



# 1111 ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

FALL 2014

## Membership Renewal Time

This issue of 1111 Echoes concludes the Reds Heritage Society's 14th successful season. As one of our valued members (now close to 700), it is time for you to renew for the 2014-15 season.

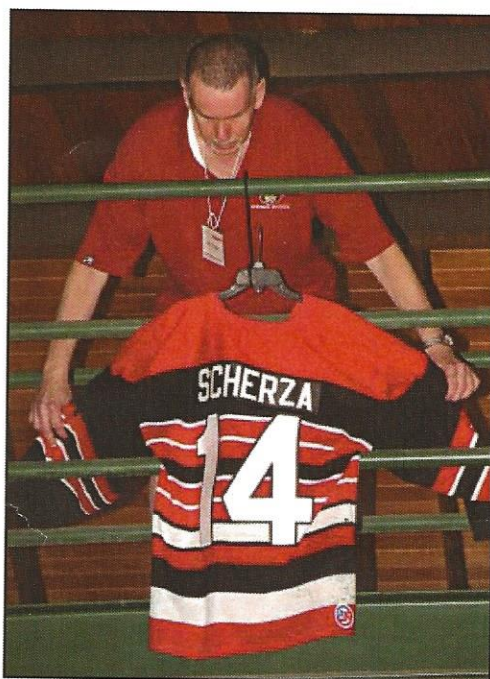
Unfortunately, for the first time in our 14 seasons, we have had to raise dues by \$5. Due to escalating operating costs to our Society, your annual membership now will be a modest \$25 (USA) – about 48 cents a week. To remain on the Society's membership rolls you must act by the Nov. 30 deadline. Using the enclosed form, you will renew now and avoid costly, time-consuming follow-up reminders. For your convenience, credit cards now may be used for payment. PLEASE PUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM AT THE TOP OF YOUR "TO DO" LIST.

As a paid member you'll continue to receive three newsletters annually, plus exclusive invitations to our 15th Annual Reunion and other special events. If you already have paid your dues for 2014-15, you do not have to take any action. To check your membership status, please call Buster Clegg at 401-247-2666.

## Reunion 2014



**Tops Award Family:** Family members traveled from afar to see Jimmy Bartlett, second from left, receive the 2014 Topps Award at the Heritage Society's 14th Annual Reunion Barbecue in August. **Reunion Weekend Coverage begins on Page 3.**



### Number 14 Retired:

A new event at the Annual Reunion was the retirement of a R.I. Reds jersey number. The honor, at the 14th reunion, was reserved for number 14, worn by Chuck Scherza, who passed away earlier this year. At left, Heritage Society Board of Directors Member Jim Clegg unveils the jersey at the Reunion Barbecue. Next year, at the 15th reunion, the number 15, worn by the great Zello Toppazzini, will be retired. "Topper" is the Reds' all-time leader for career goals, assists and points, and in 2000, the Society named him its "Player of the Century."



# Looking Back, and Ahead, at a Terrific Year

**T**his past season was perhaps the greatest in our 14-year history. Our membership total continued to be well over 700 members and player-memberships grew to 136.

The 14th annual reunion set attendance records for all four events, and we received numerous plaudits from veteran NHL and AHL players, telling us such things as “even the NHL alumni associations do not match what you do every year” and “your organization is the only one of its kind in hockey.” We deeply appreciate those praises.

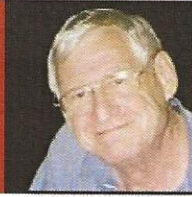
The 2014-15 season is fast approaching. I for one – with the help of several players and members from Canada – will personally contact at least a dozen ex-Reds whose addresses and phone numbers were recently discovered by these new “scouts.”

In the meantime, we will be planning our 15th Annual Reunion weekend – July 31 through Aug. 2, 2015. We expect a huge turnout inasmuch as the uniform #15, worn by our late great Zellio Toppazzini, will be retired and hung from the Carousel rafters on Sunday, Aug. 2. Reunion reservation forms will be part of your Winter edition of 1111 Echoes.

This winter, we also will be saluting the “Unsung Heroes” of R. I. Interscholastic Hockey for the fifth season. The six awards will be presented to three girls and

## RED ROOSTER'S UPDATE

By Buster Clegg



three boys, each representing positions of goaltender, defense and forward.

