

# Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

50TH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR EDITION - AUTUMN 2009

## Wasn't That A Party?



May 2, 2009 - a date to remember! And that's just what we're going to do in this special edition of Thomson Tradewinds, as we look back on our 50th Anniversary celebrations. The photos on this page show the registration table in the front foyer at the school; a standing-room-only auditorium during the singing of the school song; the 1970s decade room in the Boys' Gym; and pub-nighters going hoarse handling multiple conversations at the Embers in the evening. We're sending this newsletter to our regular Alumni members and to those whose addresses we have from your souvenir/ticket orders at the reunion. Enjoy the memories!



# Getting Ready



Planning for our big day began with the formation of a Reunion Committee in September, 2008. Present at the first meeting (above) in the Thomson Resource Centre were Janet Jordan and Shona Chornenki from the present Thomson staff, William Stratas (1977), Soriana Mantini (principal), Tim Luet (1980), Stan Farrow (former staff), Robert Forrest (1974), Dawna (Nishino) Kobayashi (1974), Doug Bassett (1965) and Bill Zagar (present staff). Bob Doi (1978) took the photo.

Under William's direction we set up a very popular and informative web-site: [www.thomsonforever.ca](http://www.thomsonforever.ca). Our intention is to keep updating the information there ...forever! William and Doug arranged for the big advertising banner mounted on the school's exterior front wall to let everyone passing by know of the big event (see right for the website and school banners).



On May 1, all the souvenir orders were collated and packaged in the Resource Centre (right), with Janet Evans, Laura (Viana) Doi, Stan Farrow, Robert Forrest and Lorne Bellamy hard at work in the photo. Also, the various rooms in the school were set up. Below, left, Laura (Viana) Doi, Diane Wani and Diane's daughter, Alicia prepare a nostalgic wall display for the 1970s room. The decorating continued Saturday morning, which also saw Steven Duff return to rehearse with the Senior Concert Band for the school song (below right).

Thanks to everyone (alumni, present staff and students and former staff) who co-operated in advance and behind the scenes to make the day such a success.





# First Event - Staff Luncheon



Task #1: getting the staff members out of the front foyer and into the staff lunch room.



Registration: Past VP Enn Lill and original staff: Harvey Bride, Liz Bream, Mary Carr



Veve Stamatopoulos (dark outfit) helped organize the luncheon. Brian Crowe (right) handled wall displays.



Clara Strozyk, Ann (Guthrie) Brown, Ruth Russell, Zoriana Sokolsky



Elaine Selby (committee member) and Gail Waiser



Whom can you identify from this group scene?



John Anderson, Harvey Bride, Paul Rook, Stephan Sierakowski



George Huff, Peter Sidorchuk, Hugh Beattie



Bill Allen, Rosemary Ludvigsen, Glenice (De Luca) Emmett



Former principal, Holly Lipsett, with Bev Sturgis



Iris Brown, Sue (Henry)Kralik, Ernie Tucker, ??????????????, Kerry Walton, Stephan Sierakowski, Mary Procopio



Original staff members Denis Wrong and Wally London



Celebratory dessert

STILL  
LOOKING  
GREAT



Sitting down to lunch at last



# Welcome to the Open House



*The outdoor sign issues a welcome to all.*

*Indoors, another welcome in front of the foyer school activities mural.*



*Above: Signing name tags at the registration desk*

*Below: The souvenir pick-up table (left), the Alumni table (right) and the Thomson Athletic Council refreshment and memory photos stand (centre distance) in the upper foyer*



*Left: A multi-level view of the foyer showing the registration area downstairs and the souvenir table upstairs. The entrance-way pioneer mural was painted in 1994.*



*Below: Putting the finishing touches on the displays in the 1960s room - the Girls' Gym.*

*Right: At the other end of our 50 years, an appreciative group of grads (and grads-to-be???) examine the memorabilia in the 1990s-2000s room: 112.*







