

St. Andrew's concludes Not an Ordinary Place campaign with a bang



By Brock Weir

You don't need to tell the students, parents, and faculty at St. Andrew's College that their school is not an ordinary place, but now it is the envy of prep schools across North America, according to headmaster Kevin McHenry.

St. Andrew's (SAC) five-year \$40 million campaign, Not an Ordinary Place, reached its zenith on Saturday with the official opening of the school's new Centre for Leadership, Innovation and Performance. Boasting top-of-the-line music, theatre and arts facilities, as well as impressive technological labs and other amenities, it is the final cornerstone of the school's campaign to make it one of the best in the world.

Hundreds of students and parents, past and present, and staff were on hand for a day of celebrations which included not only the opening of the new Centre – which included a taster of their upcoming production of the musical Grease – and also their 110th annual Cadet Inspection.

“I am obviously tremendously proud and honoured to lead this school,” said Mr. McHenry. “These are incredible facilities, the best in North America for a prep school, no doubt about that. There are so many people in this building, and this community, and around the world that have helped us. Whether you are a board member or a faculty or staff member, or a student, an old by, a parent, or a past parent, you are all doing your part.”

On hand to help cut Saturday's ceremonial ribbon was Old Boy Dem Rogers, who is patron of the Not an Ordinary Place campaign, as well as its first and most significant donor. With a snip of the giant scissors, a blast of ribbons and a pyrotechnic display permeated the room, as a team of Danny Zuccos, Sandys, Rizzos and Kenickies led the packed Ketchum Auditorium in a celebratory ovation.

Also on hand was Scott Hader, the school's Executive Director of Advancement, who pulled double duty as campaign director.

“This is a celebration of this amazing, generous Andean community that has made all this happen, and it is a celebration of the opening of the third and last phase of the Centre for Leadership, Innovation and Performance,” said Mr. Hader. “The campaign started back in 2009 and there were some pretty lofty goals. In fact, the goals seemed to keep rising all the time – imagine that! It has truly been a fun adventure to be on and we have raised \$41 million [over the last six years].”

Looking on was parent Dan Stock. A campaign such as this serves to get the community excited, and the community certainly rose to the occasion.

“It galvanizes a community,” said Mr. Stock. “It shows us what we can do and to what extent and wonderful things we can do. As chairman of the Not an Ordinary Place Campaign, I really have one thing to say: thank you to all of you who have been involved and

supported this campaign. It is very important and it has been wonderful. I have been very proud and honoured to be a part of it and, truly, St. Andrew's is not an ordinary place.?

