

Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2000

Pub Night A Success!



attendance who had never taken part in any of the reunions or pub nights before, so for the first time they got to catch up with some people that they had not seen in many years.

We can honestly say that a good time was had by all, and we are sure that

everyone is looking forward to the next get-together. Unfortunately, Millennium 2000 is now out of business (not our fault!), and we will have to find a new venue for the next Pub Night. Any volunteers???

Thanks go to Mr. Farrow, Janet Evans, Bob Doi, Tim Luet, Bob McBride, and the rest of the Alumni Committee for a job well done!

(and thanks to Bob and Karen Forrest, who put together this report, and also were a major reason for the success of the evening.)

Our most recent Pub Night was held on May 5 at the Millennium 2000 Bar and Grill, on Brimley Rd. just south of Lawrence Ave. It was well attended; in fact, we have been told that this was the most successful Pub Night that the Alumni committee has ever had.

The management at the bar put out a nice assortment of food for us. Thanks to Janet Evans for arranging that.

There were many people in



Reminiscences

(June, 2000 marked the end of an era with the simultaneous retirement of Thomson's two Physical Education Department Heads. **Maria Boyes** and **Jim Myrvold** totalled sixty years of teaching at Thomson. We asked them to share some memories with us. Taking age before beauty, we start with Jim.)



Jim Myrvold

When I catch my breath from retirement activity, I know that the mere mention of Thomson C.I. certainly brings a large smile to my face. How can one ever forget the wonderful years that I had the privilege of sharing with so many wonderful students, staff and administrators?

In my first few years, starting in 1968, the Boys' Physical Education staff was comprised of **Bev Sturgis, Bob Carson, Ed Butkovich, Bill Kennedy, Don Guthrie, and Hal Martin**. They were such a super group of people, and we have remained friends over all the years. Modestly, we were unique and successful, and we knew how to have a good time.

The successes in sports were too numerous to mention them all. The wonderful years of the '70s with students like **Mario, Ken, Otto, John, Marty, Brad, Bill, Don, Dave, Tom, Phil, Brian** and **Howie** bring back memories of championships in football, wrestling and hockey.

During my years at Thomson, I had the good fortune of hiring **Don Yaschyshyn**, who guided the boys' senior volleyball team to multiple championships. No-

where in high school sports has one school dominated as Thomson did in volleyball. The record 14 years of consecutive championships in Scarborough will never be equalled. What an outstanding accomplishment!

During the '80s and '90s, we continued to excel in all areas of sport. As Thomson decreased in enrolment and increased in diversity, we captured championships in cricket, basketball, skiing, wrestling and soccer. During my final years of teaching, I was so proud of the boys' senior soccer team as they became the first school in Scarborough history to capture the Gold Medal at OFSSA. Great work by coach, **Kevin Boyle**, one of the new young pups in our Phys-Ed Department.

As I leave Thomson, I remember only the good times, and the 1979 Agincourt-Thomson football game never crosses my mind. (Hah!) I will always cherish and remember the many students who became good friends and the fantastic group of staff who passed through Thomson. It seems Thomson was the starting point for so many excellent teachers. The administrators and office staff at Thomson became part of the whole Thomson family. We truly were 'one for all.' I honestly believe my blood is coloured red, white and black.

May the tradition at Thomson continue forever!



Maria Boyes

The year was 1970. Thomson Collegiate had over 2000 students and over 120 teachers - and was still growing. Female students were wearing the now-infamous "mini-skirt", and male students were sporting long hair and sideburns. A lot of the younger teachers looked just like the students - mini-skirts, sideburns and all.

After 32 years of teaching (30 years at Thomson) I have many fond memories of wonderful students, spirited teams and dedicated teachers. Here are some specific memories which come to mind.

Students who chose the outdoor education elective will surely remember the overnight camping trips to the farm in Uxbridge (sidestepping cow-patties or waking up to several inches of snow on the ground and the tents). On another occasion, at a conservation area, several students tied one of their buddies to a picnic table and left him outside overnight.

Trips with the ski teams to various competitions in the early days earned me the nickname "mom", being used by students who were only five years

Reminiscences cont.

younger. On one occasion "mom" had to scramble to reorganize the return trip from a Collingwood OFSSA competition. The bus driver who was supposed to take us back was a no-show, reportedly because he was unable to leave the pub where he had spent the day. A real challenge for the field hockey team one year was to compete in the playoffs with a white ball and two inches of snow on the field.

There has always been a tradition at Thomson of tremendous dedication, leadership and good

sportsmanship. This has been achieved through the on-going co-operation of teachers and students working closely together. The spirit of the student athletes was outstanding, as exemplified by **Nancy Lewis** spraining her ankle competing in a Scarborough cross-country meet, but refusing to go to hospital and insisting on returning to school because her basketball team had a game that day and she had to be there to support them. Nancy is now a teacher in Scarborough.

The number of former

Thomson students who have gone on to become teachers is a tribute to the Thomson spirit. Just this summer I was able to pass on some of my resources to **Marianne Herdy** (now **Bialkowski**), a former student who is now a talented teacher, artist and tri-athlete.

I remember on one occasion in class being asked by a student if I had been a teacher at another school. When I responded "yes," she said, "Oh! You taught my mother." I knew I had to retire before I was told that I had taught someone's grandmother!

Birdie Reunion

Believe it or not, almost twenty years have passed since Thomson mounted its memorable production of the Broadway hit musical "Bye Bye Birdie" in 1981. Harry MacAfee, alias **Craig Pryce**, is planning a twenty-year reunion for anyone who took part in the show - cast, crew, band, staff advisors - the lot!

Craig has already picked a date: Saturday, May 7, 2001. He's still finalizing a place, but it will be in the Toronto area. It should be fun to reminisce as well as catching up on twenty years of news.

Craig has an old program with names, and our Alumni data base has some addresses and telephone numbers, but we know we will need some help in tracking down many on Craig's list.



Planned for May

If you were part of the Birdie gang or can supply addresses and phone numbers for others (or

volunteer for some phoning), please include that information when you send in your membership renewal, and we will pass it along to Craig. Look for final details in our Spring newsletter.



Craig Pryce, in jacket and tie rear left, gets into the spirit as **Conrad Birdie** (**Bill Horvath**) emotes for his fan club.