### Increasing Costs

Finally, it bothers me greatly that we must increase yearly membership dues to \$25, after having maintained them at \$20 since our start in 2000. As a non-profit organization we are not in business to make a profit. On the flipside, we cannot run at a deficit and continue to exist.

Before raising dues, the Heritage Society Board of Directors considered many options: Reduce the number of newsletters from three to two a year; reduce the newsletters from eight to six or four pages; and print the newsletters in black and white instead of color.

None of those options made any sense, since we would be depriving you – our members – the quality you have come to expect.

The increase in postage costs is the main reason. Printing costs have remained stable. And so we move ahead to a new era of \$25 per year (just 48 cents a week).

I hope you will understand our position and remain with us. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me directly at 401-247-2666.

### Speaker's Bureau

Many members may not be aware that your R. I. Reds Heritage Society has available a free “Speakers Bureau.”

You can entertain your next group's meeting or gathering by presenting a historical look at the old R. I. Reds hockey club, presented by a knowledgeable guest speaker from our society – free of charge.

Themes run the gamut of hockey – Reds' 51-year history, old time hockey tales, travel in the bygone days, hockey's most humorous stories, the game's most legendary characters, etc.

For more information contact Tom McDonough at 401-942-1230.

### Heritage Society Stuff

Looking for a Reds Heritage Society gift for someone special for a birthday, anniversary or even Christmas? This year, the Heritage Society has made it easier than ever for you. The The Heritage Shop now offers an expanded selection of gifts, from hoodies to sleepwear.

It's just two clicks away on your computer. First, enter rireds.org. At our home page look at the top banner and click The Heritage Shop. That will take you to a website that carries an amazing array of gift products.

You'll be surprised at the selections, quality and pricing offered. Enjoy!



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Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society

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Pete Fontaine, Mal Goldenberg, George Landes, Bob Leduc (emeritus),  
Andre Mayer, Tom McDonough, Dick Reniere (emeritus), Rick Scherza,  
Bob Spaziano, Len Tessier; Photo Archivist: Roger Gladu



# Reunion 2014: Meet & Greet Friday

There were memories of goals that become more exciting over the years.

There were stories about saves by goalies that seem even more acrobatic as seasons pass.

There were anecdotes about playing in a rink where the chicken wire surrounding the skating surface seems even more unusual today.

And there were tales about some of the teams – the great ones and some of those not so great – that become even more colorful when seen through the lens of history.

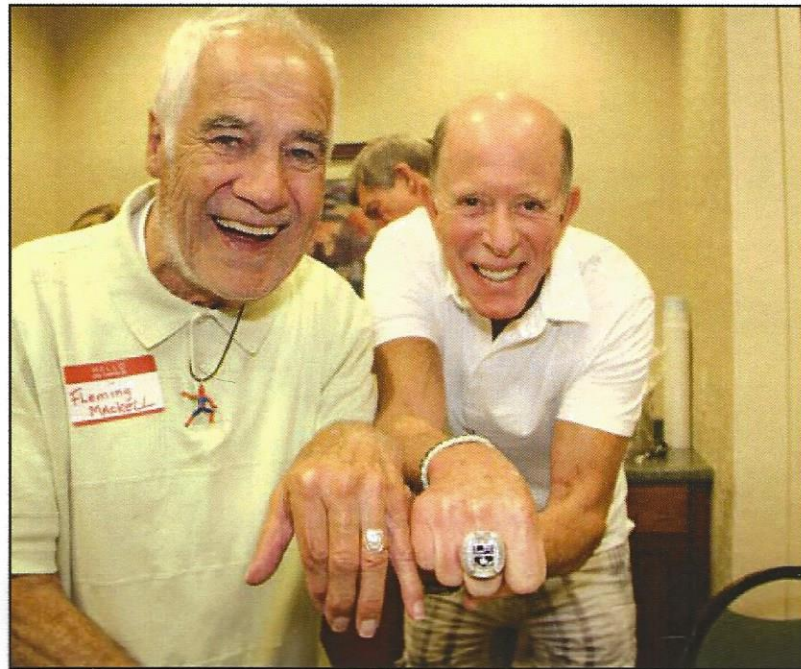
There was all that and more during the “Meet & Greet” event that opened the 14th annual reunion of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society in early August.

