



THOMSON TRADEWINDS

DAVID AND MARY THOMSON C. I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1996

TAKE NOTE

1994-95

Valedictorian

Congratulations to Devika William, who was chosen by her fellow-graduates to be the valedictorian for the 1995 graduation class.

Retirees

Since our last issue, Bob Pengelley (Vice-Principal) and Bozana Saler (Math) have retired. Joining them in June (though now at other schools) will be Hugh Beattie (Math), Steve Duff (Music), Bev Sturgis (Phys Ed), and Barry Truscott (Vice-Principal). Best wishes to all in their new 'careers'.

Congratulations

Melissa Thomson, an alumna from the '80s, is the new "Belle" in the production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Princess of Wales Theatre. Henry Gomez, drama teacher in the late 1980s, is the new chair of Toronto's annual Caribana festival. And Cathy (Eull) Halstead (on Thomson's staff since the 1970s) has had her composition chosen as Scarborough's official Bicentennial Song!

VOLUME 2 AT LAST

Our school motto (above) seems an appropriate comment for the labour pains involved in reaching Volume 2 of Thomson's Alumni Newsletter. School budget cutbacks forced us to fund our own first mailing from early contributions, meaning we sent out newsletters by installments as funds arrived. Hence the delay in producing our second volume.

Your response to Volume 1, when it did arrive, was gratifying. We had many valuable suggestions, including a request for shorter but more numerous profiles (see pages 2-4); a huge collection of "happy memories", which we will work into future editions; and even a few volunteers!

Our planning meeting at the end of February was plagued with one of the winter's many snowfalls, but five stalwarts braved the elements to outline this next step. Bob Doi (1978), Tim Luet (1980), and Bob McBride (1981) volunteered to serve as year reps, in addition to Carol (Kruzic) Archer (1963), Bill and Judy (Stanbury) Smith (1971), and Carol Martin (1984), who were unable to attend. That leaves just 31 more years of class reps to recruit! The task would involve keeping as up-to-date an address list as possible (with our help) of Alumni from your year, and finding fellow grads to organize any reunion activities desired by your contemporaries.

Also at the meeting was Bryan Lake, who doubles as a grad (1962) and present staff member. As treasurer, he has been handling your membership contributions. Finally, Stan Farrow has been acting as liaison and chief editor of this newsletter.

One major decision at the meeting was to charge an annual fee of \$10.00 to cover the "school year", with newsletters in the fall and spring. You will see an application form enclosed. This spring newsletter will be sent only to those who responded to the first, plus new names suggested by respondents; but if response is sufficient, we will try a larger mailing in the fall. Other activities will follow as we become established.

WITH A NEW NAME

The "judges" at our February meeting examined the suggestions you sent in, to name our newsletter. Despite a couple of nostalgic references to earlier publications: "The Leaflet" and "The Tribune", we opted for something not associated with any particular years: "Thomson Tradewinds", with its aura of spreading news and trading information. Thanks and congratulations to Irene Polidoulis (1978) for her imaginative submission. Dr. Irene is now in the tenth year of her family medical practice in the Pape-Danforth area. Her husband, Jim, is a pharmacist she met on the job. They have two children, Philip (4 1/2) and Contessa (3).

INTERNET

Thomson is now on the Internet, and, thanks to Resource Centre chief Mark Kaminski, we have set up an Alumni Page within Thomson's page within the Scarborough Board's page! So far, our newsletter is the major item featured there, but we would like to consider more imaginative uses of this technology. As with all our efforts, it requires the time and expertise of grads who would like to make that their Alumni activity. Let us know if the prospect interests you; but meanwhile, access us at: <http://www.interlog.com/~scarboro/thomson/farhom.html>. Farhan Talukder, a grade eleven student at Thomson, is responsible for the page design.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomson's first Head of Music, and writer of the school song, Dick Jolliffe, died in late 1995 at 82, following a series of small strokes. Last May, Peggy Larkin-Brown, Thomson's first Dramatic Arts teacher (and wife of Andy Brown, a former Thomson V.P.), succumbed to a massive stroke at the age of 50. Colin Kressler, a student in the 1970s, who didn't let his diabetes-induced blindness keep him away from our 1994 Reunion, died last year also. And Thomson is still mourning the violent death of 16-year-old Ishmael Spence at the Kennedy Subway Station in January.

