

# Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
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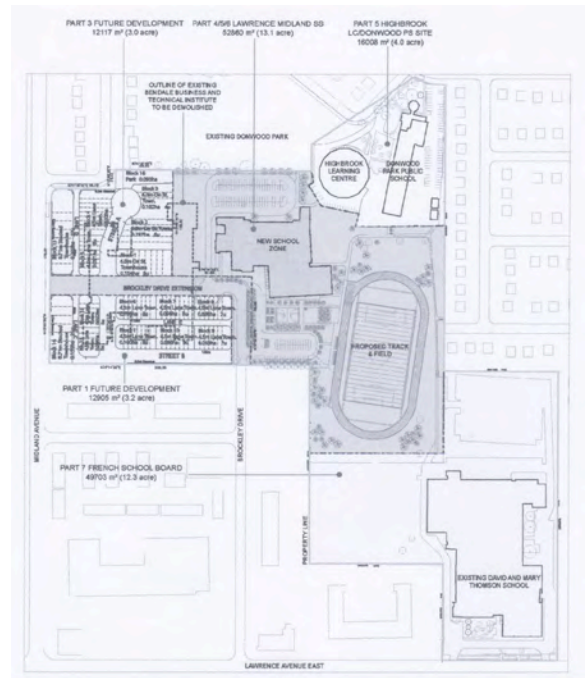
## COMING SEPTEMBER, 2016

The date above is now being suggested as the target for opening the new school to be built on the school board property behind the present David and Mary Thomson and Bendale schools. The Toronto Lands Corp website has the architect's conception, above, of what the new building might look like. Until it is completed, students will continue to attend the present schools. A Toronto District School Board website includes the overall master plan, right, showing how the new school property, shaded in gray, will fit into the general layout of the land. The plan indicates that the present Thomson building will be transferred to the French School Board and will therefore not be torn down. (Sorry, if you were hoping to snag a souvenir brick or two!)



Bendale, however, is slated to be demolished. The townhouse complex shown on the master plan where the school is presently located is a matter of concern to the neighborhood. Meetings with residents were still ongoing as we went to press, but local Councillor **Michael Thompson** has indicated that the developer has altered the Bendale site plans to meet concerns. So we may soon see shovels in the ground.

The new school will probably face onto an extension of Brockley Drive, shown continuing north from Lawrence on the plan, then curving west to join up with Midland Ave., subject to final approval. Will alumni have chances to attend its opening or visit the old school before/after it changes hands? Check [www.thomsonforever.ca](http://www.thomsonforever.ca) for updates.





## STAFF PROFILE: PAM LOCK

*Pam Lock was a very active member of the English Department at Thomson from 1970 to 1987. Her colleague, Shirley Turchet, a drama, journalism and English teacher from 1974 to 1987, suggested that alumni would be interested in Pam's travel spirit, and she even volunteered to write the profile as well! Thank you, Shirley.*

“The world is full of wonderful surprises; there’s always so much more to see, and so many places to revisit.” **Pam Lock** has a passion for adventurous travel to some of the world’s most exotic sites. From her first Eurail pass ‘Grand Tour’ as a new university grad to her 2014 trips to Burma at the end of January and the islands of the Indian Ocean in May, Pam has taken in the histories and cultures of every continent and made life-long friends in the process.



*Giza, 1975*

She’s camped in Africa (although she says those roughing-it days are over), donned the hijab in Iran, ridden a camel across then-uninhabited desert sands to the Giza pyramids, explored the Caucasus nations on a study tour with the NEA, connected with ‘Adventures Abroad’ through Thomson’s **George Haag** to head to Ethiopia and North Korea, walked among the penguins in Antarctica and soaked up heritage culture in China.

Pam’s best trip is “usually the one I’ve just returned from.” Years ago she and a friend, sitting in a tent in Zimbabwe, made a wish list for travel, and she still has many places on that list to visit, acknowledging the need to *carpe diem*. As a serious traveller, Pam has been impacted by the culture shock of returning from a place where children walk barefoot for miles to get water back to our so-comfortable lives, and she is a strong supporter of

Habitat for Humanity.

Originally Pam considered a career in Pharmacy, but the retail aspect was not appealing, and she also felt that she couldn’t do research. One of her teachers at Porter C.I. spoke of teaching as a ‘calling’, leading Pam to change her university application to Arts. After graduation, she chose Laurier, (Latin and English) as her first school. Through her career she taught at L’Amoreaux, Thomson and Cedarbrae, ending with West Hill. But it was her 17 years at Thomson, interspersing 4 years of leaves to refresh and get in extended trips, that remain most vivid.



*Mongolia, 2007*

“There was a wonderful collegial spirit, and a sense of

decency, a moral tone and work ethic set by ‘pillars’ of the staff like **Stan Farrow** and **Charlie Hawkes** which made it a place with opportunities for good student-teacher relationships and teaching beyond the classroom.” Pam coached Archery and badgered students (she recalls aptly named **Craig Bowman**) into partnering with her for Staff-Student badminton events. It was at Thomson that life-long friendships developed and she garnered travel companions like **Brenda Newell**, **Glenis (DeLuca) Emmett**, **June (Bird) Crisp**, and **Rosemary Ludvigsen**.