Players and their families began arriving in early afternoon at the Hampton Inn & Suites, the official hotel of the Reds Heritage Society in Warwick.

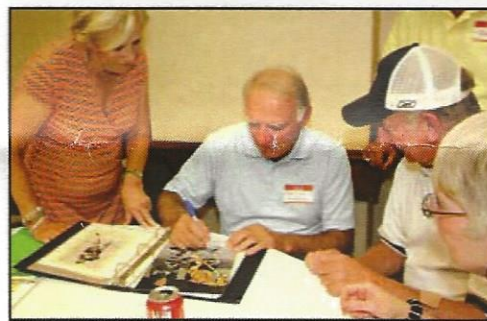
But the welcoming really picked up with the arrival of the Bower Bus after its 500-plus-mile trip from Grimsby, Ontario, Canada, to the city of Warwick in Rhode Island.

It was the eighth time that Hall of Fame goalie Johnny Bower has led a busload of ex-players, family and friends to the three-day reunion.

Once again, Tom McDonough, a founding member of the Society’s Board of Directors, served as the informal master-of-ceremonies, sharing the microphone with many former players who shared stories of their hockey lives – especially the part of their lives spent with the Reds. And many of their stories, ex-



*Fleming Mackell and Pete Demers show off their Stanley Cup championship rings.*



*Jean-Guy Gendron signs a photograph of him wearing the black and gold.*



*Don McKenney shares a story at the Friday night Meet & Greet.*

aggerated as they were, drew rounds of laughter from the 86 people attending.

Buster Clegg, the Society’s founding president, greeted all of the guests personally, and during the evening offered updates about how his organization continues to grow and find ways to promote both the Reds franchise and the game of hockey.

New to the reunion this year was Ronnie Shuker, associate editor of *The Hockey News* who had joined the Bower bus in Canada and spent the weekend interviewing the former players

and others in attendance. Joining the reunion later was Mark Divver, assistant sports editor and hockey writer for *The Providence Journal* newspaper.

There were plenty of sandwiches, salads, wine, beer and soda. And lots of hand-shaking and back-patting as the ex-players – many of them former teammates – reunited as the three-day reunion opened.

And, as has been the case in years past, there were words of thanks, and words of praise, for the Reds Heritage Society for once again putting together the reunion event.



# Reunion 2014: A Lazy Afternoon and a Swinging Saturday Night

## Welcome to the Ocean State

About 100 former players, their friends and families at the 14th annual reunion enjoyed a rare taste of why Rhode Island is known as “The Ocean State.”

They were guests at the summer house of Roger and Lorraine Gladu for a Saturday “escape” afternoon of good food, good drink, good friendship and a view of the Oakland Beach area of the state’s magnificent Narragansett Bay.

The great view was complemented by a luncheon of the best food anywhere, some unique to Rhode Island like the dynamite sandwiches prepared by Lorraine following her prize-winning recipe, the huge assortments of desserts made by Roger, and an amazing variety of Chinese foods provided by Charles Chin and his Asia restaurant. Charles is a loyal supporter of the Reds Heritage Society and Asia is widely known for the best Asian menu in the region.

Located appropriately on a beachfront road named Sea View Drive, the summer house was full of happy guests and wonderful food and drink which also included a variety of cold cuts for sandwiches, salads, baked ziti, beer, wine, soda and water.

Buster Clegg, president of the Reds Heritage Society, had high praise for the Gladus. “It was so generous and thoughtful of Lorraine and Roger to open their beach house to our guests for the



Former Reds goalies Gil Mayer, left, and Johnny Bower at the Saturday night banquet.

weekend,” he said.

The following day, during the reunion banquet, Lorraine and Roger were honored as recipients of Sage Family Foundation Service Awards for putting together the event.

## Hood Sings Society’s Praises

Bruce Hood certainly knows hockey. He was a referee for 21 seasons NHL covering 1,033 regular season and 157 Stanley Cup playoff games. He officiated three All-Star games and three Canada Cups. He was the first pro to ref a World Championship and the last to wear number 1 on his jersey. He developed a new type of equipment for referees and he’s the author of two books about the game.

