

# Thomson TRADEWINDS

## DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 2010

### Thomson Grad now a Judge

Thomson C. I. can bask in the reflected pride of the honour just bestowed on one of our distinguished graduates, the Honourable **David Strat**, who was appointed to the Federal Court of Appeal in December. David was the valedictorian for the Class of 1979, so his classmates will not be entirely surprised at this development. But when you consider that there are just twelve judges on the Court and thousands of eligible prospects, it is indeed a significant achievement. It is also quite unusual for an "ordinary lawyer" to move into the second highest court in the land without any intermediate appointments. The court may sit anywhere in Canada to hear criminal or civil cases.

Following graduation from Thomson, David obtained his Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) from Queen's University in Kingston, in 1984, and then a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from Oxford University in England in 1986 (where he acted as a gracious host and "tour guide" for visiting family, school friends and even teachers).

He served as a Law Clerk to the Honourable Bertha Wilson at the Supreme Court (the first woman appointed to that body) from 1986 to 1987. In 1988 he was admitted to the Ontario Bar and joined the firm of Osler, Hoskin as an associate from 1988 to 1994 and as a partner from 1994 to 1998. From 1998 to 2001 he was a partner with Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storrie. Then, until his appointment to the Court, he was a partner with Heenan Blaikie LLP, concentrating on administrative law, constitutional law, aboriginal law,

regulatory law, freedom of information, intellectual property, class actions and commercial law.

In addition to gaining a reputation as a top litigator in almost every field, he has been much in demand as a speaker and presenter at conferences and legal workshops. He has also authored dozens of articles, papers and commentaries, particularly an invaluable summary of Supreme Court judgments concerning the Charter of Rights. Squeezed into all this activity, from 1994 he was a member of the Faculty of Law at Queen's, winning a record seven faculty-wide teaching awards. In 2005, the Faculty of Law presented him with the H. R. S. Ryan Award, one of the highest alumni distinctions. In 2009 he was the recipient of another alumni award for his contributions to mentoring.

The ceremony of induction took place February 5 in the Supreme Court building in Ottawa, the city where David will now take up residence. It was revealed that

despite his busy schedule, David has found time to become an expert on the horses and a much-sought-after companion to friends who wish to visit the race track. Ironically, his first judgment on the Court concerned paying GST on the prize money awarded to winning horse owners. He voted yes, much to the consternation of his colleagues in the racing fraternity.

His proud parents were on hand for the ceremony and for a dinner later that evening. Despite the ribbing from eloquent fellow barristers, the high esteem in which he is held was



*Judge Strat* poses with his old Latin teacher, *Stan Farrow*, in Ottawa.



# A Titan-ic All-Star

## Guard proving she's a real T.O. basketball Titan



TARA WALTON/TORONTO STAR  
David and Mary Collegiate's Kayla Grossett celebrates after winning the TDSSAA girls basketball title.

**Titans 57 Red Knights 46**

Grossett helps her team to Quad-A girls title with 25-point showing

DAVID GROSSMAN  
SPORTS REPORTER

Kayla Grossett might be one of the top high school basketball players in Toronto, but bring up that subject and her modesty takes over.

The 17-year-old has been a force with the David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Titans. On Thursday, the slick shooting guard was at it again

at the Toronto District School Board championship, in which she led her team to a second consecutive league title and a berth in next week's provincial playoffs in Hamilton.

With Grossett's 25 points, the Titans beat Northern 57-46 at the University of Toronto Athletic Centre for the Quad-A title.

Last year, Thomson won the Triple-A title.

Having lost to Northern by 11 points in its only previous meeting at a Toronto tournament a few weeks ago, the victory was some revenge for the Titans, who have now won 23 games in 27 starts.

Northern, with a 22-2 record, can still qualify as a wild-card entry by beating the defending provincial champs, who they had lost to earlier in the season.

With Grossett in control and after scoring a trio of three-pointers in a 17-0 run before the half with teammate Jasmine Harris also adding 14 points in the win, Thomson was

"The first half was great, we closed up their options. It's an amazing feeling to win and I know my points helped, but it was the leadership and composure down the stretch that got us the victory."

But Kate Easton's six three-point baskets, starting early in the third quarter, made up for a poor start.

"The shots dropped in the second

### HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



#### KAYLA GROSSETT

**SCHOOL:** Thomson Collegiate  
**LEAGUE/CITY:** TDSSAA/Toronto  
**GRADE:** 12  
**AGE:** 17

- Scored 20 points in a 60-44 Toronto District School Board semifinal win over the defending Ontario champs from Eastern Commerce.
- Had game-high 21 points in 80-23 city-wide quarter-final win over Victoria Park.
- Guard on the senior team that won the Toronto Triple-A championship last year.
- Power hitter on the senior volleyball team and top scorer on the school's soccer team last year.
- School grade 9 and 10 female athlete of the year.
- Former volleyball and soccer school MVP.
- Tutors grade 9 students in French.
- Accepted basketball scholarship to Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland.

