

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni

Vol. 1, No. 1 April 2008

Visit: <http://www.paduaprep.com>

## **From the Editors Laptop**

It's been over 25 years since we last had an issue of the Paduan Alumni Newsletter. Back then cost, time, mailing and other related logistics were stumbling blocks. We thank the effort undertaken by Reg Stanczyk and other alumni. They kept us informed on the status of the school property and bios on our alumni friends. At that time most of us were settled in our careers and many with families. Now we are a few pounds heavier and in our silver years and labeled "Grandpa". Since the 1980's major changes have occurred at the property we called home for four years. Tears appeared in our eyes when we heard or viewed pictures on the demolishing of the building in 1996. And now major topographic changes are occurring at the property and more tears form in our eyes. Most of the buildings are gone and the property is drastically changing. One thing will never change; our fond memories and the bonds of friendship formed at Padua Prep will never be destroyed.

Tony Specian Class of '66

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## **About future Paduans and emails**

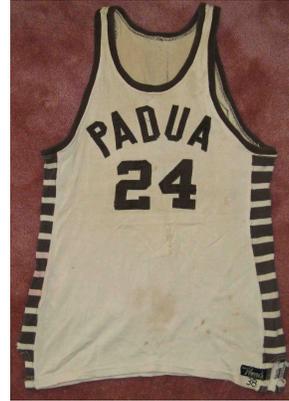
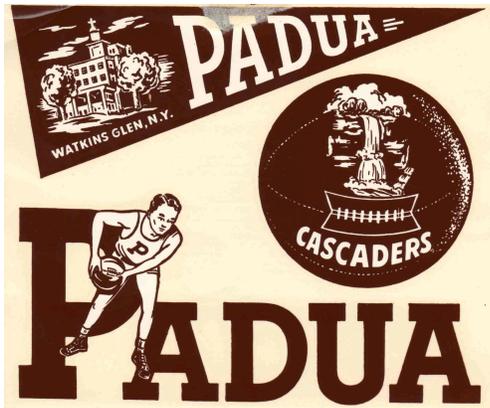
Class Contacts please make sure that your classmates receive this issue. It is important to have the [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com) address added to your emails address book (Padua related emails won't be lost in spam), this way you will be assured of receiving any future emails. For those alumni that don't have emails, please see if you can forward a hard copy to them. If the resources are not available, please send me a list of the names and addresses and we'll get them out for you. Times have changed and in this computer day and age only the lack of dedicated personnel and alumni input will be impediments to publishing an alumni newsletter. Volunteers are needed. We hope to publish 2 issues a year. Next issue planned is post reunion in the early fall.

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## **WANTED: Movies, Movies and Padua Mementos**

If anyone has any home movies taken at Padua Property, we would like to share them to help document Padua's history and revitalize our memories of those days. Please contact the Webmaster at: [webmaster@paduaprep.com](mailto:webmaster@paduaprep.com) to let him know you would like to share them. Any format, 8 mm, 16mm, VHS, CD, DVD can be used and converted for the website. We are also looking for any artifacts/mementos, an example such as the Padua decal, it was purchased at the school Px for about 5 or 10 cents. Many of our families displayed them on the family cars. Any item can be scanned in or photographed. Digital photographs can be submitted electronically. Any media or item submitted would be returned.

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## Padua Ridge Gravel Pit Expansion

*Kate Bartholomew*

*Schuyler County Environmental Management Consul Chair*

On May 3, 2007, DEC Region #8 released for public comment a permit application [DEC Project #8- -0000 /00001] to expand **gravel** mining operations by It's Greener Now, Inc., by over 700%. The DEC acted as Lead Agency and had issued a Negative Declaration on the project's potential environmental impact.

The mine is located on **Padua** Ridge in Schuyler County on the hillside just to the west of the Village of Watkins Glen. The public comment period was subsequently expanded by 30 days after numerous agencies, local governments and individuals protested lack of adequate notification. During the extended comment period, a significant number of concerns were raised by the Schuyler County Environmental Management Council, the Town of Dix, the Village of Watkins Glen, the Schuyler County Legislature, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Department of Transportation and NYS Senator George Winner.

Among the many relevant concerns raised were possible impacts on the local economy and ecology such as: diminished tourism revenue; traffic congestion, especially during peak tourist season events; road surface degradation; increased noise levels; diminished air and water quality; adverse affects on the spring-based hydrology of the hillside; inadequate storm water mitigation strategies, both now and in the future; reduced residential and commercial property values, especially in the immediate vicinity of the mine; disregard for the natural, cultural and historic value of Watkins Glen State Park, St. Mary's and Glenwood cemeteries, and the original Grand Prix Race Course, now listed on both New York State and National Historic Registries; and lack of alignment with and compliance to the Schuyler County Comprehensive Plan, among others. The one concern all parties were in accord with was the conviction that the DEC had not exercised due diligence by requiring a full EIS on the project and therefore should rescind its Negative Declaration And then execute a full EIS. Thanks to the volume and source of comments, the DEC sent a letter requesting additional information from the owner of the **gravel** mine to respond to issues raised by the various comment letters.

