

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011

Alumni Award Winners 2011

We are pleased to introduce alumni members to our second pair of Alumni Award winners. The award was instituted last year as a follow-up to the 50th Anniversary celebrations at Thomson, with the intention of encouraging future student leaders to help continue Thomson's traditions in the school's second half-century. We decided to honour Grade 9 students for their leadership skills and their participation in the school community, in the hope that the promise shown in their first year would blossom in future years, to the benefit of all. This year's awards were presented November 3 as part of the Awards Ceremony for non-graduating students.



Irisse Ortiz came to Canada just a year ago from the Philippines. While she misses the friends she had made back home, and she certainly found her first winter a not-entirely-pleasurable experience, she has adjusted quickly to her new surroundings. She completed Grade 8 at John

McCrae Senior Public School and is now in Grade 9 at Thomson, wasting little time in getting involved.

She has signed up for the Future Aces program, which encourages leadership skills and good citizenship. She plays trumpet in the Concert Band and sings in the Gospel Choir. "They are really good!" she enthuses about this vocal ensemble, led by a Grade 12 student. She also loves visual arts, particularly painting and drawing. She is taking Art this semester and Music next. Over this past summer, while taking a Math course at a local summer school, she learned there was a dance class being conducted by a member of the Toronto Raptors cheerleading/dance team. She signed up and discovered another must-do activity.

Irisse is the first award winner to be chosen from the current,

rather than the previous Grade 9 class, but that may prove to be sadly appropriate. With all her talents and enthusiasm for the arts, she is hoping to apply to Wexford Collegiate, Scarborough's high school for the arts, for next year. She may have to leave another group of friends, and Thomson would be sorry to see her leave, but we wish her well!



Nimal Jeyakumaran is an even more avid musician than Irisse. Last year he was a member of the Senior Concert Band, the Jazz Band (alto sax in both) and the Choir. For a multicultural show last spring, he was part of a percussion trio. He played South Indian drums,

with two colleagues on African drums and regular drum set. Like jazz, the presentation involved a lot of "organized improvisation," and it received critical acclaim. Earlier, at the Winter Assembly, the group performed as a duo, with no drum set, and with no rehearsal! Nimal felt it went even better than the later performance. This year he's part of a new percussion ensemble (four members so far) that encourages newcomers with no formal music training.

As a break from music, Nimal signed up for the baseball team last spring, counting on his Sri Lankan background in cricket to help with this new sport. He also rides his bike to school (even in the rain) and particularly enjoys rides to Thomson Park and its museum. He's long had an interest in history, with a secret dream to recreate his new city, Toronto, the way it used to be.

On week-ends, he works for his uncle doing building renovations. Music at university remains his preferred goal at the moment, but architecture is another possible choice. May we suggest he consider offering his input when plans are drawn up for our new school!

Profile: Ray Lamey

*Ernie Tucker has been catching up with various members of the boys' volleyball championship teams of 30-odd years ago. In this issue he returns to his project with a reminiscence about multi-talented **Ray Lamey**.*

Even among the many superb athletes who contributed to the Thomson volleyball dynasty of the 1970s and '80s, **Ray Lamey** stands out. While many of the team members were all-stars and continued on to great volleyball careers, Ray was unique in his versatility, a starting varsity player in rugby and basketball as well as volleyball. This versatility contributed to his being the first male athlete selected Thomson Athlete of the Year two years in a row (1979-80 and 1980-81).

In many ways, Ray's introduction to senior volleyball at Thomson (1978-79) was a high note. With only two returning players, the team was not expected to dominate as it had. In fact, that team was mentioned by **Don Yaschyschyn** as the most welcome surprise of his coaching career. But with returnees **Bruce Dillon** and **Harry Prapavessis** and transfer **Tom Ormsby**, the new blood, most of whom could still qualify for junior play, exceeded expectations. However, as tournaments wound down that year, Ray remembers losing the third last tournament in the finals, the second last in the semis, the final tournament in the quarters: "We were going backwards!"

