

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1997

FROM THE EDITOR

The Thomson Alumni Association continues on its rather informal way with a third newsletter for your edification. Thanks to David Shaw, 1965 (David Shaw and Associates Ltd. - (416) 487-2019), it now has a new masthead to go with the new name. In this issue we've gathered together four more profiles, mostly in response to your suggestions. We have also found room to mention a few Thomson couples who sent in replies to our request last issue. There are two "Grad Ads", one from Iris Brown, who has traded her mathematics chalk board for a really clip-board, and one from Wayne Cooper, who is still looking for Jenny Surrey. And finally, we have a few news items to keep you abreast of developments at the old school. As always, we invite you to offer suggestions for material and to send along "ads" or news for future editions.

The volunteers who attended our planning session in December wondered if enough Alumni would be interested to organize a social activity this summer. Three suggestions to consider are a mixed golf tournament (2-ball foursome or equivalent), a picnic (at Thomson Park?) or a boat cruise (Ross McGowan -1975- did send along an invitation, complete with photo, to hold our next reunion on his charter boat in the Gulf Islands, B.C., but perhaps that is too far away for most?). You will find a ballot on the back page inviting your response. Please mail or fax your response (photocopy, if you wish) to Thomson Alumni at the address below, by April 15, so that we can plan accordingly.

Finally, there was some feeling that readers might not be fully aware that the Alumni is an independent self-funding organization, trying to get by with volunteer assistance. We are not funded by the school or the Board. The cost of mailings is handled by your membership fees. (Have you sent yours in?)

WHAT'S NEW AT THOMSON

A report to Alumni from Susan Rowan, Principal

You've seen the new m-banx ad, "The times they are a-changin'". Well, at Thomson C. I. things indeed are changing!

The infamous Room 112 has a new face lift. It has been transformed into a performing arts room with the tiered seats (minus four rows at the bottom) forming an "audience" area, and a large dance/drama floor at the front. It will be used for high-tech multi-media presentations, drama events, and dance programs. This is all possible because of a Bank of Montreal partnership that was the stimulus for these changes. This partnership included some seed money that was matched (and then some!) by the Scarborough Board of Education.

Cybertech at Thomson is also on its way. We will soon have a new computer lab with the kinds of hardware and software that produced *Jurassic Park*, *Speed*, and other such special-effects spectacles. All our classes are connected to the Internet. In addition, Shaw Cable and Silicon Graphics have developed a partnership with us that will provide Thomson students with the highest speed cable currently available.

Rumour has it that all the Science labs will be undergoing major renovations. More high-tech inno-

vations will be finding their way into those courses and programs. And the Science Department has also been the grateful recipient of a significant donation of unused glassware from a Thomson alumnus. Beakers, flasks, pipettes, burettes, condensers, graduated cylinders, and other similar items were gathering dust on a warehouse shelf. Now they will help Thomson students conduct experiments with specialized equipment that has long been unavailable. Many thanks to Allan Donnelly for remembering his old school! In these days of financial cut-backs, we would be glad to hear from other alumni who might be able to offer similar timely assistance.



Robert Casha, Aldo Garr, Sue Rowan, Dave Lee, Tom Hensley, Donna Moore, and Rhonda Herbert admire new glassware.

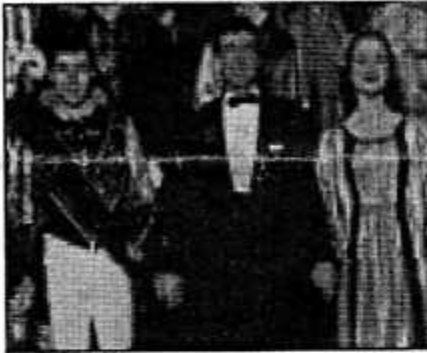
Finally, Room 250 has been refitted with refurbished 486 computers donated from business and industry, another gift that has significantly improved the learning opportunities of our students.

With a little help from a lot of friends, Thomson is keeping up with the changing times.

Profiles

Although **Marshall Bruce Evoy's** first preference was always to be a professional actor, he headed Thomson's English Department in our first year, returned to Malvern C.I., and was enticed back from 1962 to 1967, again as Head of English. So many staff came from Malvern originally that our school was jocularly known as David and Malvern Thomson Collegiate.

