Here on the Hill

By: Kevin O'Shea

Today, in the month of November, I am thankful to be a Hoban Alumni. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be a volunteer with my brothers from the class of 1967 in the task of cutting, cleaning up and removing the overgrowth that impeded the sight of the Hoban white letters on the West side of the school near the highway.

A man in their mid sixties doing this kind of labor is beyond my comprehension. John Yeager was lifting 125 pound elm logs on his shoulder! Somehow, Bob Neidert and Dick Duckworth made it over the fence to cut down weeds, trees and saplings. Mike Wronkovich helped with the truck loading of organic debris alongside David Giffen, Joe Antonucci and Bob Freeman.

Because of the fine example set by John Ross years ago with his “lumberjack gang”, Bob Harp and Chuck McVan were the chainsaw experts who wreaked havoc on this voracious overgrown jungle. Chuck was the ultimate leader who, in conjunction with Mike Considine, Hoban Grounds Advisor, made this day transpire successfully. George Payerle and Chuck were the terror of the trees along the fence with Chuck’s son Charlie and another young lad named T.J. Wolski from the class of 2001. Nelson tree service, look out, here they come!

Joe LaGuardia saved the day after he helped topple the many American Elm stumps. He guided the men in prayer, which is the only reason Kevin O’Sea was able to drive his loaded 4x4 down the hill, through the swamp and out the bottom grate. Flying past Bob Chalfant who gave up his entire day with his 4x4 and trailer to assist us all in what turned out to be...a day to remember!

...with hearts so near to the sky...