

## 2014 INDUCTEES



### JACK BENNIE (1947 – 1952)

Although a member of Delta's Cadet Corps, Stage Crew, Year Book Committee and Lampadion Executive, Jack is best remembered for his roles in form programmes, school plays and variety shows. Who can forget his performance in *Charley's Aunt* in 1949, as Mr. Antrobus in *The Skin of our Teeth* in 1951 and the sold-out variety show that he and Gord Carruth co-produced and Jack emceed in 1952? These endeavours earned him the Percy Price Gold Medal for public speaking and an Honour Award for leadership upon graduation.

In 1955, Jack graduated with a B.A. from McMaster and was named to the Honour M Society by his fellow students for his active role in non-athletic, extra-curricular activities. He then opened a home fashion accessory shop in the new Hamilton Centre Mall. Next was a Master's degree in Retail Business Studies at New York University with a co-op placement at the prestigious Sak's Fifth Avenue store in New York City.

In 1960 Jack returned to Canada and began his career of more than 30 years with Sears Canada. This included store fashion merchandising management and national retail management of what became Canada's largest menswear department. Eventually he was promoted to a senior buyer position for menswear which involved buying trips to Europe and Asia. Jack had three other national assignments. One was to be the official stylist for the uniforms of Canada's men's teams for the 1984 winter and summer Olympics. The second was the role of National Colour and Style Coordinator for menswear and subsequently for the home fashion departments which required trips to the fashion capitals of Europe, London, Paris and Milan. The third: for several seasons Jack worked directly with Arnold Palmer as the stylist for his clothing collection.

Upon retirement, for three years Jack taught postgraduate fashion students at Sheridan College and was able to devote many years as liaison with the Sears Ontario Drama Festival for high school students. Currently, over 12,000 Ontario students participate annually making it the largest of its kind in the western world. Jack's love of theatre has never been lost.

### RAY HARRIS (1954 – 1960)

Ray's contributions to Hamilton since he left Delta have been considerable and span five decades as lawyer, advocate, civic leader and jurist. Whether giving someone a voice in the courts, advocating for citizens seeking a better city, supporting the arts or dispensing common sense justice from the Superior Court bench, Ray has been a driving force in Hamilton.

Upon leaving Delta, with admirable tenacity he moved from one achievement to the next. He headed to the Hamilton Institute of



Technology (which became Mohawk College) for engineering and upon graduation he worked for Westinghouse. While there he worked toward his degree at McMaster University. Then came Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Ray hitchhiked there from Hamilton each day and when not studying he worked part-time at several jobs to support his family until he was called to the bar and began his legal career.

As a young lawyer in the 1970s, his pioneering pro bono work helping displaced property owners along York Boulevard led to what is today's Ontario Legal Aid. As chair of the Hamilton Harbour Commission, Ray resolved a 50-year dispute over ownership of the harbour lands, breaking a stalemate that had long frustrated many. During his chairmanship of the Hamilton Downtown BIA, Ray worked tirelessly to enhance the core. From his law office on the top floor of the Royal Connaught he was a leader in efforts to restore the Gore Park Fountain, bringing it back to life.

This remarkable career is rounded out by Ray's support of and participation in the performing arts. He served as an actor, producer, director, stagehand – whatever job was required to mount a production. Ray's involvement with the Hamilton Lawyers' Club included the formation of the Lawyers' Legacy for Children, a charity to benefit the children of the City of Hamilton. In order to raise funds for the charity, theatrical productions were mounted by the lawyers. These were popularly received and their acclaimed performances have raised substantial funds for the ongoing Lawyers' Legacy for Children, a charity that remains dear to Ray's heart. Lawyer, advocate, champion, actor, judge and friend, Ray Harris' contributions to Hamilton are continuing reminders of why he is a Delta grad and Hamiltonian of distinction.

