

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

Our Man in Bangkok

Doug Anderson (class of 1964) reports on an adventurous life after Thomson

When I graduated from Thomson in 1964, I had two scholarships: one for Waterloo Lutheran University, which I had not applied to, and knew nothing about, and one for University of Waterloo, to which I had applied for general engineering, with the idea of taking electronics engineering in subsequent years. However, I was tired of school, and to the dismay of some of my teachers, planned on going to Europe with a backpack and three other guys, two from Thomson, and one, Randy Consell, from King Collegiate. The two Thomson guys chickened out, but December 1, 1964 saw Randy and me on a plane to Glasgow.

I spent seven months bumming around Europe, having a grand time. I lived for three months in Marbella, southern Spain, for peanuts, and bought an old Lambretta scooter for \$50; then I set about trying to get a licence, as I didn't have an Ontario driver's licence. I failed to obtain a Spanish one, since I wasn't fluent enough in Spanish to pass the written test, and so drove without a licence, travelling around the Mediterranean through France (Carcassone, Avignon, Nice, Monte Carlo) to Italy (Milan, Rome, Florence, Venice), Switzerland (Zurich), Liechtenstein, and into Austria, where the scooter collapsed in the middle of the Alps near Innsbruck in a snowstorm. From there I hitchhiked to Innsbruck, Vienna, Munich, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen, back to London and Scotland, then down to Le Havre, where I took a boat



Thailand taxi

to New York City and visited the World's Fair. On the bus ride back to Toronto from New York City, I was amazed at all the Canadian flags once I crossed back into Canada. 1965 was the first year that the now familiar red maple leaf flag was used, and it was everywhere.

When I was living in Marbella, I wrote to the University of Waterloo, and asked if I could have my scholarship back. I also wrote to IBM in Toronto and asked for a job as a programmer. U of W wrote back, and said, "Sure". IBM wrote back and said, "Come see us when you return." So a week after I returned in July 1965, I had a job as a programmer and a scholarship to U of W.

Unfortunately, I loathed U of W; their teachers were nowhere near as good as the teachers we had at Thomson; in fact, they were downright dreadful. I quit school after the first year, and went full time into programming. Forty years later, I am still at it; I love the mental challenge. Not having a degree has never hurt me, and I have worked on a NASA research satellite, as well as at the OECD in Paris. I have owned two contract consulting companies in Ottawa, and a computer store in Ottawa, and another contract consulting company in Australia.

In 1969, I was 23 years old, and that was a significant year for me. I moved to Ottawa, became a Canadian citizen

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Have you renewed for 2004-2005? Check your label.

THOMSON CELEBRATES



Group photo



Registration table



Signing in

Photos by Bob Doi, Bob McBride
and Lynn McNeely



Group photo of staff members:
Back row: Mr. Tucker, Miss Lock, Mr. Farrow,
Miss Iannacci, Mr. Williams
Front Row: Mr. Joblin, Miss Waiser, Miss Ludvigsen,
Mrs. I Brown



After-party party at the Old Scott House:
Standing: Lynn Lawrie, Sandra McDermott,
Susan Rade, Tom Rade
Seated: Shawn McNeely, Michelle Leslie, Craig
Pryce, Don Karch, Glenda Sharples

FORTY-FIVE YEARS



Memorabilia table



Cutting the cake.



Mike and Colleen (Woodall) Gambier

On November 6, 2004, Thomson Alumni celebrated our school's 45th Anniversary with a social evening at the Agincourt Legion. About a hundred Thomson types gathered to renew old acquaintances, to reminisce about the "good old days" and to party! The Legion supplied beverages and light refreshments, and the Alumni brought along the decorations and some nibblies. The old hall looked pretty good in scarlet, black and white, and the Alumni didn't look too bad, either!

A table display of photos and other memorabilia attracted quite a bit of attention. The display included a couple of anniversary cakes. To honour the Classes of 1964 and 1974, who had made this party part of their own anniversary celebrations, we asked **Noel Simpson** (1964) and **Dawna Kobayashi** (1974) to handle the official cake-cutting ceremony.

Noel and Dawna were part of the Alumni team which handled planning for the event. Other members

included **Bob Doi, Janet Evans, Karen and Bob Forrest, Tim Luet, Bob McBride, and Mr. Farrow**. Thanks also to **Sue Pearen** and **Mr. Williams** who helped out at the registration table, and to **Braden Houston** who donated a couple of golf umbrellas as door prizes.

If you missed seeing your favourite teacher or fellow-student, start planning now to get the word out for our 50th in 2009. Volunteer assistance always welcome!

Pub Night April 30

Missed the 45th? Or just wondering when our next get-together is? Spring Pub Night will be Saturday, April 30 at Foti's Place, where we have celebrated in the past. It's part of the plaza on the east side of Brimley, just south of Lawrence. If you look closely, you can see Thomson in the distance! Arrive any time after 8:00 p.m. and stay as long as you wish or as long as they'll let you. Nothing fancy, but a chance to keep in touch, without a lot of pre-planning or financial outlay. Hope to see you there.