From his years at Thomson, Mr. Evoy is proudest of his staging of *Romeo and Juliet*. The student players "lived in a fantasy for four months". The production (1965) lasted four hours and boasted a cast of 65. Members of the school gymnastic team played citizens of Verona while football team members were cast as guards. Mr. Evoy taught fencing at 8:00 a.m. and used his one "spare" a day to voice-coach the principal actors. Final rehearsals concentrated only on students in the crowd scenes. After the play closed, a special performance was held which was photographed scene by scene for the Board of Education. (Mr. Evoy owns one copy of the photographs; Thomson archives possesses the other album. -Ed)



Proud director, Mr. Evoy, with Duncan Millar (Romeo) and Trudy Cameron (Juliet)

In 1959-60 Mr. Evoy taught two Grade Nine classes. He challenged them: "Anyone who finishes Grade XIII comes to a party at my house." Sixty students came for dinner five years later...then chose to walk barefoot down Yonge St!

He is very proud to have worked under J. Ross Stevenson, the school's first principal, who supported him through "difficult times", even when Mr. Evoy was featured in the Toronto Star and on national T.V. denouncing the "dumbing down" of the high school system. Other staff members he recalls fondly include **Stan Farrow** (Latin), **Joanne McMinn** (German), **Ken Weber** (English), **Harvey Bride** (French), **Peter Sidorchuk** (Physics), and **Pat Fleck** (Chemistry).

Of his students at Thomson, he especially remembers **Trudy Cameron**, his "Juliet", who, after graduating from the National Theatre School, became a professional actor in Western Canada; **Linda Offenburger**, now an English teacher in Germany; and **Barry Robinson**, whom he dubbed "the boy with the beaming face".

After resigning in 1967, Mr. Evoy obtained an M.A. in World Drama from the U. of T.; while working as a PhD candidate there, he taught a summer semester to third-year English majors at U.W.O. in London. His thesis advisor in Toronto was Robertson Davies. Mr. Evoy considered him "witty and charismatic" and added "I couldn't wait to get to his class."

He then went into the private sector and worked successively as a publicist representing actors and other professionals, and then for eleven years at the CTV network "behind the scenes". Among other duties there, he oversaw commercials (scripts and videos) checking for violations of the broadcast code: for example, at that time "constipation" could not be used; thus, "irregularity" got a lot of air time. He also worked as an actor in T.V. (including "Degraffi High" and "The Judge"), radio, movies, and corporate videos.

After "retirement", Mr. Evoy taught English privately, and is still a part-time instructor at Seneca College, having designed and taught there a two-semester course in public speaking. He has also conducted presentations on the same topic to groups across Canada and the U.S., and as far afield as Athens, Rome, and Swaziland. He currently has an agent who books him into board rooms and hotels for public speaking seminars, and he acts as a communications consultant (advising executives on proper and effective English) for H. J. Heinz and Pillsbury. In his 75th year, he loathes the phrase "senior citizen" ("After all," he says, "we don't have 'junior citizens'!"), preferring "retiree" or "pensioner".

One of his students, a fourth-year engineer, once told him, "Sir, you're interesting!". Mr. Evoy's reply: "I agree." So do we, Mr. Evoy, so do we!



Susan Cook, a 1973 classmate wrote us, "Wouldn't it be fun to hear about Mike Hill? He was a football team member and class clown, but now he's over forty and involved in education at Georgian College in Barrie." Is he ever! He is Academic Director, External Relations Automotive Marketing, Computer Programmer and Advertising Programs, and Director of the Canadian Automotive Institute, the only program of its kind in Canada.

CAI offers a three-year diploma program in Business Administration/Automotive Marketing for those aspiring to a career in dealership management. Begun in 1983, the program this year has 330 English and 85 French students combining classroom and co-op elements. The placement rate for graduates has been 100%, with about half going into direct employment, and half moving into Business Administration degree courses at University of Windsor or Northwest University in Michigan, Texas, or Florida.

After ten years as a regional supervisor and district manager with Dylex Corporation, Mike was familiar with the Georgian College programs, and, although he does not profess to be an automotive expert, was very excited to move into a teaching and leadership role in this new venture. He was the subject of a full-page Personal Profile in the November 14 issue of "The Steering Column", published in The Globe and Mail.

