



**Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars
Newsletter**

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**Contributions, tributes, letters,
comments, suggestions and complaints
can be sent to the Editor at**

canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

Editor

Katie Sheehan

Ontario & Merton 2002

Cover Illustration

Katie Sheehan

Merton College from Christ Church
Meadow

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From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first electronic issue of the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars (CARS) newsletter and a big thank you to Rhodes House for assisting us in distributing it! This electronic version allows us to hyperlink to websites and articles of interest related to items mentioned in the newsletter. Holding your computer mouse over underlined words written in blue will show you the related website, and clicking on these links will take you directly to the site or article.

For some of you, who are not members of CARS, this may be the first contact you have had with our organization in some time. We hope that you will consider joining CARS and participating in our activities across the country. If you are already a member, you will also be receiving the traditional print version in a few days. Our plan, over the next few issues, is to provide Scholars with the opportunity to renew their membership and opt-in to receiving their preference of the electronic or print version.

This year marks the [110th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarship and events are being held in Oxford](#) in September to celebrate. The Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars will also be marking this anniversary by hosting our own reunion weekend in Toronto in May 2013. On page 6, Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New 2002), President of CARS, outlines our plans for this event and the Association in general. This issue also includes a list of other events being organized (page 22) and a report on our recent Sailing Weekend, held in Ottawa in September 2012 (page 13). On page 8, [David Obert \(Prairies & St. John's 2012\)](#) regales us with stories of his first term in Oxford. David's Letter from Oxford brought back so many memories for me and I hope

it does the same for you. Information about the other 2012 Canadian Rhodes Scholars and the 2013 Scholars-Elect can be found on pages 16 and 17 respectively.

Sadly, since the publication of the last issue, we lost our oldest living Scholar – **James Coyne (Manitoba & Queen’s 1931)**. He passed away in October 2012 at the age of 102. Mr. Coyne was a Governor of the Bank of Canada and numerous articles about [his remarkable life](#) and [career](#) were published following his death. His late brother **John Coyne (Manitoba & Queen’s 1940)** was also a Canadian Rhodes Scholar. You can read about Mr. Coyne and the [significant impact he made on his family and our country](#) on page 18.

Submissions of tributes, news, articles, and photos (and pretty much anything else that can be published) are most welcome! If you would like to become more involved with the Association and its activities, please let us know.

[Email:](mailto:canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com) canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

[Twitter:](https://twitter.com/cdn_rhodes) @cdn_rhodes

Sincerely,



Katie Sheehan, Ontario & Merton 2002

From the President of CARS
Mark Schaan, Manitoba & New 2002

Dear Canadian Rhodes Community,

There are many joys in working with the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars, but there are two times a year when the role is especially great. The first is right about now – when regional committees make their announcements about new Scholars-elect being named across the country. Each one of these incredible young people represents a remarkable story – both for the commitment they have made to their community and for the incredible excitement this new achievement has created for them and their families. I received a few happy emails from new scholars, which reminded me of my own euphoria when the phone call came my way.

The second time of year is in the autumn when we send off the newest crop to that incredible place, which was an important part of all of our lives. The weekend we spend with the scholars-elect is rejuvenating, it's a reminder of the incredible vision of this award, and of the energy and dynamism that is the Rhodes community. This year hit all of these notes, in particular the thoughtful and entertaining commentary from **Ilse Treurnicht (South Africa & Balliol 1979)** and **David Naylor (Ontario & Hertford 1979)** as our dinner speakers.

This year we are looking to make for one more time of year when we can all again recall the incredible gift of this award. We are inviting all of the Canadian Rhodes community to join us in Toronto from May 3rd to 5th for a Scholars' Weekend. We'll begin the festivities on the Friday evening at the Canadian headquarters of McKinsey and Company for a reception. We'll follow this up on the Saturday with a day filled with engaging and exciting panel discussion, drawing on the incredible

thoughtfulness and ingenuity of our community and our networks. We'll cap off Saturday with an intimate dinner at the residence of the President of the University of Toronto (hosted, of course, by **David Naylor** and **Ilse Treurnicht**). On Sunday, we'll be looking to encourage classes to head out for brunch together, reminiscing about times in Oxford and since.

