

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2002

Taking the Falls

And now for something completely different! Your Alumni Planning Committee has been organizing a number of Pub Nights (see news and photos on page 2) as a chance to keep in touch. We thought we should break the mold and try something else as a spring activity. So we are proposing a bus trip to Niagara Falls.

Janet Evans, who just happens to be in the travel business, is willing to put together a package which would include bus transportation from and to the Thomson C. I. parking lot, plus a \$10.00 down payment for each passenger which could be used at the Casino, where the bus will stop, or, if you prefer, towards the costs of refreshments or sight-seeing in town.

Janet's travel company has already taken part in such a tour, at a cost of about \$40.00 per person, and we would anticipate a similar set-up for our excursion. We could do the tour on either a Saturday or a Sunday, and we are proposing the week-end of May 3-4 as the date. Depending on weather, we could be into



Niagara blossoms as a bonus.

We need 35-40 participants to fill the bus and make the trip viable. It will be more enjoyable, of course, if you get a group of friends together to make a day of it. It has even been suggested that having a few of our favourite teachers along would attract more grads. Really!!!

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in this activity. Janet Evans will collect responses at her e-mail site <janetravel@rogers.com>. Let her know which date you prefer - or

whether one is not possible at all. If you have a group of friends coming, let her know how many would be in your party. And, since we have already had one request for a favourite teacher, you could include any name(s) in that category as well. Of course, if you are still in touch, you could issue the invitation personally!

If response is as good as we hope, Janet will get back to you about final arrangements, and we will have an update in the Spring newsletter. Let us know!

We'll miss you...if you let your membership lapse.

Life After Thomson

We continue the survey of what some of our teachers have been doing since they left Thomson.

Bill Allen (Drafting 1968-1985) moved to Churchill C.I. before retiring. He was part of a group of 54 students and 8 teachers from Churchill who travelled to Europe the year before he retired, and he simply continued his travelling after retirement. He and his wife used his retirement gratuity to treat themselves to a month in Australia and a month in New Zealand, with Tahiti and Hawaii thrown in for good measure. Since then, they have visited all of Canada except Labrador, most of the U.S. (with Arizona a favourite), and, for a while, two trips a year to Europe, with the Mediterranean and Switzerland as highlights. He still plays slo-pitch seniors' baseball and bowls a couple of times a week. He enjoyed dropping in on the "Bye Bye Birdie" reunion, reminiscing about that multi-purpose metal scaffolding set he built for the show in 1981.

Kim Atkins (Art 1967-1971; 1987-1998) has become increasingly active in local initiatives in her community in Toronto. She is on the Board of Directors of the Riverdale Community Development Corporation and is also involved with two other groups: The Riverdale Art Walk, a local arts organization and studio tour; and Arts in Riverdale, a new artist-based co-op and gallery.

She has formed a creative partnership with another former Thomson teacher, **Laurence Siegel** (now Head of Theatre at Earl Haig/Claude Watson School for the Arts). They have teamed up to develop a photography business. Their work has

been shown for the past four years in Contact: The Toronto Festival of Photography. They have also had a number of solo and group shows in Toronto galleries and other venues. The work has been profiled on CBC Entertainment Television and can also be found on the web at: www.atkinsiegelphoto.com. Their most recent show was in the Now Lounge at Church and Shuter in Toronto.

Kim also continues to travel and paint each year with a group of fellow artists. Her prints and paintings have been exhibited in Toronto, the U.S.A., and Cuba.

Ed Butkovitch (Phys Ed 1961-1994) has moved to Barrie, where he and his son have had a custom-designed house built with just a garage separating their two homes on a large wooded property. This has the advantage (or disadvantage, depending on your outlook) of letting the Butkovitches Senior look after the grandchildren easily. For a while after retirement, Ed did some coaching, especially at his daughter's school, but has found that attendance and commitment are sadly lacking these days, so has replaced that athletic activity with "golfing my brains out." He is also very active as a ward clerk in his local Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (better know to some of you as the Mormons).

George Haag (Geography 1975-1997), as befits a geographer, has done a lot of travelling since retirement. His most recent adventures have been to Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan in 2001

and to Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) earlier this year. He gets out to golf as often as possible, he says, to avoid working around the house. However, since the Haags own a gorgeous home on a huge wooded property near Uxbridge, he isn't always successful!

Joanne McMinn (Moderns 1960-1978) completed her teaching career at Mowat C.I. She is very active at St. Luke's Anglican Church as a teacher and Superintendent in the Sunday School, organizing the lay readers, and serving on the Food Bank and Pastoral Care committees. For four years she was enrolled in acting courses, appearing in amateur productions - great fun, which she hopes to return to. She also took courses for seniors in poetry and other literature in the Continuing Education program at her alma mater, Victoria College, U. of T. Travelling has included England, Ireland, Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and, closer to home, Vancouver, Newfoundland, and ten summers attending the Boston Symphony music program at Tanglewood in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. She, **Fran Stretton** (Family Studies), and **Helen O'Connor** (Phys Ed and Guidance) still attend the Stratford Festival every year, and recently helped **Marjorie Kaye** (Family Studies) celebrate her 90th birthday.

Do you have a favourite teacher you'd like us to report on? Include that information on your membership renewal form (hint! hint!), and we'll try to track him/her down!