So, when he speaks about



Monty Seli, left, accepts the Sage Family Foundation Service Award from Tom McDough of the Heritage Society.

hockey, he’s worth listening to. And a packed house of 120 ex-players and fans were listening when Hood offered some high praise for the R.I. Reds Heritage Society as guest speaker for the 14th annual reunion banquet, held in August at Chelo’s restaurant.

Hood told the audience he isn’t aware of any other organization that serves former players and fans, and the game of hockey itself, as well as the Reds Heritage Society does. “The society keeps the memory of a great hockey team and its players and fans alive,” Hood said, “and preserves both the history of that team and the impact and meaning of the game for future generations.”

Hood also shared a wealth of stories about the game he served for so many seasons. He sang an



inspiring rendition of "The Impossible Dream." And he showed his breadth of knowledge of the world by singing the Russian national anthem, Latvian version.

Also addressing the crowd was Buster Clegg, the Society's founding president who had served as a general manager of the Reds in the latter part of the team's 51-year history. He explained that hockey has become a truly international sport.

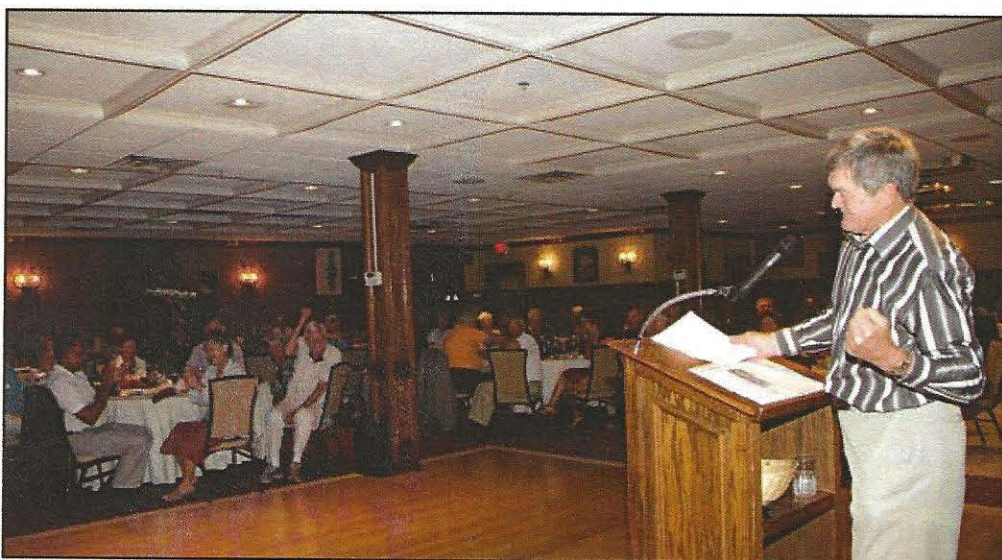
"The NHL once drew young players only from Canada's junior development leagues," Buster reminded the group, "but today the players come from junior leagues of European hockey and, of course, the USA. American colleges today are a major breeding ground for the NHL, providing about 35 percent of the league's newcomers."

Honored during the banquet was Monty Seli, who has led the planning for the Bower bus, which for the past eight years has brought former players (including Hall of Fame goalie Johnny Bower) and their families and fans from Ontario to Rhode Island for the reunion weekend.

Seli also has been helpful in locating former players and bringing the Society to their attention. He was honored with a Sage Family Foundation Service Award.

The evening's master-of-ceremonies Tom McDonough, a founding member of the Society's Board of Directors, conducted a raffle with the prize being an original painting by Linda Cline, daughter of former Reds' great Bruce Cline. T

he evening's music was provided by a popular Rhode Island group, The Calamari Brothers.



*Bruce Hood sings to the crowd at Chelo's.*



*From left, Kathleen Dias, Alton and Linda White, Bobby Leduc and Serge Boudreault.*



*From left, Glen Ross, Denise Larivee, Greg Ross, Shirley Toppazzini, Gary Ross, and Kathy Toppazzini.*



# Reunion 2014: A Sunday Barbecue

The 14th annual Reunion Barbecue was again a time for honors and awards, including the first R.I. Reds jersey number to be retired.

Goddard Park's historic Carousel was the familiar setting for former players and fans to receive awards during the highlight finale of the three-day celebration.

