

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

From the Editor

With this issue, we catch up on some of your ideas for articles and news. Bob Heath is featured in our profile, as requested by both fellow-grads and former students of his. We have also included news on what some of the "old" Thomson teachers have done since their Thomson days. We limited our survey this time to those who are paid-up Alumni members, and even then have quite a few left over for future issues.

We have had many requests for helping alumni get in touch with each other. Could we publish lists, or set up a computer bank? First, our address list is very small, perhaps 2500 or so from 40-plus years. Second, there is a privacy/security problem in publishing lists. We are willing to take requests for specific names. If they are on our list, we can contact them and give them your name, leaving the choice up to them of responding. If you e-mail me at <Stan.Farrow@etel.tdsb.on.ca>, I'll follow up.

However, if you turn to page 4, we offer another possibility - the various grad web-sites. They are increasingly popular and comprehensive. Worth a try!

Prime Time May 24

Has it been a year since we slogged our way through the rain to the Embers? Well, by May 24, it will have been!



Pub trivia. Craig Pryce (right) acts as trivia quizmaster at last May's Bye Bye Birdie reunion.

Friday, May 24 is the date your hard-working Alumni Committee have set for this year's Pub Night, and a chance to get together with colleagues from Thomson days to catch up on the year's (or more) news.

In the interests of seeing all of Scarborough (!) Janet Evans has found us a new spot for the evening. Waltons, at 323 Danforth Rd. (south side between Birchmount and Warden), is just around the corner from Janet's travel agency. We will have a room to ourselves downstairs, our own server,

with drinks and appropriate finger food available.

Why a Friday night? Because on Friday evenings only, the

Waltons dinner menu includes an amazing prime rib dinner for just \$10.99. (Our expert, Janet, has sampled this melt-in-your-mouth specialty on many occasions.)

We thought you might like to by-pass preparing dinner at home, or perhaps even going home after work, if the trek is long, and enjoy the prime rib (or any other menu item) prior to our reunion.

Janet has agreed to make arrangements for those who would like to include dinner in their evening plans. Telephone her by May 20 at work (416-690-4000) or at home (416-265-3942) if you want to be included. Otherwise, just arrive any time during the evening and ask for the Thomson party. See you there!

We'll miss you...if you let your membership lapse.

Life After Thomson

An update on what some of Thomson's former teachers have been doing since they left Thomson

Ron Allen (English 1971-1994) sold his farm in 1990 and built a new house on a couple of acres across the road. This year, he and his wife expect to sell the empty nest and move to a condominium in Lindsay, Ontario.

Since retirement, he has succumbed to the golfing addiction, still with a double-digit handicap. A winter residence in South Carolina and a spring visit to Ireland or Scotland extend the golfing season each year. Ron still gets together (golfing or otherwise) with ex-Thomsonites **George Haag, Phil Mascard, Barry Cornish, Peter Carey, and Charlie Hawkes.**

Harvey Bride (Moderns 1959-1969) moved in 1970 to Mowat C.I., from which he retired in 1988. He and his wife have a "summer home" in her mother's old house in Fordwich, northwest towards Lake Huron, a retreat to which they try to escape as often as possible. Gardening, theatre, travel, children, and a special grand-daughter all contribute to a very happy life.

Since retirement, Harvey has acted as "errand boy plus" for his son's landscaping business. He remains active in his church on various committees and in the choir. He has also sung with Les Voix du Coeur (to keep up his French) and the Toronto Classical Singers. He plays piano for communion and other special services at a seniors complex in North York.

Charlie Hawkes (History 1965-1998) is now co-editing his fourth textbook since retiring. He has already produced books on Civics, Canadian History, and "People in Society" largely

in response to the new Ontario curriculum, and the current project is an Economics text. In addition, he has done a bit of long-term supply teaching.

During his leisure (?) time, he enjoys golf and travel, including a couple of winters on the Riviera in France, where he and his wife met some ex-Thomsonites, including **Barry Cornish, Brenda Newell, Pam Lock, Glenis DeLuca/Emmett, and June Bird/Crisp.** This summer the Hawkes have a trip planned to Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Bryan Lake began his Thomson career as a student in 1959 and completed it as a teacher (Science, Guidance) in 1998. After retirement, he worked with his son in the construction industry, but his major project, assisted by his wife, **Margaret (Armstrong),** also a former Thomson teacher (English) has been to build a house beside Lake Mississagua in the Kawarthas: two storeys and a loft, with floor, walls, and cabinets all constructed of timber from the property. The stone fireplace uses material from near-by Bobcaygeon. All the artwork, including stained-glass, has been done by Margaret.

