

# Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2001

## Rekindle the Embers - May 25

Following the success of last spring's Alumni Pub Night (see the photos on this page), the planning committee de-

Prince George Pub at the Embers. The site will be familiar to those who attended Thomson's 40th Anniversary

celebrations there. We don't expect the 400 or so who attended that event, which necessitated opening up the whole complex of rooms. So we'll have a

cozy reunion in just the one pub section, with drinks at your expense, but some free food, depending on our numbers.

The Embers is at 781 Warden Ave. on the east side one stop-light south of Eglinton Ave. There is quite a bit of parking by the Pub, but if the lot is full, Wal-Mart across the street should have lots of space, since we won't be starting up until after 8:00 p.m.

Spread the word to fellow alumni and plan to meet and reminisce May 25.



ecided to continue this annual event: a chance to see old friends or new, and to catch up on what's been happening to whom.

So we picked a date, Friday, May 25 (so as not to conflict with the Bye Bye Birdie Reunion - see page five), but needed a new location, since last year's site is no longer a pub! Thanks to our intrepid team of socialites, **Bob and Karen Forrest**, we have made arrangements to take over the



# Behind the Headlines



Steve in 1976

When the Scarborough Mirror ran an article on **Steve Hudson** in the summer of 1999, Newcourt Credit Group Inc., the multi-million-dollar commercial finance company he had founded in 1984 for just \$200,000 of his own money, had recently merged with New Jersey-based CIT Group Inc. Steve was "stepping down" to devote more time to family.

Steve's interest in finance had been sparked by **Wayne Hemington**, his Grade 13 Economics teacher at Thomson in 1975-76. He also has fond memories

of **Charlie Hawkes**, who taught Business Law. After earning a Bachelor of Business Administration from York University in 1981, Steve articulated with Ernst and Young. As Senior Healthcare Consultant he worked with Toronto General Hospital on their financing, including acquisition of the country's first MRI equipment. He found the business intriguing and, when a group of doctors learned of his interest, they challenged him to mortgage his home and they would contribute two dollars for each of his as start-up for a financing company. Originally called Medcan Leasing, it became Newcourt in 1985 after expanding to finance manufacturing ventures around the globe.

Before the 1999 merger, the firm had grown to 5500 employees. One of the first of those had been the office manager who is now Steve's wife.

Sharon and Steve have two sons, Cameron (12) and Matthew (4), with another child on the way this summer.

In the fall of 1999, Sharon and Steve took some time off for travel in the Mediterranean. Steve was able to indulge his interest in antiquities, which had been piqued by **Stan Farrow's** Classical History course in Grade 9 at Thomson. Much to Sharon's dismay, he found an archaeology student to give him a two-day exploration of Troy. Many other "ruins" were part of their autumn odyssey.

Following their return from "dusty Rhodes" (Sharon's phrase), Steve plunged back into the financial fray, founding Dorset Partners, a private equity company investing in Canadian firms "to make them global winners"

## High-flying financier really down-to-earth local boy

Scarborough's Steve Hudson announces departure from leading post he held

**H**igh-flying financier Steve Hudson is stepping down from his position as Chairman and CEO of Newcourt Credit Group Inc. to devote more time to his family.



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Globetrotting Steve Hudson finds it hard to beat the view of the Toronto waterfront from his offices in the Canada Trust Tower. For visitors he can point out the Olympic venues below.

(Steve's phrase). Shunning the spotlight, Steve, as C.E.O., arranges for typically Canadian behind-the-scenes support of worthy ventures.

But his true passion these days is for his unpaid position as Chair of the 12-person Executive Committee for T.O. Bid 2008, guaranteeing the financing and infrastructure for Toronto's very promising Olympic plans. His office complex in the Canada Trust Tower overlooks the entire waterfront, where he can point to our uniquely compact series of sites. He proudly unveils a copy of the 600-page Bid Book, with architects' detailed plans and committee budgets, a risk-free proposal set to spring into reality the moment we win IOC approval.

And, for Steve, the conjunction is "when", not "if." Although he does not count his days as defensive tackle at Thomson among the world's sports highlights, he is proud of how athletes have been involved in the Toronto planning process. He also notes how awed the IOC team were at Toronto's cultural diversity. We can indeed host the world, he says, because the world is already here!

