



Class of '57 Reunion

SVRHS Class of '57 Celebrated Half-century mark

Seventeen of 31 grads attended

by Robert LaFrance - 2007

They graduated from a high school that was only about five years old in a village that was still called Andover. They got together last weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Southern Victoria Regional High School where the legendary G. E. Malcolm MacLeod was principal and the roster of teachers included the equally legendary Sara Williams, Maybelle Titus, and Gladys McGowan.

Reunion organizers were Class of '57 grads Marilyn (Twaddle) Sticklen of the Kingston Peninsula, NB and Jeanette (Clark) Voboril of Tolland, Connecticut. "I e-mailed Marilyn last August and we discussed it and decided to try and find the people," said Ms. Voboril, "and then we both went away over the winter on vacation. When we got back we just started getting everybody together."

"We had 31 class members when we graduated in 1957 and have lost six members," said Marilyn Sticklen. "We were able to contact all but one. We had 17 class members attend. We had a meet and greet last night (July 20) at the Perth-Andover Motor Inn followed by a dinner and we had a good time.

"I printed the words of the Statler Brothers song "The Class of '57" (Had its Dream) and I had made two CDs of all the hit songs of 1956 and 1957 so we had a little musical background. Jeanette and I recited the verses and substituted all classmates' names for the names in the song. There were a couple of lines that we thought we'd leave out - someone was on an insane ward and someone else was on welfare so we decided Jeanette would be on an insane ward and I was the one on welfare. We managed to get everyone's name in and I think everyone got a good laugh about that." She pointed to 1957 grad Lawrence LaFrance sitting nearby. "We said he was in prison."

Among the other activities Friday evening, July 21, was a vote on various characteristics of the 25 grads that showed up. "Winnie Morton and Gary Lovely had changed the most in their appearances, and who had changed the least was Doreen Baker Libassi. Keith Hitchcock travelled furthest - from Ontario - and the person with

most grandchildren was Barbara Nunn Dee with nine. David Boone had the most great-grandchildren with five, and the person married the longest was Barbara Nunn Dee and her husband Dale Dee. They're celebrating their 50th anniversary this weekend too. We had a tour of the school this morning conducted by the SVHS principal Murray Grant and saw all our pictures hang in the upstairs hall, saw our old classrooms. We had found that after expenses we had \$100 left and donated that to SVHS."

On Saturday afternoon, July 22, most of the 25 and their spouses went to the home of Deanna Jamer Clark and her husband Kenneth in Kincardine. They talked, listened to music and ate and presented a gift to the Clarks for opening their home.

One of the sad things they did on the weekend though was holding a moment of silence to honour the six Class of '57 grads who had passed away but the turnout of 17 of 31 grads fifty years later was very gratifying. "We had a lot of fun doing this. It was an excellent turnout," commented Marilyn Sticklen.