

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2012

Anniversary Collage Unveiled At Last

Thomson Collegiate now has an impressive tribute to its first 50 years mounted on the wall in the upstairs hall between the two doors to the auditorium balcony. Financed by the Alumni with funds available from the anniversary celebration itself, it was unveiled in a small evening ceremony on Monday, June 4.

Gayle Hurmuses, who designed the collage and **Lorne Bellamy** (class of 1963), who arranged for the framing, performed the honours. The memento features 50 mini-collages, one per year, of photos, art work and literary work taken largely from yearbooks, all in black and white, so that, with red lettering, the school colours are also on display. Gayle spent countless hours poring

over scanned illustrations, selecting the ones that worked best and arranging them into an attractive and meaningful display.

The event almost didn't happen, since getting appropriate permit permission is no longer as easy as it might have been when the school first opened in a relatively small Scarborough Board of Education. We apologize to those who might have liked more advance warning. The permit arrived just hours

before the ceremony. But a small group of grads, plus members of the Alumni Committee, were on hand to make things official. And the Scarborough Mirror newspaper was on hand to record the event. Photos on this page are from **Tim Luet** (class of 1980)



Some of the alumni who were present at the unveiling take their turns to examine the collage up close, to see if their photo might be there.



Planning committee members who were on hand pose for a photo:

Stan Farrow, Bob McBride, Sue Botelho-Lee, Gayle Hurmuses, Bob Doi, Tim Luet, Lorne Bellamy

Profile: Lorne Bellamy

Lorne Bellamy, who is pictured on page one (and page four) helping Gayle Hurmuses unveil our anniversary collage, joined our alumni advisory committee to assist with planning for our 50th. He provided us with a link to the early days that we lost when Janet Evans moved to Cobourg. He commutes from his present home in Bradford, just north of the Holland Marsh, to attend meetings of the committee. We thought his career story would be of interest to alumni from all years.

Lorne came to Canada from England with his mother in 1958. His father had died in 1956. His two brothers and a sister had been evacuated to Canada in 1940. They had briefly returned home at the end of World War 2 but then headed back to Canada. So it seemed logical to join them here.

Lorne went to Lawrence Park C.I. in Toronto for Grade 10. Then, when he moved to the Scarborough Golf Club Rd. and Lawrence Ave. area, he was enrolled at West Hill C.I. He had failed Latin at Lawrence Park but was told that if he did well on his first Latin test, he could get credit for his failed course. After the test, the principal summoned Lorne to his office with the sad news that he had failed again! He gave Lorne two bus tickets: one to travel to the Scarborough Board office to arrange a transfer to the new David and Mary Thomson C. I., where he could take French and Geography - and no Latin; and the other to get him home. Ironically, that principal was H. A. C. Farrow, whose son, Stan, was a Latin teacher at Thomson!



Lorne arrives from England - 1958



Lorne as Pooh Bah, 1961, in "The Mikado," Thomson's first major musical

Lorne became active in student activities, working on the school yearbook (in 1963) and its predecessor pamphlet, *The Leaflet* before that. On stage he played Pooh Bah in *The Mikado*, the Police Sergeant in *The Pirates of Penzance* and the father in *The Boyfriend*. He assisted with SAC dances as well. During the summers he worked at a camp for the "mentally retarded" (the term of the day) at Bellwood, Ontario, as it was then called. He stayed for "Grade Fourteen" at Thomson before going to the University of Waterloo in their co-op program.

That program brought him to the Pickle Crow Gold Mines from 1965 to 1967 in the engineering office, performing underground surveying and contract management while also teaching Citizenship and English for New Canadians for The Frontier College, Grand Rapids, Manitoba. In 1967 he was assigned to the Tribag Mining Company in Batchawana Bay, again as underground surveyor and as a contract engineer setting up and managing an incentive bonus system. He also set up level and stope plans and sections. He decided to stay at Tribag and not return to Waterloo but was laid off at the end of August. However, the company enrolled him at the School of Mines in Haileybury, where he was awarded a diploma in Mining Technology after completing the three-year program in 1970.