The Olympic committee is not Steve's only outside interest. He is Co-Chair of the Toronto Community Foundation, which finances charities and projects on the income from investments. He is also on the Board of Directors of the University Health Network (back at the Toronto Hospital, where he began) and CHC Helicopters Corporation.

In March, 2000, he was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. There is a certain irony in this well-deserved honour, since it took Steve three tries to pass his original chartered accounting exam back in the '80s.

Steve is the oldest of four Hudson graduates from Thomson. **Craig** is now Chief of Staff at the Stratford General Hospital. **Michael** owns Hudson Motor Cars, a vehicle leasing company in Toronto. And **Todd** has remained with C.I.T., the old Newcourt, as Account Executive. Steve's parents, to whom he says he owes his strong work ethic, have recently moved to Stratford, where Craig can keep a medical eye on them.

Steve's strong sense of family may be put to the test this summer. He is scheduled to be in Moscow on July 13 for the IOC decision. Sharon is scheduled to deliver their newest family member on July 14! We wish Steve the best on both fronts.

*(If you check out the back cover of this edition, you can share Steve's enthusiasm for our Olympic bid. We always invite grads to place "advertisements" for their businesses in Tradewinds, but Steve has outdone himself! Whether you are reading this newsletter in Scarborough or in more distant locales, we invite you to join the celebration and live the dream.)*

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## The Telephone Hour



One of the most memorable scenes from our 1981 production of "Bye Bye Birdie", and a reminder to phone your friends about the 20th anniversary reunion on Saturday, May 5! See page five.

## Do you Yahoo?

*Bob and Karen Forrest have been enjoying Thomson Alumni's latest project, a Yahoo club for chatting or simply looking in on news from old-timers. We asked them to update readers on their creation.*

In February of 2000, a Yahoo club for former Thomson students and staff was formed. Karen was bored on a cold and snowy Saturday and came up with the idea, commenting, "Hey, you never know who is out there that went to Thomson and might like this." So we created the site, which has grown from the two of us to 114 members, as of this writing.

The Alumni in the club range from the early 1960s to the early 1990s. A lot of old friendships have been rekindled. Geographically we span the world, with members in the United States, a couple in England, a couple in Australia, and, of course, coast to coast interest in Canada.

We have pictures posted by members so that you can see how they look today, along with ones from old yearbooks. Feel free to add photos of your own. As well there are pictures from the 1999 40th reunion and from the last Pub Night in May, 2000. Back copies of Tradewinds have been scanned onto the site for you to view or download.

So if you have internet access, come and join the club. There are no fees. All you have to do is make up a username (be as creative as you wish), follow the Yahoo instructions, and you're in! Check the message board and the various other items. You never know whom you may find, or who may find you!!

The web address is:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/dandmthomsoncollegiate>.

# Profiles



Jasmine in 1976

*Jasmine King Niit graduated from Thomson in 1976. She has since become an acknowledged leader in Canadian fashion design. We asked her to tell us her story to date.*

My career in fashion started after graduating from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in 1982 with a diploma in Fashion Design. Ryerson was very tough and competitive. I knew I was preparing for the creative part of my career there, but I didn't realize that the college was also equipping me to meet many challenges that were taught not formally but rather by the demands placed on us to meet impossible deadlines.

After graduation I worked at several small design companies and then settled for eight years at Zoe Couture, a couturier house in Yorkville. I assisted with design for the clients as well as for the boutique's Ready to Wear items. I travelled to Paris and New York for fabric selection, purchasing accessories such as cashmere and leather goods for the boutique.

Zoe Cokkinos had incredible style and taste. From her I learned her knowledge of fit and design and how to handle clients. While working at Zoe, I also started building my own company, working in the evenings and on weekends to produce garments for my own clientele.

After the birth of my second child in 1991, I decided to start my own business full time. I worked from my



One of Jasmine's designs

home studio and travelled to the clients' homes, providing a full design service from fabric selection and design to fittings and finished delivery. I had discovered a niche of clients who enjoyed the personal home attention my business provided. They

told me that once you have experienced custom, you will never go back to "off the rack".

