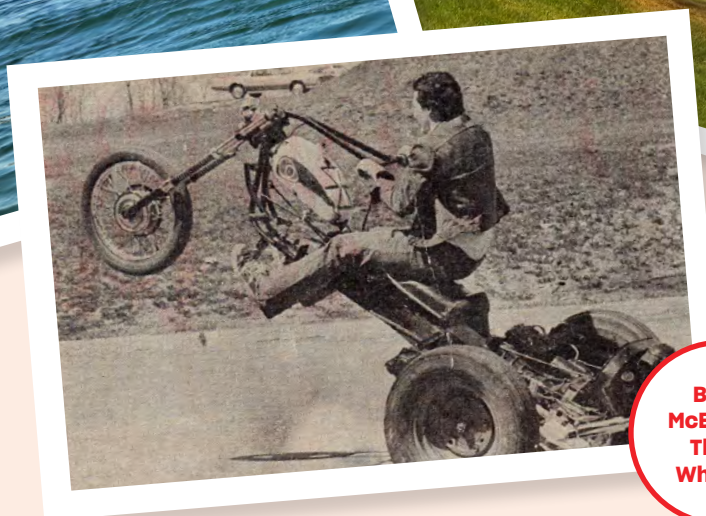
**Paul  
Modderman's  
Cannon**



**Clayton  
MacKinnon's  
Canoe**



**Brian  
McEwen's  
Three  
Wheeler**



# Handmade by Grads

The inventive and creative soul is flourishing at SLC. We have seen graduates face the Dragon's Den, apply for patents and create memorable pieces that have gone on to be treasured and talked about.

**UP THE CREEK(S):** Clayton MacKinnon embarked on his Paddle Ontario Project in 2017, his graduating year from the Visual & Creative Arts-Fine Arts program in Brockville. Clayton took his canoe/work-of-art on the road (and water) in hopes of inspiring others. Check out his documentary on his website: <https://www.claytonexplores.com/the-paddle-ontario-project>.

**CANNON FODDER:** Six-time graduate, and current skilled-trades faculty member, Paul Modderman's creation from the early 2000s has become a tradition of Convocation at the

Cornwall campus. Paul received assistance from then-teacher, now-colleague Mark MacDonell in crafting the functioning cannon, which summons the newest grads to the waterfront post-ceremony.

**EASY RIDER:** Brian McEwen's three-wheel motorcycle received coverage in the Kingston Whig-Standard back in 1975 when he was on the cusp of graduating from the Mechanical Engineering Technology program. His VW-powered motorcycle was a labour of love (and graduating requirement) that took 118 hours to create and build.—By Kris Ward

**Note:** Want more? See [voyageur.proudtobeslc.ca](http://voyageur.proudtobeslc.ca) for extended stories, memorial pages, echoes and archives

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