The one issue I especially wished to address is the failure of the project's Environmental Assessment to take into consideration the inherent and intrinsic value of the project area to the cultural and historic landscape of Schuyler County. Within the proposed area of mining expansion are two buried paleo-gorges, former routes of the Glen Creek prior to at least the last glacial cycle. These hidden watercourses and their respective hanging valleys and delta have remained relatively intact for the last 1,000 years and have become the source for several perennial mineral springs. The southern buried gorge, fed by both precipitation infiltration and water from Glen Creek, provides a channel for two mineral springs on the

site, Senega and San Anton, while the northern channel, fed only by precipitation is the source for Glen Springs. These springs were known and used by indigenous peoples from the Paleolithic forward until, in times of historic record. The Seneca were driven from the region by Sullivan's Campaign following the Revolutionary War. In the late 1800s, these springs became the focal point of Glen Springs Health Resort and Spa, opened by William E. Leffingwell and visited by such notables as members of the Rockefeller, Roosevelt and Rothschild families. In fact, these springs and the Watkins Glen Gorge were the two attractions primarily responsible for the establishment of the Village of Watkins Glen. Many local residents waitressed or bussed at the hotel during their summers in high school. After closing as a spa in the 1940s, the property was purchased by the Order of the Franciscan Friars which, for a time ran an educational institution – Glen Springs Academy – out of the facility. Even after the academy closed but before the building became unfit for occupation, the Friars kept the facility open for community use and enjoyment. In short, this site and its unique features have been extremely important defining foundations to the region from the Paleolithic to the present, yet this mining expansion would irrevocably alter or destroy these irreplaceable assets.

When mining was initially permitted on the **Padua** Ridge site for a local contractor [Perry Construction], there were reservations expressed by members of the Schuyler County Planning Commission about how such extraction would damage and detract from the historic site, but reassurances were given that the integrity of the location would not be compromised. As early as 1999, the then-Mayor of Watkins Glen Bob Lee sent a letter of concern to the Friars because of the negative visual impact visible from the village. Obviously, that was under different ownership and management, but the reservations of those Commission members and the concerns of the mayor were well-founded. It is a common contention that mining should never have been permitted on **Padua** Ridge. If anything, it should have become part of Watkins Glen State Park, since the buried gorges represent previous routes of Glen Creek, two of the springs are at least partly fed by Glen Creek, and the founding of both the State Park and the resort spa were integrally intertwined.

At this point, the engineering firm retained by the **gravel** mine owner has sent its response to the DEC's request for further information. The gist of the response is a reiteration of initial studies done, followed by agreement with the DEC's Negative Declaration. The owner is also contending that, since he did not agree with the extension of the public comment period, any deadlines for public hearings have long passed and the application should be approved. Consequently, the DEC's lawyer and the owner's lawyer are presenting their arguments to a DEC adjudicatory judge for a decision. If the application is approved, there are two possible routes for groups, agencies and/or individuals to contest the decision – appeal to the adjudicatory judge or file an Article 78. Time will tell how this issue reaches a resolution.

**Editors Note:** The Owner Marty Wojcik of New Jersey, no relation to graduate Wojcik. Source for the above article was obtained at this web site:

[http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:8A01\\_tj0LX0J:newyork.sierraclub.org/fingerlakes/newsletter1207.pdf+padua+gravel+pit,+ny&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=11&gl=us&client=safari](http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:8A01_tj0LX0J:newyork.sierraclub.org/fingerlakes/newsletter1207.pdf+padua+gravel+pit,+ny&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=11&gl=us&client=safari)

For further reading and info check out the following sites:

<http://www.truveo.com/Padua-Gravel-Pit-Expansion/id/2974780097>

<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/fingerlakes/1207news/1207bartholomew2.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/hearings/40347.html>

<http://nyfalls.com/board/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=611>

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## **Reunion 2008**

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This year's Reunion is planned for Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. with the Longhouse Motel <http://www.longhouselodge.com/> as home base. If you plan to attend make your reservations soon. It is best to contact classmates from your graduating year to make arrangements as a group as far as accommodations. There is a cost for the group dinner, brunch and use of the facility. Please check the paduaprep.com bulletin board for any updates or information for Reunion 2008.

