

Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

Quarter Century for Class of '78

Reported by Bob Doi and Photographed by Tim Luet and Bob Doi

On November 23rd, Thomson's Class of 1978 celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a Reunion party at Kally's Restaurant in north Scarborough. One year of planning proved to be worth the wait as approximately 68 classmates, 3 brave spouses and one teacher (thanks Mr. Farrow) joined in the celebration.

As '70s music by Fleetwood Mac, the Bee Gees, Chicago, the Eagles and more played in the background, everyone got to renew long-lost friendships. A buffet was available throughout the three-hour party, but very little food was eaten, as everyone was too busy catching up on everyone else's life. Class photos and classmate profiles adorned the walls; Commencement programs, school songsheets and yearbooks covered the tables; and 25th Anniversary balloons and banners - and cakes! - decorated the hall.

Several speeches were made, commenting on how well everyone had aged, especially the women, and thanking everyone for their help and support. Through the wondrous world of email, the Class of '78 now has contact information for over 125 of its classmates. Some travelled from far-away places such as: **Ian Creighton** from New Brunswick, **Brad Morrison** from British Columbia, **Dianne Plowman** from

Manitoba and many more from all over Ontario.

Special thanks to the following for their contributions in helping to make the reunion such a success:

ready) and many have inquired about annual reunions or at least every five years. No one wants to wait another twenty-five. Three hours was not enough time for most



Ingrid Cameron, Flavia Diniz, Lorraine D'Souza, Georgia Patterson, Marie-Anne Penney (who couldn't attend but provided many contacts), **Linda Roffey, Laura Sheehan, Janis Tikens, Laura Viana and Diane Wani.** Thanks to those of you who greeted everyone at the reception desk and those of you who stayed to clean up at the end. Thanks also to **Rita Flickinger** and **Mark Parent** for their write-ups in Tradewinds issues leading up to the reunion.

By all accounts everyone had a terrific time. Friends vowed to get together more often, many have seen each other several times since (al-

and about two dozen people headed out for dinner or drinks at the conclusion of the afternoon's events.

The highlight of the day was **Mark Parent's** (class Valedictorian) speech on our growing older. He began with the '70s, with afros and bell bottoms. He spoke of families, mortgages, weight gain and hair loss. He reminded us that even now, if we have the inclination, we can still be athletes and musicians, writers and dreamers. The gifts that made us believe in ourselves twenty-five years ago are within us still, and we have the opportunities and potential to fulfill our ideals, because we are the Class of '78!

Life After Thomson

We renew our survey of what some teachers have done since leaving Thomson.

Since **Walter (Wally) London**, Thomson's first Head of History, left to become Vice Principal at Woburn in 1963, much of his career was post-Thomson. In 1968 he moved to the Faculty of Education, University of Toronto in the Practice Teaching Department. He retired in 1985, having been Vice-Dean for the last seven years. In retirement, he and his wife spent 5-6 months each year in Florida until they sold their home there last year. For many years now their Toronto home has been down near the St. Lawrence Market, which they visit at least three times a week. They need their car only for trips out of town. A fitness buff, Wally works out every day and plays hand-ball three times a week - not bad for a 77-year-old! His favourite hobby is military history; he's an avid reader. But his family (two daughters and a son and their families) remains his number one love.

Elizabeth MacDonald (née **Bream**), another member of our original staff (English), left in 1962. She was pregnant, and in those days women in many professions had to

quit work before their pregnancy showed. She did some supply work until returning full-time at Milneford Jr. High and then Victoria Park S.S. in North York. She returned to Scarborough in 1971 as Library Head at Agincourt C.I., then in 1973 moved to L'Amoreaux C.I. as Associate Chair of Communications. After 18 years there, she completed her career at Computers in Education (Program Department), retiring in 1993.

She did a brief but exciting stint in Hong Kong (all expenses paid) teaching teachers how to integrate computers into their programs. She spent 1997 to 2000 in B.C., volunteering with seniors (teaching computer skills - what else?) in West Vancouver. She returned to Toronto to look after her mother (who died just this year) and is now back in Scarborough. She has survived two marriages and two divorces and has been **Elizabeth Bream** since 1979. She remains proud of her two tall, blonde daughters.