*1966
Holding one of the last gold bars from Pickle Crow Mines*



*Lorne and Alice with their family in 2011:
Diane, Geoffrey, John and Julie in the back row, Alexander and Emily in front*

He also met his wife, Alice, in Haileybury. ("While Cobalt is known for silver, Haileybury is known for its mining industry wives!") They were married in 1971. Their "honeymoon" involved driving to Snow Lake, Manitoba from Haileybury. A daughter, Julie, was born in 1973 and a son, Geoffrey, in 1976, both in Haileybury. The Bellamys already have two grandchildren, with two more on the way in 2013.

The trip to Snow Lake for Lorne was actually to work as site engineer for Falconbridge Nickle Mines there, setting up two new properties. In 1973 he returned to Ontario as superintendent in an open pit mine in Temagami, managing all blasting operations - a preview of his future career path. From 1976 to 1999 he held various positions with Orica Canada (formerly Canadian Industries Limited - CIL - and ICI Canada). He was Technical Services Representative in Ottawa for the first two years and in Timmins for the next three. Ottawa duties included providing explosive technical onsite advice and training for customers and services at Madawaska Mine, Bancroft and Sherman Mine, Temagami. In Timmins, he was responsible for sales of explosives as

well as technical advice, while introducing or re-establishing a number of blasting techniques. He set up and managed the Schumacher (Timmins) explosives distribution depot.

From 1980 to 1984 he was manager of the Toronto branch (Windsor to Kingston to Parry Sound) and from 1984 to 1987

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In Memoriam

Since our last issue, we have learned of the death of a number of former staff members at Thomson. Three of them were part of the original teaching staff in 1959-60. **Allen (Al) Tough** was a member of the English Department for two years before going on to a stellar career in adult education at OISE (the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education). **Walter (Wally) London** was Head of the History Department from 1959 to 1963. He also moved on to head up programs in postgraduate work in the field of education. **Jean McLean** was a history and geography teacher at Thomson from 1959 to 1969 who married a Thomson colleague in that department, **Sam Morrow** (so she would be Mrs. Morrow to many of our grads). Sam predeceased her by a few years, and, long before that, she had been largely confined to a wheelchair for getting about, but maintained a positive attitude throughout. **Helen O'Connor** arrived at Thomson in 1960 to head up the Girls' Physical Education Department, and, after moving into the Guidance Department, remained on the staff until 1984. She kept close contact with the school even after retirement. Finally, **Andrew (Andy) Brown** was a vice-principal here from 1972 to 1976 but perhaps was better known to a wider audience as Scarborough's bagpiper for all ceremonial occasions, including piping in the platform party for the auditorium ceremonies at our 50th anniversary.



Allen Tough



Walter London



Jean McLean-Morrow



Helen O'Connor



Andrew Brown

We have also learned of the death of **Sandra (Dillon) Corrick**, a Thomson alumna from 1980 or 1981, who was part of our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2009. We have included her yearbook photo from 1980 for classmates to remember.



We are indebted to alumni member, **Bob McBride**, for letting us know about his classmate, Sandra. Staff retirees **Harvey Bride** and **Pam Lock** passed along word on some of their fellow staff members who had died. Please include the Alumni in your thoughts when you hear of the death of former Thomsonites. You can email information to **Stan Farrow** at stanleyfarrow@rogers.com.

LORNE BELLAMY cont.

managed the Sudbury branch (Sudbury and Elliot Lake), supervising and training the area technical reps. Then he was seconded to the CIL Management Information Systems team in Toronto to develop an SAP system for finished goods management. Finally, in 1989 he became Manager of Professional Development and Information, ICI Explosives, Technical Services Group in their Toronto head office. He wrote information sheets, manuals and circular letters on technical matters, safe work practices and new product properties. The work practices manuals, provided to the Ontario Mining Association, were used as a template by many companies. Lorne also developed and helped teach numerous workshops of various lengths for his own company and for the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the Canadian Police College, various mining and geophysical companies and apprenticeship students at community colleges.