*John de Vries waves from the front window.*



*xxxx xxxx, Linda xxxx and Dorothy Giroidis in the front foyer*



*xxxx xxxxx, Mark Parent and xxxx xxxxxx in the upstairs foyer*



*Ken Johnston, Irene Polidoulis, Carol (Paddle) Ball and Kevin Dix*



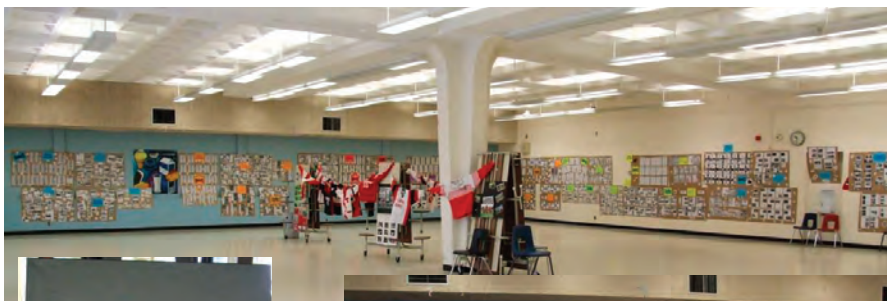
*Two views of a crowded 1970s room (the Boys' Gym), where the two photos to the left were also taken*



*xxxx xxxxx, xxxx xxxxx and xxxx xxxxxx, who has bought a souvenir tote bag!*







*Views of the decorations and then the crowd of celebrants in the cafeteria, the 1980s room*



*Pipers Steve Hodgins, Gary Rankin (Thomson alumni) and Andrew Brown (former VP) in the staff room before the auditorium program*



*Stan Farrow, Soriana Mantini and Thomson family representative, Janet Campbell*



*Bob Heath (former student and teacher), Lorne Bellamy, Stan Farrow and Janet Campbell chat in the staff room.*



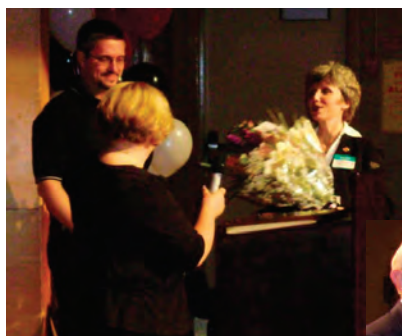
*Andy Brown leads the platform party down the aisle in the auditorium.*



*Bob Heath, the chief guest speaker*



*The Thomson Senior Concert Band (Brooks Gorst, conductor) performs on stage.*



*Left: Tim Luet and Elaine Selby present flowers to Soriana Mantini for her help and support.*

*Right: Stan Farrow and Tim Luet hold the photo of the cornerstone presented as a thank-you to Stan for chairing the anniversary committee.*





# Evening at the Embers



The typo at the bottom of the Embers sign was actually appropriate to the evening. There was no dancing but the noise level from all the conversations meant there was certainly a lot of "dinning."



The Class of 1978 arranged for a dinner at the Embers before the evening social began. If your year wants to organize a reunion, check with the Alumni for help in contacting classmates.



Principal Soriana Mantini (right) checks with Thomson staff at the desk: Cindy Cheung, Bill Zagar and Rohan Lawson.



One view of the "dinning" guests



Changing of the guard: Elaine Selby, Laura Viana, Janet Evans, Lorne Bellamy, Bob McBride, Tim Luet



Committee member Dawna (Nishino) Kobayashi with



Mary Ann Draffin, Bob Doi and John Guiler



Coaches off duty. Bob Carson (left) and Jim Myrvold with Jim's wife, Barbara



Stan Farrow swaps showbiz memories with Graham Keats and Marcia (Keats) Rudolph.



Michelle and Pat Howard



All in the family: Janice (de Vries) Hamilton-Dicker, Peter de Vries, Lorraine (de Vries) Ralston and John de Vries. The de Vries clan attended Thomson from 1967 to 1984!



