

Cavendish Road High School Class of 1964
55th Reunion – November 22nd, 2019
Easts Leagues Club

Ladies and gentlemen....

No,....that's way too formal.....

Former classmates, teachers, and life-long friends and colleagues.

Welcome all. It's certainly great to be here. Mind you, at this age it's "Great to be anywhere."

Thank you all for coming!

Forgive me for referring to notes, but it is a 55th Reunion and it makes it far easier to remember and deliver things in the right order.

I would firstly like to recognize our special attendees, Peter Pattison and Ken Brewster, who were teachers at Cav Road in that distant past. Thank you Peter and Ken for being here.

Unfortunately, there are some of our friends who had intended being here, but due to ill health could not attend (give brief detail for each):

- Jenny Holland-Batt (Gray)
- Kerry Neary and his wife , Petra
- Svetlana (Lana) Chijoff

I am sure you join me in sending special wishes to them all for a full and speedy recovery. (Please sign cards that will be circulating.)

Also to those of us who **are** here despite various issues and difficulties, we also extend our thanks for making that special effort.

I especially want to thank the spouses and accompanying persons of the alumni of 1964:

What a sacrifice you are making by ruining a perfectly good day having to listen to your partner share hilarities with a bunch of old friends who you possibly don't know.

However,.....don't despair, since most of us probably also don't recognize each other either....

("Gee...hasn't he/she got old !")

- you shouldn't feel like a stranger in any way whatsoever.

You can compose and relate an entirely fictional life.....and no one will know,.... and in any case, after a very short time, we probably won't remember either !!

I must say "Hats off" to all of us who were born in the 1940's – that is, "just prior to the *middle of last century*."

- that sounds like something we used to hear in History lessons in 1964.

We survived being born to mothers who put us to sleep on our tummies, in baby cribs covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had

- no childproof lids on medicine bottles,
- no locks on doors or cabinets, and
- when we rode our bikes, we wore baseball caps, if any hats at all, rather than helmets.
- we rode in a car with no booster seats, no seat belts, and no air bags.

How good was that !..... and we are still here to tell the tale.

- Riding untethered in the back of a Holden ute on a warm day was always a special treat, even if it was a bit hard on the nether regions.
- We drank water from the garden hose, we shared one soft drink bottle with four or more friends,
and can you believe it, no one actually died from doing this.
- We didn't have Play Stations, Nintendos and X-boxes.
- There were no video games, no cable TV (in fact not even **any** TV for a while),
no video movies, no DVD's, no surround-sound, no CD's, no smart phones, no personal computers, no Internet.

- **and** worst, or maybe best of all, no social media ! Heaven forbid !!
- when we went out together, we actually talked to each other rather than send sms's across and under the table.

The list of what we didn't have goes on and on and on.....

But what we did have, and continue to have, as evidenced by our gathering today, is friendship that has stood the test of time.

- 55 years so far (that's not very long if you say it quickly).... and with good luck, many, many more still to come.

Life did seem to be much simpler than today where the major claim now, even with all these time-saving gadgets, is that we are "time poor".

But think about thatwe all have all the time there is. At midnight every night, the clock ticks over to a new day. We all start the day with the same credit of 86,400 seconds to our daily bank accounts.

-and we are free to use every one of those 86,400 as we please.

At the end of each day, if we haven't used it, any balance remaining is deleted, gone forever and we don't get to carry any of it forward, ever.

So now let's see how much fun and enjoyment we can pack into the next 14,400 out of the 86,400 that we have all been granted for the 22nd November, 2019.

Thank you for being here, it's great to see you all.

Have a great time.