Dr. Charles Sanderson Fosbery first opened the doors of Lower Canada College on September 20, 1909. It was an historic day in independent education in Montréal, and in the local community of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

The School has evolved tremendously from its inception as a small, all-boys boarding and day school situated among former farmland and apple orchards where very few other structures had yet been built. Many of the most dramatic changes have arrived in the past 15 years, with the introduction of coeducation and the construction of major new facilities.

What follows is a visual celebration of LCC history over the decades, featuring a selection of captivating archival photographs and little-known facts about the School. These latter have been gathered from 100 years of student and alumni publications, and especially from early issues of The LCC Magazine—the forerunner to our modern-day yearbooks.

While much has changed over the last century, one guiding precept has remained constant throughout and touches on all those who have known and loved LCC – Non Nobis Solum/Not for Ourselves Alone.
The legendary Dr. Charles S. Fosbery founded the School and made it his life’s work, shaped by his vision, relentless energy and impressive force of character. “The Boss” left an indelible influence—still felt today—on the School and on the lives of the boys who passed through its doors.

LCC began in a time of economic prosperity, and quickly acquired a reputation for excellence in education and character-building. Its success resulted in steadily increasing enrolment that allowed for constant improvements to the facilities and programmes.

Following the turmoil and losses of the First World War, strong feelings of solidarity and loyalty to the School led to the founding in 1920 of a dynamic Old Boys’ Association. That same year, Dr. Fosbery announced he would give the School to its alumni upon his retirement—an unprecedented decision.

The School continued to flourish until the 1930’s Great Depression, when enrollment and funds dwindled. The LCC Corporation, formed at the time of Dr. Fosbery’s retirement in 1935, found the means to carry the School through to better times.
1909 Dark blue and grey are the selected school colours (cardinal red added in 1912). The crest and motto Non Nobis Solum are modelled after the Fosbery family crest and motto.

1918 The School is required to close for five weeks during the global influenza epidemic, but reopens in time to celebrate the Armistice Day ending the First World War.
1911 Well-known McGill football coach, Frank “Shag” Shaughnessy, begins coaching LCC teams on a regular, voluntary basis, producing the School’s first championship team in 1912 and the start of a long tradition of athletic excellence.

1920 Dr. Fosbery regularly accompanies student groups on foot to early morning swims at the YMCA in Westmount.

1924 The School obtains practice hours for the hockey team at the new Montreal Forum on Atwater Avenue.
Transition 1935–1941

Beginning 1909–1935

Far Left
LCC Magazine advertisement, 1931

Centre Left
Student prefects, 1935

Left
Student cast and crew of "He's a Lunatic", presented at Victoria Hall, Westmount, 1932

For Left LCC Magazine advertisement, 1931
Centre Left Student prefects, 1935
Left Student cast and crew of "He's a Lunatic", presented at Victoria Hall, Westmount, 1932
Mr. Victor C. Wansbrough, a brilliant, Oxford-trained scholar, served as headmaster for a relatively brief, yet critical period in the School's history. With assistance from the alumni and the support of the LCC Corporation and Board, he successfully led the challenging task of revitalizing the School and ensuring its growth in the post-Depression years leading up to the Second World War.

During Mr. Wansbrough's tenure, LCC was returned to sound financial footing as he instigated major improvements to facilities and programmes and hired many talented, new staff members. Record increases in enrollment and an influx of new students highlighted the need to maintain and enhance the School's established traditions and ideals.
1938 The LCC Magazine publishes an article by classics teacher Hugh MacLennan entitled “Concussion,” believed to be the origin of his first best-selling novel, *Barometer Rising* (1941).

1940 Six war evacuees from England join the student boarders, with another nine boys arriving the following year.

1941 A number of students take optional art classes with Mr. Vernon Mustard, staff member and accomplished artist.
1941–1968

In many ways, the era of Dr. D. Stephen Penton can be looked back on as a lingering “Golden Age” in the School’s history. Although it began in the midst of the Second World War, the greatest part of his long tenure was marked by the stability, optimism and growth of a society returned to peacetime, and the unprecedented economic and population boom that followed.