## All stars

The Toronto Star salutes the best of the best from the GTA By David Grossman

### girls high school basketball

If you're in the mood to bask in more reflected glory, take a closer look at the newspaper clippings on this page from the Toronto Star in November and December, 2009. Thomson has a genuine basketball superstar in its midst in the person of **Kayla Grossett**. Her prowess as a guard on the Thomson Titans helped lead the team to a second straight league championship this past fall.

In the process, Kayla found herself named one of the newspaper's Athletes of the Week (left) on November 18 and, by season's end, one of the five city-wide all-stars featured in a full-page spread in the Sports Section on December 20 (right). If she hasn't started a scrapbook of such articles already, she'd better get at it!

Basketball is not the only sport at which she excels (She's been an MVP in soccer and volleyball, as well as the school's athlete of the year in Grades 9 and 10 - want to bet against her for Grade 12?), but it has gained her a scholarship to Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland this fall.

Her long-range plans suggest she would like to become a lawyer. So, when she's finished her sports career, she can replace David Stratas on the Federal Court of Appeal!



#### Kayla Grossett GUARD 5-foot-10

David & Mary Thomson Titans (Toronto) Team record: 28-6

#### 08/09 Averages

Pts	23
Reb	8
Ast	4

**Age:** 17 **Grade:** 12

**Academic avg.:** 82 per cent

**Best game:** Scored 25 points, including 6-for-7 from the free-throw line, in a 57-46 win over Northern for the Toronto District School Board Quadruple-A title.

**Next year:** Signed an athletic scholarship with Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md.  
**Skinny:** In 17 games, scored 20 or more points. . . . Named to all-star teams at the Queen's, Centennial and Seneca tournaments. . . . Power hitter on the senior volleyball team and top scorer on the school's soccer team last year. . . . Twice chosen school female athlete of the year. . . . Tutors Grade 9 students in French. . . . Member of the Thomson Athletic Council. . . . Wants to be a lawyer.  
**WNBA role model:** Cappie Pondexter, Phoenix

Such an accomplished career at Thomson having started and played in every game for four years

Coach Bryan Pardo



## Next Pub Night - Friday, April 16

Your alumni organizing committee has decided to celebrate Thomson's 51st anniversary by moving back to our popular Pub Night location at Tapps, 5630 Finch Ave. E., a block east of Markham Rd. at Tapscott (park off Tapscott just north of the building). To get you in the mood, we've included a trio of photos from our fall get-together.

Whether because of the fallout after the big 50th bash, the new location, or the Saturday rather than a Friday, the evening was pretty quiet. We chose The Three Monkeys Restaurant and Pub at Warden and the 401. It was centrally located and



offered us a private room with a big screen T.V. and a fireplace. Our loyal regulars were joined by another dozen or so Thomsonites for an intimate gathering of about two dozen alumni.



On the plus side, we had several first-timers there and took in one or two new Alumni members. On the down side, the Leafs lost another hockey game. Not enough to send us home early, however, as we stayed late and lively.

As usual, bring along yearbooks and other conversation starters, plus friends you haven't seen for a while (or see every day - it doesn't matter!) and enjoy a DMTCI evening April 16.

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## Class of 1978 Celebrates 30 Years



May 2nd, 2009 was Thomson's hugely successful 50th Anniversary celebration. Taking advantage of the big event was our Class of '78. With so many alumni in town for the big party, a belated 30th Reunion Dinner was held in conjunction with the 50th celebrations. Though not as well attended as their 25th reunion back in Nov/03 (70+ attendees), 40+ friends and classmates attended the 30th reunion dinner held at the Embers Banquet Hall between the School's 50th festivities and the Embers Evening Social. Many of the former classmates took the opportunity to spend the entire day and evening with their old friends. Rumours of a 35th reunion in 2013 are already floating around.

If you think that there's something special about the Class of '78 you might be correct. Thomson was at the top of its game back then, with an enrollment exceeding 2,200 students, and was recognized as one of the top secondary schools in all of Ontario. With a high academic standing and championship teams in hockey, football and volleyball, Thomson was a dominant force. But what made the Class of '78 special was of course its students. A future article will hopefully expand on this more, but suffice it to say that in this era of divorce and broken marriages, the Class of '78 has six and possibly more marriages from within its own class that are still together. A remarkable feat in this day and age, with all or most of them having already celebrated their 25th anniversaries!!! Stay tuned.

