

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2004

Announcing Thomson's 45th

Yes, 45 years have passed since Education Minister (later Premier) John Robarts announced that David and Mary Thomson C.I. was officially open. (Well, perhaps it is only 44, since the auditorium wasn't ready until early 1960 - at least the rest of the school was operational in September, 1959.) We didn't know if the milestone merited a party, but you have let us know that it certainly does.

We have reserved the evening of Saturday, October 23 at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 614 in Agincourt (map on page 4). Their upstairs hall (smoke-free!) can hold well over 200, so we can handle a good response. There will be some light refreshments during the course of the evening, and the Legion has a reasonably-priced cash bar in the room. The celebrations begin any time after 8:00 p.m.

The admission will be \$20.00 per person, to cover the costs of the hall, food, decorations, etc. A registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Since we need to know numbers in advance for the food, we are asking you to return the form so that we receive it by October 13 at the latest. We hope that gives you time to contact friends and classmates and round up a group.



Two groups for whom this event is of special significance are the classes of 1964 and 1974. Both have been doing some e-mail correspondence about getting together to celebrate 40 and 30 years, respectively. When we announced our party, they agreed to combine their celebrations with ours. So, if you are from either of those two eras, you have special reason to attend.

And we certainly don't want to overlook staff members. The first question many grads ask is if a certain teacher or teachers are going to be there. Besides, your humble editor doesn't want to be the only staff member present! You can

make this a staff reunion in addition to a school anniversary.

We picked a Saturday to make it easier for out-of-towners to get here. We know many of you preferred an afternoon, so that you could carry on the party over dinner with friends. However, the Legion was not available in the afternoon. You can still arrange for dinner, but it will now have to precede the Legion get-together. Plan to bring year-books and other memorabilia to share old times, while catching up on the intervening years.

As a final incentive, we would like to offer a few door prizes, as we have at past anniversaries. If you have appropriate connections and could arrange for donation of one or more such items (free publicity!), contact **Janet Evans** at janetravel@rogers.com or by phone (416-265-2943 at home and 416-690-4000 at work).

Please note that this event is being organized by your Alumni, rather than through the school. Don't telephone Thomson if you have questions - they're busy enough in the fall! You can check with Janet, or contact your editor, **Stan Farrow** at Stan.Farrow@tel.tdsb.on.ca. See you in October!

Profiles

Braden Houston (1960) and Judy Millar (1961) were both at Thomson when the school opened 45 years ago. They have sent along a very brief summary of their interesting life since then.



Braden in 1961

What fond memories we have of those early Thomson Collegiate days! After all these

years it's nice to read about the meanderings of old friends and acquaintances through the pages of the Tradewinds. We would be delighted to hear from you and can be reached at 2063 Spring Street, Hamilton, New York, 13346 or <bhouston@mail.colgate.edu>.

After graduation from Thomson, Braden played his final year of Junior A hockey with the Toronto Marlboros before continuing his education at the University of New Hampshire. Judy worked in the communications department of IBM at their head office in Don Mills. They were married in August, 1964 (they had first met in the eighth grade at McCowan Road School) and took up permanent residence in the United States.

Upon graduation from the Whittimore School of Business at the University of New Hampshire, Braden was offered a professional contract to play hockey for one year in Johannesburg, South Africa. After an incredible learning experience in that beautiful country, he and Judy moved to Bad Nauheim, Germany, for another year of hockey, in the German league. Following

that season, they took six months to travel and camp throughout eastern and western Europe, including 2,000 miles through what was then the Soviet Union; they left through Finland and drove on to explore the Scandinavian countries.

In the fall of 1969, Braden joined the faculty at Colgate University, a private liberal arts campus with approximately 2800 students. Colgate is located 50 miles south-east of Syracuse in upstate New York. It is nestled in the Chenango Valley in the picturesque town of Hamilton.

Braden coached the men's varsity hockey team at Colgate for six years before moving into athletics administration and is today the senior associate director of athletics and the men's golf coach. Judy also joined Colgate as an administrative assistant to the director of the ALANA Cultural Center, where she worked with the African, Latin,

Asian and Native American students for over 20 years. She retired in 2002.

Braden will be semi-retiring from

Colgate this fall after 35 years of service; he will continue to coach the men's varsity golf team as he has for the past 27 years. Colgate boasts an 18-hole Robert Trent Jones championship golf course ranked among the top ten college courses in the United States.

Judy and Braden travel to Toronto several times a year, as both still have family there. Their daughter, Nandi, 28, was married in June and resides in Columbus, Ohio. She received her degree in communications from Potsdam College and is an account executive with a health care and pharmaceutical advertising firm. Their son, Braden, 32, majored in economics and history at Bucknell University, completed his MA in history at Colgate, and received his MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He is committed to the research and development of wind energy and is presently with the General Electric Company in the California desert.

