

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

Carmen Unzipped

We've probably never featured a front page like this in our many years of publication. What have the photograph and the headline to do with Thomson alumni?

Well, the laughing blonde is **Patti (Paddle) Loach**, from the Class of 1977 and the photograph is from the publicity material for a new cabaret, "Carmen Unzipped," which Patti co-wrote and co-performs with noted Canadian mezzo-soprano, **Jean Stilwell**. (Take a wild guess: she's the one on the left!) The music from the show is also available on a similarly-titled CD.

Classmates may remember Patti as a very accomplished pianist, even back then. Now she is winning raves for her sympathetic collaboration with Jean on a variety of musical styles from opera to cabaret to jazz and Broadway. Ms. Stilwell is perhaps most famous for her definitive portrayal of the musical heroine, Carmen. Hence, the title of this production, which takes Carmen's character and outlook beyond the bounds of the opera stage and into the more intimate atmosphere of the cabaret.

The show was unveiled March 30 and April 1 at the Ernest Balmer Studio in Toronto's Distillery District, close to Patti's home in the Beach. Her husband, John, was the recording engineer for the CD (right in their home), and even plays trumpet on a couple of tracks. Their sons take the celebrity visitors to Casa de Loach in stride, referring to Ms. Stilwell as "The Tattooed Diva."

Patti is kind enough to credit her participation in musical theatre at Thomson for developing her interest beyond practising the Conservatory piano repertoire. She loves the art of accompanying, especially in a dramatic setting.



"Collaborative work is much more redemptive," she says.

Parts of the show will be performed April 19 at a gala at Toronto's Palais Royale for the Dancer Transition Resource Centre (with Veronica Tennant, Rex Harrington and Sheila McCarthy) and May 5 at the Manitoba Conservatory of Music (with Rex Harrington and Ron Paley). The full show will be performed July 28 at the Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound and December 31 at the Waterloo Entertainment Centre, Waterloo, ON.

Or you can dash out and obtain the CD from L'Atelier Grigorian (Toronto, Oakville, Montreal and London), Theatre Books, Song and Script, Nicholas Hoare Books (Toronto) or Madrigal Music (Halifax). Google any of the above names for details of the show and/or the CD. And, if all else fails, email Patti herself at <patti@loacheng.on.ca> for a whole batch of interesting sites to explore and admire. Congratulations, Patti. Nil Sine Magno Labore!

Fall Pub Night's a Huge Success

report and photos by Bob Doi

Okay, now that we have grabbed your attention, maybe it wasn't a huge throng, but it was one of largest turnouts ever. On November 3rd, a good-sized throng of approximately 45 Thomsonites turned out to our Pub Night at Tapps Restaurant in northern Scarborough. As it is a popular restaurant and bar, we were fortunate to be able to book this fine establishment. We



even have a Thomson connection there. One of the co-owners/managers is **Jim Vass**, the brother-in-law of **Bill Papaconstantinou**, current Head of our Boys' Phys Ed Department! Unfortunately, neither could attend on this occasion.



Renewed camaraderie, plus complimentary munchies and a steady flow of good brew kept the lively conversations going well past midnight. The attendees included a small group from the Class of '81 who turned this into a mini 25th Anniversary Reunion. These included: **Bob McBride**, **Glenda Sharples**, **Michelle Leslie**, **Linda Gutteridge** and **Karen Wakefeld**.



Unfortunately efforts to gather a larger group from the Class of '81 were not fruitful. Thanks for trying, Bob (McBride)! In the future, if you are interested in trying to organize a Class Reunion, contact the Thomson Alumni Committee and we'll try to assist you by providing you with any names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses that we might have on our Master Alumni Database.



The past two pub nights, Tapps in northern Scarborough and Shoeless Joe's in Ajax, have been two of our best ever. Let's keep the trend going to make it 3 in a row!



Behind the Headlines

Our sharp-eyed reporter, **Bob Doi**, noticed a couple of articles in the *Toronto Star* on December 13, featuring a future star athlete from the present Thomson student body. We've included images of those two articles along with Bob's impressions below. While old-timers are reading the article, and perhaps feeling a bit strange at seeing the new team name, the Titans, featured in headline form, a provocative question: What did the girls' teams of the past call themselves?

Titans upset No. 3 Gators

Unranked Thomson knocks Peel champs out of provincial girls hoops tournament

DAVID GROSSEMAN
SPORTS REPORTER

HAMILTON—The magical season ended last night for the Father Goetz Gators.

Regarded as the GTA's best hope of for a medal at the provincial high school girls Quad-A basketball playoffs, the Peel Region champs were eliminated in a surprising loss.

It was Toronto's unranked David and Mary Thomson Titans who upset the No. 3-ranked Gators 56-55 at the buzzer before a stunned crowd at St. Thomas More Secondary.