# Appreciation



Sue Botelho-Lee (Class of 1985) is the only Reunion Committee member whose photo has not appeared elsewhere in this newsletter. We remedy that oversight by reprinting a kind of postcard Sue put together from photos her camera took during the big day. You'll quickly recognize that Sue's is the one face common to all the photos (with Lorne Bellamy and Stan Farrow; with Bob McBride, Robert Forrest, Bob Doi and Tim Luet; with the female side of the committee: Elaine Selby, Soriana Mantini and Dawna (Nishino) Kobayashi; and with Doug Bassett). Two committee members are not in her collection. You can find Nancy Dillon sitting at the Alumni table on page 4 and William Stratats at our first planning meeting on page 2.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge other Alumni who helped out especially on May 1-2: Laura (Viana) Doi, Janet Evans, George Hall, Susan Pearen, Chris Strang and Diane Wani.

In addition to principal Soriana Mantini and Office Administrator, Veve Stamatopoulos and the entire office and caretaking staffs, we would like to make special mention of the following members of the present Thomson staff for their assistance and support: S. Chornenki, B. Crowe, S. Evangelou, F. Fiore, S. Gaskovski, B. Gorst, D. Hadida, J. Jordan, P. Kenn, R. Lawson, J. Meloche, S. Nikou, M. Spaulding, E. Takas, V. Thorpe-Taylor, S. Wookey and B. Zagar.

The students in the Yearbook Class, the Senior Concert Band and the Thomson Athletic Council all helped out, in addition to Halima Bensalam, Chris Dowling, Viviana Galan, Umme Jenifar, Anasha Khan, Raza Khan, Mathangi Ketheeswaran, Hundisha Murugendra, Gobi Murugendra, Rida Nadeem, Antennel O'Neil, Ben Park, Sharath Srinivasan, Mahisha Sriharan, Dasiga Sundaralingam, Jesika Sundaralingam and Kartika Yugaratnum.

Not to be outdone, Louise DeRienzo, Diane Ferrara and Diane-Kim Wilson-Sweet, volunteers from our School Council, pitched in as well.

Kerry-Lynn Stadnyk, Superintendent, represented the Board administration, and Scott Harrison was on hand as our local trustee. Special thanks to Janet Thomson Campbell who attended on behalf of the family after whom our school was named.

Photos in this edition are courtesy of Sue Botelho-Lee, Bob Doi and Janice (de Vries) Hamilton-Dicker.

## NEXT PUB NIGHT

In case you were worried that your lives must now return to their routine humdrum existence without Thomson companionship, be advised that the Thomson Alumni has a cure for reunion withdrawal symptoms. Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, we hold a very informal pub night, to which all alumni within travelling distance are invited.

Our next Pub Night is planned for Saturday, November 7. We are going to try a new venue this time: The 3 Monkeys Eatery, 1585 Warden Ave. south of Highway 401 on the east side. There are no tickets to buy. Just show up any time after 8:00. Bring company if you want to be sure you'll know someone, but don't worry about formality. If you've got memorabilia or reunion photos to share, so much the better.

If you want to keep informed about future events, we invite you to join the Alumni, if you are not already a member. A registration form is enclosed with this newsletter for renewals and new memberships. And don't forget to keep an eye on [www.thomsonforever.ca](http://www.thomsonforever.ca) as well!

## REUNION BUDGET

One of the happy results of our 50th Anniversary reunion as that we made a profit. This was the first reunion left largely in the hands of the Alumni to organize, and we were very careful to avoid a deficit. Instead, thanks mainly to your support of the Evening at the Embers, we made a large enough profit to undertake three main projects.

The first is this souvenir edition of Tradewinds, being sent out to a much expanded readership. The second is two \$500 prizes to be awarded at this fall's Commencement (Nov. 8) one to a girl and one to a boy, in honour of the 50th Anniversary. (Criteria are to be decided). Finally, we are setting aside start-up funds to create a 50th anniversary commemorative display in the new school when the present building is replaced or in the present building if it is spared. We invite your comments.