The Houstons, now "home alone" with their two Burmese cats, send their warmest regards and best wishes to everyone.



Judy in 1961



The Houstons in February, 2004

Spring Pub Night - 2004

Our 45th Anniversary evening will be a somewhat enlarged version of our regular Pub Nights. Bob Doi reports on the success of our most recent get-together in April. Bob also took the photos.

of regulars ensures that we are always able to fill up several tables. Some small groups stay much to themselves, while others merge in with many tables. Several people

takes great delight in trying to locate fellow pub night attendees to see how much or, in some cases, how little we've aged. Not to mention the wild hair and clothing styles of years gone by. Judging by the hours kept by some of the attendees who arrived around 8:00 and left after midnight, I'd say that most if not all had a terrific evening.

Once again, thanks go out to **Janet Evans** for making the evening's arrangements. Details for future such events can be found in this newsletter, an incentive to maintain your membership, and to invite others to join up. Where possible, we also try to contact Toronto-area Thomsonites by e-mail. Finally, you could check our Yahoo chat site to see what's going on in the lives of those who are part of the party. The full address is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dandmthomsoncollegiate>

As always, we invite comments and, better still, assistance from our readers, as we make plans for Spring 2005.



Yearbooks are always a source of great interest

Although April 24 was a full month into spring, the weather outside was quite chilly for our Spring Pub Night. Still, about 35 Thomson Alumni and Alumnae shared munchies, drinks and fond memories at Foti's Place Sports and Social Bar. By popular demand, Foti's even allowed us to have our room smoke-free. Even the avid smokers agreed that this made the room much more pleasant for conversation. The Brimley Road - Lawrence Avenue location, right near Thomson and with ample parking, ensured that everyone felt at home near the old stomping grounds.

This marks the seventh consecutive year that a Pub Night has been organized to allow classmates to renew old friendships. A solid core

bring out their yearbooks to each pub night. These are usually highlights of the evening, as everyone



And so are copies of the Tradewinds.

In Memoriam: Brenda Newell, Peter Carey

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the deaths of two long-time Thomson teachers. We prevailed upon two of their colleagues to offer a final salute. *Glenis (De Luca) Emmett*, a former Science and Guidance teacher, who spoke at Brenda Newell's funeral on September 19, pays tribute to her friend. *Ron Allen*, long-time Head of the English Department, remembers Peter Carey. Our thanks to both for these reminiscences.

Brenda Newell, a much-loved teacher and friend, passed away on September 16, 2004 at her home with her family and her dog, Zeus, beside her, as she had wished. Brenda was 72.

She was a founding staff member at Thomson, teaching History there from 1959 to 1963 and from 1969 to 1993, when she retired.

Brenda was charismatic, drawing people to her, and her special strength was in being always ready to listen to any care or concern. She had a way of making people feel special, and that quality of friendship she brought into the classroom and the staff room. Many new staff members at Thomson were brought under her wing and helped to feel comfortable.

She was quick to support any idea for a new initiative at school if she could see the benefit to staff and students. She served on many committees, including the "Accentuate the Positive," which planned events for different grade levels, and the "Self Esteem Project" for staff. She was a decisive thinker, liked to make her decision and then get the project underway and completed. She would have been at the top of anyone's list as an outstanding teacher and colleague.

After retiring, Brenda travelled extensively to many locations, including Ethiopia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and, most recently, Greece and Turkey. She continued her life-long interest in bridge, visited museums and art galleries, attended lectures with the University of Toronto Alumnae, belonged to a book club, was a volunteer at

Scarborough Centenary Hospital and was an active member of her church.

Brenda will be greatly missed.

Donations in her memory may be made to "Embracing the Spirit Fund" at St. Mark's United Church, 115 Orton Park Road, Toronto, M1G 3G9 or online at www.st-marks.ca.

Peter Joseph Carey, who was three months shy of his 85th birthday, passed away in Belleville Hospital with his wife Kerstin by his side on August 9, 2004. Peter, a talented artist in his own right, came to Thomson from Birchmount Park

C.I. to head our Art Department in 1976. Although he retired in 1985, he continued to do long-term supply for many years in Scarborough.

In 1991, Peter and his wife moved to Madoc, where he was often visited by former colleagues and students, many of whom were in attendance at the memorial service held in Sacred Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church on Friday, August 27.

Peter was beloved by his students and close colleagues. We will all miss the twinkling Irish wit of this consummate gentleman. Donations in his memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

How to Get To Our 45th

The location for the Thomson 45th celebration is not far from the old school. Legion Branch 614 is at 100 Salome Dr., the street that runs east off Midland Ave. immediately south of the CP rail tracks in Agincourt. You can also reach the site by taking Harris Farm (one block west of Brimley Rd.) south off Sheppard Ave. for one block.