Topping the list was the **Tops Award**, named in honor of Zello Toppazzini, the Reds' "Player of the Century," and based on both outstanding service to the R.I. Reds and also to the wider community. Three well-known ex-Reds were honored. They are:

■ **Jimmy Bartlett:** A fan favorite during his eight years with the Reds who also played for Baltimore in the AHL and the Rangers, Canadiens and Bruins in the NHL.

■ **Paul Larivee:** The center and playmaker for what many believe is the top forward line in Reds history (with Toppazzini and Camille Henry at the wings). His widow, Denise, accepted the award in his behalf.

■ **Terry Reardon:** His 17 pro seasons as a player included 10 in the AHL (eight with the Reds) and seven in the NHL (with the Canadiens and Bruins). He also coached the Reds for six seasons, winning the Calder Cup in 1948-49. The award was accepted on his behalf by Tom McDonough who had been the Reds' stick boy during much of Reardon's time in Providence.

**The Rhode Island Native-Born Hockey Achievement Award** went to Dick Ernst, whose more than six decades in



Reds royalty, led by Johnny Bower, Jimmy Bartlett and George Patrick Duffy, take the stage at Goddard Park's Carousel building.

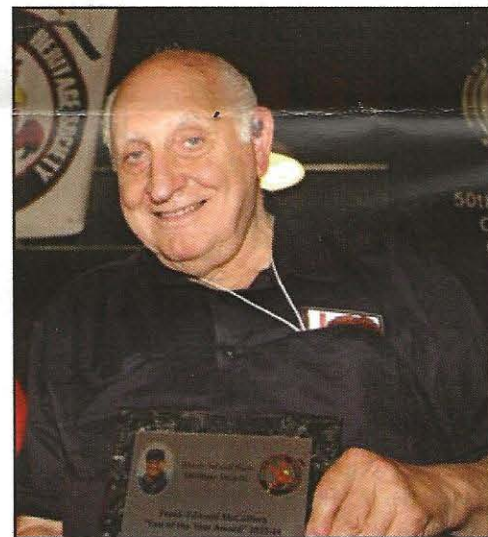


Roger and Lorraine Gladu show their Sage Family Foundation Service Award.

hockey featured close to a half century as a high school coach with championships in both the boys and girls divisions.

**The Frank E. McCaffrey Fan of the Year Award** was given to Joe Gagliardi whose devotion to the Reds dates back to the 1940s.

**The Sage Family Foundation Service Awards** went to Monty



Joe Gagliardi receives the Frank E. McCaffrey Fan of the Year Award for his devotion to the Reds.

Seli at the Saturday banquet and to Lorraine and Roger Gladu at the Barbecue.

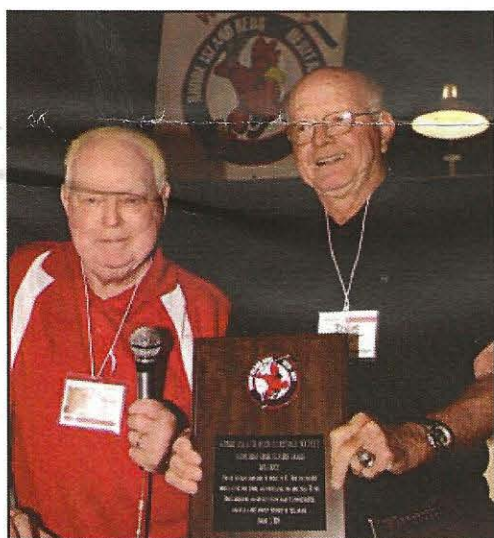
New this year was the first retirement of a Reds jersey number. That honor was reserved for the number 14 worn for so many years by Chuck Scherza, who passed away earlier this year. One of the most popular of all Reds players, Chuck played



# Reunion 2014: Number 14 Retired



*A group of guests enjoys the food and stories in Goddard Park's historic Carousel at the Reunion Barbeque.*



*Tom McDonough, left, presents the Native-Born Hockey Achievement Award to Dick Ernst.*

in Providence for 10 years, and also saw service with the NHL's Rangers and Bruins. He had been among the first former players to join the Reds Heritage Society and actively support its activities.

McDonough again served as master-of-ceremonies and, with the help of his grand-daughter, led the singing of the U.S. and



*Denise Larivee accepts the Tops Award on behalf of her husband, Paul.*

Canadian national anthems. Then he introduced the 34 Reds heroes – led by Hall of Fame goalie Johnny Bower – on stage.