My business uses the home cottage industry whenever possible. I have a fabulous tailor whose impeccable skills produce a garment of perfect fit and finish. I have also commissioned the work of a seamstress and a skilled knitter.

Many of my clients (several from Toronto's social elite) attend weddings and social events, and travel frequently. Planning and timing are crucial, and they value the in-home service. I have become a fixture in many of their lives, designing everything from suits and coats to cocktail and evening wear. I have even designed fur pieces for my clients, including coats, vests, and stoles made by Canada's top furrier. I designed dresses recently for a wedding party where the bride lived in Hong Kong, her mother in Vancouver, and the various attendants in England,

South Africa, Toronto, and Hong Kong. Ryerson never warned me about that one!

I have always been interested in fashion and I follow the trends of the season, but my philosophy has always been that the truly well dressed are the ones who wear what suits them best, regardless of the trends.



Jasmine in 2001



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## From the Editor

If you weren't a member of the Class of 1976, we hope you won't think this issue of Tradewinds is not for you. It just happens that our two profiles feature members of that class.

However, we have managed to include other news. The reunion for the cast, band, and crew of 1981's "Bye Bye Birdie" production is featured on this page. Apologies for getting the date wrong last issue. We hope our oversight won't affect your ability to attend if you were part of that great show. **Craig Pryce** has been planning this event for a couple of years now. So spread the word and track down as many Conrad Birdie fans as you can.

The Birdie reunion means that the Alumni Pub Night has been moved to the end of May. For this event, all Thomsonites are invited! The location at the Embers should be familiar from the 40th anniversary. See the front page for full details.

And our Yahoo chat site is even more accessible to all our readers, since you don't have to live near Toronto to enjoy it! (See page 3.)

But back to the Class of 1976. Besides the two featured profile grads, we also owe a vote of thanks to their classmates.

When we read of Steve Hudson's exploits, we were fortunate to have **Mike Beazer** track down Steve's present whereabouts. A couple of e-mails and phone calls later we had arranged a quick visit with Steve in his downtown Toronto office.

When **Patti (Paddle) Loach** heard about our plans, she sug-



## Birdie Reunion - May 5

20 years



20 years

**Location: The Grover Grub and Pub (downstairs)  
676 Kingston Road  
(east of Main St., west of Victoria Park Ave.)**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Free Parking (small lot behind the pub or on side streets or Kingston Rd. itself)**

**Activities: Birdie Trivia, Birdie Karaoke, Reminisce**

**No Cover Charge - Cash Bar**

**R.S.V.P. Craig Pryce 416-699-6322  
by April 20**

gested we should also check out Jasmine King and her accomplishments in the world of fashion design. She provided telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, and, when contacted, Jasmine provided the details you can read on the opposite page. She also provided the accompanying photograph of a fitting ses-

sion with Patti, one of her favourite clients!

It's thanks to tips like these that we can keep the interesting profiles coming. If you know of fellow Thomsonites whom we should profile on these pages, we invite you to follow Mike's and Patti's examples. My e-mail address is: Stan.Farrow@etel.tdsb.on.ca, or you can send a note to the school (see the address on the front page).

We usually enclose membership renewal forms with the Autumn newsletter, so you are spared that reminder this time. However, quite a few of you have not renewed for 2001. Check the date on your address label, if you're not sure.

Finally, a good news follow-up item. **Chris O'Keefe** and **Cathy McQueen**, whose 1999-Thomson-reunion-inspired engagement we announced that fall will be married this August. Congratulations!



I WILL PUSH MYSELF TO THE LIMIT  
THE WORLD WILL COME TO CANADA  
WE CAN BUILD THE FUTURE HERE  
PERFECTION IS WITHIN MY REACH  
THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING  
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT ON EARTH  
IT'S WHERE FLAMES BURN BRIGHT  
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS IS POSSIBLE  
THE END OF MY JOURNEY DRAWS NEAR  
MY TIME TO COMPETE IS COMING

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

LIVE THE DREAM

2008 IS OUR TIME

*Reidun Tatham*

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