



# THOMSON TRADEWINDS

DAVID AND MARY THOMSON C. I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1996

## TAKE NOTE

1994-95

### Valedictorian

Congratulations to Devika William, who was chosen by her fellow-graduates to be the valedictorian for the 1995 graduation class.

### Retirees

Since our last issue, Bob Pengelley (Vice-Principal) and Bozana Saler (Math) have retired. Joining them in June (though now at other schools) will be Hugh Beattie (Math), Steve Duff (Music), Bev Sturgis (Phys Ed), and Barry Truscott (Vice-Principal). Best wishes to all in their new 'careers'.

### Congratulations

Melissa Thomson, an alumna from the '80s, is the new "Belle" in the production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Princess of Wales Theatre. Henry Gomez, drama teacher in the late 1980s, is the new chair of Toronto's annual Caribana festival. And Cathy (Eull) Halstead (on Thomson's staff since the 1970s) has had her composition chosen as Scarborough's official Bicentennial Song!

## VOLUME 2 AT LAST

Our school motto (above) seems an appropriate comment for the labour pains involved in reaching Volume 2 of Thomson's Alumni Newsletter. School budget cutbacks forced us to fund our own first mailing from early contributions, meaning we sent out newsletters by installments as funds arrived. Hence the delay in producing our second volume.

Your response to Volume 1, when it did arrive, was gratifying. We had many valuable suggestions, including a request for shorter but more numerous profiles (see pages 2-4); a huge collection of "happy memories", which we will work into future editions; and even a few volunteers!

Our planning meeting at the end of February was plagued with one of the winter's many snowfalls, but five stalwarts braved the elements to outline this next step. Bob Doi (1978), Tim Luet (1980), and Bob McBride (1981) volunteered to serve as year reps, in addition to Carol (Kruzic) Archer (1963), Bill and Judy (Stanbury) Smith (1971), and Carol Martin (1984), who were unable to attend. That leaves just 31 more years of class reps to recruit! The task would involve keeping as up-to-date an address list as possible (with our help) of Alumni from your year, and finding fellow grads to organize any reunion activities desired by your contemporaries.

Also at the meeting was Bryan Lake, who doubles as a grad (1962) and present staff member. As treasurer, he has been handling your membership contributions. Finally, Stan Farrow has been acting as liaison and chief editor of this newsletter.

One major decision at the meeting was to charge an annual fee of \$10.00 to cover the "school year", with newsletters in the fall and spring. You will see an application form enclosed. This spring newsletter will be sent only to those who responded to the first, plus new names suggested by respondents; but if response is sufficient, we will try a larger mailing in the fall. Other activities will follow as we become established.

## WITH A NEW NAME

The "judges" at our February meeting examined the suggestions you sent in, to name our newsletter. Despite a couple of nostalgic references to earlier publications: "The Leaflet" and "The Tribune", we opted for something not associated with any particular years: "Thomson Tradewinds", with its aura of spreading news and trading information. Thanks and congratulations to Irene Polidoulis (1978) for her imaginative submission. Dr. Irene is now in the tenth year of her family medical practice in the Pape-Danforth area. Her husband, Jim, is a pharmacist she met on the job. They have two children, Philip (4 1/2) and Contessa (3).

## INTERNET

Thomson is now on the Internet, and, thanks to Resource Centre chief Mark Kaminski, we have set up an Alumni Page within Thomson's page within the Scarborough Board's page! So far, our newsletter is the major item featured there, but we would like to consider more imaginative uses of this technology. As with all our efforts, it requires the time and expertise of grads who would like to make that their Alumni activity. Let us know if the prospect interests you; but meanwhile, access us at: <http://www.interlog.com/~scarboro/thomson/farhom.html>. Farhan Talukder, a grade eleven student at Thomson, is responsible for the page design.

## IN MEMORIAM

Thomson's first Head of Music, and writer of the school song, Dick Jolliffe, died in late 1995 at 82, following a series of small strokes. Last May, Peggy Larkin-Brown, Thomson's first Dramatic Arts teacher (and wife of Andy Brown, a former Thomson V.P.), succumbed to a massive stroke at the age of 50. Colin Kressler, a student in the 1970s, who didn't let his diabetes-induced blindness keep him away from our 1994 Reunion, died last year also. And Thomson is still mourning the violent death of 16-year-old Ishmael Spence at the Kennedy Subway Station in January.

# Alumni Profiles

In this issue, we are spotlighting some of Thomson's grads in television and radio. Can you add to our list? Let us know.



