

Dawn Butt (Abbott)

August 13, 2003

Dawn Butt Abbott, Cabrini alumni class of 1975. Dawn joined Cabrini in grade eight; she was one of many who decided that Cabrini rather than G. A. Mercer was the place for her.

Dawn's favorite teachers were Colin Penny, Pat Shallow, and Brian Doody. Colin Penny's Literature classes were challenging and he would try to prepare the students for life after Cabrini by sharing his experiences. The one uncomfortable experience for Dawn in his class was when he had her read to the class the poem, "High Flight".

Although mortified, Dawn read it and said that by reading to her classmates she realized that even though there were things in life to be feared, she had the ability to work through these fears and persevere. Dawn transferred from Sister Madeline's French course to Geography just prior to Pat Shallow taking on the teaching of the French course. After hearing that Ms. Shallow was teaching the French course, Dawn decided to occasionally skip Geography class to sit in on the French class. Ms. Shallow once made reference to Dawn's auditing of the class but never asked her to leave. Brian Doody, the drama teacher, always showed interest and concern for his students. He was always there to support the students in their endeavors. Dawn had recently corresponded with Mr. Doody via email and he has not forgotten his years at Cabrini and he enjoys catching up with his Cabrini students.

As Dawn's religion is Anglican she did not have to participate in Father William Ryan's religion classes; however, she sat in on some of his classes just for the enjoyment listening and speaking with him. Father Ryan made being part of his class worthwhile. The classes were full of grand discussions and he respected the input and the opinions of all the students, no matter what their religious background.

Dawn liked to walk to school most mornings just to catch up with some of her friends like Kathy Kays, Susan McHugh, Rhonda Pennell, Elaine Dwyer, Glenda Anstey, Susan Connolly, Jocelyn and Ann Noseworthy. Dawn would bus it when she had a lot of books or her guitar. Guitar playing with Sister Madeline was fun; they would go to Sacred Heart church to practice. Dawn also was active in drama, badminton, volleyball, Allied Youth, Red Cross, teen club and

enjoyed going to sock hops.

Kathy Kays would remember the time she and Dawn skipped school to get out of doing a French test with Sister Madeline. The joke was on them however as the test was rescheduled to the following day.

Cathy and Dawn most likely aced the test anyway; Dawn wasn't forthcoming with the details.

On the last day of school Dawn was saddened with the realization that many changes would be ahead of her and that she would miss the daily comradeship of her friends, changes like marrying Bill Abbott and settling in Mount Pearl. Dawn was a stay at home mom for the first few years of her marriage raising Michael and Melanie.

For the past eighteen years Dawn has worked as Corporate Sales Support at Atlantic Blue Cross Care and enjoys her job and her friends at work.

Dawn's Cabrini days were wonderful and she enjoyed catching up at the 2003 reunion. The reunion made her feel like the years disappeared and it was like being back in the halls of Cabrini catching up with her friends. Dawn ended our conversation by saying, "You can close Cabrini High the building, but the alumni, students and teachers, will always hold a special place in our hearts and minds with the many special memories.