

Reflections when a mentor dies - In Memory James (Jim) Richard Colley

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Those schoolgirl days of telling tales and biting nails are gone
But in my mind I know they will still live on and on
But how do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume? It isn't easy,
but I'll try

If you wanted the sky I would write across the sky in letters

That would soar a thousand feet high "To Sir, With Love" By: Lulu

Released on June 14, 1967 in the USA, I cannot to this day hear this song without thinking of two prominent men who played a key role in my adolescent life; my grade 7 teacher, Gerry Curran and my High School guidance Counselor, "Jim" James Richard Colley.

I had what I can best describe as, the pleasure of attending Massey Vanier High School as a teen in the early 80's. I was a poor kid from a rural community who did not possess much in the way of modern clothing, money or life experience. The High School was huge and I remember feeling overwhelmed and afraid. Over weight and coming from a large family where I ranked smack dab in the middle, I had lost my brother when I was fourteen and I was, for lack of a better word; a mess. The cards were stacked against me and the first time I decided to skip

Richmond Regional High School students trained as community computer tutors

Sherbrooke Record · 30 Mar 2018 · 3 · By Gordon Lambie

Three Richmond Regional High School (RRHS) students received training from Literacy in Action (LIA) on Wednesday to become Computer Tutors to help their community members acquire basic computer skills. The three volunteer tutors, all in their first year of high school, participated in a lunchtime training workshop given by LIA trainer, Etienne Domingue.



“Basically they were taught how to make contact with a learner,” Domingue explained. “They learned how to establish goals and break them down into digestible pieces to facilitate learning.”

The trainer explained that LIA uses a learner-centered approach in its tutoring, meaning that each person seeking support comes with their own challenges or concepts they want to get better at. As a result, the volunteer tutors need to be given tools to make them better teachers, rather than specific information about different aspects of computers.

“These are not formal classes on typing,” Domingue said, explaining that past participants have come looking to master programs like Skype or platforms like Facebook. “People want to learn how to function on the Internet.”

This will be the 3rd consecutive year that the Richmond Regional High School Community Learning Centre partners with Literacy in Action to provide intergenerational, one on one com-

puter tutoring services to the community in this way, meaning that although some past volunteers have now graduated, the team on hand has grown in both number and experience.

Tutoring sessions in Richmond will be offered once a week over the lunch hour. Community members 16 years of age and older will have the opportunity to sign up for up to four consecutive weeks of tutoring, free of charge. Members of the Richmond community who are interested in the one on one tutoring may call 819 826-3702 ext. 24026 or email richmond-clc@etsb.qc.ca.

Domingue highlighted the fact that LIA is looking to expand its computer literacy tutoring programs across the Eastern Townships, as well. Anyone curious about the program elsewhere in the region, either as a learner or a tutor, is invited to contact Literacy in Action at (819) 346-7009.

LVTC & AGRHS open their doors for their 4th consecutive blood drive

The Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) in partnership with Alexander Galt (AGRHS) is hosting its 4th annual blood drive on April 4th, 2018 under the following Honorary Chairmanships that have inspired us all with their spirit and courage over the years

Marc-André Skelling (4th year chairmanship), a courageous and kind-hearted man native to East-Angus with Hodgkin's lymphoma disease.

And Justine Gagnon (2nd year chairmanship), a beautiful spirited little girl native to Sherbrooke born with Blackfan-Diamond disease (rare bone marrow disease needing blood on a regular basis to live).

It began in 2015 with the compassion of LVTC's driven team of students from the Professional Sales and Representation program along with their dedicated teachers. How can we become involved in a project that would engage us and allow us to put to practise our newly acquired competencies as well as give back to the community? The story of 23 year old East-Angus native Marc-André Skelling and his search for a stem cell donor to help him fight against Hodgkin's lymphoma inspired the students to do something. Marc-André became honorary chairman for the blood drive for the first year and each year thereafter for his 4th year in 2018.