Linda MacLennan graduated from Thomson in 1974 determined to become a newspaper reporter. Stimulating grade 12 and 13 English classes taught by Bob Gentile had nourished Linda's love of writing. After her first year at Carleton University, she spent a year attending (sometimes!) university in Avignon, France, before completing her Bachelor of Journalism back in Ottawa. A week-long apprenticeship at CJOH-TV in her final year led to a summer

job there, and then six years full-time, reporting, anchoring, and producing news programs.

When she co-hosted the French portion of a broadcasting awards evening (thank you Rosemary Ludvigsen, Eleanor Iannacci, and Bob Williams for those valuable French classes!), CTV executives took note and offered her the position of news anchor and later co-host of "Canada A.M." During the next three years she covered *inter alia* elections, hostage takings, tornados, Expo '86, and the Royal Wedding, interviewing such celebrities as Janet Jackson, Wayne Gretzky, and Margaret Thatcher (one-on-one at 10 Downing!).

In 1987 she was recruited by WBBM-TV, the CBS outlet in Chicago, where she now co-anchors the 4:30, 5:00, and 10:00 p.m. newscasts. Over nine years she has interviewed the likes of Tony Bennett and Hillary Rodham Clinton, while winning several local Emmys, including Outstanding Individual Achievement in 1992. Despite work hours which discourage social life, she met her husband, David Rammelt, on a blind date four years ago. They have two sons, Taylor (2 years) and Carson (1 year), who share their mother's dual citizenship.



After four years at Thomson, Laurie Brown decided to complete her grade 13 in half a year at L'Amoreaux C.I. (just in time for the 1975 teachers' strike!) She had been active in school assemblies, especially as a member of the folk club, and had already participated in the Ontario Youth Theatre. No surprise, then, that she went into theatre full-time, acting and singing on stage (notably Hart House) and later in film and on T.V.

In 1980 she joined CITY-TV in Toronto as a film editor. In 1985 she was music journalist and co-host of "The New Music", CITY's hour-long music magazine; and in 1987 she became the program's associate producer, while also working as a VJ for the affiliated station, MUCHMUSIC, hosting a number of music specials.

In 1990 she was hired by CBC's "The Journal", and continues to act as that flagship program's arts correspondent. In 1993 she won the Canadian Conference on the Arts Award for Excellence in Arts Journalism, and in 1994 her book about music television, "Success Without College", was published by Penguin. She is married with a daughter, 7, and a son, 3.



Tom Hayes (1980), during his third year at U. of T. (Arts), wandered into the studios of Scarborough Cable T.V. and decided this was how he wanted to spend his life. He made plans to switch to a Radio-T.V. course at Centennial College, and had just received his acceptance when Scarborough offered him a paying job doing a daily news and sports show. He stayed at U. of T. and got his T.V. "education" live! A stint as tape librarian and later week-end sports anchor at Barrie's CKVR led in

1988 to Toronto's CFTO, where, as a reporter, Tom has "covered everything" from Prime Ministers to champion Blue Jays, including the Montreal massacre and the Bernardo trial.

Tom's memories of Thomson centre on social activities. He wonders if his initiatives in organizing Battle of the Bands programs signalled a future in the entertainment industry. And he still keeps meeting fellow members of his Senior and Junior (he still has his jacket!) football championship teams. He is now married and has two daughters, 5 and 3, with whom he can reminisce.



Jennifer Peck (1986), besides singing ("A Bushel and a Peck") in the chorus of *Guys and Dolls* at Thomson, was a cheerleader for three years (becoming captain in her final year), and an aerobics instructor during lunch periods. By graduation she was also in the midst of a three-year term as a Toronto Sun Argo cheerleader, rising to assistant captain before graduation from the team, and from the Radio and Television Broadcasting course at Centennial College. Volunteer work at MUCHMUSIC provided instant experience

and was followed by the duties of Production Assistant with "CTV Lifetime", "Cash Car" driver and give-away announcer with KEY 590 radio, and Video Graphics Operator for CITY and MUCHMUSIC.

"Discovery" while she was singing at a CITY staff party in 1992 led to her present celebrity as an on-air star at the station, appearing on "Breakfast Television", on "CITY-Pulse at Noon", as "Live Eye" host, and in other wild and crazy activities. She also coaches the CITY hockey team, sings with the band, "Bedside Manner", and has performed as a singer and with comedy improv groups at various Toronto clubs. In her spare time (!) she enjoys writing, singing, and recording her own music.



