

Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003

Keeping in Touch

This issue of the Thomson Tradewinds features reunions of one sort or another - not out of line for an Alumni publication. Front and centre is a quartet of 1963 grads who have been getting together for a social occasion at least once a year ever since the school's 25th anniversary in 1984. The photograph was taken in July, 2002 at the Hillebrand Winery during a visit to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ruth (Hollands) Spearing, on the left, and Carol (Kruzic) Archer and Diane Fair on the right all became elementary school teachers and eventually principals. Diane is a superintendent now with the Hastings-Prince Edward District School Board in Belleville, and Ruth has just retired as a superintendent with the Scarborough/Toronto Board (Thomson was among her area schools!). The independent soul is Joyce (Pember) Lindsay, second from the left, who became a nurse and is now working in the Public Health field in Barrie.

Carol, a retired East York prin-



icipal, sent along the photo to let us know how one group of Thomsonites keeps in touch. We're sure there are many others out there who have interesting stories to add about their own get-togethers. E-mail us at <Stan.Farrow@tel.tdsb.on.ca> and we will include them in future newsletters.

It has actually been forty years since our very young-looking foursome graduated. Perhaps the entire class of 1963 could consider organizing a get-to-

gether in 2003. Carol has volunteered her e-mail (carolarcher@sympatico.ca) if you are interested.

If other groups want to hold a reunion, we have a data base of about 2800 names (a small percentage from over forty years, but a start), and most of those can be classified by the years they attended Thomson. So we can help supply some addresses, e-mails, and telephone numbers to get you on your way. In return, as you track down former Thomsonites we don't have on our list, you can reciprocate by adding to our data base from yours.

Inside this issue you will find reports on several reunion activities. The class of 1971 have already held theirs. The classes of 1978 and 1983 (25 and 20 years respectively) will be getting together later in 2003. All have made use of our data base.

Finally we invite Thomsonites from any year to join us on our spring bus trip in May to Niagara (see page 2). We might even stop at Hillebrand's for a photo!

Have you renewed for 2002-2003? Check your label.

Yours Till Niagara Falls



Our weak headline used to be a favourite yearbook autograph comment, but we're using it to remind readers of your Alumni's next social outing, a bus trip to Niagara on Sunday, May 4. Janet Evans has lined up a good deal to help us enjoy the day together. For \$40.00 we get to travel in comfort (even movies on-board) to the Falls, with a stop at a winery (if we wish) and a drive through Niagara-on-the-Lake. Destination is the Casino in Niagara Falls, with a \$10.00 voucher for use there, but you can also skip the casino and use the voucher towards lunch, etc., while you sight-see in town.

The bus will be leaving the parking lot of the small plaza on the north-west corner of Birchmount and Danforth Roads at 8:00 a.m. Janet's business, Janettravel and Cruise, is in that plaza, next to the Birchmount Country Bar, and Janet will open it at about 7:30 for early arrivals to enjoy coffee or tea. Park the car and enjoy!

At Niagara Falls, the bus will park by the Casino until departure about 4:00 p.m., returning to Scarborough about 6:00 p.m. Janet can arrange on the bus for an all-you-can-eat lunch in town. Or, if you wish, you can handle lunch in small groups.

Obviously, this kind of trip is more enjoyable if you come with friends. So get on the phone and make up a group, including, of course, significant others, even if they don't happen to be Thomsonites. We also issue a particular invitation to former staff members to get a group together - a chance to catch up on each other's activities plus a reunion with former students.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter for you to use if you wish. Mail it to Janet at 462 Birchmount Rd., Scarborough, ON, M1K 1N8. You can also contact Janet at her e-mail: <janetravel@rogers.com> or telephone her at work (416-690-4000) or home (416-265-3942) for information or to arrange for payment (cheque or credit card).

See you on the bus!