Classes celebrating: **Class of 1958 will celebrate it's 50<sup>th</sup>**

Also celebrating milestones will be the class of 68 (40<sup>th</sup>), class of 53 (55<sup>th</sup>), class of 63 (45<sup>th</sup>). Other milestones will be from members from the classes of 1956 celebrating 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1961 celebrating the magic 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and 1966 their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday

## **Things to do when visiting Watkins Glen**

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**Yes the Glen is still there and open:**

<http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=105>

**Wineries:**

Keuka Lake Wineries: <http://www.keukawinetrail.com>

Seneca Lake Wineries: <http://www.senecalakewine.com>

Cayuga Lake Wineries: <http://www.cayugawinetrail.com/>

**Museums:**

Corning Museum of Glass: <http://www.cmog.org>

Glenn Curtiss Museum: <http://www.glenhcurtissmuseum.org>

**Cruises:**

Captain Bill's Seneca Cruises <http://www.senecaharborstation.com>

Seneca Day Sails: <http://www.senecadaysails.com>

Esperanza Rose: <http://www.esperanzamansion.com>

**Shopping:**

The Windmill Farm & Craft Market: <http://www.thewindmill.com>

Waterloo Premium Outlets: <http://www.premiumoutlets.com/>

Waterloo Market Street – Corning

**Places to Dine:**

Castle Grisich: <http://www.castelgrisch.com/>

**Places to Stay:**

Villager Motel: <http://www.wgvillagermotel.com/>

Idlwilde Inn: [www.bbhost.com/idlwildeinn](http://www.bbhost.com/idlwildeinn)

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**Contribute comments or memories to the Paduaprep Bulletin Board.** Register at paduaprep.com to post. Your posting or comments will help bring back those lost memories and document Padua's history.

### **Directory update:**

At present better than 2/3's of the alumni has been identified. All classes except the class of 1953 and 1970 have class contacts in place. A class contact keeps his classmates updated and reports information changes to myself. To this point no one from the class of 1970 has responded. The response from all other classes has been excellent. We are also including and welcoming to the directory, students who did not complete their education at Padua. This also includes students that would have graduated in 71.72 or 73, had the school not closed.

To access the directory go to: <ftp://ftp.powweb.com>; (if you have a problem accessing the site try a different browser such as Firefox). You will be prompted for a Username: type in "paduadirectory" without the quotation marks. You will be prompted for a Password: type in "halloween". You will then be connected to the ftp server: you will see the file PaduaDirectory2008. Click on it to download. Password is "halloween". The directory is for Paduan alumni and family use to communicate with their fellow alumni and friends. We hope to have an updated directory by early summer.

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### **Did You Know?**

In 1963 the Padua Polka Chips cut an LP. Directed by Fr. Brendan Wroblewski OFM, the band played a number of Polka scores. The album was sold to Paduan students and family members. Unfortunately, it did not make billboard's top 100, but it was a monumental task undertaken by Fr. Brendan with some very talented musicians. During Fr. Brendan's tenure at Padua the band performed under the name Polka Chips for four times. Other band names used was The Aquatones, Looney Toons, The Prepsters and The Regents.



Polka Chips 1963: Ed Walczak (accordion) '63, Gerald Sczyzgiel (Clarinet)'63, James (Pat) McKay (sax) '66\*, John Gryszan (drums) '63, Stan (Chad) Orlowski (Clarinet) '65, John Marchlik (accordion) '66\*, Jeff Crisco (trumpet) '65.

\*Did not finish education at Padua.

### **Ideas for future Issues:**

**Friar Features:** Comments on the post Padua years from any of our surviving teachers.

**Reunion Highlites:** Pictures

**Free Advertising for Alumni Business Websites:**

**Alumni Milestones and Announcements:**

**Alumni Profiles:** Short bios from the alumni

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**Career Corner:** In this section, list the alumni's primary profession and group (retired or not) under a Padua Friar. This cumulative list will be kept in the Alumni Directory. Class contacts can help gather information from within their respective class. Paduans have had successful careers and this section will be a documented tribute to the education we received.

Bertrand's Bunch: Law Careers

Brendan's Band: Music, Art, Photography related Careers

Claude's Commanders: Own a business, or executive of a business.

Casimer's Care: Health Care Fields

Doc's Lab: Science Careers

Emil's Army: Military or Law Enforcement

Eric's Thespians: Drama (Teach or Act), TV, Radio

Flavian's Friars: Religious careers

Mel's Mathematicians: Math related careers

Terrence's Teachers: Teaching Careers

Submission of material, ideas, suggestions are encouraged and welcomed. Email to:

[paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

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### **Future Paduan Alumni Editions and Volunteers.**

Please we need help and volunteers to help contribute ideas, artwork, prepare articles, edit, etc.

Please let me know if you would like to help or be an editor. Contact Tony Specian at:

[paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com).

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**Special Thanks:** A special thanks goes out to John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik '62. Chad Orłowski '65, and Reg Stanczyk '67, for their assistance to make this newsletter possible.