

# Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2003

## The First Pure Thomsonites

During the past six months, Carol Gray has kept the internet lines humming in Quathiaski Cove, BC, tracking down and chatting with members of the Class of 1964 at Thomson C.I.

This "virtual reunion," we hope, will lead to an actual live get-together next year.

What is so special about the Class of 1964? By the usual measurement, those who completed Grade 13 in that year would have enrolled in Grade 9 in September, 1959, the month/year Thomson opened. Hence the appellation by which they were often called after graduation: the "first pure Thomsonites."

Previous grads would have started their high schooling elsewhere. Subsequent grads could never be "the first." Never mind the various complications: some Grade 13 grads would have moved into the area during high school; Grade 12 grads, especially in the Commercial program, would actually have left in 1963, while the "6-year students" waited until 1965. And other 1959 beginners would

have been transferred to Cedarbrae or Midland when they opened. Regardless, they are all considered Class of '64 for reunion purposes.

And 2004 will mark their 40th

Classmate André Oberlé has set up a web site exclusively for the Class of '64, featuring photos, profiles, and a chat room. Carol can put you in touch with André for a password to keep



Home Form 11A in 1961-62, featuring members of the Class of '64 who are mentioned in this issue. André Oberlé is 2nd row centre; Carol Gray is 2nd row, furthest right; Bob Clark and Bob Winnitoy are 3rd row, 4th and 2nd from right; Donna McIver is back row, 3rd from left. (See Community, p. 4.)

anniversary. A tentative date of June or September has been proposed for a real reunion, but no further details are presently available. However, class members can contact Carol at <north50@oberon.ark.com> (the preferred route) or call 250-285-3834. Her fax number is 250-285-3831. Home address: PO Box 153, Quathiaski Cove, BC V0P 1N0. Pass the information on to anyone who is interested.

the site secure. This invitation, incidentally, is also open to teachers from that era who might like to catch up on what their former students have been doing.

We thank Carol, who has really enjoyed her new time-consuming "obsession." All we need is a local (Toronto area) '64 type to handle the physical arrangements for a great reunion. Keep posted.

## Pub Night Nov. 29



Fotis Place (alias Jubilee Sports Bar) Pub Night in 1998: '70s types Steve Gambier, Ron Fox, Karen (Beer) Burrows, Karen Donnelly, Lori Keith, Mark Donnelly

It seems that Pub Nights are still the most popular and most easily organized way of getting together each year, so set aside Saturday evening, November 29 for our next party. We're going back to an old site with a new name: Fotis Place on Brimley just south of Lawrence, as close to the alma mater as we can get. Drop in any time after 8:00 p.m. We'll have a room set aside for us, but there will be a live band next door, for those who want to indulge. There's also plenty of parking. Call your friends and make it a date!

## 20-Year Survivor Reunion Draws Over 100 Alumni

The class of 1982 recaptured their youth one hot summer night this year at Quigleys Pub in the Beaches in Toronto. The event was hosted by **Deborah Knight** and **Ricardo Mashregi**, who attended the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, and kept in touch over the years. The 20-Year Survivor Reunion brought former Thomson Alumni from as far as New York State, South Carolina and Northern Ontario.

The night was a tremendous success where friendships were rekindled and many fond memories shared. The '80s tunes were playing and a live '80s revival band was hired for the night to perform the classics of an era.

Unfortunately, a few friends were missing, but photographs and year books were passed around by many. Name tags consisted not of names, but of actual faces from the Grade 12 yearbook which people had as "a clue" to try to name them now. The girls said the guys had changed the most, and there were many laughs shared as people remembered the old faces first and then recognized their old friend!

Thanks to <www.classmates.com> most of the classmates were tracked down, and then the the power of the Internet took over as former friends forwarded the evite on <Evite.com> to others. We encourage you to try it and organize your own reunion this way.