We very much hope you'll join us. We're also hoping many of you will help us make this event happen, either by proposing a panel, coordinating your class for brunch, or helping with logistics. To get involved, please drop me a line at mschaan@sympatico.ca. Further details will be coming soon, but we hope you'll mark the date on your calendars!

The Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars is hoping this event and others will continue to provide fora for our community to gather, network, and allow for the amazing things that happen when Rhodes Scholars put their ideas and experiences together. Thanks to all of you for your continued support and for allowing my year to be filled with so many incredible moments.

See you in Toronto,



Mark Schaan, Manitoba & New 2002

Letter from Oxford

David Obert, Alberta & St. John's 2012

It seems like only yesterday that I was standing in the noisy concourse area of Edmonton's Rexall Place, about to watch the Oilers play the Blackhawks, when I received "the call". Now, over a year later and having completed my first term at Oxford, I still have that same broad smile as when I first learned that I had been selected as a Rhodes Scholar. It has and continues to be a very special experience.

I thought I had already been very fortunate in some of the opportunities which had come my way – four great undergraduate years in Montreal at McGill, then Boston and medicine at Harvard, wonderful research and volunteer experiences, participating in the Canadian Field Studies in Africa program – but nothing has remotely compared to the Rhodes/Oxford experience.

It all got off to a somewhat inauspicious start when I had to miss the Sailing Weekend in Ottawa due to the Master of Public Policy course which I was to read in my first year at Oxford having a start date two weeks earlier than most other courses. However, my disappointment at having to forgo the Sailing Weekend was soon assuaged when I arrived at Heathrow on September 18 and, after a long overnight flight from Edmonton, saw a smiling gentleman from Rhodes House holding a sign with my name on it. The adventure was about to begin! By the time I arrived at my college in Oxford I already felt very much at home, Colin having fully briefed me on the trip from the airport on all the ins and outs of Rhodes House, the University and the Town (including, most importantly, the names and locations of recommended watering holes).

At St. John's College, I was met by an Australian Rhodie who kindly toured me through the College and around Oxford. However, it was not

so much her kindness and abilities as a tour guide which impressed me, but more importantly her zest for life, her inquisitiveness, and her varied interests and talents. These are qualities which I have found in abundance amongst all the Rhodes Scholars I have met in Oxford. It is a large part of what makes this experience such a unique one – the opportunity to interact with and learn from a group of quite remarkable, yet very real and down-to-earth, people. From formal affairs such as the Coming-Up Dinner, to watching the US election through the night with fellow Rhodies, to celebrating Thanksgiving (albeit the US version) at Rhodes House, to attending a Ditchley Conference in an old English manor with a former prime minister, ambassadors, senior civil servants and noted journalists, to spending a wonderful end of term celebratory weekend in Wales with my fellow Canadian Rhodes Scholars, my introduction to the Rhodes world has been something I will never forget. I also cannot over-emphasize the importance, as part of that introduction, played by Dr. Graham, Mary Eaton, Sheila Partridge, Jackie Rivas, the Porters (Bob, Colin and John) and all the staff at Rhodes House. They have a unique ability to make one immediately feel at home and to quickly and efficiently ease one into life in Oxford and at the University. If there is one thing that makes this experience so special, it is the people.

Having said that, living in the centre of an old university town, where “new” is within the last few hundred years and “old” is really old, is also a unique experience. Last year, I was one of the students representing the Faculty of Medicine at the celebrations for Harvard’s 375th anniversary. At the time, as an Alberta boy from a province which came into existence barely more than a hundred years ago, I thought about what an opportunity it was to participate in such a historical celebration. Now, after having studied in the Bodleian Library, attended a number of functions at the Sheldonian and dined in various Colleges including one dating from 1379 which calls itself New, my perspective has significantly changed (though Harvard did have Yo-Yo Ma at its

celebrations!). I have also enjoyed College life, attending dinners where one often has the pleasure of meeting new and interesting people, going to “bops” and the MCR (terms I was totally unfamiliar with prior to coming to Oxford), participating in Evening Song in a medieval candlelit chapel and, on the one or two days when it was warm and sunny at the beginning of term, studying on the beautifully manicured lawns of St John’s (usually beside a sign saying “Keep Off the Grass”). Meeting friends after class at The Kings Arms or The Eagle and Child has also very easily become part of my routine. In the mornings, I try to be up for the English breakfast at the College (a good calorie and cholesterol filled start to the day). Then, because I have usually lingered too long over breakfast, I am forced to quickly make my way through the narrow lanes of Oxford (the most direct route) to Merton Street (the location of the Blavatnik School of Government) where I spend the rest of the day learning about and debating public policy issues with fellow MPP students from all over the world. All in all, not a bad life!