Yet the team did qualify for Ontario finals in Ottawa. Ray found it a daunting circumstance. He remembers being excited just to be there and to compete against a number of nationally-ranked players. But Yas "did a good job; he kept us focussed, even, away from the hoopla." When all was done, Thomson had won another Ontario title. To be fair, Ray admits that Tom never doubted the team; from day one, "he expected to win."

The next year brought another Ontario final, this time in Guelph. The toughest match was a semi-final against Crestwood, from Peterborough, but the end result was yet another championship.

1980-81 brought a most satisfying year. The team's overall

record was 80 wins, 1 loss. It was unfortunate that the one loss was, ironically, in the Thomson tournament where the **Drakich-Cooke** combination from Malvern squeaked out a win. Still, redemption in the form of a third straight Ontario title was ultimately satisfying.

After graduation from Thomson, Ray joined Thomson alumni **John May**, **Mark Ainsworth** and **Dave Chambers** on a York University team that dominated Ontario University volleyball and did well at CIAU finals.

Since university days, he has operated his own advertising company and settled in the Beach neighbourhood. This has only improved the local athletic scene, as Ray's 15- and 13-year-old sons attend local schools, where the elder starts as wide receiver on the Malvern football team. Lately, Ray has been a stay-at-home father for his four-year-old daughter, but her move into pre-school has freed him for more adventures; he just returned from a trip to the World Cup of Rugby in New Zealand, including the opportunity to join the Harvard Old Boys' rugby team in a game in Wellington, true sacred ground for rugby fanatics. He also enjoys regular Monday night volleyball games, and continued rugby for many years with Toronto Lions.

Asked for his best memories of Thomson athletics, Ray cited three: that first year of senior volleyball; rugby with **Tom Kilburn**, **Phil Gray** and the lads under **Dave Schad**'s tutelage; and a remarkable run in basketball in 1979-80, when, in a division way

over their heads, with a team depleted by absentees, their run was kept alive by an amazing 42-point performance by **Jon Russell**.

It's significant that Ray's best memories encompass three different sports and focus on the achievements of a teammate, not himself.



The Scarborough Solars (Ray's club team) from the 1978-79 season. Ray is #3. Other Thomsonites are Roger Morito (#6), Tom Ormsby (#4) and Jim Lawrie (#1). Ed Drakich (#5) and Jim Cooke (#8) from Malvern are also there.



Ray in 2011 poses with the next generation of Lamey athletes: Lewis, Russell and CJ.

Spring Pub Night at Boston Pizza

*Photos and a report on our Pub Night in May, courtesy **Bob Doi**.*

May 6th brought us many things this year. It brought us some balmy spring weather. It brought some 40-odd alumni out to Pub Night. And it brought us all to a new Pub Night venue, Boston Pizza. The central location near the Scarborough Town Centre seemed to help draw a somewhat larger crowd than normal. The '60s through early '80s graduating classes were best represented at our Springfest.

Aside from catching up with friends, attendees were treated to a sneak preview of the 50th Anniversary Collage that the Alumni Association will be presenting to Thomson in the near future. The Alumni Committee assisted **Gayle Hurmuses** of "A Good Mind" (Branding and Marketing) in preparing one page of photos (mostly from yearbooks) representing each of Thomson's first 50 years. The collage is currently being framed and will be displayed at Thomson (most likely in the upper corridor near the auditorium) until it gets relocated to the new school (if and when that is developed). Special thanks to Gayle, who probably accounted for 80% of the 600-700+ hours of effort. A slide show displaying each of the 50 years of collages was presented at Pub Night much to the enjoyment of those in attendance.



Thanks to Bob Doi also for the photographic memories of the evening, including a glimpse, bottom centre, of the running anniversary collage slide show on the TV monitor, which the group sometimes actually watched! For various reasons, the alumni committee have decided to wait until April, 2012 for our next pub night. We'll see if absence makes the heart grow fonder and produces a bumper turnout then. If you have suggestions for a location or even for an easily-organized alternative activity, let us know by making a note when you send in your membership renewal form.

As for plans for the Thomson-Bendale site, they are still awaiting Ministry approval (number of students, size of building, types of classrooms, use of space, etc.). Only then will the Board hire an architect and create a design team, with parent, teacher and community representation. We'll keep you updated as we receive news bulletins.