One addition to the heroes lineup this year was a great athlete who gained fame not in hockey but in baseball. That was Bill Monbouquette whose 11-season Major League career included six with the Boston Red Sox

and featured a no-hit game and four All-Star game selections. He is the brother-in-law of Wayne Muloin, the former defenseman whose 16-season career included five years with the Reds.

Attending his first Reds reunion was Alton White, the first African-American to play for the Reds, who made the long trip from British Columbia.

Also attending were representatives of the Providence Bruins Boosters Club and the Springfield Hockey Heritage Society.

Other highlights included a silent auction and raffle featuring hockey memorabilia. Attracting the most interest were a Maple Leafs jersey signed by Bower, an Eddie Shore history collage, and a jersey autographed by 32 former players provided by the NHL alumni office.

As in past years, the carousel was decorated with Reds Heritage Society banners hanging from the rafters. The menu featured steak, chicken, hot dogs, corn on the cob, salads, watermelon and cookies provided by Morin Caterers.

The event was organized by a committee of members of the Society's Board of Directors led by Bill O'Connor.

## Reunion Photos Available

Terrific photos of our 2014 reunion events are now available for purchase from Dan Aurilio, our official photographer. Take a look online at [danphoto1.tripod.com](http://danphoto1.tripod.com). For additional info, contact him directly at 401-487-7905.



# A Huge Thanks to Our Sponsors

*The following corporate and individual sponsors have committed generously to help house incoming Reds' players and financially support our efforts honoring our 2014 "Hockey Heroes." We thank all who helped make our 14th Reunion the best ever!*

- AAA (Triple A)
- Alpha Appraisal
- American Hockey League
- Asia Restaurant
- Ayoub Engineering
- Bill O'Connor
- Blish/Cavanagh
- Bob Spaziano
- Bobby Leduc
- Bonanza Sports & Collectibles.net
- Brickyard Wine & Spirits
- Buster and Margie Clegg
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- Pawtucket Red Sox
- Providence Bruins Booster Club
- Providence Journal
- RocJo Productions
- Sage Family Foundation
- Steve Caridi
- Steve Grasso
- Steve Lewinstein
- The Washington Trust Company
- Tom McDonough
- Tom and Don Mellor
- Tommy's Pizza
- William & Nancy Gilbane
- Wright's Farm

## Our R.I. Reds Heroes at the Reunion

Here are the 2014 Hockey Heroes who attended the 14th Annual Reunion Weekend. This group of 36 hockey stars is presented by the two coolest organizations in Rhode Island Narragansett Brewery and your R. I. Reds Heritage Society.

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Ron Anderson         | Denise Larivee               |
| Tom Army             | Bob Leduc                    |
| Bob Leduc            | Danny Lewicki                |
| Stan Baluik          | Yves Locas                   |
| Jimmy Bartlett       | Fleming Mackell              |
| Bob Beckett          | Eddie MacQueen               |
| Serge Boudreault     | Gil Mayer                    |
| Johnny Bower         | Don McKenney                 |
| Ross Brooks          | Don Mellor                   |
| Ray Clearwater       | Tom Mellor                   |
| Bruce Cline          | Howie Menard                 |
| Gary Collins         | Heartland Monahan            |
| Pete Demers          | Bill Monbouquette (baseball) |
| Buzz Deschamps       | Wayne Muloin                 |
| George Patrick Duffy | Brian Perry                  |
| Jean-Guy Gendron     | Ray Ross                     |
| Bruce Hood           | Shirley Toppazzini           |
| Johnny Hutton        | Alton White                  |

## 15th Reunion Set for July 31-Aug. 2

The Reds Heritage Society has scheduled its 15th Annual Reunion Weekend for Friday, July 31, through Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015. As usual, the Sunday reunion event will be held in the historic and airy Carousel Building at Goddard State Park in Warwick, R.I.

For attendees from Canada, the dates immediately precede the Aug. 3 "Civic Day" holiday. We hope that fact will encourage more passengers to board the "Johnny Bower Bus" in Toronto to make the weekend trip to Rhode Island.

A reunion reservation form will be part of your Winter 2015 issue of 1111 Echoes.