

BOATMAN

Official Newsletter of the Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association

Winter 2015

Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association

Executive Committee

President: Stace Coray
Vice-President: Dan Ferrone
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Bronk
Past President: Peter Martin

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Bob Bronk
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Bill Symons
Robert Thompson



Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association

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President's Message

2015 - A Look Forward

Thanks to all of you, the Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association had another successful season. For a second year in a row, our paid-up membership returned to a level that might be the highest of any of the other alumni associations across the League with 129 active paying members.

Last season, our goals were to ramp-up our communication with former Argos, continue to focus on ways that provide alumni with opportunities to get together with each other and push membership. One of the major contributing factors to our success is the excellent relationship and partnership with the Toronto Argonauts Football Club. The relationship involves working in partnership on various initiatives including club and association events, community initiatives and league events.

Also, a special thanks to Crista Bazos, the association's administrative assistant. Crista is not going anywhere and will stay in touch with and keep you up-to-date on all things Double Blue.



At the Association's Annual General Meeting held October 30, 2014, the Board of Directors was elected for the 2015 season. The Board is a bit leaner now. Due to work and family commitments, Paul Markle, Peter Gabriel, Bert Novis and Mike Campbell advised that although they will maintain their membership, they were not able to continue on as a Board member. We want to thank them for their past years of service and wish them well.

The highlights of the AGM included a review of association mandate, our events and programs, report on the Canadian Football League Alumni Association and other alumni associations across the league, a very positive year-end financial report and the election of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee for 2015. We also discussed the need to create a pool of potential board members, especially younger alumni, as well as a way to help alumni that may not be able to help themselves.

Enclosed in the newsletter, you will find information about what the Association has planned for 2015.

We look forward to everyone's continued support and hope to see you at our events during the season.

Cheers,
Stace Coray

Website: www.argoalumni.ca

2015 INITIATIVES

Following the decisions made at the first meeting of the Board of Directors, we have been busy preparing for 2015 and have developed the following four initiatives for 2015:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. DO WHAT WE DO; BUT BETTER | 2. COMMUNICATING WITH YOU |
| 3. TORONTO ARGONAUTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT FUND | 4. YOUNGER FACES |

DO WHAT WE DO; BUT BETTER

#1

Over the past few years, many of you have told us they liked what the Association has been doing and to keep it up. Maybe that's one reason why we saw our paid-up membership returned to a level that might be the highest of any of the other alumni associations across the league. So, at the Association's AGM, we reviewed the objects of the Association's constitution and determined to focus our efforts on those areas. In other words, let's do what we have been doing; but find ways to improve and do things better. Here's a snap shot for 2015 ...

ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE FOOTBALL

The Association is exploring the opportunity to develop a Football Skills/Camp with one of the Toronto school boards. We are working with school board officials and school athletic and football staff to jointly plan and implement the camp. There will be many opportunities for you to participate in and support this initiative.



RECREATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our **golf tournament** is the major event that provides the lion's share of the revenue that sustains the Association year after year. Although the tournament is sold-out each year, we want to increase the number of alumni in attendance ... and make it a truly alumni golf tournament!



Now in its fifth year, **the annual reunion** has become a destination-event that provides alumni the opportunity to mingle with other teammates, develop networking opportunities and connect with team officials. In order to increase the number of alumni in attendance, we have confirmed the date and ready to go for 2015.

We will continue to send updates via social media, email, etc. with the goal of getting as many of you as we can out to this terrific event.



For the past several years, as a result, our partnership with the Toronto Argonauts, we have been able to watch regular season games from the **Baseball Media Centre** at the Rogers Centre. Although many alumni have had a great time and enjoyed connecting with former teammates, we want to increase the number of alumni in attendance and return to the higher levels we had in the past.



We have been in contact with the Club and have its commitment once again. Once the 2015 CFL schedule is announced, we will be able to lock-down dates for 2015.

DO WHAT WE DO; BUT BETTER #1

SUPPORT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Since its inception 10 years ago, the Association has and continues to support the work of Pancreatic Cancer Canada and its efforts to end pancreatic cancer through its involvement in the **Annual Dick Aldridge Charity Golf Classic**. Also, the Association supports and works with several other national and local charities by attending key events, player appearances, hospital visits, etc.



PROMOTE HERITAGE

The Association will continue to promote the heritage of the **Toronto Argonauts Football Club** and **Member Clubs** in the Canadian Football League, the Canadian Football League and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame & Museum.

This involves working in partnership on various initiatives including Toronto Argonauts Football Club and Association events, Canadian Football League and Canadian Football League Alumni Association events and community initiatives.



COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES

The Association will continue to support the community-at-large, the Toronto Argonauts Football Club and local charities. In February 2014, the Association entered into a partnership with **Turning Point Youth Services**, a Toronto-based, accredited children's mental health centre that provides a wide range of programs and services to youth aged 12 - 24 and their families. In 2015, we hope to involve more alumni in this worthy partnership. For further information, please contact **Dan Ferrone email: dferrone@cogeco.ca**



COMMUNICATING WITH YOU

#2

One of our priorities for 2015 is to continue to improve our communication with you. The goal is to increase membership, participation at our scheduled events and involvement in the Association.

For those into social media we have added Twitter and Facebook accounts so we can connect with you and provide updates and share what is new about the Association and alumni.



@TOArgosAlumni



Private closed group for alumni. Alumni must facebook or email Crista crista_bazos@yahoo.ca to be invited to the Official Toronto Argonauts Alumni facebook page.

Some of you are facebooking on the Official Toronto Argonauts Alumni facebook page already. For those that have not yet embraced the social media, we will continue to use email for our newsletter and other important notices. Also, you can help by talking to your former teammates and encouraging them to get onboard the Good Ship Argo.

And of course, you can check out our website www.argoalumni.ca

TORONTO ARGONAUTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT FUND

#3

For the past few years, the Association has called on its membership to support former teammates in need of social and financial assistance. Without missing a beat, our guys stepped-up and provided their former teammates and their families with much-needed support. At the Association's Annual General Meeting, the Association decided to create a support fund that will assist former Argos players.

As a result, we are pleased to announce the Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Support Fund. The purpose of the fund is to help alumni that may not be able to help themselves by offering short-term financial assistance. Further information about the fund including criteria, contacts, etc. is forthcoming in a separate communication. In the meantime, if you are aware of an Alumnus who needs assistance please contact **Pete Martin email: petemartin77@gmail.com**

YOUNGER FACES – A SPECIAL REQUEST TO ALUMNI IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA

#4

The Association has come a long way since the days when the Board of Directors was perceived “*as a bunch of old guys who sit around and talk about how good they were.*”

We get many terrific comments about all the work the Association has and continues to do and are pleased that our efforts are well-received. Although we are pleased with what has been accomplished so far, in order to grow and sustain the Association, we need younger faces with new ideas on hand ready and waiting to fill our roles on the Board. One of our goals is to have all the decades of Argos history represented on the Board.

We all have busy schedules with family, work, recreation and community work. We ask you to please consider finding some time to devote to the Association. The time commitment is not onerous, you can determine the role you wish to play and have some fun reconnecting with former teammates. Every little bit helps.

If you are interested in getting involved in some way, please let **Stace Coray** know **email: argosalumni@rogers.com** and one of us will be delighted to talk more over a drink or lunch.

MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your membership again.

Thanks to Bud Fowler, Walt Balasiuk and Branco Vincic for being first to do so. You can pay your dues by **email bank transfer** (CDN banks only) to **argosalumni@rogers.com**, **PayPal** (pay on-line) at **http://argonauts.ca/page/alumni-membership** or mail. If mailing, please make cheque payable to **Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association** and mail to **Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association, 54 Legault Crescent, Cambridge, ON N3C 3T4. Dues remain at \$35 CDN.**

Again, if you are interested in getting involved, please let **Stace Coray** know **email: argosalumni@rogers.com** and one of us will be delighted to talk more over a drink or lunch.

Thanks in advance for your support Hope to see you April 15th and June 1st!

SAVE THE DATE

Two events have been confirmed for 2015 with more to be announced. Mark the dates on your calendar and spread the word.

5th Annual Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Reunion

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association is pleased to announce the **5th Annual Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Reunion** will be held **Wednesday, April 15, 2015** at **Royal Woodbine Golf Course**. The purpose is to provide an annual social event that will provide alumni the opportunity to mingle with other teammates, develop networking opportunities and connect with team officials.

Arrival and registration is from 6:00 P.M. - 6:45 P.M.

Event starts at 7:00 P.M. – 7:45 P.M.

After that, guys can connect with former teammates and other alumni at the BBQ (Hamburger, sausage and salads will be served compliments of the Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association. Cash bar.

The evite will be sent out this month requesting you to confirm your attendance, but please take a moment and mark this in your calendar now.



17th Annual Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015

Our **17th Annual Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Golf Tournament** will be held at **Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Georgetown, Ontario**. Last year's attendance was excellent and everyone had a great time. The tournament is sold-out each year, so if you want to book your foursome now, please contact **Pete Martin** email: petemartin77@gmail.com

Toronto Argonauts
Alumni Association



17th Annual
Golf Fun Day!