### **PHYLISS MAILING (1943 – 1948)**



Having been a member of Delta's choir from 1944-47, it is not surprising that Phyliss Mailing's bio in the 1947-48 "Lampadion" listed her ambition as "opera star". She continued to follow her dream, becoming a well known mezzo-soprano respected across Canada, a conductor, a founder, a teacher and an award winner.

After studying voice and piano at the Hamilton Conservatory of Music, she won a scholarship at the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), where she was awarded a Gold Medal for the highest mark in Canada in the ARCT Vocal Exam.

Her career began in 1954 as an original member of the Festival Singers. Her solo debut in 1955 was with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, conducted by Sir Ernest MacMillan. Further studies took her to Stuttgart, Vienna and London from 1959 – 1962. On her return to Canada, Phyliss was in demand for concerts and traditional repertoire and to perform new works by Canadian composers, appearing with most major symphony orchestras in Canada.

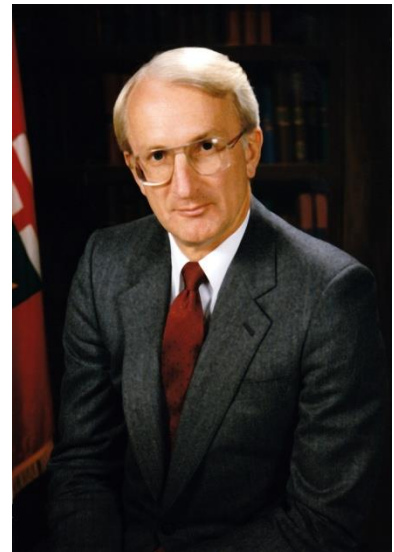
In 1964 she conducted the St. John's Madrigal Singers, appeared often in recital on CBC Radio and won the Concert Artist Guild Town Hall recital in New York. She performed throughout North America, France and Russia. Her career continued with appearances with the Canadian Opera Company, the Stratford Festival Third Stage and Chamber orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Victoria International Festival.

Moving to Vancouver in 1965, Phyliss was the Artist-in-Residence at Simon Fraser University for ten years and a founding member of the Vancouver New Music Society. In 1975 she joined the faculty at the Vancouver Academy of Music and was appointed Head of Voice Department in 1980, developing the Opera Studio and College programs.

An inspiring champion of contemporary music, Phyliss premiered many compositions by Canadian composers. Her musicianship, technique and adventurousness won admiration from numerous composers and several works were created especially for her. Her students won major competitions, displaying open-mindedness, high artistic standards, commitment, professionalism and energy in exploring the music of the day. Phyliss received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and the Canadian Music Council Medal for her outstanding contribution to Canadian music.

### **GEORGE TAYLOR (1951 – 1957)**

Sport. Law. Politics. Community. Coming from a family which has had 4 generations attend Delta, George excelled at sports (football, track, hockey, cross country, intramural) and played trumpet in the school orchestra. Graduating initially from Technical he switched to Academic, then from Delta to McMaster University and Osgoode Hall for law with his call to the bar in 1965. At McMaster he continued his Hall of Fame athletic endeavours in football and hockey. His enthusiasm for running prompted him to found Barrie's first Terry Fox Run in 1980. Running in sport and politics has been a connecting link for George.



George joined the Barrie law firm, Boys Seagram Rowe and Taylor in 1968 and received his Queen's Counsel designation in 1977. As president of the Simcoe County Law Association he created the local Medical-Legal Society, then Crime Stoppers. He taught in the legal program at Barrie's Georgian College, mentored others and inducted the first women into the local Rotary Club.

Politics grabbed his attention in 1957, involving provincial and federal campaigns for 21 different candidates until he personally was elected school trustee in 1973. He then won the local provincial riding and served as MPP for two successive terms (1977 and 1981) and was appointed by Premier Bill Davis to Cabinet as Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario. George returned to his distinguished private legal practice and community in 1985.

George has won many awards starting in Sea Cadets, served on countless committees- political, athletic, community betterment, charitable- and counts this Delta recognition as an important addition to his 12 recognition awards for lifelong community work, including the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Community Service Medal and the Canadian Medal for Service to Community.