A wild-card entry, Thomson had lost its opening game by 31

points to top-ranked and defending Ontario gold medal champion St. Mary's Crusaders. Meanwhile, Father Goetz had beaten the Eastview Wildcats of Barrie 49-32.

But strange things happen in a double knockout elimination format, in which teams win and advance — lose and you're out of the medal round.

Gators coach David Maxin said it was just another chapter in his team's up-and-down season.

"We've had great games all year and in others we went stone cold," said Maxin, his team losing for only the sixth time in 31 games.

"At halftime, I looked at my coach and said something like, 'Oh-oh... we're in trouble.' I could see we weren't sharp and picked a bad time to go cold."

Thomson led 15-14 after the opening quarter, 31-21 at the halftime break and 44-36 with eight minutes left in the game.

Lateisha Tappin scored 17 points for Thomson while Renelle Richmond and Reachel Thelwell-Brown each added 11. For Father Goetz, Chanel Harris had a game-high 18 points while Fletcher had 17.

In other games, No. 4 Westdale of Hamilton, with a 45-29 win, sent Toronto Catholic champion Michael Power/St. Joseph packing after the Trojans had earlier lost 44-31 to No. 2 St. Anne of Tecumseh, York region

champion St. Theresa of Lisieux of Richmond Hill also went two and out — a 64-39 loss to St. Anne last night.

In opening-round games, London's Catholic Central beat No. 7 Sinclair of Whitby 46-35 while Kitchener upset No. 8 Northern of Toronto 44-32.

At the Double-A playoffs in New Liskeard, East Elgin beat Runnymede 56-35 but avoided elimination in the double knockout tourney, beating Temiskaming 47-39. In the Single-A playoffs in Dresden, Charlan of Williamstown defeated Boylen of Toronto 61-50 despite a 31-point performance by Brittany Miller in a losing cause.

> High school results, C11

Thomson Titans star basketball player, **Aleia Gland**, has hit celebrity status amongst the Thomson elite. The grade 12 student has made the *Toronto Star's* Top Five High School All-Stars list.

In the Provincial Girls Basketball Tournament, Aleia led our unranked Titans to a huge upset win over the number 3-ranked Father Goetz Gators of Mississauga (Peel Region Champions). Thomson, which had lost its opening game by 31 points to the top-ranked team, bounced back to win 56-55 over the Gators. In this huge upset win, Aleia scored 9 points and added 9 assists.

Other stars for Thomson included **Reachel Thelwell-Brown** and **Renelle Richmond** with 11 points each and **Lateisha Tappin** with a team-high 17 points. The Titans ended up finishing the tournament in 3rd place after losing in the semi-finals. A great effort and a fantastic tournament result for the wildcard-entry Titans. Congratulations to the team!

We wish Aleia the best of success at University next year.

Back to Tapps on May 11

We've set the date for our spring Pub Night: Friday, May 11. We thought that Mother's Day week-end (You haven't forgotten that, have you?) might be an appropriate occasion, in case some of our out-of-town alumni are back closer to home to visit with family, and wouldn't mind adding a visit with members of the Thomson C.I. family as well.

With the success of our fall festivities at Tapps Restaurant, we have decided to try a return visit. Shoeless Joe's in Ajax, our successful site last spring, is temporarily closed and unavailable. Tapps, 5630 Finch Ave. E., is at the corner of Finch and Tapscott Rd., one stop-light east of Markham Rd., and quite handy to the Markham Rd. exit on the 401 if you are driving from the east, west, or north. Access to the large parking area is off Tapscott Rd., just behind the restaurant.

Our Pub Nights continue to be the easiest and most effective way of getting together and keeping in touch. No tickets to buy. No complicated clerical details to manage. Just show up any time after 8:00 p.m., with or without classmates, with or without yearbooks, and see what happens. Then your photo may also grace the pages of a future edition, like those on the opposite page. See you there!

GUARD
Aleia Gland



Thomson Titans (Toronto)

TEAM RECORD: 16-11
AGE: 17 **GRADE:** 12
HEIGHT: 5-foot-8
ACADEMICS: 75 per cent
GAME AVG.: 18 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists
BEST GAME: Solid performance with nine points, nine assists and superb defensive game eliminating No. 3-ranked Father Goetz Gators of Mississauga with 56-55 win at provincial Quad-A playoffs
NEXT YEAR: Indiana State, Cincinnati and Lafayette are among the U.S. schools interested in her, but Gland could end up staying in Ontario and pursuing a teaching career.
SKINNY: Three-time MVP plays volleyball, soccer and is on the track team. A strong candidate for school's athlete of the year. Grandfather was Richard Gland, known to professional wrestling fans at Dick (The Bulldog) Brower.