Reunions

Class of 1983

It's been twenty years since we last walked the halls of David and Mary Thomson C.I. Yes, that's right! You have survived the '80s and it's reunion time. Time to slap on the tape, get that botox injection, sink in your gut, and make an appearance as your new and improved self. Like a fine wine, I'm sure we all have improved with age.

We are planning a little get-together. Bring photos if you can find them.

Date: Saturday, June 7

Time: 8:00 p.m. to close

Place: Quigley's: 2232 Queen St. E. at Beech Ave. (east of Woodbine)

Details: Patio, live band, cash bar, casual attire

R.S.V.P. by May 30 and indicate if you are bringing a guest. Please forward the news to those who may want to join us, including any staff members.

Ricardo (Rico) Mashregi:
<rmashregi@hotmail.com>

Deborah (Debbie) Knight:
<dkpr@istar.ca>

Class of 1978

Our 25th Anniversary Reunion is tentatively scheduled for the fall of this year. We are looking for missing classmates.

Contact **Bob Doi**
for details.

<rdoi@toyota.ca>
905-472-2727

Class of '71 members: l. to r.: Mary Funston, Dale Sullivan, Donna Dobson, Gail Charbonneau, Gary Weir

Profiles

To salute the 25th anniversary of the Class of '78, Bob Doi contacted the 1977-78 Grade 13 Class Reps and asked them for reminiscences and updates. Mark Parent's appears in this issue. Rita (Flickinger) McCann's will be included in the Autumn newsletter.

Fondest Memories: I think I remember the school productions most of all; they were always



Mark Parent as a member of Thomson's 1977-78 "Reach for the Top" team

full of laughs. I remember most of the Grade 13 events, although, oddly, there are parts of each that I don't remember.... I certainly remember Commencement in 1978, and while I've since stood to speak in front of much larger groups of people and had a great deal more at stake, I've never been more nervous than that night reading my Valedictory Address! I remember a lot of good friends, and feeling like we had a pretty good handle on life. I certainly didn't think so at the time, but I wasn't very mature in high school!

Favourite Teachers: Of course, I really remember the teachers

involved in the school productions: Mrs. Turchet, Mr. Farrow, and Ms. Nyman. I worked in the library my last year or two of high school with Miss Russell, whom I've run into a few times by chance since.

Teacher of Greatest Influence: I always appreciated Mr. Arthur, who gave me an alternative reading when I was in his Grade 13 English class, because I was offended by the assigned novel, "A Clockwork Orange." I've since read much more offensive material, and while I believe now that my opinion then was naive and wrong, I've always respected Mr. Arthur for giving me the credit to explain, and for appreciating my point of view. I think it was one of the most maturing events of my high school career.

Education: I went to the University of Waterloo and graduated five very long and painful years later with a Bachelor of Mathematics, majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Statistics. I took a co-op program and for two of those five years I

worked at IBM. While at Waterloo, I made very close and life-long friends, whom I continue to see regularly.

Career: Right after university, I worked for a firm researching the potential for communications into the home. We called it Telidon at the time, but the concept really became the internet. It was very creative, and I started what became a career with a lot of travelling. I set up a "dot.com" with a few other folks, but, of course, we never called it a dot.com at the time! It ran its course over the years, and while I never became Bill Gates, I can't



Mark to-day

complain. More than anything else, I was able to add a lot of business experience to the computer knowledge I had built up.

I consulted privately from a home office for four or five
continued on page four

Class of 1971

About a year ago, a group of Thomson grads from 1971 got together in a pub to catch up on 30 years or so. Steve Barber was in town from B.C. and he had been in contact with Mary Funston through Classmates on the web. Without Mary's knowledge, her daughter had enrolled her, and, impersonating her mother, had told Steve about Mary's "two lovely children."

Sparked by the connections this membership led to, Mary decided to see how many grads she could reach for a mini-reunion this past February at the Black Dog Pub in Scarborough. Close to thirty people were there. Although 30 years do make a difference, everyone was recognizable!

