

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 1999 - SPECIAL SOUVENIR ISSUE

Happy Anniversary!

May 1, 1999 dawned bright and clear, a perfect day for an anniversary celebration. Students and staff had spent the previous days and weeks readying the school for the onslaught of a thousand of their predecessors. Greeting arrivals (and advertising the event to Lawrence Ave. E.) was a large welcome window painted by the students (see right). The weather was so balmy that registration, handled by present-day prefects, took place outdoors in front of that message.

Indoors, rooms had been set aside for grads to meet old(!) classmates: the original (girls') gym for the 1960s, the newer (boys') gym for the 1970s, and the cafeteria for the '80s and '90s. The Music Room (133) was open for former participants, the SAC sold refreshments in the SAC Room, and there was a multi-media slide show in the Library Resource Centre. Often, however, alumni had difficulty getting past the continuous reunions in the front hall.

Official ceremonies took place in the Stan Farrow Auditorium, with an upbeat mood provided by the Thomson Stage Band. Local television celebrity, and



Thomson Alumna, Jennifer Peck ('86), sang "O Canada", as she often does during Blue Jays games. The prefects presented a skit of Thomson across the decades, and the Dance Club also entertained. There were greetings from principal Donna Benson, trustee Jeff Kendall and superintendent Ruth (Hollands) Spearing, (who is also a Thomson grad), and reminiscences by Jean (Hollands) Turton and Bob

Heath, both members of the first graduating class, and both former Thomson teachers. Tom Adams' ever-popular slide show and a lusty rendition of the School Song completed proceedings.

Souvenirs were for sale in the front hall. T-shirts and golf shirts sold out, but, for those who could not attend, there are a few mugs and mouse pads still available. You will need to drop by the school (or send a friend/relative) to purchase one, as long as supplies last. Mugs are \$5.00, with a red imprint of the Thomson crest surmounted by "40th anniversary" and 'submounted' by "1959-1999". Mousepads have a photo of Thomson to-day with the Thomson crest and the original school facade as inserts.

Preceding the afternoon reunion, close to a hundred present and former Thomson staff gathered for a buffet luncheon in the cafeteria, to renew acquaintances. And, of course, we haven't even mentioned the Pub Night and the Dinner-Dance - more news inside!

Congratulations to the organizing committee on a great success! Now on to the 50th!!

School-Alumni Partnerships

(Remarks given by principal Donna Benson at the 40th Anniversary Official Ceremonies)

For 40 years, Thomson has been meeting the needs of the community, providing a well-rounded education for its students. Supported by a dedicated group of teachers and administrators, its reputation as a good school is well known.

You, the alumni of David and Mary Thomson Collegiate, are a fitting tribute to the school and to everyone connected with it. Your successes are a reflection of the importance of maintaining a culture dedicated to its students and its community. The fact that so many of you are present today to remember the time you spent here makes us all proud. You have heard in the media during the past week that a neighbouring school, Midland Ave. Collegiate, will in all likelihood close its doors in June, 2000. Those of us here at Thomson are still concerned because we are at only 50% capacity. Many of you remember the days when the student population was around 2500.

I hope that during the coming years you will continue to give us your support. Alumni can play a vital role in the life of the school in many ways. Your active participation on the Thomson Alumni committee or the school advisory council, where you can lend your expertise and guidance, would be appreciated. Donations of equipment, scholarships, and the like would be wonderful and of great benefit to current Thomson students. Many alumni such as Tom Hayes, who is currently with CFTO news,

have come back to talk to our students. Don Moyer, a former Science head and vice-principal, the family of J. Ross Stevenson, our first principal, and alumnus



Donna Benson introduces Edith Stevenson, widow of our first principal, at the Staff Luncheon

Bill Stratas have all donated scholarships. Room 112 can now be used as a viable performing arts area, and there is a new rug in the drama room thanks to corporate sponsorships. There are many different ways in which you can help.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the anniversary planning committee, especially co-chairs Mark Kaminski and Stan Farrow, and our secretarial and accounting genius, Jenny Papulkas, for their yeoman service. Enjoy your day. And I look forward to seeing all of you at the 50th.

Embers Parties

(Bob Doi reports on the evening festivities from the Anniversary.)

The evening of May 1 saw 250 Thomson alumni partying the night away at the Dinner-Dance, held at the Embers Banquet Hall. The largest turnout came from the '70s, mirroring the afternoon response at the school. After a delicious roast turkey dinner and some fantastic door prizes (kind alumni donors), grads snapped up some of the remaining souvenirs from the afternoon and danced to music from the '60s on up. (Embers D.J. Denise Tripp is a Thomsonite from the '70s!) A good time was had by all.

The only down side was that the Embers ran out of some of the more popular beverages, but that was probably due to the huge success of Friday evenings' Pub Night, a new addition to proceedings this year. Thanks to strong door sales, there were over 400 in attendance, ignoring the musical invitation to dance, and talking up a storm of reminiscences. Kudos to the Embers staff and to the Thomson Alumni planning committee for two memorable evenings. Everyone is looking forward to repeating these successes at the 50th!



Stan Farrow, Tim Luet ('80), and Janet Evans ('67) draw a door prize

A FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO ALBUM

Photos by Tom Adams, Bob Doi, Janet Evans, and Tim Luet



Outdoor registration - bring the whole family!



'60s alumni in the "old" gym



Tom Hayes ('80) and dancing daughters



More '60s merriment: Maureen (O'Rourke) Riddell, Betty (Tulk) Roy, and Heather Jarvis



Souvenir sales



'70s grads check out mementos and reminisce (right, and above right)