Last summer, after the Lakes moved in in June, they carted 100 tons of stone to build a rock wall. Now their sons are all starting to build on the neighbouring shoreline properties.

Pam Lock (English 1970-1987) retains clear memories of Thomson's enthusiasm and energy. She moved on to become Head of English at Laurier, Cedarbrae, and West Hill before retiring in 1998. She has now

traded in lesson plans for travel plans. Recent highlights include Syria and Antarctica; future destinations include Ethiopia and Mali. This past March she was in Portugal with **Brenda Newell, Glenis Emmett, and June Crisp.** When not en route, she is very active on her local church and Presbytery councils.

Phil Mascard (Technical 1973-1988) remembers arriving from Churchill to an active school of 2200 students and 130 staff, with whom he shared a lot of good times - and free auto advice! He moved to Leacock in 1988, a much less structured environment. But within a year, he felt right at home. On his retirement in 1994, his son, Todd, replaced him as the Auto teacher!

About five years ago, the Mascards moved up from Unionville to the shores of Lake Simcoe. Phil still works on his own cars there, including the Corvette, which he just can't sell. He's also worked on the garage behind the house plus present projects: the interior of a front veranda and decking for a new dock. Travel has included winters in Florida, Mexico, and Portugal, with New Zealand coming up. Golfing occupies some of his time, with Messrs. **Haag, Hawkes, Allen, Hensley,** and occasionally **Lake and Farrow.** He also still enjoys the company of Messrs. **Cornish, Carey and Foran,** plus other good friends from Thomson.

Judy Ridout (English, Guidance 1967-2000) has landed a long-term supply position at East York's Marc Garneau C.I., teaching the new Career Studies curriculum.

Profile: Bob Heath

When Thomson opened in 1959, Bob Heath was among the Grade 11 students at Churchill who were transferred to the new school for Grade 12. Bob was elected as our first SAC President, and also quarterbacked our rookie football team. He would later return as a teacher before moving into administration. We asked him to reminisce about his career at and since Thomson.



Bob Heath - 1961

I can still remember that day in September, 1959, when I arrived, wide-eyed and nervous, along with my fellow "pioneers" from Churchill and West Hill. Hardly completed in time, the school glistered with what were at the time "state of the art" facilities...alas, no gyms, no auditorium, and barely a cafeteria to begin with.

What I remember most about those first two years, apart from the wonderful spirit engendered by being part of a new school, was the excellence of the teachers I personally experienced: J. Ross Stevenson (Principal), Stu Foden (Vice-Principal), John Anderson (Math), Peter Sidorchuk (Science), Stan Farrow, Elsie Hodson (both Latin and English), Marshall Bruce Evoy (English), Harvey Bride (French), Don Moyer (Science)...veritable icons of teaching in the Scarborough Board. I'm sure it was their collective impact on me that influenced me to become a teacher.

I left Thomson in 1961 to study Engineering Physics at U. of T. and returned to begin my teaching career, again at Thomson, in September, 1965. You can imagine what a strange experience it was being on the same teaching staff as most of the teachers who taught me, just four short years later...not to mention having a former girlfriend among the students! It's funny, but after all the years in education, some of my all-time favourite students were from those first five years. It's hard to believe that they're in their early-to-mid-fifties now!

I transferred to Sir Oliver Mowat in 1970 and then to L'Amoreaux in 1973 before becoming a Vice-Principal, at Stephen Leacock in 1975 and at R. H. King in 1980. In 1983, I was appointed Principal at W. A. Porter and transferred to Agincourt in 1987.

In 1989, I left the school setting to work in the Board office as an Area Superintendent, responsible for the Cedarbrae family of schools. From

1992 to 1997, I was Superintendent of Student and Community Services. In that capacity I was responsible for the development and implementation of the Board's Zero Tolerance Policy on Violence and Weapons, a policy that was controversial at the time but has since become the standard for all school boards across Ontario. In 1997, I was appointed Associate Director of Education and remained in the post until I retired in September, 1998.

