

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)





1970s registration in the "new" gym



Part of the auditorium platform party: Holly Lipsett and Bill Milnes (former principals), Bob Heath, Jean Turton, Ruth Spearing, Jeff Kendall.



Music leader Mary Ann Moir (on trumpet) and members of the Stage Band



Prefect skit



'80s grads Don Karch, Lisa (Lythgoe) Dykeman, and Kathy (Kightley) Karch at the dance



Jean Foden chats with Walter London, former History head, and Ken Webster, former Business head, at the staff luncheon



Dancing the night away at the Embers



A table of '70s grads at the dance

Stuart Foden - Thomson's First Vice-Principal

(This eulogy was given by John Mann, a former principal in Grey County, in February, 1999 at the funeral of Stuart Foden, the beloved and highly respected vice-principal of David and Mary Thomson C.I. from 1959 to 1962. It has been abridged by Joanne McMin, a Thomson staff member from 1960 to 1978.)

Stuart Foden has been described as dapper, kind, caring, supportive, a nature and animal lover, and the fastest man alive with a quip. Martin Luther said, "If there is no laughter in heaven, I don't want to go there." If there is no laughter in heaven, there will be some changes made, because Stuart is on his way.

Stuart made large contributions to education in the province. His career began in the late thirties in Northern Ontario near Iron Bridge. After service in the R.C.A.F., and after completing a four year degree at Queen's University, he taught at Trenton High School.

Subsequently he moved to Scarborough, where he taught mainly History and English - he had a world of knowledge in both subjects - at two collegiates, Winston Churchill and West Hill. He was vice-principal at David and Mary Thomson C.I. (where he first met his wife, Jean) and at Cedarbrae C.I.

After a year's sabbatical in London, England, he returned to Scarborough as vice-principal at Agincourt C.I. and shortly afterwards as principal of Tabor Park Technical School. He left the



Lord High Executioner: Stuart Foden portrayed in Thomson's 1961 "Leaflet" magazine as the hero from "The Mikado". A vice-principal needs a sense of humour!

Scarborough Board to become Dean of Centennial College. Then, in 1969, he assumed new duties as a superintendent in Grey County. Schools looked forward to his visits because they were low-ley, supportive to teachers and students, and always humorous.

When Stuart married, he took on not only a wife but also an instant family: Debbie, a married daughter; and Pam, a young teen. Soon he became a grandfather, as Debbie's Gavin arrived. He loved and cared for all in his new family.

A man of many interests, Stuart loved gardening. He was also a very good furniture refinisher. He didn't sell the pieces; he kept a few and gave the others away. He was also an avid reader of

biography and history, but his favourite hobby was his animals. Stuart used to say that any stray dog or cat that arrived in Priceville was met by the Animal Welcome Wagon and was led to the Fodens' with instructions to hang around a couple of days and he/she would be inside!

If you meet in your lifetime one or two people who have truly enriched your life, then you are extremely fortunate. Stuart was one of those people, and I am proud to be able to say, "Yes, I knew Stuart Foden. He was my friend."

(Joanne has added her own postscript from a Thomson viewpoint.)

Everyone who knew or worked with Stuart had a 'Stuart story', one of great kindness or one of great hilarity. He was a major influence in setting the tone of David and Mary Thomson Collegiate. Stuart was strict, caring, and compassionate, and his humour brightened the day of everyone who came in contact with him. He will not be forgotten by the countless students and teachers who had the privilege of knowing him.

In Memoriam: More "Old Originals"

Thomson's 40th anniversary year has not been kind to members of the original teaching staff from 1959. In addition to Stuart Foden, we have lost Bert Book, the seemingly unflappable Head of Industrial Arts; Bill

Simons, Head of Boys' Physical Education, and Thomson's Mr. Clean; and Latin and English teacher Elsie Hodson ("Mom"), who had just celebrated her ninetieth birthday.

If grads or former staff mem-

bers have favourite reminiscences about any of these Thomson pioneers, we would love to hear from you. We will share the best of them with readers in the next issue of Thomson Tradewinds..

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Paul Leaman donated a school-colours tom-tom as a dance door prize. He offers alumni 20% off retail.



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Peter Evanoff, Investment Advisor, RBC Dominion Securities 842-3179

Reunion Reunites!

Here's a 40th Anniversary good news story from Pat (O'Keefe) Paluzzi ('81). At the reunion, she met Cathy McQueen, whom her brother, Chris O'Keefe, had dated back at Thomson in the '70s. The couple had gone their separate ways, but both their marriages had ended in divorce. Cathy seemed quite interested when she heard that Chris was "single" again. Pat obtained her telephone number, and then telephoned Chris with the news. Chris worked up the nerve to contact Cathy and now the two are engaged! Pat credits the whole happy outcome to her mom, who persuaded Pat to come to the reunion in the first place! So don't miss our next one. You never can tell what may happen!

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Join the Alumni

This souvenir issue of Thomson Tradewinds is being sent out to everyone on our mailing list, as a souvenir of the 40th Anniversary celebrations. Ordinarily, the Alumni newsletter is sent out only to Alumni members. We publish twice a year, including news of past and future Thomson alumni activities, plus profiles of Thomson grads and former staff members.

How do you become an Alumni member? Enclosed with this issue is an application form. Simply mail it, with the \$5.00 fee, to Thomson Alumni, at the school address (see page 1).

Not sure if you joined up earlier this year or at the anniversary? Check your mailing label. After the postal code you will find a date, 2000, if you are a member for the current school year. If there is no date there, or if the date is 1998 or earlier, you need to sign up!!!

We also need help with various Alumni duties. For example, check out our sadly out-of-date web site at <http://www.interlog.com/~scarboro/thomson/farhom.html>. and you will see we need an individual or team to manage the site. We also need phoners for special events. If you can help out in any capacity, indicate your choices on the form.

Incidentally, Bill Stratas ('77) also has a web-site in operation on which Thomsonites can chat. Check out <http://www.planetcast.com/thomson/> for details.

One final note for Alumni. Our data base now contains over 2800 names, complete, in most cases, with the years during which they attended the school. If you would like to organize a reunion event for your year, get in touch, and we will supply as many addresses as we have, to help you contact old classmates.

Thomson Retirements

Congratulations to three Thomson staff members, who retired last June. They are Cathy Halstead (English, Art, ESL), Marie-Josee Kacira (head of Modern Languages) and Mariana Perlman (Mathematics). We also note among the Scarborough retirements former Thomsonites such as Andres Jaaku, Barb Shaw, Stefan Sierakowski, and Tom Truesdale. What is even more sobering is the realization that the list now contains a number of Thomson alumni!!!