

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2002

Taking the Falls

And now for something completely different! Your Alumni Planning Committee has been organizing a number of Pub Nights (see news and photos on page 2) as a chance to keep in touch. We thought we should break the mold and try something else as a spring activity. So we are proposing a bus trip to Niagara Falls.

Janet Evans, who just happens to be in the travel business, is willing to put together a package which would include bus transportation from and to the Thomson C. I. parking lot, plus a \$10.00 down payment for each passenger which could be used at the Casino, where the bus will stop, or, if you prefer, towards the costs of refreshments or sight-seeing in town.

Janet's travel company has already taken part in such a tour, at a cost of about \$40.00 per person, and we would anticipate a similar set-up for our excursion. We could do the tour on either a Saturday or a Sunday, and we are proposing the week-end of May 3-4 as the date. Depending on weather, we could be into



Niagara blossoms as a bonus.

We need 35-40 participants to fill the bus and make the trip viable. It will be more enjoyable, of course, if you get a group of friends together to make a day of it. It has even been suggested that having a few of our favourite teachers along would attract more grads. Really!!!

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in this activity. Janet Evans will collect responses at her e-mail site <janetravel@rogers.com>. Let her know which date you prefer - or

whether one is not possible at all. If you have a group of friends coming, let her know how many would be in your party. And, since we have already had one request for a favourite teacher, you could include any name(s) in that category as well. Of course, if you are still in touch, you could issue the invitation personally!

If response is as good as we hope, Janet will get back to you about final arrangements, and we will have an update in the Spring newsletter. Let us know!

We'll miss you...if you let your membership lapse.

Life After Thomson

We continue the survey of what some of our teachers have been doing since they left Thomson.

Bill Allen (Drafting 1968-1985) moved to Churchill C.I. before retiring. He was part of a group of 54 students and 8 teachers from Churchill who travelled to Europe the year before he retired, and he simply continued his travelling after retirement. He and his wife used his retirement gratuity to treat themselves to a month in Australia and a month in New Zealand, with Tahiti and Hawaii thrown in for good measure. Since then, they have visited all of Canada except Labrador, most of the U.S. (with Arizona a favourite), and, for a while, two trips a year to Europe, with the Mediterranean and Switzerland as highlights. He still plays slo-pitch seniors' baseball and bowls a couple of times a week. He enjoyed dropping in on the "Bye Bye Birdie" reunion, reminiscing about that multi-purpose metal scaffolding set he built for the show in 1981.

Kim Atkins (Art 1967-1971; 1987-1998) has become increasingly active in local initiatives in her community in Toronto. She is on the Board of Directors of the Riverdale Community Development Corporation and is also involved with two other groups: The Riverdale Art Walk, a local arts organization and studio tour; and Arts in Riverdale, a new artist-based co-op and gallery.

She has formed a creative partnership with another former Thomson teacher, **Laurence Siegel** (now Head of Theatre at Earl Haig/Claude Watson School for the Arts). They have teamed up to develop a photography business. Their work has

been shown for the past four years in Contact: The Toronto Festival of Photography. They have also had a number of solo and group shows in Toronto galleries and other venues. The work has been profiled on CBC Entertainment Television and can also be found on the web at: www.atkinsiegelphoto.com. Their most recent show was in the Now Lounge at Church and Shuter in Toronto.

Kim also continues to travel and paint each year with a group of fellow artists. Her prints and paintings have been exhibited in Toronto, the U.S.A., and Cuba.

Ed Butkovitch (Phys Ed 1961-1994) has moved to Barrie, where he and his son have had a custom-designed house built with just a garage separating their two homes on a large wooded property. This has the advantage (or disadvantage, depending on your outlook) of letting the Butkovitches Senior look after the grandchildren easily. For a while after retirement, Ed did some coaching, especially at his daughter's school, but has found that attendance and commitment are sadly lacking these days, so has replaced that athletic activity with "golfing my brains out." He is also very active as a ward clerk in his local Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (better know to some of you as the Mormons).

George Haag (Geography 1975-1997), as befits a geographer, has done a lot of travelling since retirement. His most recent adventures have been to Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan in 2001

and to Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) earlier this year. He gets out to golf as often as possible, he says, to avoid working around the house. However, since the Haags own a gorgeous home on a huge wooded property near Uxbridge, he isn't always successful!

Joanne McMinn (Moderns 1960-1978) completed her teaching career at Mowat C.I. She is very active at St. Luke's Anglican Church as a teacher and Superintendent in the Sunday School, organizing the lay readers, and serving on the Food Bank and Pastoral Care committees. For four years she was enrolled in acting courses, appearing in amateur productions - great fun, which she hopes to return to. She also took courses for seniors in poetry and other literature in the Continuing Education program at her alma mater, Victoria College, U. of T. Travelling has included England, Ireland, Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and, closer to home, Vancouver, Newfoundland, and ten summers attending the Boston Symphony music program at Tanglewood in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. She, **Fran Stretton** (Family Studies), and **Helen O'Connor** (Phys Ed and Guidance) still attend the Stratford Festival every year, and recently helped **Marjorie Kaye** (Family Studies) celebrate her 90th birthday.

Do you have a favourite teacher you'd like us to report on? Include that information on your membership renewal form (hint! hint!), and we'll try to track him/her down!

Old Photos on Display



The Mikado (1961): Katisha (**Diane (Davies) Woolley**) and the Mikado (**Keith Woodend**) are greeted by the suitably respectful chorus.

In our last issue, we outlined the various web sites set up to help grads find fellow grads. For those of you who attended Thomson back when the school first opened, you might like to investigate the following site: www.storybridge.com.au, where you can catch up (with a photo) on what Doug Anderson has been doing, as well as viewing pictures that he took of Thomson's first stage productions, "The Mikado," and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Two of the photos are reproduced on this page, but there are many more to sample. You might even be able to assist Doug by identifying some of the performers.

As you might expect, Doug has been in the computer field for 35 years now. He and his wife have lived in Ottawa, Thailand, Malaysia, France, and, most recently, Australia. Temporarily, Doug is back in Ottawa on a short term contract with Agriculture Canada. As an alternative to the web site djand755@ozmail.com.au is his email address.



A posed shot from "The Pirates of Penzance" (1962). The Pirate King (**Keith Woodend**) threatens Mabel (**Glennice (Gray) Bonnar**) and Major-General Stanley (**Ron Hindle**).



Recognize anyone? Pub night partiers November 2.

Pub Night Report

Bob Forrest

Since our last issue we have had two Pub nights, one in May and the other November 2, both at J. Waltons Taps and Grill on Danforth Rd.

In the spring, we had about 35 people turn out, mostly from the late '60s and early '70s, some of whom had never been to a Pub Night before. When they found that some of their classmates were there, it turned into a fun evening.

In November, we tried something different. We decided to have a Pub Night on a Saturday using word of mouth and the Internet to spread the news. We had a lot of people reply to emails and messages in the Yahoo group, saying that they would be there, but unfortunately many weren't able to make it; so attendance was disappointing. About 20 came out, and, with yearbooks available, many rekindled old friendships, and caught up on classmates and teachers. But let's hope for a more enthusiastic response to our bus trip next May!

(In case you were wondering, 2009 is our next big Reunion.)