I have been married to Wendy (an Etobicoke girl!) for nearly 33 years now, and we have three sons: David, who is Head of Science at Mowat C.I.; Rob, who has been working at Bendale B.T.I. as an Educational Assistant but will attend teachers' college this fall; and Chris, who graduates this spring from Brock University and is heading off on a study tour of Greece.

We raised our family in Scarborough, but when I retired we emptied the nest and moved to Port Perry. Our year begins with three months in Florida, then two months at our home in Port Perry, four months at our cottage near Bala on Lake Muskoka, and then the last three months back in Port Perry.

I still play oldtimers' hockey when I'm home but also have the opportunity of playing golf almost year-round. To relax, I spend a lot of time in my woodworking shop making pine reproductions for home, for the cottage, and for friends. Last fall, I actually went back and taught 35 days as a substitute teacher at Port Perry H.S. What a challenge after 26 years out of the classroom! However, it was such a positive experience that I plan on doing it again this fall.

Some of my fondest memories of Thomson after all these years????

- Brian Hemingway's 52-yard field goal, the only points we scored in our first year of Senior Football in 1959. (But the next year we finished with a



Bob Heath - 1998

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Grad Sites on the Web

Alumnus Bob McBride has been checking out ways of tracking down old friends on the web.

Have you ever wondered what happened to those people you hung out with in high school? What they are up to now? Here is a 21st-century solution to your problem: several websites related to finding, talking to, and getting in touch with friends, teachers, etc.

For Thomson, you can check the school's own website, available through the Toronto District School Board and a link to David and Mary Thomson at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Then there is my favourite, which I joined two years ago, the Yahoo Groups site (formerly Yahoo Clubs). **Karen and Bob Forrest** started the club, which has grown to over 200 members, and while they're not entirely happy with the changes Yahoo has made to the set-up, they would love to hear from you. The address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dandmthomsoncollegiate>. Click on "join this group now" at the top right of the screen (there is no charge!). You can post messages to other members, view all messages, view all members, and e-mail any members whose addresses are listed. Photos are free to view, and there is a chat room available with whoever is on line.

There are three other general "alumni" sites for you to consider:

1 www.alumni.net

Select the country, province, city (i.e. Scarborough), then pick the high school name. To join, just click on the area that says "not a member, join in here."

You can view Students/Faculty

by last name or last year. There are links to the Yahoo site. You can invite other friends from Thomson. You can post a message to another alumni member in either public access or private, or view and post to the bulletin board. There are a number of other useful features and it is easy to login and out. No charge.

2 www.classmates.com

After typing in the site name, follow the instructions for country, city, and school name. Classmates then asks for your name, address, etc., and finally your e-mail address and graduation year. It sets you up in your year and it is free, but only to a point. The free part of the service is seeing other classmates in your year and even other years, and being able to view prior postings/message boards and some of the backgrounds and photos of members. For a fee of about US\$36.00 per year you can become a GOLD member. You can then send e-mails through the site to other members with e-mail addresses, send private hi notes, chat live, create photo albums, create your own group within the alumni site, and of course send and view messages for the message board. Savings exist in other ways for members, but at a cost.

3 www.gradfinder.com

This site is completely free to use. There are two steps to joining. Fill in the information required (name, etc.). Choose your school from the list. You can choose not only high schools but also junior elementary, senior elementary, colleges, and universities. Gradfinder e-mails

you a password to use to enter the site and login whenever you want. After you join you have plenty of choices. You can receive gradfinder newsletters (I chose not to). You can post messages in the site (public). The site groups you into your year along with other grads, but you can view all years. You have the option of requesting e-mail notification of when other members join. Other features include a people finder, reunion planner, friends list, photo albums, and message boards. You can also add a personal biography. So, happy hunting, and enjoy!

Bob Heath (cont. from pg. 3)

3-2 record and advanced to the semi-final, losing 14-7 to eventual champion Porter.)

- Chips with gravy and cherry cokes, served by Danny at the restaurant at Brimley and Lawrence.

- The great annual musical productions, of which my favourite was "My Fair Lady."

- Five years of coaching football, culminating in Thomson's first Scarborough Championship in 1968.

- The three wonderful reunions, in '84, '94, and '99 and seeing many old classmates and students, while learning about their successes in life.

I'd love to hear from any of my old classmates and students from the '60s who might not have been able to attend the reunions. Send me an e-mail at bheath11@hotmail.com and let me know what you've been up to.

Thomson For Evermore!