

# THE HARVEY FAMILY: STILL CONNECTED

BY LAURIE MANDARINO

Faith and Crofton Harvey took a leap of faith back in 1970 when they chose St. George's College over Upper Canada College and University of Toronto Schools for their son Cam Harvey '77.

St. George's had only been open for a few years and was still a work in progress, with no reputation and far fewer facilities than the much-improved campus boasts today. But it didn't matter to the Harveys.

"My mom had said, "St. George's is riskier, small, has no facilities and

the classrooms are in the basement of a church – I think it sounds alright for my son!," remembered Cam. "She was willing to take the risk. She knew it's not about the fancy facilities and the slick offices, it's about the people."

The deciding factor in Faith's leap was Headmaster Jack Wright and the instant trust he instilled in her.

"Jack Wright gave us a personal tour and talked about his vision, which is very rare for a Headmaster to do," said Faith, who, at age 82, now spends half the year

in Toronto, half the year in Florida and over 200 days a year on the golf course. "Jack struck me as the type of leader who would put St. George's on the map. As soon as we walked into his office, I just knew. My son was also very impressed."

The decision proved to be the right one, leaving the Harveys with no regrets.

"That special feeling stayed with me all the way along and it still does today," said Faith, who, until recently, hadn't been back on school grounds since her son graduated in 1977.

"When I went back to the College for the Golden Jubilee Service, I still had that feeling. It brought back a lot of memories."

As a stay-at-home mother in the 1970s, Faith was more than happy to get involved with the school, joining the Ladies' Guild when Cam enrolled. She worked her way up to become President of the Guild while Cam was Head Prefect in his Grade 13 year.

"By the time she was President in my Grade 13 year, being involved in the Guild was a big deal and a significant amount of work," said Cam, who is now a professor of finance at Duke University. "It involved knowing what was going on at the school and being consulted by the Headmaster on various issues. She wasn't just a parent – she was an insider."



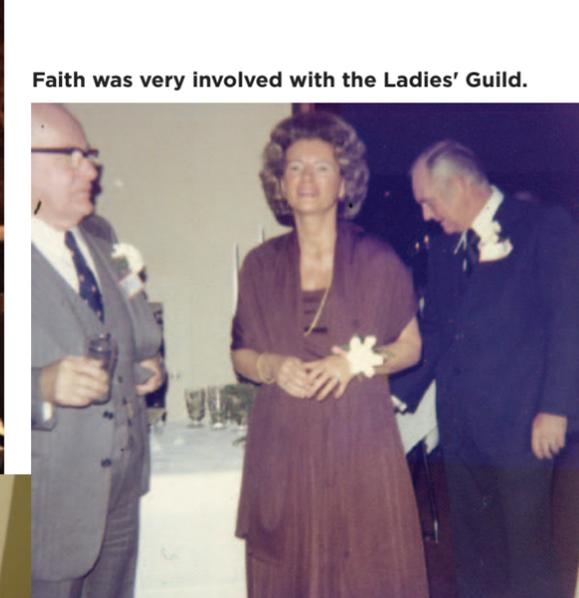
Cam was Head Boy back in 1977. His mother still has his school blazer.



Faith with her grandchildren.



Faith with her two children.



Faith was very involved with the Ladies' Guild.



And while the Ladies' Guild has become the Parents' Guild and has grown significantly since Faith's days at its helm, many activities remain the same, from the blazer exchange to serving a lunch to the staff and faculty.

But most importantly, Jack Wright's vision for the College back in the 1970s has become a reality that continues to turn out impressive Georgians.

"From the interactions I've had with the current RSGC students, I've been very impressed that the traits of respect and enthusiasm are still there," said Cam, who has been back to the College several times to guest lecture in some of the Senior School economics classes. "When I talk to some boys, it's weirdly like looking in the mirror," he said.

After graduating from St. George's, Cam did his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto's Trinity College before completing an MBA at York University and a Ph.D. in Finance at the University of Chicago.

Faith gives a lot of credit to the College for the man her son has become.

"I don't think Cam would be the person he is today had he gone to another school," she said. "St. George's did a lot for him, although I like to think my husband and I had a bit to do with it!"

As for Cam, he certainly agrees that St. George's led him on a path that would shape his entire life.

"There were a lot of positive influences during my experience at St. George's that really impacted me and

the paths I decided to take," said Cam, who tries to attend as many Old Boys' Dinners as possible despite not having lived in Canada since 1983.

"The enthusiasm I had for learning never went away and it turned into a Ph.D. Every time I walk into the classroom at Duke or wherever I'm teaching, I try to do at least as good a job as some of the great Masters I had at St. George's."

And because Cam understands the importance of teachers constantly renewing their education, he and current Headmaster Stephen Beatty '86 came up with the idea of the Harvey Professional Learning Grant.

"My experience with the faculty really influenced my path in life, so my family wanted to do something that would help them," said Cam, who was honoured as an Alumnus of Distinction in 2007. "I thought this would be a way to give something to the faculty that would allow them to bring new experiences back to the classroom and enrich the students, whether it's taking a half semester course at U of T or attending an interesting conference on a new topic."

The Grant only strengthens the Harvey family's connection with RSGC, proving that the old adage "once a Georgian, always a Georgian" is accurate in this case. For both mother and son.

**This past summer, the first Harvey Professional Learning Grant was awarded to six math teachers, who went to a conference at the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Glenn Algarvio, Wayne Bibby Gerry Doerksen, Beth Nichols, Don Schroder, Tom Stevens and Senior School Instructional Leader Michael Ruscitti, explored problem-based learning and the use of technology in the classroom. No doubt, students will see more of both moving forward.**