Alumni Profiles

In this issue, we are spotlighting some of Thomson's grads in television and radio. Can you add to our list? Let us know.



Linda MacLennan graduated from Thomson in 1974 determined to become a newspaper reporter. Stimulating grade 12 and 13 English classes taught by Bob Gentile had nourished Linda's love of writing. After her first year at Carleton University, she spent a year attending (sometimes!) university in Avignon, France, before completing her Bachelor of Journalism back in Ottawa. A week-long apprenticeship at CJOH-TV in her final year led to a summer

job there, and then six years full-time, reporting, anchoring, and producing news programs.

When she co-hosted the French portion of a broadcasting awards evening (thank you Rosemary Ludvigsen, Eleanor Iannacci, and Bob Williams for those valuable French classes!), CTV executives took note and offered her the position of news anchor and later co-host of "Canada A.M." During the next three years she covered *inter alia* elections, hostage takings, tornados, Expo '86, and the Royal Wedding, interviewing such celebrities as Janet Jackson, Wayne Gretzky, and Margaret Thatcher (one-on-one at 10 Downing!).

In 1987 she was recruited by WBBM-TV, the CBS outlet in Chicago, where she now co-anchors the 4:30, 5:00, and 10:00 p.m. newscasts. Over nine years she has interviewed the likes of Tony Bennett and Hillary Rodham Clinton, while winning several local Emmys, including Outstanding Individual Achievement in 1992. Despite work hours which discourage social life, she met her husband, David Rammelt, on a blind date four years ago. They have two sons, Taylor (2 years) and Carson (1 year), who share their mother's dual citizenship.



After four years at Thomson, Laurie Brown decided to complete her grade 13 in half a year at L'Amoreaux C.I. (just in time for the 1975 teachers' strike!) She had been active in school assemblies, especially as a member of the folk club, and had already participated in the Ontario Youth Theatre. No surprise, then, that she went into theatre full-time, acting and singing on stage (notably Hart House) and later in film and on T.V.

In 1980 she joined CITY-TV in Toronto as a film editor. In 1985 she was music journalist and co-host of "The New Music", CITY's hour-long music magazine; and in 1987 she became the program's associate producer, while also working as a VJ for the affiliated station, MUCHMUSIC, hosting a number of music specials.

In 1990 she was hired by CBC's "The Journal", and continues to act as that flagship program's arts correspondent. In 1993 she won the Canadian Conference on the Arts Award for Excellence in Arts Journalism, and in 1994 her book about music television, "Success Without College", was published by Penguin. She is married with a daughter, 7, and a son, 3.



Tom Hayes (1980), during his third year at U. of T. (Arts), wandered into the studios of Scarborough Cable T.V. and decided this was how he wanted to spend his life. He made plans to switch to a Radio-T.V. course at Centennial College, and had just received his acceptance when Scarborough offered him a paying job doing a daily news and sports show. He stayed at U. of T. and got his T.V. "education" live! A stint as tape librarian and later week-end sports anchor at Barrie's CKVR led in

1988 to Toronto's CFTO, where, as a reporter, Tom has "covered everything" from Prime Ministers to champion Blue Jays, including the Montreal massacre and the Bernardo trial.

Tom's memories of Thomson centre on social activities. He wonders if his initiatives in organizing Battle of the Bands programs signalled a future in the entertainment industry. And he still keeps meeting fellow members of his Senior and Junior (he still has his jacket!) football championship teams. He is now married and has two daughters, 5 and 3, with whom he can reminisce.