I feel truly privileged, challenged and inspired by the Rhodes/Oxford experience to date. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to being inspired to write many more Letters from Oxford.



David Obert, Prairies & St. John's 2012

Honours, Appointments and Awards

Dual American and Canadian citizen **Charles Conn (Massachusetts & Balliol 1983)** has been [named the new Warden of Rhodes House](#). Mr. Conn takes over the role from Acting Warden Dr. Andrew Graham on June 24th 2013.

Louise Simbandumwe (Prairies & New 1991) has been [honoured with a Human Rights Commitment Award of Manitoba](#) for her work at [SEED Winnipeg](#), where she is the director of asset building programs.

The *Toronto Star* named **Dr. Samir Sinha (Ontario & New 2001)** one of their [“People to Watch”](#) in 2013. Dr. Sinha is the Head of Geriatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network in Toronto. He is also the [Expert Lead](#) for Ontario’s Seniors Care Strategy.

Scholars in the News

Dr. Eric Hoskins (Ontario & Balliol 1986), Member of Parliament for the riding of St. Paul's in Ontario, [resigned](#) as Minister of Children and Youth Services and then [announced](#) his intention to run for the leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party.

In his [study](#) published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, **Dr. Nav Persaud (Ontario & University 2004)** demonstrated that cyclists who ride a bike without a helmet are three times more likely to die from a head injury than those who wear one. He was interviewed by the [Toronto Star](#) and [Globe and Mail](#) about his research.

Dr. Andrew Wilkinson (Prairies & Magdalen 1980), Canadian National Secretary for the Rhodes Trust, [announced](#) that he is seeking the Liberal nomination in the riding of Vancouver-Quilchena in the 2013 provincial election in British Columbia.

The *Toronto Star* called **Dr. Karlee Silver (Manitoba & Magdalen 2002)** “a dynamo” in [their profile](#) of her and the “Saving Brains” program she coordinates as part of her role as a Program Officer with [Grand Challenges Canada](#).

Sailing Weekend 2012

This year's Sailing Dinner, held on September 22nd 2012 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, was another fantastic event and a great send-off for our newest Canadian Rhodes cohort.

The evening began with a warm welcome by the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars President, **Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New 2002)**. He provided an overview of the events of the evening and announced the upcoming Canadian Rhodes Alumni Weekend, to be held in Toronto from May 3rd-5th 2013 (see page 6 for further details). Those in attendance from "anniversary years" were recognized by Mark and it was wonderful to see Scholars from so many decades present. **Andrew Wilkinson (Prairies & Magdalen 1980)**, Canadian Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, then introduced the new Scholars.



Canadian Rhodes Scholars – Class of 2012

From left to right: Michael Noonan, Sarah St. John, Anne Kelly, Sheiry Dhillon, Mark Hearson, Rebecca Dixon, Phillippe-Andre Rodriguez, Danielle Leonard, Mary-Dan Johnston, Steven Wang already in Oxford - David Obert

Continuing the tradition of having a member of the 10th reunion class providing the toast to the University, **Karlee Silver (Manitoba & Magdalen 2002)** recounted her memories of the 2002 Sailing Dinner and time in Oxford. Her words captured the essence of the Oxford experience and piqued the excitement of the Scholars-elect, when she said, “Oxford is a magical place that will please the intellect, the dreamer, the socialite, the athlete, the dramatist, the entrepreneur and the politician alike. As a result, it is a place where anyone will find true peers - genuine, whip smart, fascinating people who will challenge your thoughts, beliefs, horizons. They will teach you more about differences of perspective and how much more can be learned when that difference is respected.” The toast to the Founder, traditionally presented by the Scholar with the “most life experience”, was given by **James Taylor (Ontario & Balliol 1951)**. **Yaa-Hemaa Obiri-Yeboah (British Columbia & St. John’s 2003)** gave the toast to the Queen.

