



Tutorial High Alumni Association (Toronto Chapter)

PO Box 92203
2900 Warden Avenue
Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9
Website: www.thaatoronto.org
Email: thstoronto@sympatico.ca

Tutorial High School Alumni Association

This organization is designed to be inclusive of all past and future graduates of Tutorial High School, Georgetown, Guyana. The international organization collectively consists of Chapters in Washington DC, Toronto, London, Georgetown, and New York. *Ad hoc* groupings also exist in New Jersey and Atlanta. The seminal organization was founded in Washington D.C. circa 1980, where the First Triennial Reunion Celebration was staged in 1982.

Tutorial High School, founded in 1939, was the brainchild of Austin Cosmo Castello, a seasoned educator with a driving ambition to provide secondary educational opportunities (in that era only available for a fee) to children of the working class and less fortunate. With the collaboration of his brother, Joseph, the Castello brothers made secondary education available at minimal costs, and even provided academic, athletic and other scholarships to accommodate others. In the process, there was an unflinching focus on the achievement and maintenance of very high academic standards.

The Tutorial High Alumni Association (Toronto Chapter) had its genesis in 1990 as a vehicle to foster interaction and fellowship among Tutorialites in Toronto and surrounding areas; and is open to all Tutorial High Alumni and spouses. This body assumed a more formalized and motivated stance with the decision to host the 5th Triennial Reunion in 1993, leading to its incorporation in March of that year. The motivation was energized by its stated Mission: *"To retain linkages and build new relationships with fellow Alumni in Toronto and abroad, and to materially enhance the educational experience of students attending our Alma Mater"*.

In addition to the provision of basic material assistance (books, pens, pencils, etc.) to Tutorial High School in Guyana, THAA has also engaged in support activities such as the provision of appliances, implements and other resources necessary for the establishment of a Home Economics Department. In addition to computer resources previously provided by THAA, the New York Tutorial Support Group completed the hardware supply to create a Computer Lab. The London Chapter has undertaken the establishment of a Visual Arts Department. In 2006, THAA (Toronto) initiated an Annual Scholarship Program, where 6 worthy students, as determined by Tutorial High School Administration, are awarded financial bursaries.

THAA has also expanded its support to worthwhile community ventures outside of the sphere of Tutorial High School, in Guyana and locally. This occurs through independent initiatives, and also in collaboration with other organizations more focused on such objectives. These include, among others things, the facilitation of, and the supply of bedding supplies and the shipping of beds for use in hospital and retirement homes in Guyana.

The funding of these activities is achieved through fund-raising activities, chief among which are our Annual Spring Fling Dance, and autumn Brunch held jointly with the St. Joseph's High Alumni Association (this year scheduled for 17th October). Additionally, there is an Annual Casino Niagara Bus Trip held in September, and a summer Family Fun Day in the Park in July,

held in conjunction with the Central High Alumni Association. In general, these latter activities are not designed to generate funds, but to merely provide an avenue for collective recreational activity for Alumni and families. This is particularly so in the case of the Family Fun Day, where children, parents and grandchildren also participate in an assortment of games, recreational activities and general fellowship. With the 11th Reunion in mind, other fund-raising efforts have also been undertaken. These include a sumptuous Saturday backyard Breakfast, a tasty BBQ, and other planned initiatives.

On a three-year cycle, an international assortment of Tutorial High School Alumni engages in a week-long Reunion Exercise, the most recent of which was held in New York in July 2008. Since the reunion venue rotates internationally, the next event (the 11th Triennial Reunion) is scheduled to be held in Toronto from 31st July to 7th August 2011. This will follow sharply on the heels of perhaps the world's largest annual Caribbean Festival, Caribana, held in Toronto. Reunion festivities will commence on Sunday 31st July with a church service followed by a reception, and will conclude on Sunday 7th August with a "Day in the Park Festivities", which include picnic, games, individual and team sports, etc. A variety of organized and unorganized activities will occupy participants from Monday to Saturday of that week. Scheduled activities are:

Sunday July 31, 2011: Church Service & Reception; 3:00 PM; Church of the Nativity; Sewells Road, Scarborough Reception and Registration to follow

Monday August 1, 2011: "Do what you want day" - enjoy the sights and a variety of post-Caribana events;

Tuesday August 2, 2011: Sightseeing - CN Tower, Harbour Front , Ontario Place, Centre Island; Meet & Greet & Registration Package pickup - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday August 3, 2001: Boat Cruise (including dinner), Queen's Quay - 6:00 PM.

Thursday August 4, 2011: Niagara Falls Casino Bus Trip; OR Niagara-On-The-Lake and sightseeing, Wine tasting and trip to Niagara Falls

Friday August 5, 2001: Business Meeting 10 A.M.; Final day of registration/package pickup; Oldies Dance 8 P.M.

Saturday August 6, 2011: Grand Gala Ball and Dinner - The Grand Baccus Banquet Hall, McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough.

Sunday August 7, 2011: Fun/sports day.

More information and details are available at www.thaatoronto.org).

Eemail: thstoronto@sympatico.ca

Written by: Shirland A. Daniels, PhD (A'sst. Secretary)