

# THE GRAPEVINE

EDITION #102

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## *John Lukis: Remembering a gentle giant, basketball hero!*



John Lukis was the unassuming author of one of the greatest single moments in the history of high school sports in Windsor.

His death mobilized in grief a who's who of basketball royalty from a golden era when local high school teams dominated the Ontario game.

Rob Biasutto, Hunt Hool, Andy Kiss, Matt St. Louis, Jamie Suthers, Wren Dosant, Jim Kennedy, George Copeland, Scott Penney and others turned out Wednesday at Families First to express their sorrow at the loss of a gentle giant.

Lukis, who battled colon cancer for the past year, was 55.

Playing for the Herman Green Griffins in the 1980 city championship, he launched a shot perhaps not heard around the world but certainly around all of his world.

The scene was the venerable St. Denis Hall, jammed to those low-hanging rafters with almost 3,000 spectators. The old wooden floor was littered with stars on both sides. Hool '79, Biasutto '79, Guy Boniferro '80, Vince Burgess '82 and Dave Binder '79 wore Assumption purple. Lukis, Penney, Kiss, Ron Purdy and Rob Samuels countered in Griffin green. A coaching legend seated on each bench in Jack Hool for Assumption and Chris McCaffery for Herman.

Locked in a gripping struggle that

saw each side fight to build and then lose a double-digit lead, the game came down to the final two seconds with Assumption clinging to a 60-59 lead.

Binder and Purdy tied up in a scrap for a loose ball near centre court. In those days, that demanded a jump ball between the two, not some antiseptic alternating sideline arrow to determine possession.

McCaffery called timeout to draw up one last desperation play. He brashly told Purdy to get the ball to Penney who would then pass off to the hot-shooting hand of Kiss.

"Andy was going to throw up a prayer," recalled Purdy. But when they lined up for the jump, Penney and Kiss were well covered by Assumption defenders. Lukis hung back behind Purdy a few steps, towards the Herman basket where he was left uncovered. "He told me to tip it back to him," Purdy said. Kiss described the next few moments as "surreal."

"Ron in an upset won the jump and tipped it to John. He took one dribble and shot from his hip. He launched a 60-foot shot and as the ball was arcing through the air it was like a film where they slowed the pace down to keep you in

suspense. With those old fashioned rafters it was almost like it went through the rafters. The buzzer sounded as the ball was going through the air and it swished right through the net." Herman had won 61-60.

Jim Nelson, the Windsor Star reporter covering the final, detailed the happy pandemonium that ensued. Kiss used the same word 36 years later.

"It was like thunder, this bedlam," Kiss said. "The Assumption faithful were in stunned disbelief and on the other side of the gym there was all this pent up pandemonium. People were like dominoes, coming down from the top of the stands and storming the floor."

Kiss said restoring order for a proper trophy presentation was impossible. He saw someone with the trophy in the stands and climbed up to retrieve it. He found Lukis in the chaotic mob below and handed it to him.

"I get chills just talking about that moment," Kiss said. "In high school sports, that game stands alone as the greatest finish. Maybe not the greatest game but the greatest finish. I've never experienced an ending that has topped that one. You can't top that." And Kiss has seen his share of buzzer beaters through 24 years as a high school coach and the last four as coach of the St. Clair Saints women's team.

Hunt Hool wound up on the wrong end of that memory.

"That was my dream didn't come true moment," the former Assumption standout said. "We had our hearts ripped out.

*Gentle Giant continued...page 1*

We waited for three years to win a city championship with and for his late father and coach, Jack Hool. "We figured Binder was going to tip it back to one of us," Hool said of that fateful play. "The tip went to John and I watched him grab it and throw it. Then time stood still. Somehow it stayed under the rafters and it went in without even touching the rim. The whole place was literally in shock." Hool went on to a great university career but admits that fraction of time in high school was "the defining moment of my career."

"There's not a week that goes by that I don't run into somebody who claims they were there," Hool said. "By my count, that would be about 10,000 people by now and the place didn't hold that many."