The evening’s formal events concluded with a discussion between **Ilse Treurnicht (South Africa & Balliol 1979)** and her husband **David Naylor (Ontario & Hertford 1979)**, moderated by **Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New 2002)**. David and Ilse’s discussion covered a wide-range of topics; including why they applied for the scholarship, how they met at a Rhodes House lunch, their most and least favourite things about Oxford, their careers and their thoughts about innovation and technology in Canada today. This was a new format for the keynote speech and a great success, as it was entertaining, amusing, thoughtful and thought provoking.

The new Canadian Rhodes Scholars participated in a host of other events during the Sailing Weekend, in addition to the Sailing Dinner. On Friday September 21st 2012, they attended an informal pub dinner with Scholars recently returned from Oxford. The following morning, they toured the National Gallery with Charlie Hill, Curator of the Canadian Collection. Lunch was spent with **Andrew Wilkinson (Prairies &**

Magdalen 1980), National Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, and Ian Bird, President and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada. On the morning after the Sailing Dinner, Sunday September 23rd 2012, the Scholars had a tour of the Supreme Court by current Supreme Court Clerk **Adrian Johnston (Ontario & St. John's 2007)** and then a roundtable discussion with Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. They spent the afternoon and evening relaxing in Ottawa before jetting off to England that night.



New Canadian Rhodes Scholars at the Supreme Court of Canada with **Adrian Johnston (Ontario & St. John's 2007)**, current clerk for Chief Justice McLachlin, and **Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New 2002)**, President of CARS.

Canadian Rhodes Scholars 2012

Danielle Leonard – Newfoundland and Labrador & Worcester
D.Phil. in Mathematics

Rebecca Dixon – Maritimes & St. Hilda's
M.Phil. in Development Studies

Mary-Dan Johnston – Maritimes & Jesus
M.Phil. in Economics and Social History

Michael Noonan – Quebec & St. John's
D.Phil. in Zoology

Phillip-Andre Rodriguez – Quebec & Exeter
B.A. in Law

Sheiry Dhillon – Ontario & Lady Margaret Hall
D.Phil. in Obstetrics

Steven Wang – Ontario & Lincoln
M.Phil. in International Relations

Mark Hearson – Prairies & Harris Manchester
M.Phil. in Geography and the Environment

Anne Kelly – Prairies & Merton
M.Phil. in Medieval Studies

David Obert – Prairies & St. John's
Master of Public Policy

Sarah St. John – British Columbia & Wolfson
M.Phil. in Geography and the Environment

Canadian Rhodes Scholars-Elect 2013

Newfoundland and Labrador

[Laura Pittman](#)

Maritimes

[Paul Manning](#)

[Caroline Whidden](#)

Quebec

[Sarah McCuaig](#)

[Madeleine Ballard](#)

Ontario

[Connor Emdin](#)

[Ayodele Odutayo](#)

Prairies

[Thomas Toles](#)

[Megan Engel](#)

[Joanne Cave](#)

British Columbia

[Tara Paterson](#)

In Memoriam

James Coyne (Manitoba & Queen's 1931)



1910-2012

James Elliott Coyne - scholar, lawyer, public servant, family man and practicing eccentric - was born July 17, 1910 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He lived through more than a century of unprecedented social and technological change (on his eighth birthday, Czar Nicholas II was assassinated), that stretched from the early days of manned flight to the exploration of Mars. Through it all, he maintained the same qualities of intellect and character, the same unwavering personal style (Oxford cloth shirt, grey flannels, burgundy vest and navy blue blazer), and the same unflappable good humour.

With his passing, Canada loses the last of a generation of great public servants. The son of James Bowes Coyne, a Manitoba Court of Appeal judge, and Edna Margaret Elliott, he was a graduate of the University of Manitoba and a Rhodes Scholar. At Oxford, he studied jurisprudence, captained the hockey team, toured Europe and met Albert Einstein. After practicing law with his father, he joined the research bureau of the

Bank of Canada in 1938, then held a succession of increasingly important posts in the federal government, eventually becoming deputy governor of the Bank in 1950 and governor in 1955.

