

École Sir John Franklin High School

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the week of August 1st to 3rd École Sir John Franklin High School will be hosting a homecoming in celebration of 50 years of service to Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories.

Sir John Franklin High School and Akaitcho Hall opened and settled into their annual routines in 1958 and quickly became an important part of life in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. In 1962/63 both needed to be expanded in order to accommodate unexpected demand.

After Yellowknife was declared the capital of the NWT in 1967, another major expansion was required in order to address the increase in the number of students.

In 1981 the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre and its 313 seats took over the original gymnasium. In 1982 the school began welcoming international students under the AFS banner and has been hosting up to 8 students every year. In 1994 Akaitcho Hall officially closes its doors as more high schools in smaller communities throughout the north opened. In 1999, after 40 years, the school went through a major renovation, which incorporated modern technology and made it a state of the art education facility.

Plans are well underway for a weekend celebration and is an opportunity to reminisce and catch up with everyone and anyone who has a connection with École Sir John Franklin High School since 1958 including teachers, staff, students including a large number of MLAs, past and present, and friends of the school. Technically, this isn't a reunion of graduates but rather a celebration of education and everyone is welcome.

The celebration will kick off with a meet and greet on Friday, August 1, 2008 starting at 7:00 pm. It will be followed by musical presentations by current and past alumni and a dinner and dance during the evening of August 2. To wrap things up there will be an afternoon picnic on Sunday August 3 at Fred Henne complete with water sports, camp fires and plenty of sharing of history and memories.

Tickets are available for the homecoming through the YK1 Board Office, École Sir John Franklin High School, Weaver and Devore, Overlander Sports, JJ Hobies and Committee members.

To get more information and to get involved contact the Committee at SirJohn50@gmail.com or visit their website at www.SirJohn50.com.

As a graduate of École Sir John Franklin High School 19 years ago, I encourage all alumni and those connected to the school to come out and share in the memories.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.