He has spent his entire adult life helping others, in law, sports, politics and community, earning him the title of "Speaker for the People" as Honorary Chief of the Ojibway Indian Band of Christian Island. He is an advocate, a beacon and a friend. Today he serves as a mediation expert in sport cases; he brings a collegiality to every opportunity and brings out the best in others.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### RUSS EVANS (1956 – 1961)



At Delta, Russ played several sports but his first love was track and field; especially long-distance and cross-country running. He won several citywide events, bringing glory to Delta. In his final year he managed the boy's hockey team and was assistant coach of the girls' hockey team. Russ had a successful teaching career and received OFSAA's Pete Beach award in recognition of his long-time role in promoting athletics in Ontario schools.

Russ is a founding member of the Delta Alumni Association and was president from 2003 to 2004. The idea and vision for the Wall of Excellence came from him and he was instrumental in the construction of the wall which he insisted be paid for solely by the Alumni Association, and in organizing the inaugural dinner in 2007. He continues these duties to date.

Russ oversees everything. Here are a few of his many jobs. Russ works with the company that produces the completed plaques, he works with the school to determine what dates are available for the dinner and the afternoon assembly and then he contacts the 4 inductees to set a date that is good for all. Russ meets the inductees both for the afternoon and evening events. For several of these years, he has worked with the nominators or inductees to edit and shorten the bios to different lengths for the newsletter, programmes and plaques. Every fact and date is checked. Russ sends the new bios to the members of the selection committee and sets a date agreeable to all for the voting procedure. He obtains a liquor license so that we can enjoy wine at the inductee dinner and he works with the caterers to provide the right variety of food. Russ organizes the set-up and take-down of the appropriate number of tables and chairs once it has been determined how many people will be attending.

Russ is organized, reliable and well respected by all those who work with him. His love for Delta in the past and present is evident in his commitment to providing the Delta alumni an evening that makes the heart beat proud. Well done, Russ, and our deepest gratitude!

### TERRY WESTLAKE (1981 – 1985)

At Delta, Terry was a member of the cross-country and soccer teams. In addition, he was on the Heart and Stroke, DRBS radio and Omnia newspaper committees.

He is a founding member of the Delta Alumni Association and was the 1970s to 1980s decade representative (2002), 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president (2003), 1<sup>st</sup> vice president (2004), president (2005 to 2008 and 2011 to present) and past president (2009 to 2010). He was a member of the Delta Parent School Council as the alumni representative (2006 to 2008 and



2011 to present), the newsletter chairperson (2006 to present) and website chairperson (2009 to present).

Some of his responsibilities within the Alumni Association have been creating the association bylaws, the association membership form and logo, the nomination form and logo for the Wall of Excellence, naming the Alumni Omnia newsletter and Wall of Excellence, creating the plaque templates both for the inductees and the Wall of Excellence to show 2 photos and the bio of each inductee, creating a membership database and taking the role of website coordinator. Terry has been instrumental in turning the association into an effective fundraising organization while maintaining its social elements. He is a co-organizer of events for craft/bazaar shows, book sales and he sells alumni items at a booth for the annual sidewalk sale on Ottawa Street to heighten awareness of the Alumni Association. During his time as president, the association was able to contribute back to the school more than \$23,000 that helped provide musical instruments and other items of need for various departments as well as contribute to the annual Christmas dinner that the school holds for the students.

Terry's love for Delta was shown in his presence at the public accommodation review meetings in the fight against the closure of Delta and when it became apparent that the school was going to close, he encouraged and supported a board member's desire to try for a heritage designation for the school. It was unsuccessful at the time but fortunately, another attempt was launched by the City of Hamilton's Municipal Heritage Committee in 2013 and the heritage designation was finally granted in early 2014. Terry's quiet but tireless commitment to Delta is duly noted. Thanks, Terry!