The project included an expanded team effort involving LVTC and AGRHS students and teachers. The

students in Health Assistance & Nursing (LPN) program volunteered by assisting the nurses from Héma-Québec for the blood collection and answering health related questions. Students from the Secretarial Studies programs became involved in scheduling reservation appointments for LVTC and AGRHS staff and students over 18 years wishing to donate blood. Dedicated students and teachers from AGRHS in science and community classes began volunteering by talking to their parents and family members and to other students about the need for blood donation to sustain life. They also became involved in other ways including welcoming and giving out snacks and drinks to donors. The students in the Professional Sales and Representation program at LVTC were awarded local and regional recognition in the Quebec entrepreneurship contest in 2015 for their project. The students and staff from LVTC and AGRHS combined their efforts and considerably surpassed the targeted goals set out by Héma-Québec by up to 40 donors for 2 out of the 3 years and helped contribute awareness and contribution for stem cell and plasma donation. We are looking ahead to another successful drive this year!

Please give blood if you are able on Wednesday April 4th, 2018 at the Alexander Galt cafeteria between 2:30-7:30pm and spread the word!

For more information about giving blood visit the following website

<https://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca/index.en.html>

Give blood. Give life.

LVTC / AGRHS.
The Read, March 30, 2018

STANSTEAD JOURNAL, March 28, 2018

Lucky students learn to golf

Victoria Vanier

Under the direction of Stanstead College teacher Lisa Smith and in conjunction with the Junior Golf program at Dufferin Heights Golf Club, 170 youngsters from 4 local area elementary schools (Sunnyside Elementary, Jardin-des-Frontieres, Ayer's Cliff

Elementary and Ecole St. Barthelemy) are being initiated to the basics of Golf in the Amaron Gymnasium at Stanstead College. The 90-minute sessions are being held March 20-22 and March 27-28. Ms. Smith, who co-ordinates the Junior Golf Program at Dufferin Heights Golf Club, recruited volunteers who are introducing

the students to basic golf skills of chipping, driving and putting in makeshift indoor stations. "It is a wonderful opportunity to expose these attentive youngsters to the great game of golf," said Ms. Smith. The end result of the daylong sessions was that there were many smiling faces on the children and some commented: "I like this game!"

Volunteers showed the students basic golf skills like chipping, driving and putting in makeshift indoor stations. Students practiced putting in the Amaron Gymnasium at Stanstead College.



photo courtesy

school might have had a very different outcome had it not been for the keen eye and heart of a very special man.

I remember sauntering down the hallway trying to look inconspicuous with the intention of hiding on the "French side" in a bathroom until the period would be over and it would be lunchtime. As I approached the end of the hall, there in the doorway of a room stood one of the prettiest men I had ever seen. Blond straight hair flipped to the side, big blue eyes and a grin that tilted to the right side of his face exposing perfect teeth.

"Hey, where you headed," he asked? Before I knew it, I was sitting in his office baring my soul. He didn't yell at me as I had expected. He didn't judge my feelings and he didn't try to talk me out of them. He listened and then he invited me out for lunch; his treat! That was this first time I smelled his black leather jacket as we walked to Mcdonalds together. It was September but his jacket smelled like Christmas and comfort; an emotion that now had a smell of its own. Jim Colley became everything I wanted to be. He saw me through high school and made such an impact on my life that I promised myself that I would one day walk in his footsteps and help youth. I would strive to make kids feel accepted and respected regardless of their clothing, money situation and family life. And, I would do it all while smelling like something wonderful that made my hugs feel like the promise of spring after winter's cold.

I have worked with youth for 32 years now in my small community which I love. I have been the keeper of secrets and the bridge to understanding on many of occasions. There has never been a day that I have regretted the profession I chose nor my reason for pursuing the career I have. Always hoping, that one day, a youth might find in my support half of what I found in the company of Mr. Colley.

I learned this past week that on March 13, Jim Colley had died. I was instantly transported back to the days of my youth and the gifts he bestowed upon me in his being in my life. As an adult when I would meet up with him, I thought too about how he was embarrassed as I saw a God and he knew he was a mere mortal. That was Jim Colley; humble and likely unaware of his gift in making a life better just by his being.

"The time has come, for closing books and long last looks must end, and as I leave
I know that I am leaving my best friend. A friend who taught me right from wrong,
And weak from strong that's a lot to learn. What, what can I give you in return?

To Sir, with love."

Godspeed Mr. Colley