

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.

Michener Award to Curt Petrovich

In a past issue of this Newsletter we gave a brief profile of Thomson grad, Curt Petrovich, who is with the CBC based in Winnipeg. In April of this year, Curt won the Michener Award for journalism. When we e-mailed our congratulations to Curt, he sent along a reply which we would like to share proudly with his fellow-Thomsonites.

The Michener is perhaps the most prestigious recognition a journalist in Canada can receive, awarded for meritorious public service journalism that is conducted with disinterest (i.e. without malice or an axe to grind). It has been awarded since 1970 when then-Governor General Roland Michener handed out the first one. I was chosen from forty-six entries and from six finalists (including the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail).

In my case, the judges (past or present journalists or editorial managers) considered the body of work I had amassed between late 1997 and September, 1999.

My initial investigation for CBC National Radio and T.V. uncovered a secret conspiracy in the 1995 Manitoba election. Senior Conservatives, some inside the Premier's office, used party money to set up and run the campaigns of several native "independent" candidates in the hopes of "splitting" the vote that would normally go to the NDP.

My investigation and the resulting Public Inquiry revealed that a cadre of powerful party members, including the Premier's Chief of Staff and the province's Secretary to Treasury Board, had lied to investigators, conspired to cover it up, lied to the public, used native people as pawns and subverted democratic process.

It also revealed that Elections Manitoba, set up independently to guarantee the integrity of elec-

tions, misled the public about its own investigation of the matter. A wide network, including a Tory accountant, legal counsel, fundraisers and prominent business people, was implicated.

I believe the Michener judges also considered the extent to which I pursued the story and the kind of difficulties I experienced. During the Inquiry, government lawyers tried to divert the focus to my integrity and motives. I was forced to hand over some of my tape to them. The Premier himself went on Manitoba's largest private radio station and fabricated Inquiry testimony to show that I should be investigated by the CBC's Ombudsman. Needless to say, there was no substance to any of their allegations.

Retired chief Justice Alfred Monnin, who was the commissioner of the Inquiry, vindicated all of my investigation. He said that in all his years on the bench he had never encountered so many liars in one proceeding and that what they had done was an offensive and unconscionable debasement of democracy.

Throughout it all, Premier Gary Filmon said he never knew what was going on. The question remained, however, why a man known for his absolute control over government, with a reputation as a street-fighter in politics, would not know. He was unable to shake the scandal. After more than a decade in power,

his Conservatives were defeated in September, 1999.

I was certainly not proud of seeing people's careers end or once-powerful men squirm and weep in the witness chair. I was proud that the laws in Manitoba were changed to give election officials more power to investigate and outlaw the schemes the government almost got away with.

The Michener is the first and only award I have ever received for my work in the 15 years I have been employed by the CBC. That's partly because I don't enter award competitions. I also never look at any story with an eye to what it might be worth in trophy value. That's not why I became a journalist. At times I often wondered why I *did* become a journalist! The black-tie ceremony April 10 at Rideau Hall with Her Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada helped me to understand. Surrounded by my colleagues, with my wife-to-be in the audience, I was humbled with honour.

On leaving Thomson in 1980, I had the choice of going to York U. for Theatre or to Ryerson for Radio and Television. I chose Ryerson because I thought I could make more money doing that. After graduation, it took me three years to get a steady job as a journalist. Not a day went by that I didn't wonder whether I'd have been better off working (?) as an actor. Today I know I made the right choice.



Curt Petrovich at the vice-regal residence, Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, receives the Michener Award from Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada

From the Editor

Quite a full issue this time, but we think you will find most of the items interesting, regardless of when you attended Thomson.

Our "profiles" this time salute achievements which we are pleased to report, and of which the achievers themselves can certainly be proud. **Curt Petrovich's** award is indeed prestigious, but he tells us it was won at the price of trust in the Canadian political scene, something to give us pause with an election looming. **Scott Willows'** Canadian-based menu at his new restaurant (see page 6) is a happier venture into patriotic territory. (The Patriot is not inexpensive, but it does feature a prix fixe menu at \$25.00 for three courses.)