Dr. Penton was the ideal headmaster for his time. A scholarly man of dignity, quiet strength and deep moral and religious conviction, he was dedicated to enriching all aspects of academic and student life, and successfully challenged many students to high levels of achievement.

LCC slowly evolved and prospered throughout most of the late 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s. With the continued support and guidance of its most dedicated alumni, funds were raised for a new science wing, artificial ice rink, Memorial Library, and many other improvements. The need for additional space brought about the decision in 1962 to end student boarding—a feature of the School since its founding.
Transition 1935–1941

16 LCC Lion Centenary Issue

Top Left
Cadet Corps trophy presentation, 1955

Bottom Left
Senior Prom, 1957

Centre Left
LCC dance, 1940's

Centre Top Right
New covered rink, 1955

Top Right
Boarders, ca. 1940

Centre Bottom Right
Major H.F. Gibb and class, ca. 1965

Bottom Right
Founder's Day, 1956

Stability 1941–1968

LCC Lion Centenary Issue  17

Stability 1941–1968
1953 Starting a new tradition, the graduating class is recognized at Founder’s Day in June, and certificates are awarded for completion of studies at the Lower 6th (grade 11) level. Up until that time, the graduates had been honoured at Speech Night in December of their final year.

1955 The School introduces entrance examinations for the first time.
1947
Dr. Fosbery returns from England for a
final visit to the School. He is guest-of-honour
at Founder’s Day, and is hailed by the Old Boys’
Association at a number of events, including a
dinner in the Memorial Gymnasium attended by
hundreds of his former students.

1957
The Board decides to phase out
grades 1 and 2 over the 1957 and 1958
school years (eventually to be returned

1967
Dr. Penton is awarded the
Centennial Medal in recognition of
valuable services to Canada.
The Merrill years are remembered with particular affection by those who witnessed them, for Geoffrey Hunter “Geoff” Merrill was a gifted teacher and superb administrator who was respected for his warmth, wonderful sense of humour, and strong rapport with both students and staff.

After serving 12 years as the first Junior School director, Mr. Merrill channelled his organizational talents into initiatives that advanced the quality of teaching and learning at LCC and enhanced the overall academic experience. During his mandate, the School expanded physically with the building of a new Junior School addition, and saw a long list of “firsts” emerge, including a computer room, language lab, LCC Players drama group, academic Honour Roll, new Students’ Council, and an LCC Shop.

Mr. Merrill was a pragmatist who recognized the forces for societal change that were affecting schools throughout North America in the tumultuous 1960’s and 1970’s. He never hesitated to end or replace longstanding practices that he considered outdated, including the Cadet Corps, Latin classes, and prayers at school. At the same time, he personally developed and taught the first sex education course for pre-adolescent students in Quebec.
1969 Soccer begins its ascendancy as a major School sport in 1968, when an exhibition team is formed. The following year, an LCC team is entered for the first time in the GMAA League, and the first Senior Soccer Championship is won in the fall of 1980.
1972 The Old Boys’ Association holds a reception to officially launch the book *Non Nobis Solum* — a history of St. John’s School and LCC written by Headmaster Emeritus, Dr. D. Stephen Penton.

1982 The School’s endowment fund exceeds the $200,000 mark.
1978: The LCC “Secondhand Shop” is organized by a group of parent volunteers. It evolves over the years into today’s LCC Store.

1988: The football field is named to honour Coach Dave Wood, who retires after 41 years of service.

Left: LCC Shoppe parent-volunteers, 1985
Bottom: Construction of new Junior School addition, 1985
Right: Geoff Merrill fires the starting pistol for the Terry Fox Run, ca. 1988
Headmaster Edward G. “Ted” Staunton was an energetic educator with a thoroughly modern outlook. He will always be remembered best at LCC for championing the cause of coeducation and for directing its successful implementation over a period of just three years. To his credit and that of the Board who supported this historic decision, the results have been both positive and far-reaching and have given impetus for further bold initiatives by his successors.