*Bob Doi*



# In Memoriam: Ron Allen

*Ron Allen was the Head of the English Department at Thomson from 1971 to 1994. Phil Mascard, long-time Head of the Technical Department, remembers his colleague.*



The English Department at Thomson Collegiate was and is the largest department in the school. Because of this, the diverse backgrounds, capabilities and personalities of its teachers have to be considered to give students the best learning opportunities. The head of this department must be a special kind of person, able to get the best from each teacher.

Ron came from being a teacher at Jarvis Collegiate to the headship at Thomson, a position he held until his retirement. His laid-back manner suited the demands of his position. He was usually light-hearted, congenial and easy to talk to. But he did not attack any activity or task without a very concerted effort. He went from single-handed sailing to squash to farming to housebuilding and finally to golf, all the time remaining an avid reader.

His farming years started when he bought a farm near Bethany, an hour-plus drive from Thomson. His plan was to have something to do when he retired and to get his teen-age sons into the farming business. Farming is a seven-day-a-week job, and Ron realized this. He talked of spring planting and fall harvesting. After he had worked in the fields until four in the morning, he would get cleaned up and drive to work at Thomson. Because of the workload, and several other reasons, Ron decided this venture was not for him.

He purchased a rural lot not far from the farm. Ron and his wife, Barbara, decided to subcontract the building of their country home. He took a year's leave of absence from Thomson to organize and oversee the building of the home. At times, dealing with builders and subcontracting and obtaining special items like fixtures and taps, Ron would shake his head in disbelief at the complications. He and Barbara finally completed this beautiful project and lived there for several years before he retired.

Ron decided that after he retired he would take up golf as a leisure activity. The old Ron Allen showed up again. The leisure activity became a passion. In a short period of time, Ron went from playing a couple of times a week to almost every day. He joined Wolf Run Golf Club, near his home. He began making golf clubs, got involved in men's leagues and played many tournaments. Bluntly, Ron was hooked.

Remembering those cold winter days on the farm, Ron decided to head south and play down there all winter. As he improved, he went to Ireland to try courses over there. Eventually he found a place to his liking for the winter: Santee, South Carolina. By this time, he was scoring in the high 80s to low 90s. He began connecting with better golfers

in his club and seeking more challenges.

Eventually Ron and Barbara decided to spend their winters in Santee. Ron became a winter member of the Santee National Golf Club and played many courses nearby. He would go south after Thanksgiving and stay until early spring. In recent years he made a point of going to The Masters. Only after that would he return to the new Allen residence in Lindsay overlooking the Scugog River.

**George Haag, Charlie Hawkes,** Ron and I played a couple of rounds every year. Ron was the big winner, but he made a point of taking us to his home course, the Lindsay Golf and Country Club, which was located near his new home. He also made an effort to play a round each September with fellow retired Thomson teachers, organized by George.

Last year the group played at Ballantrae, organized by **Dave Schad.** Ron, who usually walked, rode in the same cart with me. On one hole, I forgot about Ron and did not provide him with the opportunity to select the correct club. I was severely reprimanded, nasty looks and all! We worked it out. Our group of twelve had a great time, and Ron insisted that we schedule this year's get-together on a date he could play.

Unfortunately, that won't happen. Ron suffered a severe heart attack while in Santee. He and Barb returned home and spent Christmas with their family. He seemed to be making a complete recovery, but suffered a massive and fatal heart attack on February 1 at his home.

Ron was the kind of person you could not help but like. He was easy-going, had an excellent sense of humour, and was always glad to see you. He will be missed by his former colleagues, his golfing buddies and most of all by his wife, Barbara, and two sons, Matthew and Jason and their families.

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## Further Updates

We have also learned of the death of **Andres Jaaku**, a popular Science teacher at Thomson from 1970 to 1976 (who completed his career as Head at Campbell C. I.) and of the passing of three alumni: **Sue Love, Mason Reimer** and **Linda Singleton.** Please keep us informed of any other deaths so that we can acknowledge them on these pages.

On a happier note, school funds from the 50th Anniversary were available to support a \$500 award at the 2009 Commencement to a graduating student heading towards a career in education. Keep an eye on our website for an invitation to participate in an alumni project to commemorate the 50th with a wall display at the school.

And the school is still there! "Funding challenges" are delaying provincial approval for moving ahead with design details for a building retrofit and a final decision on which property to sell and which to renovate, Bendale or Thomson. We'll keep you informed of any news.