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## Class of '78

Did you graduate Grade 13 in June, 1978? Do you remember **Mark Parent**, **Rita Flickinger** and **Don Hutchinson** as Student Council Representatives for our Class? If yes, you should know that your Thomson Class of 1978 25th Anniversary Party is fast approaching. Plans are already under way. Please pass this information on to your friends who might be interested or who might have had siblings from the Class of '78.

Sunday, November 23, 2003

12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Kally's Restaurant

430 Nugget Ave. in

Scarborough

(Markham north of Sheppard)

\$30.00 per person

Significant Others Optional

(also \$30.00 per person)

No Children Please

\*Teachers Welcomed\*

Finger food and cash bar

For additional information please contact **Bob Doi** at 905-472-2727 (evenings) or by email at <thedois@pathcom.com>.

Please send cheques (payable to Bob Doi) to:

Bob Doi

26 Bluebell Drive

Markham, ON L3S 3P5

Also, please provide the name(s) of those attending, including maiden name for those who have taken their spouse's surname.

Deadline: Wednesday, Nov.12

**Don't set aside the membership renewal form. Send it in today!**

At the end, we passed on an email list to all attendees for future reference when we all turn 40 next year!

# Profiles

To salute the 25th anniversary of the Class of '78, Bob Doi contacted the 1977-78 Grade 13 Class Reps and asked them for reminiscences and updates. Mark Parent's appeared in the the Spring issue. Rita (Flickinger) McCann's response is printed below:



Rita in 1978

*Fondest Memories:* High school holds memories for everyone. My problem is that there are so many that I think I have forgotten until someone mentions a name or an event; then suddenly I remember every detail.

I remember being so nervous on the first day of school in Grade 9. Everything seemed so important. To this day I even remember the outfit I wore. I remember walking to school with **Lorrie Halliday** and my friends, **Jennifer Gilbert**, **Diane Carter** and **Conchita Brown**. I remember having activity days where you could actually go on a trip to some place like the Thousand Islands boat cruise and still have it considered a school day.

I remember teacher strikes - no, they are not a new phenomenon! I also remember that I don't think I fully recovered from some. I remember house parties and a trumped-up challenge to play basketball, boys against girls. Unfortunately I had forgotten how big a basketball court can seem as you run up and down it (especially since I had dropped Phys Ed after Grade 9). I remember school plays and assemblies. I remember chocolate-covered cream-filled doughnuts from the cafeteria.

*Favourite Teachers:* I have a couple of teachers that I often think of when I remember my days at Thomson. **Mr. Lake**, my science teacher, was one of the first teachers that thought of us as young adults. I will never forget how he invited our class to his home for a barbecue in the middle of winter. We learned about electricity and plant growth. I remember pressing flowers, then trying to identify them, and conducting an experiment on poinsettia growth. I also remember going to a nursery near Mr. Lake's home for a field trip.

I remember **Mr. Truesdale** because he taught my favourite class, Man in Society. I took a college night school course in Sociology because I couldn't wait to learn more about it. I will never forget the day Mr. Truesdale asked what we would like to do with the time left if we had only a few weeks to live. When someone answered that they would "f\*ck my brains out," I think he was a little speechless!

*Education:* I went to York University to pursue my interest in Sociology. I absolutely loved my "Man in Society" and "Family Studies" courses in high school. I didn't know what I could do with that interest and thought I might take English as well, and then teach the course myself in high school.

On registration day I met **Tami Brown** and **Mike McCann**, who were also attending York. We decided to carpool together from Scarborough each day.

The year I was to apply for my combined education degree, I was told that I couldn't combine Sociology and English and teach what I wanted to. Rather than argue, I thought I would just apply at the end of my degree instead, since teachers were not exactly in demand at the time. I graduated with an Honours B.A. in Sociology (and took my own minor in English).

*Career:* I worked part-time at "The Permanent" Trust Co. while at York and became permanent staff after graduation. I started as a teller in a branch at Woodbine and Steeles and then moved to the Term Deposits department in Head Office, downtown. When The Permanent was taken over by Canada Trust, my department was one of the few Head Office areas not cut in the merger.