Jennifer Peck (1986), besides singing ("A Bushel and a Peck") in the chorus of *Guys and Dolls* at Thomson, was a cheerleader for three years (becoming captain in her final year), and an aerobics instructor during lunch periods. By graduation she was also in the midst of a three-year term as a Toronto Sun Argo cheerleader, rising to assistant captain before graduation from the team, and from the Radio and Television Broadcasting course at Centennial College. Volunteer work at MUCHMUSIC provided instant experience

and was followed by the duties of Production Assistant with "CTV Lifetime", "Cash Car" driver and give-away announcer with KEY 590 radio, and Video Graphics Operator for CITY and MUCHMUSIC.

"Discovery" while she was singing at a CITY staff party in 1992 led to her present celebrity as an on-air star at the station, appearing on "Breakfast Television", on "CITY-Pulse at Noon", as "Live Eye" host, and in other wild and crazy activities. She also coaches the CITY hockey team, sings with the band, "Bedside Manner", and has performed as a singer and with comedy improv groups at various Toronto clubs. In her spare time (!) she enjoys writing, singing, and recording her own music.



Alumni - Profiles - Staff

After graduation in 1978, **Cathy Perry** headed to Seneca College for the Radio-Television course, but never completed it. A summer job in the machine shop at the C.B.C. led to a winter job as a clerk in Sound Effects, and a whole series of adventures with our national broadcaster. She spent eleven years in the decrepit but character-filled Jarvis St. building, working with such groups as The Frantics and The Royal Canadian Air Farce. She then moved up to become Assistant Producer of "Radio Noon", and now is Associate Producer of week-end morning radio's "Fresh Air" and also on-air producer of the live phone-in show, "On the Line", on CBC-TV's Newsworld channel - all in the new but rather sterile surroundings on Front St. When not on the job, she keeps busy raising a nine-year-old son.



Upon graduation from Thomson in 1965, **Phil Meighan** enrolled in the Radio and Television Arts course at Toronto's Ryerson and Polytechnical Institute (now University), earning his RTA diploma in 1968. Since then his career has included stops at CFGM radio in Toronto, CKWS radio and T.V. in Kingston (where his newsroom team won an award for coverage of the 1971 riot at Kingston Penitentiary), CAP Communications in Kitchener (CKCO-TV, CKKW-AM and CFCA-FM radio), CKFM radio and CFTO-TV in Toronto, and then back to CFCA-FM. It all adds up to more than 25 years as a newsman and announcer.



Since 1994 he has been working as a freelance announcer in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, while living in Cambridge with his wife **Suzanne (Jones)**, the Thomson sweetheart he married in 1973. Their daughter, Anne, is now 18. In 1984, Phil received the Bernice Adams Memorial Award for contribution to the cultural life of Cambridge in the field of communications.

His interest in broadcasting actually began at Thomson when, as a miner, he strolled into the Guidance Office to request information on that career. His years as SAC vice-president and president were of particular value, especially in areas of mediation, negotiation, crisis management, and especially communication! (Ask Phil about his political career here!) "Hiring bands and spinning records for the Friday night dances gave me a taste of what was to come later in life."

(We apologize that no 1990s pictures of Cathy and Phil were available as we went to press. Old yearbooks reproduce poorly!)



Lenore Streicker began teaching mathematics at Thomson in 1969, a return to the classroom after 11 years at home with four small children. Despite a busy community life with her husband, **Marty**, and active pre-teens, she also taught make-up for our stage productions, supervised many dances, ordered hoods and gowns for Commencement, and chaired the system's Conditions of Work for Quality Education Committee. She has fond memories of Grub Days and Christmas Assemblies.