Through the first two decades of his working life, he maintained a disciplined routine of self-reliance, cooking, cleaning and taking long walks every day. He enjoyed collecting antique books and maps, and paintings of the Canadian landscape. In the summers he would return to Lake of the Woods, where he had learned to sail as a boy. He had friends, interests, a successful and challenging career, and was to all outward appearances a contented bachelor.

That was until the day he met Meribeth Stobie Riley, a young widow with three unusually lively small children; two more were to follow soon after. Within a few short years he went from being a single man in middle age to a father of five, from a life of peace and quiet contemplation to a life of clamour and domestic bedlam. He couldn't have been happier.

When circumstances brought him home to his beloved Winnipeg, he became what is now known as a stay-at-home Dad. He was a quiet and constant presence in our lives, who taught more by example than by lectures. Yet he was also an inexhaustible source of arcane knowledge, with endless patience for the questions of small children. He was the kind of father who actually knew why the sky was blue, and how old was the universe, and the names of all the trees. His greatest gift to us was the summers we spent at magical Lake of the Woods, where our family still gathers to this day.

Dad was a model of how to age gracefully, and was in excellent shape mentally and physically all through his first century. In his sixties he took up bridge, becoming a fixture of the Manitoba bridge scene and attaining the status of Silver Master. He walked an hour every day, and maintained a strict - if occasionally puzzling - health regime: brussel sprouts, blueberries, olive oil, and chocolate Revellos. He read widely - the origins of the universe, the science of the brain, mathematics - though he had a weakness for lurid murder mysteries and cryptic

crosswords. He continued to follow economic and stock market developments closely, as well as current politics. Discussing legal issues with one of his grandchildren, a newly minted lawyer, he could toss off precedents from law books he would have last opened in the early 1930s. In his mid-90s, he was still driving to Florida.

He was a man of many contrasts. Though fundamentally shy and short on small talk, he had a natural empathy for others and the courtesy that went with it. He was a serious man, with a strong sense of duty, yet he had a dry, sometimes impish sense of humour.

At his 100th birthday celebration at Lake of the Woods, a social obligation he resisted as being "an awful lot of fuss", we had a chance to pay tribute to his many fine qualities: his kindness, his integrity, and his innate modesty. Dad sat in his chair, listening patiently, while his great-grandchildren leaned confidently on his knee and shared his cake. Dad was a very lucky man, and knew it. He loved Winnipeg, and was honoured and touched to receive the Order of Manitoba in his last year. He lived at home with his wife till his final days, still following politics, still making his own breakfast, still able to get out and about, and with every hair he was born with.

He leaves behind his wife of fifty-five years Meribeth; his children Sanford Riley (and wife Debbie), Patrick (and wife Deborah), Nancy Riley (and husband Blake Murray), Susan and Andrew Coyne; as well as eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank the fourth floor, Station 4 staff at Seven Oaks Hospital for their wonderful care and attention.

A celebration of his life was held on Sunday, November 4 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Manitoba Club, 194 Broadway, Winnipeg.

Published in the [National Post](#) from October 18 to October 20, 2012

**You Don't Need To Be A Rhodes Scholar...
From the Wacky World Wide Web**

“You didn't need to be a Rhodes Scholar -- or even chief executive officer/president Len Rhodes -- to know who was going to be the new general manager of the Edmonton Eskimos...”

http://www.sportsnet.ca/football/cfl/2012/12/10/lefko_on_cfl_ed_hervey_once_an_eskimo_always_an_eskimo/

To be a professional wrestler and part of World Wrestling Entertainment's Rhodes Scholar tag team

<http://www.wwe.com/videos/team-rhodes-scholars-entrance-video-26062882>

Upcoming Events

Welcome Event for New Ontario Scholars

Likely late January – early February; Toronto, location/time TBD

For details contact: canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

University of Oxford Drinks Reception with Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Nick Rawlins

March 16th 2013; Fairmont Royal York – Toronto, ON

Further details to follow on: www.oxfordna.org

Canadian Rhodes Reunion Weekend

May 3rd-5th 2013; Toronto, Ontario

Further details on page 6 and to follow by email

Rhodes Trust 110th Anniversary Events

September 18th-20th 2013; Oxford, England

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/110th

Events in Newfoundland

Please contact Luke Pike for further details

lrgpike@gmail.com

If you are interested in getting involved with the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars or organizing local events, please

email:

mschaan@sympatico.ca