In Retail Credit, I was the branch support officer for Canada. When people in the branches had systems problems, they came to me, and I investigated. I helped develop the on-line credit systems (credit applications, loans, lines of credit, etc.). My job involved travel to London, ON, to meet with the rest of Canada Trust's Head Office and the systems area.

Once I began to have my children, I again thought of a teaching career, this time in elementary school, as there now seemed to be a demand, and I wanted to have more time at home. I applied to

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## Rita McCann (cont.)

the Faculty of Education, U. of T., was accepted, and graduated with my B. Ed. in 1991.



Rita today

Since graduation I have worked for the Scarborough Board of Education and now Toronto District School Board as a full-time teacher. I taught kindergarten for seven years and Grade 2 for twelve years. Then I took a leave of absence, supply teaching for two years. This year I am teaching Grade 3 in a portable in the Neilson and McLevin area of Scarborough.

*Family:* I married Mike McCann after graduating from university. On May 7 this year we celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. Mike is the Product Development and Conversion Manager for ADP Canada. We live in West Hill and have two wonderful girls that we are very proud of: Lauren, who turned 15 years old in January and is herself a high school student already; and Kirsten, who just turned 13 in March and is in Grade 8.

*(Bob Doi also reports that Rita and Mike are only one of at least six couples from the Class of '78 who married classmates. Bob and his wife, Laura (Viana) are another. Even more surprising today, all six are still happily married. Bob is hoping for a group picture of them at this fall's reunion and a report in our next Tradewinds.)*

## Retirements

Shirley Turchet (English/Drama staff 1974-1987) is retiring! She invites former colleagues and students to share memories and light refreshments on Thursday, January 15 from 4:30 to 6:00-ish at Middlefield Collegiate, 525 Highglen Ave., Markham (just north of Denison and east of McCowan). A \$10.00 donation for a gift will be accepted at the door. RSVP: Marilyn Aspevig, Librarian at MCI: 905-472-8900.

Also congratulations to David Joblin (Music/English staff 1971-1987) on his retirement in June.

Finally, Laurel (Vardy) Wilton retired October 31 after 21 years as Thomson's receptionist. The front desk won't be the same!

## In Memoriam

On a sadder note, we pass along news of the death of Don Moyer, Thomson's first Head of Science and second Vice Principal, profiled on these pages in 1997, when he donated a Chemistry scholarship to the school. For those who think teachers have no other life, Don was married to his wife, Gertrude, for 60 years and had 4 children, 14 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren! We extend our sympathy to them all.

Just after our Spring edition went to press, we learned of the death of another former Vice Principal, Orv Scott. Students from the late '70s may remember him. What you may not know is that Orv was a star athlete at the old Scarborough Collegiate (now R.H.King). He kept his enthusiasm for sports and students at all the schools he served.

## Diplomatic Community

The "virtual reunion" of the Class of 1964 has already produced its share of interesting stories. One that will probably strike a responsive chord with many readers comes from Bob Winnitoy. After he graduated from Mechanical Engineering, Bob's career eventually led to the petroleum and then the natural gas industries, with terms as VP and President of large companies from his home base in Calgary. He was elected President of the Canadian Gas Processors Association for 1998. Though now semi-retired, he leads a very full life.

His "small world" story involves a request from his boss to attend, as his replacement, a senior executive luncheon to meet Canada's Ambassador for Argentina, who was in Calgary to meet with oil and gas companies having Argentine interests.

At the reception, the Ambassador said he recognized Bob from somewhere, perhaps from university. Drawing a blank there, the two compared high schools. Thomson!

It turns out that Ambassador Robert Clark was Bob Clark, who, along with his wife, Donna (McIver), had been a classmate of Bob's from Grades 11-13 at least. They hadn't seen each other since 1965, but found time to reminisce and compare notes on other classmates. Ambassador Clark had changed very little, but did look more distinguished, according to Bob.

For the math experts out there, both Bobs would like to know the odds for such a meeting.