After returning "home" to Saskatchewan in 1975, she completed her career teaching math and English at Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon, directing and co-ordinating all the co-curricular drama, competitive and non-competitive, musical and dramatic. Since retirement in 1988 she has served (twice) as President of the Saskatchewan Drama Association, as Vice-Chair of Cultural Restructuring for the province, church choir member, math tutor, and, lately, Chair of the Saskatchewan Action Committee for Death with Dignity. A trip to Europe in 1992 included attendance at an IDEA Conference.

With their four children and five grandchildren living in B.C. and California, the Streickers travel often! Nevertheless, they invite Thomson travellers to drop in at 128 Deborah Cr. (phone 1-306-373-8696) in Saskatoon if you are in the neighbourhood.

Stan Farrow, the last of the original 1959 staff to leave Thomson, retired as Head of Classics in 1994. He could always be found at a piano somewhere, whether for sing-alongs in the community or for stage productions at the school. Highlights from his career included winning the Anson Taylor Award in 1984 and having the school's auditorium named in his honour in 1994.



In retirement he is continuing his duties as registrar of the Ontario Student Classics Conference and as Examination Board Chair and Newsletter Editor for the North American Cambridge Classics Project. Cambridge University Press has just published a Grade

6 text co-authored by Stan. He is the accompanist for the Scarborough Gilbert and Sullivan Society (performing in "his" auditorium!), while writing and playing music for various other occasions. At his church he is the newsletter editor and a member of the choir. And he has even taken up golf and badminton in his spare moments.

Stan and his wife, **Barbara**, celebrated his retirement with a Mediterranean cruise. She continues to serve as supervising nurse at an in-vitro fertilization clinic in Scarborough. They have a daughter, two sons, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, a granddaughter, a grandson, and a step-grandson of whom they are very proud.

At **Ed Butkovich's** retirement in 1994 he was presented with a Thomson team sweater bearing the number 33, commemorating his 33 years as one of the most popular teachers in the school, coaching teams which won championships in Midget Boys' Basketball (1963) and Bantam Boys' Basketball (1982) as well as the Junior Football teams which were finalists for five years in a row, winning championships in 1976 and 1977.

Championships or not, Ed's happiest recollections of Thomson centre on extra-curricular activities, not just the many students he coached, but also the musical stage presentations he enjoyed, and the very popular Discovery Days (1970s?) when we took a day off each spring to explore the world beyond the school.

Ed and his wife, **Mary Lou**, have moved to Barrie to be nearer the facilities for their handicapped son. They also have an older son who is hoping to follow his father's footsteps into teaching, and a daughter who is in Grade 6. She has already recruited her dad to help coach girls' basketball teams at her school! Ed is also finding time for golf and fishing, and especially enjoys not having to follow a time-table that tells you when to be where.



Staff Profiles

Shirley Turchet began her career teaching English, Drama, and Journalism at Thomson from 1974 to 1987. She has happy memories of the super Thomson people, especially **Ev Hunt**. She enjoyed producing the newspaper "Spectrum", doing shows with **Stan Farrow** and being invited to speak at the dedication of the auditorium to Stan. She is proud of her part in getting the drama studio set up at the school.



After leaving Thomson, Shirley taught half-time at Thornhill S.S. for five years in the English and Drama departments. During this time she ran a Block Parent educational program for Unionville (where she lives) and worked with a Unionville High School drama group to create a video on street safety for teens, a production which has now gone national and is used by the police in their educational programs.

Shirley is now teaching full-time in the English Department at Middlefield C.I. in southern Markham, incorporating drama into her classroom, and looking after the school year-book. She was involved in the special school opening program, putting together a slide show which was presented with an accompanying band performance. She and her husband have a daughter, 15 and a son, 11. The family like to alternate cottage life with summers in Italy. Shirley's dynamic personality and her enthusiasm and verve have not changed.

GRAD ADS

Any Alumni member wishing to purchase a new Toyota should contact **Robert Doi**, who works at Toyota Head Office in Scarborough. He will help you get the best price at a dealership. Contact him at (416) 438-6320 ext. 2112. (If you have a 'deal' you would like to offer fellow Alumni and would like to advertise it in this newsletter, include it in your response, or contact **Stan Farrow** at (416) 267-2834.)