Since 1999 he has been a consultant in the minerals and explosives industries, running seminars and workshops, providing technical advice and continuing to write regulations and instructions for industrial clients, government agencies, community colleges and any groups who use explosives, such as highway and railway construction crews, prospectors and farmers. He has travelled from Alberta to Newfoundland and - perhaps most satisfying of all - to the Haileybury School of Mines itself to teach and train.

There is a comedy sketch in *Beyond the Fringe*, the British revue from the early 1960s, in which a boring conversationalist laments, "I never had the Latin for the judging, so I became a miner." Lorne may be British, Latin-less and involved in the mining industry, but boring he is not! We're glad he has reconnected with his alma mater.

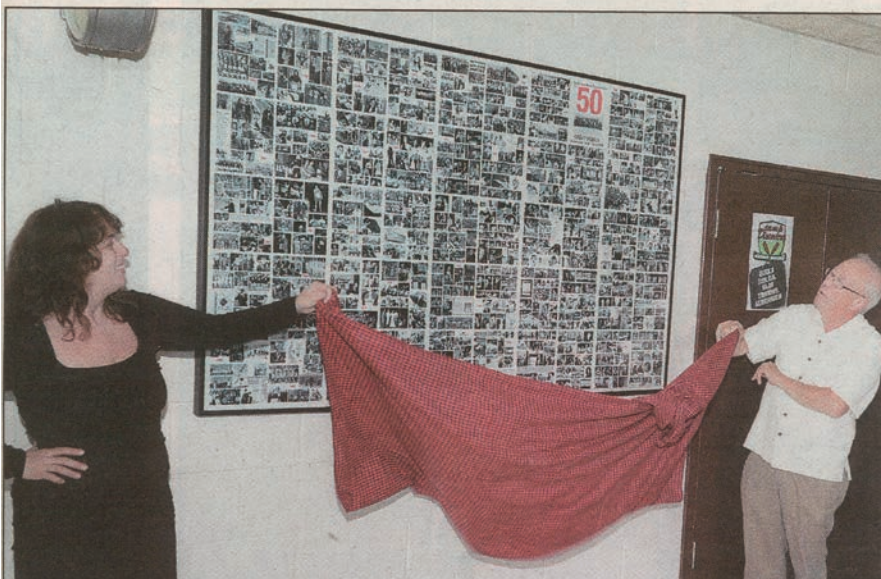
Membership renewal forms for 2012-13 are enclosed with or attached to this newsletter. You have a choice of receiving a paper copy by regular mail or an electronic copy by email. Check your preferred choice on the form and enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount. (Sorry - our numbers don't yet justify setting up electronic submission of dues!)

Spring Pub Night Report



On the evening of April 20, 2012, a small but enthusiastic group of Thomsonites gathered at Boston Pizza near the Scarborough Town Centre for our annual Pub Night. Although the hoped-for collage unveiling at the school could not be combined with the event, there were still a lot of memories, plus current news, to be shared. Our idea of limiting these get-togethers to one per year proved popular, so we will gather again in April, 2013 - details to be announced in the next newsletter. Thanks to **Sue Botelho-Lee** (class of 1985) for sharing some of her photographs of the occasion with us.

THOMSON COLLEGIATE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Mirror Reports Collage

Perhaps we should end this newsletter as we began it, with our 50th Anniversary collage and its unveiling at the school. We invited Thomson alumna and Metroland Newspapers reporter **Danielle Milley** to cover the June 4 unveiling. She replied that she was unable to attend, but she sent along photographer **Nick Perry** to record proceedings. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience, chatting with a number of participants and producing a fine photo in that week's edition of the Scarborough Mirror. For those who don't receive that newspaper (virtually all of you), we have reproduced the heading and the photo (left) plus the somewhat inaccurate caption (below).

Staff photo/NICK PERRY
COLLAGE UNVEILED: Thomson Alumni Association members Gayle Hurmuses, left, and Lorne Bellamy unveil a collage of yearbook pictures on Monday commemorating David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute's 50th anniversary. A celebration marking the Lawrence Avenue high school's 50th anniversary was last month at the school.