Married with a two-year old child, he is one of many mini-van aficionados (a Dodge Caravan). He also owns a 1989 Volkswagen Jetta. But, if he had a blank cheque, he would buy a Lexus LS 400, both because of the car itself, and because of customer treatment, the kind of treatment he hopes future customers will get from all his graduates!





Those who knew **Melissa Thomson** at Thomson in the early 1980s might be surprised to learn that she has found her calling in music. Although she was active during her teen-age years with lead roles in many community theatre productions, including The Music Man, Annie, The Wiz, Finian's Rainbow, and Anything Goes, as a student at the Royal Conservatory of Music, and as a member of the Scarborough Schools Youth Choir, Melissa never appeared on stage at Thomson! (Probably because Mr. Treleavan and Mr. Duggan were a tough crowd!) But now, just over ten years later, Melissa appears on stage eight times a week as "Beile" in Disney's Beauty and the Beast playing at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto.

After leaving Thomson in 1985 (and finishing up a semester at Churchill C.I.), Melissa followed her family's passion by pursuing a degree in politics at York University's Glendon College, until a friend suggested that she audition for Les Miserables at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. That fateful call led to her professional debut in 1991 as the "Eponine/Cossette" understudy and ensemble member in Toronto and on the Canadian tour. Then, from 1992 to 1995, Melissa appeared in the lead role of "Ellen" in the original Canadian production of Miss Saigon at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

In addition, Melissa has performed in a variety of community and charity events and concerts both in Canada and abroad, and she has made several television appearances. She can also be heard on the recording, "Voices of Broadway" by EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS.

Melissa has many fond memories of the friendships she made at Thomson with both students and teachers (even Mr. Treleavan!). However, she remembers notably the terror of being caught by English teacher Ms. Halstead as she was defacing a locker. ("I was just leaving a note for a friend," she claims.) However, luckily, Ms. Halstead was more troubled by the fact that Melissa had misspelled a word than she was by the delinquent behaviour. ("I've never spelled 'writing' with two t's since that day!")

In her spare time Melissa is renovating her house in the Beach area of Toronto. Melissa notes, "Can anyone recommend a good plumber?"



Ed Moran prepares for a devilish facial from some SCAS students

When Ed Moran meets students he taught in the late 1960s and early '70s, it amazes him that these teenagers are now in their forties with families of their own. "Yet the times at Thomson C.I. feel as if they were yesterday.

"In 1975, I left Thomson to become a Vice-Principal at R.H. King C.I. (my old alma mater). In 1980 I moved to Cedarbrae as Vice-Principal, and in 1982 was promoted to Principal of Birchmount Park C.I.

"Birchmount had a significant impact on my career, in that I became involved in adult education there. The return of adults to school to get a diploma and/or further training emerged as an important area of growth. To serve the adult students better, the Scarborough Centre for Adult Studies (SCAS) opened in September, 1986. As Principal, I saw the program quadruple in five years. This rapid growth resulted in the Scarborough Board of Education opening a new building for adults on the Progress Campus of Centennial College (Markham Rd. at the 401) in 1994. I am now in my eleventh year as Principal of SCAS!

"My 31-year teaching career parallels my life outside school. I am fortunate to have been married to Dianne for those same 31 years. We have two boys aged 24 and 26. Some day they will finish school! I continue to meet old Thomsonites at my favourite pastime, buying antiques at auction halls. If you recognize me, don't hesitate to say hello."

Thank you to Fenno van Zwanenburg, Kelly Anne Thomson, and Glenis (DeLuca) Emmett for their assistance in preparing these profiles.

GEORGE HAAG RETIRES

George Haag retired at the end of February. Known to most alumni as the Geography teacher with the loud voice (Did you earn his special epithet: a mental midget?), he coached athletics (football) and academics (Geopardy), as well as providing leadership at Kearney, Scarborough's residential outdoor education centre in the Haliburton highlands. He was equally active in the social life of the staff, who insist they are still going to hold their spring golf barbeques on the Haags' lovely country property near Uxbridge. We wish him well!



Diane and George Haag share the seat of honour at his retirement reception

