**Senior Sticks of St. Paul’s Ignite the Future**

Michael Burns was the Senior Stick at St. Paul’s College in 1959-60 and Gerry Scerbo was Senior Stick in 1985-86. Together these two former Senior Sticks have taken on a new direction of possibility for St. Paul’s College. They are the Co-Chairs of the SPC Leadership Campaign.

No stranger to challenges or change Burns served his tenure as Senior Stick at the time when St. Paul’s College moved onto the Fort Garry campus from the old Ellis Avenue location. One of the pinnacle moments for Michael during his tenure was playing a role in the design of Christ the King Chapel. An important and cherished experience Burns recognizes that the current Chapel upgrades are essential not only to his legacy and that of his cohorts but to the experience of current and future students enrolled at the University of Manitoba.

Scerbo served his time as Senior Stick in the mid 80’s when Canada was in the middle of a recession, jobs were scarce, and no one knew when it would all end. Education was key and Scerbo took advantage of the times receiving both a BA and a B. Com (Hon.). 1985 was also the International Youth Year where Pope Paul II declared on Palm Sunday...education is one of the fundamental benefits of human civilization. It is especially important for the young. Upon it also depends to a great extent the future of the whole of society. Gerry realizes that the College requires its infrastructure to be on solid footing so that St. Paul’s can create an environment for their students which enriches their learning experience while pursuing their academic goals.

With the assistance of George Hakim, Senior Stick from 1999 to 2000, Burns and Screbo are motivating their fellow cohorts to participate in the SPC Leadership Campaign which raises funds to support the significant repairs and upgrades required particularly to Christ the King Chapel. They also realize other areas of the College such as Campus Ministry, the Jesuit Centre for Catholic Studies, and the Arthur V. Mauro for Peace and Justice all require work along with expansion of the College’s technological infrastructure and capabilities if it is to stay relevant and connected to this generation of Paulinians.

As Senior Sticks these leaders feel that St Paul’s has contributed to their personal success in their public, business and family life. Their experiences at the College, although very different, provided each with a foundation that they have continued to build upon. Even more so they realize that those who were privileged to serve in leadership roles had the added benefit of a close rapport with the amazing Jesuits, academics, and administrators who served in their formative years.

Senior Sticks from 1945 right up until 2009 have begun making their commitment to the Leadership Campaign for St. Paul’s College. One Senior Stick wrote: “I was grieved to read of the leaks in the ceiling and the cracks within the beautiful College Chapel. As an early surviving member of the large list of Senior Sticks I am happy to contribute to the needed restoration.” And, the Foundation, College, and the student members appreciate the support.