He read Nelson's account for the first time this week on a display board at Families First. John's wife, Mary-Lou, had kept the clipping all these years. She was there on the St. Denis sidelines, as a Herman cheerleader and John's girlfriend.

"I tried to get a hug and I practically slipped off him he was so sweaty," she recalled. "It was a fun day." Mary-Lou was deeply touched by all the former players, especially those from different schools, who came to pay their respects.

Her husband was a private, quiet man who wore the hero's mantle somewhat uncomfortably.

"It didn't define him," Mary-Lou said. "It wasn't something that he focused on. It's funny, but he got it from the other side (of Hool's perspective).

People would come up to him at Chrysler's and say I remember that shot. We didn't go to many high school reunions because it became such a topic and he wanted to move on. That moment defined the game and the school but not him."

Lukis excelled in baseball and football as well as basketball and he remained a lifelong fan of all sports. "He could watch cricket and enjoy it," Mary-Lou said.

His health was well enough early this summer that they were able to take in one more Detroit Tigers' baseball game at Comerica Park.

By Mary-Lou's count, he owned just about every jersey Bob Reaume Sports has ever sold. He wore something athletic almost every day of a 23 year career at Chrysler.

He pulled on a Blue Jays shirt just to support the team in its American League playoff series against Cleveland. Typical of a superstitious ball player, he refused to wear it for the next game because Toronto had lost the first.

In addition to his wife of almost 29 years, Lukis is survived by his parents, one brother, two sisters and several nieces and nephews.

By M. Caton (Windsor Star)



John Lukis Herman Grad

## *Newsletter Delay*

**Due to the WECDSB  
Job Action, the fall  
Newsletter was  
delayed. Thank you for  
your understanding.**

## ***Assumption College Catholic High School News Update***

***The Annual Can Drive brought in 30,000 cans. St. Vincent de Paul was the recipient of the hard work of our students and staff.***

***A gift of \$500 was donated to St. Vincent de Paul on behalf of Fr. Q. Johnson's 50th Year Jubilee of Ordination from the Alumni Association.***

***Students raised \$5910.00 for families in need. Through outside donations (many alumni) and student mission collections, the Raiders were able to provide cans, a complete Christmas meal and gift cards for 21 families, including 51 children. Each and every family were within our school community.***

***Assumption Catholic Middle School began in September 2016, welcoming grades 7 and 8s.***

## Local hockey coaching legend Terry (Duke) Snyder dies...



On Wednesday September 7, 2016, Terry died from complications after suffering a stroke. He was 84. Louis Marion, who described himself as Snyder's adopted son, said the Duke took him under his wing after Marion's own father died. "Mr. Snyder was one of the men who stood up and tried to show me some normalcy," he said.

At times that meant Snyder would help Marion with his homework, other times that meant punishing him when he knew the boy had done something wrong. That fatherly role followed Snyder into the hockey rink too where Marion said he was known to hop the boards after his players if they were trying to start a fight. "He was always a very strong and giving person," he said. "He was honest, he was loyal and he was loving."

Snyder, whose nickname started in Montreal where Hall of Fame baseball player Duke Snider was a broadcaster for the Expos, established himself as a member of Windsor's athletic royalty over a career lasting more than 40 years. He taught for 35 years at Riverside high school and spent another seven at Assumption, while leading teams to multiple championships in a range of sports. Snyder's career in athletics began at age 14 when he was asked to teach a group of 10-year-old softball players in Quebec and

lasted until age 75 when he was still known to lace up his skates and hit the ice.

In 1995, the coach received the OFSAA Hockey and Leadership In School Award in honour of his years of dedication and service to sports in the province. Snyder was nominated as a member of the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of fame in 2010 after a grassroots campaign led by former students and athletes lobbied for his introduction.

According to Marion, Snyder's devotion went beyond ice rinks and sports fields. After he retired from teaching he was an active volunteer that would help pray the rosary at schools and churches.

Last Friday he was meant to be doing just that, but collapsed in his living room after suffering a stroke. While his wife called an ambulance Marion said Snyder grabbed another phone and called up a replacement to go in his place. "When the ambulance arrived he was still on the phone," said Marion. "He wasn't leaving until he knew the rosary would be taken care of. He was so dedicated and will be dearly missed."