And also amazing were the number of grads still married to their high school sweethearts:

Judy Stansbury and Bill Smith, Dale Sullivan and Gary Weir, Christine Karch and Mike Ugarenko, Richard Fujimoto and Rita Berzins, and Vicky Bedbrook and Rick Baker. They and the many other classmates in attendance agree that they would like to get together again.

Mary Funston can be reached at <mfunston@yahoo.com> if you know of other grads from 1971.

Mark Parent (cont.)

years in the late '90s, took a year off to decide where I wanted to go next, and then wound up leaving the IT world almost completely, taking a Commercial Cash Management Product Manager position at TD Canada Trust, where I am today. I enjoy my current role within a much larger company, and bring an entrepreneurial attitude that helps me a great deal. At the same time, I have a lot less stress in my life and have found a balance with which I'm very happy.

Interesting Achievements: At this point, I think I've travelled to (almost) every place on earth that I ever really wanted to go. I've spent months in Europe, visited places as far away as Korea and Australia, and nearly everywhere in the U.S. and Canada. I've taken several cruises in the Caribbean, and we're off to Hawaii again this summer.

Family: My husband, Tom, and I celebrated our 15th anniversary last fall. Tom is Head of Arts for a high school in Durham, although he primarily teaches drama (and meets Debbie Nyman periodically). We live in a 95-year-old home in Riverdale. We like to entertain, eat out, and attend a lot of Toronto theatre together, plus the aforementioned travel. I've been lucky with a lot of things in my life, but I'm especially lucky to find myself in a relationship that has given such happiness for so many years.

Anything Else?: I've rewired our home, have drywalled and painted, knit regularly, and have cooked five-star Christmas dinners for ten. I'm very handy with a PC and have enough ac-



Obituary

We are sad to report the death of Rev. Charles Ketcheson, a Thomson grad from 1969. Readers who remember Charlie from high school may or may not be surprised to see that Rev. in front of his name. Readers from other years who never met him can still share in a kind of pride that our school produced such an outstanding citizen and a disappointment that they didn't meet him.

Charlie first headed off to R.M.C. in Kingston, but completed his undergraduate career at Queen's with a B. Com. in 1974. After a short stint as a Research Assistant for the Queen's School of Business, he enrolled in Theology in 1976, graduating with an M. Div. and gaining ordination in the United Church of Canada in 1979. His first pastoral charge was Shawbridge in Quebec's Laurentians (1979-1981), followed by a term at Trinity United in Peterborough (1981-1986).

In 1986, Charlie became the chaplain and a teacher at Albert College in Belleville, serving also as Voluntary Associate pastor at Bridge St. United. In 1992 he assumed the post of Minister of Program and Leadership Development in the Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church. Those who remember the United Appeal Campaign he chaired at Thomson, which raised the amazing total of \$8,500.00 in 1968, will not be surprised that issues of social justice remained high on Rev. Ketcheson's priority list. As his wife, Carolyn (Etter), a fellow 1969 Thomson grad, pointed out, if he didn't find those issues, they found him!



Charlie in 1969

In the last few years, liver problems slowly sapped that great Ketcheson energy, but not the life force that fought such adversity. He was just 52 when he died. Carolyn remembers a lot of living and giving in that brief span, a love of people and an active interest in his community, his province, and his world. Their three children, now in their 20s, remember a supportive father whose pride in them they reflected towards him. An overflowing congregation at Bridge St. United for Charlie's funeral attested to the many people he touched in his wide-ranging activities.

To Carolyn, Jessie, Aaron, Leah, and all the family, we send our condolences. We share your loss.

counting background to handle my own and others' tax returns. I was involved in a community theatre group for many years, both on stage and behind the scenes. I'm currently working as a volunteer for Barbara Hall's mayoralty campaign in Toronto.

If there is anything that I can say I've learned in twenty-five years, it's that I can learn to do anything. At the same time, when I look back at my Commencement address from 1978, I think perhaps that's one thing I really knew even then.