Thanks to **Bob and Karen Forrest** for their Pub Night report and to **Bob Doi** for the photos. You can view more on the Yahoo chat site:

www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/dandmthomsoncollegiate

Finally thanks to **Maria Boyes** and **Jim Myrvold** for sharing some memories of 60+ combined years!

Principal's Report

by Donna Benson

With the closing of Midland Ave. C.I. in June, Thomson has inherited many of their students. Enrolment is up by 250 this year. At 67.5, the teaching staff has increased by ten. Twenty-eight of those teachers are new to Thomson and ten are new to teaching! We have three Vice-Principals this year, partly to help handle the influx of students from Midland.

Changes in the teaching staff also include a number of retirements. **Jim Myrvold** and **Maria Boyes** are mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter. We also have said goodbye to **Judy Ridout** (English and Guidance), **Ellie Iannacci** (Moderns), **Donna Moore** (Science), **Donna Gordon** (Business), **Mary Doucette** and **Greg Garach** (Math) and **Enn Lill** (V.P.).

The building itself has also changed. There is a new computer lab in Room 264, as well as a new computer area and new carpeting in the Resource Centre. Room 162 has been completely renovated for Design and Technology computer use. On a less high-tech scale, we finally have a hall door for the Geography office. No more wandering through adjacent classrooms to reach it!

Now we hear that the Toronto District School Board is thinking about taking over 40,000 square feet of Thomson to house Supervisory Officers. Keep posted for further bulletins as your old school adjusts to changing times.

Alumni Memberships

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the annual Alumni membership application form. Before you fill it out and mail in your \$5.00, check the address label on the envelope. (What do you mean you've already thrown the envelope out?) We have added a code to identify paid-up members, and that date should show up on the label. If it is 2000 or earlier, you can send us \$5.00! If it is 2001, you have probably paid double in 2000 and don't owe us anything for another year's membership. If it is BBB, you are part of the "Bye Bye Birdie" gang, and we wanted you to know about the reunion...but we'll be glad to receive your \$5.00 also!

Behind the Headlines



When Scott Willows (pictured left in his year-book graduation photo) left Thomson in 1969, he moved on to Victoria College, U. of T., majoring in English, and winning "Men's Senior Stick." A year of graduate study at the Drama Centre followed.

So how did he become the owner of the Patriot Restaurant on Bloor near Queen's Park, featured in a Toronto Star review in early September of this year (see right)?

As often happens, a summer job led to this change in career path. During his years at Thomson, Scott worked in the kitchen at Delawana Inn, on Georgian Bay. By university, he had become a chef at Windermere House in Muskoka. Using credits for hours worked there, he completed his chef's apprenticeship at the Windsor Arms Hotel and at Fenton's Restaurant, while returning to college (George Brown) for his diploma in Food Administration.

His culinary career then led him to running the Willow Inn in Hudson, Quebec; a Mother Tucker's in Winnipeg; Rhodes in Toronto; the Cranberry Resort Hotel in Collingwood; and The Cannery in Vancouver. He spent five years teaching at Algonquin College in Ottawa, where he wrote their wine course, then reluctantly left his home in the Gatineau Hills to manage the prestigious Auberge du Pommier in Toronto for Peter Oliver.

In 1999 he acted as a consultant on two projects: opening Morton's Steakhouse in Chicago (three months tasting Chicago life) and re-vamping the Senator Steakhouse. Then, on February 1, he opened the Patriot in the old Colonnade building in Toronto.

Scott has been married for ten years to Jane Kewin, a graduate in Fine Art from Guelph. Her Toronto gallery is Hollander York in Yorkville, just a paint brush throw from Scott's restaurant. They have a six-year-old son, Sam, who has just started Grade One. Sam is striking a suitably "Patriotic" pose behind his father in front of their beautiful 120-year-old home in Mount Forest, in the photo left. Scott and Jane also own a condo in Toronto's Parkdale district, where Scott stays during the



A simple celebration of Canadiana



working week.

Scott has been featured recently in the Toronto Life (May) and the Food Service and Hospitality (September) magazines (www.foodserviceworld.com). He has already had a number of former Thomsonites drop in for a visit and a meal. Your reporter and his wife can highly recommend the food and the service! If you want to catch Scott in person, try the latter half of the week, from Wednesdays on.

PATRIOT
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