Snyder is survived by his wife Margaret and children Steven, Christopher, Kevin and Anne-Marie as well as 15 grandchildren.



**November 2020**  
**Assumption College Catholic**  
**High School**  
**150th Anniversary**

## Alumni Chatter

**Klamt**, Ronald '48 writes: "I am 85 years old and still going strong. Buy my apple cider at all Meijer stores in Detroit so I can keep sending you \$200. Ha Ha. Still the best football team in 1947... 11 - 0."

**McNamara**, Bernard '50 - "Keep up the good work, Thanks".

**Winkel**, Thomas '52 - "Keep up the good work! I have always enjoyed the newsletters. The last reunion I attended was with Dick Cote and Reno Bertoia - I will try to make it to the 2020, the Lord willing."

**Donald**, Richard '52 writes: "It's 64 years since graduation from Assumption and a lot of good stuff has happened over those years. I still see some familiar names from the class of 1952 and will continue to have fond memories of those days as I enjoy reading each newsletter - even if it is called the 'Grapevine'. Best wishes to all."

**Weiss**, John E. '54 - "We are still alive!"

**Comartin**, Lois (Retired staff) writes: "Great job on the 'Grapevine'. You 3 and your 'helpers' are "Dynamite Trio". Proud to be a part of

Assumption. My brother D'Arcy Schneckenger graduated 1947ish then on to Assumption College (had to go to London to receive his diploma, as that (Western) was the 'Mother University'. Then my husband, Donald Comartin attended Assumption for 3 years... not to graduate...fell in love and bound to marry me soon (haha). Don died Oct. 27, 1996 - 20 years this Oct. Our children graduated from Assumption. Diane Comartin-Bergoine, first grad class with girls, 1972. Leigh Comartin in 1973. I worked in the Resource Centre from 1968-1976. I greeted at reunions every Nov. except 2014-2015.. I was out of town and missed it (boo hoo). Hi to all from Lois Comartin.

**Caron**, Lucile (retired staff) - "Included is a cheque to help sponsor successful Alumni activities. A lot of hard work goes into the organization and we hope they will continue for many more years. Sincerely, Lucile Caron "

**Ruel**, Robert '55 - "I graduated from Assumption in 1955 and have worked in Toronto in a variety of management positions since 1958. I retired in 2001 and have 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Keep the newsletters coming. Regards, Bob"

**Fitzgerald**, Judge Thomas E. '57 - "Thank you to all for a

great education!" ETF

**Stokes**, Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Sr. writes: "With sincerest best wishes to all the remarkable people who work hard to keep ACH Alumni club alive! An update on our children: Graciella '83 teaches at Tecumseh Vista Academy. Colin E. '87 is a Sergeant with Ottawa Police Service in the Dept for Partners and Assault. Louis (Jr.) '93 is currently a Constable with Toronto Police (previously worked as Asst. Crown, Peel County; Louis is a lawyer). Again, thanks for our dedication and love for both old and current students of Assumption. We love to read your letters from students of years gone by. Sincerely, Grace and Louis Stokes Sr."

**Dube**, Harold '52 — Just a short note and cheque to let you know I appreciate your work. I am the brother of the late Edward and Hubert (Hub) Graduated in 1952 and started working at GM. Retired 40 years later and spent 20 years in Florida. Keep up the good work.



## *Volunteers are needed!*

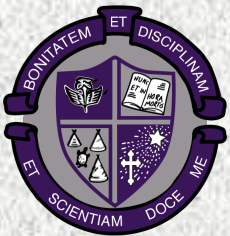
### Countdown to the 150th Anniversary Celebration—2020

Assumption College High celebrates 150 years of "Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge", at the Reunion on Saturday, November 7th, 2020. Only 3 years until the big celebration, but don't wait until the last months or weeks to organize your class.