Robert (Bob) Williams taught French and English at Thomson from 1969 to 1978. He was then

named Head of Modern Languages at W.A. Porter C.I., where he stayed for ten years, until moving to the same position at Sir Oliver Mowat C.I., replacing the retiring **Harvey Bride**. Bob himself retired in 2000. During his career he served for five years on the provincial executive of the Ontario Modern Teachers' Association, taught immersion summer school (7 years) for the Scarborough Board in Leysin, Switzerland, and also in Nice, France (6 years) for Upper Canada College. With **Ian Fraser** from U.C.C., whom he met at the Nice sessions, he has published thirteen readers for students in grades 7 through 11. Independently, he has edited the Canadian edition of a workbook series called "Ça va?"

Now in retirement in London/Grand Bend (ON), his pace has slowed quite a bit, but still includes visits to Switzerland to visit his godson and to Rome to visit a high school chum. He remains in contact with other Thomson teachers, **Ron Allen**, **Pam Lock**, **Brenda Newell**, **Joanne McMinn**, and **Kerry Walton**.

Need Help With Class Reunions?

Our cover story omitted one major thank-you. **Bob Doi** was the driving force behind the success of the 1978 reunion. At the risk of burdening him with more work, your editor would like to suggest that Bob would make a great contact for advice if your class is interested in getting together for a special celebration. How do you contact classmates? How do you arrange and pay for a locale? How do you recruit help? What do you do when it

looks as if no one is coming???

Bob has been through it all. His e-mail address is rdoi@toyota.ca and yes, he may also be able to find you a deal on a new car!

I know the Class of 1964 are having difficulty getting beyond the e-reunion stage, and perhaps they don't need to. Now we have had enquiries from **Kelly Anne Thomson** (see page 4), and Alumni Committee member **Bob McBride** (rmbcride@shoppersdrugmart.ca)

about the Class of 1981 (for 2006).

Your Alumni Committee stand ready to supply what assistance we can with addresses and advice - even for small-scale reunions. With our behind-the-scenes help, **Ross and Julie (Milcawich) Heaton** (Class of 1964), now in South Carolina, have reconnected with two of their favourite teachers, **Elizabeth Bream** (see this page) and **Dennis Wrong**. Meanwhile, there's always Pub Night - see page 3!

Have you renewed for 2003-2004? Check your label.

Pub Nights - Past and Future

Bob Doi reports on our most recent Pub Night. Bob also shares a couple of the photos he took.

With Christmas less than a month away, 55-60 Thomson Alumni managed to sneak away from their frantic schedules for perhaps their last relaxing evening prior to the annual Christmas rush. November 29th marked the sixth year that the Thomson Alumni Committee has organized a Pub Night for Thomson Alumni.

This year's Pub Night was held as close to David & Mary Thomson C. I. as physically possible. We all gathered at Foti's Place Sports & Social Bar at Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue, right in our old stomping grounds. Some of you who attended our 2000 Pub Night would have been at the same club, then known as Millennium 2000 Bar and Grill. The new owners ensured that no one had an empty glass in hand

and supplied plates of munchies at each table to ease some of the late-night hunger pangs. We were even treated to some late-night Greek music and dance to round out the evening.

Most of the alumni in attendance were from the '60s to '80s. Some even brought in yearbooks to help reminisce and to help recognize those in attendance. **Mr. Farrow** continues to be a major connection between many of us. Virtually everyone at Thomson has either been taught by, been in a school musical with or has heard of our favourite retiree. Five classmates from the Class of '78 reunited only six days



after they celebrated their class 25th Anniversary Reunion. All in all, a great time was had by all.

Special thanks are due to **Janet Evans** for making the arrange-

2004 marks the 45th anniversary of the old school. While not nearly as important a milestone as the 50th, it could serve as a handy excuse for getting together in a less formal way, if only to update our contacts for the big event in 2009.

Your small but enthusiastic committee would like to gauge interest in possible activities to mark the occasion. Anything other than a pub

night requires a commitment in advance, including finances! Remember to look for details of upcoming events in future editions of the Thomson Tradewinds or via our e-mail notifications.

And for the Fall...?

night requires a commitment in advance, including finances!

