

**FROM WHERE I SIT**  
by *Frank Gardiner*  
YMASC Past President 1971 - 1972

Tomorrow is the funeral for long time YMASC 'er **Brian McDowell** and as I clicked on our alumni web site YMASC and password "member" I read a fitting tribute to Brian.

In reading this tribute and clicking on other YMASC alumni photos I couldn't help but be thankful to the YMASC individuals and the spirit of those individuals that have donated their time and talent to carry on the fun memories of our long ago YMASC youth through this web site and through our annual November luncheon.

Brian McDowell was and is a big part of our YMASC spirit.

And here we all are now well past our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and the creative YMASC spark lives on.

A wise leader once said...." Some people see things as they are and ask why they are so...TOGETHER... let us dream of what could be and ask WHY NOT ?  
"

So here's a far fetched dream for us YMASC alumni to consider !

It is only at this stage a dream but I can't help but wonder if there isn't a need , a real need, in today's instant communication – instant gratification Toronto society for a 2011 YMASC centred on say RYERSON UNIVERSITY and a core of young men – imagine in this day and age daring to recreate a business social network of young men ? – to exchange ideas and work on social and business projects together .

Talk about a practical business experience, a valuable apprenticeship with mentors.

Imagine mentors like Kirk Shearer, Gary Reinblatt, Don Babick, Brad McInnes , Greg McNeil, Graydon Watters , John McIntyre, Hugh Grant, and the rest of us older and wiser YMASC alumni !

Why centred on Ryerson University you might well ask ?

Ryerson University to me is a big, sprawling, successful , downtown University with all sorts of courses from business, through journalism, radio and television to marketing and theatre but with no real sustained school spirit.

What a creative opportunity to try to recreate a 2011 YMASC core group with our own ageless YMASC entrepreneurial spirit !

LOBLAW's ( Presidents Choice) has done a partnership with RYERSON in the renovation of the old Maple Leaf Gardens and RYERSON hockey will in the very near future be centred on the newly renovated 6000 seat arena and athletic centre of Maple Leaf Gardens.

Now what first year University student wouldn't want to play hockey for RYERSON at Maple Leaf Gardens ?

And imagine the Division One hockey team that could be put together by RYERSON by creating a Canadian Corporate scholarship program to attract the best of the best young university hockey players from across Canada ?

And what if these student athletes became a part of the reactivated 2011 YMASC ??????

Last weeks exciting elite hockey in Buffalo NY confirmed for me personally that hockey is Canada and Canada is hockey !

As a hockey father and proud grandfather and as someone who tries to swim or jog regularly at the RYERSON ATHLETIC CENTRE fondly known as the RAC , I have had the pleasure of working with RYERSON students in the past to create the hockey film clip found in our video page on our volunteer web site [www.curediabetesnow.hurontel.on.ca](http://www.curediabetesnow.hurontel.on.ca) .

Working with young people today is a fun challenge and an opportunity to exchange good ideas and learn from one another .

The age old salesman YMASC creed of " finding a need and filling it " is as relevant today as it was back in our own YMASC youth.

We are never too old.... or too young..... to dream eh ?

So the seed is now planted " from where I sit!"

Together let's dare to dream and to explore this creative idea of creating a talent pool of YMASC alumni that would be willing to serve as an advisory board and mentors in the creation of a 2011 YMASC centred on Ryerson University.

WHY NOT indeed !

Think about it..... as we remember Brian McDowell.

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