Program Revitalization

Keep an eye out for these magic words in future developments at the old school. The Toronto District School Board, realizing that Thomson and its neighbours are indeed getting to be old schools, especially the physical plants, has begun a pilot process to consult on programming that prepares students for the future. Meetings began in the fall of 2006 to look at future planning for the Thomson, Bendale, Donwood, Edgewood and Highbrook sites. At the next Board meeting, April 18, a motion will be presented that an in-depth study be commenced.

In meetings to date, parents, students, staff, trustees and administration have brainstormed about providing state-of-the-art facilities for a full range of 21st-century programming of compulsory courses, an expanded range of program choices, a staff specializing in a wide variety of these programs, a matching of program offerings with students' future needs, expanded partnerships with the community and with business, assessment of the capacity of present facilities at the schools, and an investigation of the campus concept for creating a full service centre for students and the community.

Assuming the April 18 motion passes, the next step will be to embark on a 5-to-10-year implementation of specific ways in which those brainstorming thoughts can become reality. Parents, students and staff at all the schools will be involved. The most recent meeting was held at Bendale for parents of Grade 3 students in the area, since they are likely to be the first to experience the results before they complete their schooling. Schools and the community will continue to be consulted before any decisions are made. The three areas of investigation will be plant, program, and finances.

You can check out progress at <www.tdsb.on.ca/programrev> or email questions to <programrev@tdsb.on.ca>. Ours is one of only two pilot projects in the Board. Some of you may be put off by the educational jargon. In plain language, we could be looking at anything from major renovations and technical advancements to a brand new building or buildings on the old multi-school campus, with specialized staff and areas for community use. Exciting, but frightening, if you hoped you could always go back and revisit the science lab just as it was in 1962!

We'll also keep you up-to-date in future issues of the Tradewinds.

50th Reunion

We have been receiving phone calls and emails asking just when Thomson will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. If you walk into the school by the front doors, you will see a cornerstone to your left, dated 1958. Inside, you will find a plaque in front of the auditorium, dated 1957.

Well, ignore both of them! Thomson officially opened for business in September, 1959. So we celebrate our 50th in 2009, two years from now. Traditionally, school anniversaries are held in the spring, often in early May. We are aiming for that date, and should have more details in the next newsletter.

The 50th is a major event, and if (see the article to the left) major changes are in store for the site, all the more reason for spreading the word and getting involved. We'll be suggesting ways our alumni can help out, and we will also welcome your suggestions of ways to celebrate.

As for those other dates, let's assume the plaque, with names of school board members, commemorates the decision to build the school, while the cornerstone signifies the date construction started.

Bendale's 50th

If you attended Bendale Junior Public School, you won't have to wait two years for a Golden Anniversary. The school will be celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Education on June 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For information on the event, contact **Lyne Monkhouse** at 416-396-6045 during school hours.

Patti Loach (page 1) also appeared on the pages of the National Post Homes section, on March 10. The article described renovations creating a recording studio in her kitchen! Next to the article was a feature on The Barenaked Ladies' Steven Page, whose father, Vic Page, is a Thomson alumnus from early '60s.

I can't tell you how many times I've burned cookies because I got working on a difficult passage in a Brahms ballad!



From top: Patti Loach's place was the driving force behind the kitchen design. The string cream coffee bar featured in wallpaper. The art glass detergent bottle on the window. Her husband, the recording studio's computer can't hold in kitchen appliances.

CLASSICAL CUISINE

PATTI LOACH

...with the best...
...and with the best...
...and with the best...

GREEN HOMES

Band demands recycling bins

The Barenaked Ladies introduce Barenaked Planet

By Steve Page

A musician on a concert tour will always have a rider in his contract, and it's often one that can't be broken. In the case of the Barenaked Ladies, the rider is to have a recycling bin in their dressing room. The band's latest album, *Barenaked Planet*, is a concept album about recycling. The band's lead singer, Steven Page, says, "I was amazed at how responsive people were." The Page says, "People want to understand how they can help the planet. They're not just looking for a way to make themselves feel better, they're looking for a way to make the world a better place. It's not just about recycling, it's about taking care of the planet."

Page began to set up recycling bins at every tour stop, although he admits he's not always successful. "I always have information leaflets about local environmental organizations and sign-ups to meet local green groups. The band would talk back in their tour - with the usual generous usage and recycling bins all day - drinking beer out of reusable plastic cups, and they would be disappointed."

"I just felt very odd to go to work and see a very disposable culture," he says. "So, we put this rider in our contract. We're not doing anything that we see as being a bad thing."

"They're just surprised, a lot of them. I think they're glad to see that they're not the only ones who care about the planet. I think they're glad to see that they're not the only ones who care about the planet."

"I was amazed at how responsive people were," the Page says. "People want to understand how they can help the planet. They're not just looking for a way to make themselves feel better, they're looking for a way to make the world a better place. It's not just about recycling, it's about taking care of the planet."

He said his like-minded band members had been talking about it for a while. "I'm Steven Page, and I'm a Thomson alumnus from early '60s."