Old Photos on Display



The Mikado (1961): Katisha (**Diane (Davies) Woolley**) and the Mikado (**Keith Woodend**) are greeted by the suitably respectful chorus.

In our last issue, we outlined the various web sites set up to help grads find fellow grads. For those of you who attended Thomson back when the school first opened, you might like to investigate the following site: www.storybridge.com.au, where you can catch up (with a photo) on what Doug Anderson has been doing, as well as viewing pictures that he took of Thomson's first stage productions, "The Mikado," and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Two of the photos are reproduced on this page, but there are many more to sample. You might even be able to assist Doug by identifying some of the performers.

As you might expect, Doug has been in the computer field for 35 years now. He and his wife have lived in Ottawa, Thailand, Malaysia, France, and, most recently, Australia. Temporarily, Doug is back in Ottawa on a short term contract with Agriculture Canada. As an alternative to the web site djand755@ozmail.com.au is his email address.



A posed shot from "The Pirates of Penzance" (1962). The Pirate King (**Keith Woodend**) threatens Mabel (**Glennice (Gray) Bonnar**) and Major-General Stanley (**Ron Hindle**).



Recognize anyone? Pub night partiers November 2.

Pub Night Report

Bob Forrest

Since our last issue we have had two Pub nights, one in May and the other November 2, both at J. Waltons Taps and Grill on Danforth Rd.

In the spring, we had about 35 people turn out, mostly from the late '60s and early '70s, some of whom had never been to a Pub Night before. When they found that some of their classmates were there, it turned into a fun evening.

In November, we tried something different. We decided to have a Pub Night on a Saturday using word of mouth and the Internet to spread the news. We had a lot of people reply to emails and messages in the Yahoo group, saying that they would be there, but unfortunately many weren't able to make it; so attendance was disappointing. About 20 came out, and, with yearbooks available, many rekindled old friendships, and caught up on classmates and teachers. But let's hope for a more enthusiastic response to our bus trip next May!

(In case you were wondering, 2009 is our next big Reunion.)

Principal's Report

An update on the old school in 2002-2003 from Donna Benson

In June we said goodbye to **George Boyce** - Business, **Pat Geiger** - English, **Dave Lea** - Science, and **Marcia Sugar** - Moderns, who retired after many years of service to students and parents in the Toronto District School Board. We thanked them for their outstanding contribution as professional educators, and for their commitment and dedication to students. **Robin Mercer** - Vice-Principal, **Susan Koziarsky** - French, **Brian Sambourne** - Library, and **Brian Sholdra** - Science, also left to assume positions at other TDSB schools while **Jeremy Shimmerman** is teaching in Europe.

The day after Labour Day we welcomed 1400 new and returning students and 22 new staff to Thomson for the 2002-2003 school year. It was very exciting to see our halls almost "crowded" again! We continue to provide space for the SCAS Fix-It Shop, Continuing Education Adult ESL, and Youth Assisting Youth. On evenings and weekends, the school is filled with community groups including the Scarborough Basketball Association, Scarborough Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and various religious organizations.

School teams and clubs continue to involve many students. The fall sports season is now finished and we are preparing for hockey, boys' basketball, and girls' volleyball during the winter. Our leadership groups, the SAC, Prefects, TAC (Thomson Athletic Council), and Peace Club meet regularly with Vice

Principal, **Mrs. Williams**, to plan, organize, and coordinate school events. The Performing Arts Department was featured in our Remembrance Day Program and also Performing Arts Nights later in November.

In October we hosted representatives of the Canadian Landmine Federation as well as one of their dogs trained to sniff out landmines in Bosnia. Local grads may have seen his (the dog's) picture in the Mirror.

At our 43rd Annual Commencement we were pleased to welcome back our 2002 Graduates and to recognize their many accomplishments.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year again and if you are interested in attending any school activities, please give us a call!



Jennifer Valentyne's First CD

Jennifer (Peck) Valentyne (1981-1986), known to many CITY TV Toronto-area viewers as an outgoing on-air personality, has recently released her first CD, backed by an equally talented sextet, and it's a winner! Titled "Jennifer Valentyne's Wedding Album," it features mostly swinging love songs, plus a couple of ballads, all

Sam Morrow

Readers from the early days at Thomson will be saddened to learn of the death of **Sam Morrow**, a history teacher on the staff from 1960 to 1962. Sam arrived at Thomson after teaching in Kincardine and at East York C.I. He served as a wireless air gunner in the RCAF for four years during World War II, then gained his B.A. from U. of T. in 1949.

In 1963, he married **Jean McLean**, a colleague in the History Department at Thomson. Since husbands and wives could not serve on the same staff in those days, Sam had moved on to North York the previous autumn, while Jean stayed at Thomson until 1968. You could say that the Morrrows began the popular trend among students (and some teachers) of intra-Thomson marriages!

Following retirement (from C.W. Jefferys in North York), Sam gained his ham operator's licence and also joined Jean on the volunteer teaching staff at Lyndhurst Lodge. But this fall, despite attempts at corrective surgery over the summer, he succumbed to heart problems.

Those who also remember Jean will join us in our condolences on her loss.

with a strong jazz flavour. She will be singing at Mr. Slate on Kingston Rd., December 14 and will be running a singles dance at La Rouge, Duncan and Adelaide, February 14. A live CD is due out in January. For updates, or to get in touch, check www.jennifervalentyne.com or you can contact her by email: jenniferv@citytv.com.