During the Staunton era, Quebec’s unique social and political scene was forcing the School to respond with new strategies, not only for revitalizing finances and enrollment, but also for preparing graduates to deal with increasingly complex challenges in the outside world.

Among the innovations seen during this time were the return of grades 1 and 2 in a bilingual format, adoption of an active Students’ Council, input from a new Parents’ Association, creation of the LCC Foundation, and planning for a new gym/classroom facility across Royal Avenue.
1990 The Old Boys’ Association resurrects the Alumni Golf Tournament with an event at the Hemmingford Golf Club.

1993 A clock over the School’s front entrance is a gift from the Class of 1993.
Far Left: History Night, 1995
Left: “Apple Orchard” computer lab, 1992
Central Left: The 11th Governor-General to visit LCC, the Rt. Hon. Roméo LeBlanc at Founder’s Day, 1996
Bottom Left: Junior School production of My Fair Lady, 1996
Bottom Left Centre: LCC trip to England, ca. 1994
Change 1989–1997
Change 1989–1997
Dr. Paul W. Bennett’s contribution to LCC as the School’s sixth headmaster reflected his passion for academia and love of history and politics. As Montreal recovered from the fallout of the 1995 Referendum and the world set its sights on a new millennium, Dr. Bennett focused on ensuring that the School and its graduates were well positioned to compete in an increasingly global society.

The opening of the Webster Learning Activity Centre precipitated advances in curriculum instruction and development of new co-curricular initiatives. Seminar instruction, technology in the classroom, Destiny Quebec, the LCC Speakers’ Series and the Heritage Fair encouraged students to debate, discuss and lead. On the west side of the campus, the Junior School benefitted from a new science and creativity centre and a significantly improved music facility.

The student leadership model evolved with the development of Graduate Pride, a Head Boy-Head Girl and the revitalization and expansion of the House system. Leadership opportunities at all levels exploded, and SHOURAWE and Duke of Edinburgh awards joined the expanding LCC lexicon.
2000 The first Head Girl is named.

2002 LCC fields a female football player.
2003-2004 The bronze lions—a gift from the Class of ’96—that guard the main entrance of LCC are stolen and subsequently rediscovered in a Montreal antique store by a student.
Future 2005–Present

The charismatic and passionate Christopher Shannon (Pre-U ’76) has introduced a global perspective to the School that combines the ideals of *Non Nobis Solum* and an expanded commitment to good citizenship with a philosophy of reaching out to the world beyond Royal Avenue.

LCC has become a leader in embracing contemporary ideals, including such initiatives as the introduction of the Round Square exchange programme, a celebration of diversity, and a commitment to the protection of our environment. Under Mr. Shannon, coeducational initiatives among students and alumni continue to grow and strengthen, as does a holistic approach to developing the individual student.

The generosity of LCC alumni and supporters continues to be a key element in modernizing and expanding the campus, including the opening of a new, state-of-the-art ice arena in 2008, and a planned new theatre and learning centre.

While Mr. Shannon’s influence and leadership are just beginning, it is clear that he is continuing our School tradition of building on our solid past for a bright and successful future.
2006 & 2007—LCC’s senior debating team captures the national championships for two consecutive years.
For the first time in 19 years, our Senior Boys Hockey Team brings home the GMAA trophy, and then repeats its victory in 2008!

In 2007, LCC’s first Duke of Edinburgh gold award is presented. Since then, 15 students have earned the gold award.
"Non Nobis Solum,"
Our Founder did decree
To stride forward boldly,
Whate’er the future be.
With friends close beside us,
And faith and hope to guide us,
We’ll proudly raise the standard
Long life to LCC.
Here’s to the School then,
A cheer for LCC
Let’s raise high the colours,
And pledge our loyalty
To friends we’ll keep forever,
The ties we cannot sever,
A toast to the School, and
Long life to LCC.