So, enclosed in this newsletter is a small questionnaire regarding our plans. We urge you to respond, by either mail (have you renewed your membership?) fax or e-mail (Stan.Farrow@tel.tdsb.on.ca) so that we can respond to your wishes and set the wheels in motion for a get-together we can all enjoy.

Spring Pub Night April 24

Foti's Place was such a popular locale in November that we have decided to stage an encore there on Saturday, April 24 (8:00 p.m. on). Because the bar is close to Thomson, on the east side of Brimley just south of Lawrence, because there is quite a lot of room in the free parking lot, and because we were treated so well last time, we just have to go back. As an added incentive for those who have trouble handling smoky rooms, we are going to institute a no-smoking policy for our room.

So mark the date, grab a group of classmates and yearbooks, and head for Foti's to find out what's been happening in the lives of Thomsonites in 2004.

Travel Tips

Some of our more far-flung Alumni, while sending in their membership renewals, have issued travel invitations to fellow Thomsonites. With the summer ahead of us, we thought we would pass along a quartet of these offers.

Ron Hall (from our first Grade 13 graduating class in 1961) and his wife, Diane, rent a chalet on Salt Spring Island, a vibrant, diverse and partly mountainous area of 200 square kilometres in the Strait of Georgia, close to Victoria (B.C.). Their chalet sits atop a ridge looking south, with sweeping views over the ocean towards Vancouver Island. Tall Douglas firs cover most of the four-acre property, which is close to golf, tennis, beaches, and town. The chalet has two large decks; is newly decorated, with a full kitchen; and enjoys complete privacy and quiet. It is available year round for short- or long-term stays. Lovely scenery, walking trails and water activities abound. Use the web (www.saltspring.com/woodlandchalet) or e-mail (woodlandchalet@saltspring.com) to find further details - and perhaps hold a mini-reunion.

Speaking of water activities in B. C., **Ross McGowan** (Class of 1975), when not overseeing his fleet of barges and tugs for government contracts, does have a charter boat on which he would be quite pleased to escort alumni around the Southern Gulf Islands, Georgia Strait and Vancouver Island. While he loves going to sea on the flimsiest pretext and would not want to ask alumni to pay for a pleasure cruise, his fuel costs alone can run up to \$400.00 a day "depending on how the throttles are used to out-run weather." So we would suggest you negotiate a realistic financial split

if you would like to be part of a McGowan special. You can contact him at 1-604-538-4656 or e-mail at [<rmcgowan@telus.net>](mailto:rmcgowan@telus.net).

Kelly Anne Thomson (Class of 1981) is now a resident of Virginia, near the U.S. capital. If you are visiting and/or touring in the area, she would be glad to give Thomsonites a tour of Washington, through the eyes of a Canadian lawyer. Her e-mail is [<KATandSRA@aol.com>](mailto:KATandSRA@aol.com).

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't remind readers that **Janet Evans**, from our Alumni Committee, has her own travel agency, Janetravel, located in Scarborough, but also contactable on e-mail: [<janetravel@rogers.com>](mailto:janetravel@rogers.com). If you are heading to B.C., D.C., or anywhere, she can give you a good deal on travel arrangements. Just mention that you're a Thomsonite.

Trades Win

Sorry about the pun on our newsletter's name, but I couldn't resist. We have received a request from **Elaine Littlejohn**, a member of the present-day Science Department at Thomson. The Pathways Committee at the school is looking for alumni who are involved in trades or apprenticeship programs and who would be willing to come and talk with students about what's out there in the field. Students and teachers seem to know all about university and even college, but they would really appreciate hearing first-hand from this more neglected area. And having a real live Thomsonite would make the presentation much more personal.

If you think you could fill the bill (or know someone else as well), give Elaine a call at the school (416-396-5525, ext. 20251).

Posture Queens



The judges at David and Mary Thomson High School had a difficult time choosing the school's posture queen last week. Every girl was a contestant, but the judges managed to narrow their choice down—but had to settle for a tie. Crowned with school text books were posture queens Joan Domoney, 17, and Marlene Saville, 15.

Thanks to **Marlene (Saville) Rae**, from the Class of 1964, for sending along this historic clipping from an

old Toronto newspaper. Does anyone know where her fellow winner, **Joan Domoney**, is?