The ACH Alumni Committee has already started working and planning. We need volunteers from every graduating class at ACH, to act as class representatives to make phone calls, emails, "*Save the Date*" notices, *Facebook*, etc., to contact your classmates. Several grads have already stepped forward for their respective classes, which will be compiled, updated, and listed in each issue of the Newsletter. The Committee will assist by providing class lists and contact information in order to make this a huge successful Reunion.

If you or a group are interested, please contact the Alumni Committee by voice message or email at the Alumni office, (519) 256-7801 ext. 2225, or [achalumni@gmail.com](mailto:achalumni@gmail.com).

**Teach Me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge**



# Find us on



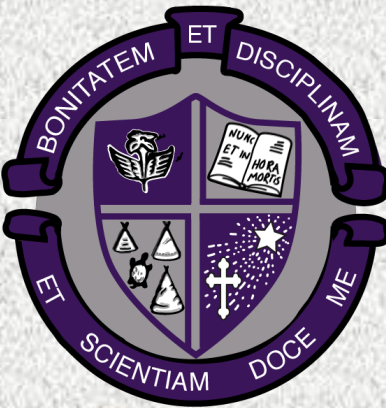
**Looking for individuals from each Grad Year to begin a facebook page. Great way to connect, stay connected and receive information. Send a friend request and please let us know your Graduation Year. Those classes that already have a facebook page, please let us know so we can spread the word.**

**Please send a request to "ACH Alumni Association"**  
ACH Alumniassociation — Like us on facebook! Be our friend!

## Father "Q" Johnson, CSB Celebrates 50 Years of Priestly Service



Father Quentin "Q" Johnson, CSB celebrated his 50th Jubilee of Ordination on December 10 with a Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Windsor, Ontario, followed by a reception hosted by the Basilian Lay Associates of the Windsor Area. Many of Father Johnson's former students and colleagues from Assumption College School attended, as well as a variety of friends including from his current ministries at Amica at Windsor and Devonshire Retirement Residence. Father Maurice Restivo, CSB, presided and Fathers John Huber, CSB; Paul McGill, CSB; Bernard Pinsonneault, CSB; Jim O'Neill, CSB; Joseph Quinn, CSB; Joe Redican, CSB; and Jim Stenberg, CSB were concelebrants. Father Johnson was ordained on December 10, 1966 in St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Congratulations on 50 years of priestly service.



## Confreres Long time Friends Assumption Staff & Students (past and present) Celebrate



## Lawyer Peter Hrastovec, '75 Receives lifetime achievement award from Chamber of Commerce

*"Peter Hrastovec is an integral part of the Windsor-Essex community," said chamber president and CEO Matt Marchand in a release.*

*Hrastovec, an associate at Shibley Righton LLP, will receive his award at the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce gala June 24 at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. Hrastovec has focused on employment and labour law and commercial litigation since being called to the bar in the 1980s.*

*Hrastovec received the Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2009 and in 2014 was named Professional of the Year by the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.*

*He is also a published poet having published his first volume, In Lieu of Flowers, in 2012. His second book, Sidelines, was released in 2015. He also performs with community theatre groups.*

*A proud, first-generation Canadian, Hrastovec is fluent in both English and Croatian. He is the past president of the Windsor Symphony Society, the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) and a past co-chair of the local United Way campaign. Hrastovec is also past chair of the chamber and is currently the chair of the Great Canadian Flag Project through the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation.*

## Century Club Contributions

### Thank you

*The Century Club is composed of those former students and friends who have contributed \$100.00 or more within a given year to the Alumni Fund to sponsor Alumni Activities including the Newsletter. The following are individuals who have generously made a contribution. Thank you for your continued support.*

**Contributions can be sent to:**

**Assumption College Catholic High School  
1100 Huron Church Rd., Windsor Ontario, N9C 2K7  
Attention Alumni Association**

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George Dzuro  
Robert Kefgen  
Ken Kelly  
Joe Matz  
Patrick Russell  
Thomas R Winkel

### DECEASED

WE REMEMBER

### WE PRAY

Hogan, Brian Tom '59  
Naccarato, John - retired staff  
Snyder, Terry - retired staff