CONNECTIONS

Wayne Cooper (1965), from Havelock, is looking to find classmate **Jenny Surrey**. **Carol (Gray) Reese** wonders where **Linda Nye** (1964) is these days. **Karen (Beer) Burrows** wants to get hold of old friends **Sandy Monkman** and **Sally Morgan** (their maiden names). And **Tom Robertson** (1962) would like to check up on the sports guys from his era: **Brian Bevan**, **Braiden Huston**, **Brian Hemmingway**, **Tom Peters**, and **Ken Scovil**. If you can help us track down any of these Alumni, and they are willing to pass along addresses or phone numbers, include that information with your Alumni response.

CONNECTED

A number of respondents have suggested that future newsletters might feature couples who met at Thomson and are still married. One or two of those are already represented in this newsletter. If you are in this category (or know of others) and have not already given us your story, include it with your response, and we will try to work in a series of appropriate profiles in the future. A warning, however: the numbers are high, and we may require a book, not a newsletter.

Although **Bill Baulch** left Thomson to teach history elsewhere in 1965, he still retains affection for his friends, envy for the wonderful camaraderie of a young staff, fond remembrances of remarkable students and an involuntary shudder at the incredible schedule teachers worked in those first years: one period off (called "guidance") a week. "Oh, we were young, strong...exhausted!"



He remembers revolutions in education - determining the future and then expiring quietly when the next inevitable, universal, eternal enthusiasm would appear. A lecture to about seventy sixteen-year-olds on the Babylonian Captivity and Avignon Papacy left the class restless and the teacher in despair. Team teaching died some time in the seventies! The T.V. studio of Thomson (now the SAC Room) created Canada's first "wired" school. Some lessons were actually telecast! (probably of teachers writing on blackboards!) Bill saw **William Davis** proclaim the **Robarts Plan** from the stage of Thomson's auditorium about 1962. "Some of this revolution's inherent problems, recognizable then, still plague education in Ontario."

After 36 years in the classroom, Bill thanks Thomson for a good start. Having taught in five decades, he remains profoundly optimistic about teenagers: their beauty, their potential, their struggles for identity and meaning. Retirement has brought a real sense of loss in ending most contacts with the boiling world of adolescence... "but fine young teachers are there to follow along."

TRIBUTES

(a brief selection from your "Happy Memories")

"I learned to believe in myself and my abilities through **Mr. Butkovich** (although I never had the opportunity to thank him). He was an outstanding teacher, mentor, and confidant." (**Greg St. Croix**)

"I remember the wonderful way **Mr. Moore** taught English. He encouraged everyone to write 'the best essay you are capable of producing'. He would mark an essay and return it. Resubmissions would be marked and returned. Only when the student was satisfied would the grade be entered in the mark book! Talk about fabulous teachers and **Mr. Moore's name MUST be mentioned.**" (**Susan Cook '73**)

"I was happy to be assigned Associate Superintendent responsible for Thomson in the 1993-94 school year. I was able to be part of the formal ceremony during the 35th anniversary and was particularly thrilled to be able to say a few words when the auditorium was dedicated in honour of **Stan Farrow** as he was my Latin teacher and awarded me the Latin Scholarship in my graduating year." (**Karen (Strowger) Goggins '69**)

"My daughter is currently in Grade 11 at Thomson, but suffered an accident at the CNE in August, 1995 that delayed her Grade 11 start until the beginning of December. I cannot say enough about the support provided to Robin and me by Thomson's staff. We are both proud to be known as Thomsonites!" (**Kathy Porter '73**)

Thanks to **Glenis (DeLuca) Emmett** (staff 1971-81) for assisting with the Staff Profiles, and to **Mark Kaminski** and **Tom Adams** (present staff) for their technical expertise.