A most memorable event from the Thomson days for Pam was the *whole-school Stratford trip*. It was then-English-Head **Ron Allen**’s brainwave, but he delegated the logistics to **Ernie Tucker**, who somehow got 900 students onto the bus of their preference (smoking or non! McDonald’s or picnic!) for the trip, leaving Pam as the only one without a seat on the bus. Every member of staff was involved chaperoning or managing the no-go’s. Exhausted at the end of the day, Pam headed off to the big OSSTF meeting where Thomson’s **Rosemary Clark** was running for office.



*Iran, 2010 with Glenis Emmett and June Crisp*



When not travelling or planning the next trip, Pam is busy ‘giving back’, spending much of her time serving on several committees with the United Church. She enjoys working with inspiring people, an activity which “helps stave off geriatric encroachment”. An avid reader and book club member, Pam also tries to keep up with the live theatre scene and get in an annual trip to Stratford (when she needn’t stand up on the bus).

Happy travels, Pam.



*Persepolis, Iran, with June Crisp, Glenis Emmett and Lorraine Campbell*

*Pam in Shiraz (Iran), London and Dubrovnik. If you’re a member of a group looking for an interesting speaker, plus a reunion with a former teacher, we can put you in touch with Pam. Just contact the Thomson Alumni web site and we’ll get back to you.*

## ANNUAL PUB NIGHT - FRIDAY, MAY 2



Assuming the snow finally melts by May, we should be in the mood for our annual spring get-together. Following the demise of Route 66, our locale for the 2013 Pub Night, we’ve been able to find a 2014 replacement venue: The Edge Lounge in Ajax at 252 Baily St., between Westney and Harwood, on the north side. We’ve picked the same first-Friday date as last year, May 2, with festivities from 8 pm onwards. We have Alumni member **Sue Botelho-Lee** to thank for making the arrangements. Sue remembered that the last time we ventured into Ajax a few years ago, the evening was very successful. So spread the word, collect your yearbooks and join us!

## SINGULAR ALUMNI

At the March planning meeting of the Thomson Alumni committee, the age-old question arose about what word to use as the singular of *alumni*. Latin scholars will realize that *alumni* is a plural word, referring to all former students of a school, and it has the advantage of including everyone who attended and not just those who got the piece of paper to show that they actually graduated. However, the word has the disadvantage of causing all sorts of problems when you want to use it to refer to just one person. If the ex-student is a male, then he is an *alumnus*. If female, then she is an *alumna*. If you check a Latin-English dictionary, you’ll find the Latin word, as the Romans used it, meant a “foster-child.” That definition seems touchingly appropriate for the role of the school in substituting, at least temporarily, for a parent. And it is consistent with the Latin phrase we sometimes use to describe our old school, our *alma mater*, which translates as “nourishing mother”. So now you have all the information you need but were afraid to ask. Oh, except for one more wrinkle. If you attended an all-girl school, or if you are referring to a group of former students who are all female, the plural word is *alumnae*! Aarrghh!

# STUDENT PROFILE: ELAINE SELBY

*Elaine Selby is a member of the Thomson Alumni planning committee. We discovered recently that she has an interesting family story to tell, in addition to her own. So we asked her to tell them both.*



*We're #1. Elaine as a Thomson student*

Upon reflection, I cannot believe that it has been 31 years since I graduated from David and Mary Thomson. At times it feels like a lifetime ago, but so many memories feel as if they happened only yesterday.

Having grown up in the 'Ben Jungle' I was one of the few who went to Thomson, but this did not stop me from making so many great memories – friends, parties, school dances, football games, field hockey in the mud, first loves, broken hearts, battle of the bands, United Way and alliances between the Vacuum and the Byrons. My biggest accomplishment was in Grade 13 when I was honoured to be Student Council President. I was so fortunate to have an awesome council beside me; I still to this day say that 1982-83 was the best year ever for the SAC and the school.

My years at Thomson helped shape me into the person I am today. My chosen career has been in health care as a Registered Nurse, and for the last 23 years I have worked at St. Michael's Hospital. Working in Critical Care and now Surgical Day Care, I cannot imagine my choice of career being anything but helping my patients and their families through illness, crisis and beyond. When I am not at work helping others, I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, Michael, with family and spending sunny summer days at my family cottage on the shores of Stoco Lake in Tweed, Ontario. Becoming a member of Thomson Alumni has been so much fun. Working with Mr. Farrow and members of all generations from Thomson has been



*On duty at St. Mike's*

a pleasure. Helping make Thomson's 50th Anniversary such a huge success was truly an exciting walk down memory lane. The 1980s room rocked!

My most meaningful accomplishment has to be honouring my father's memory. My dad was in Holland at the end of WW2 serving with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. In February, 1945 he captured a German flag, had the men he served with in his platoon sign it and then sent it home to Canada. Not long after, my dad and members of his platoon went into battle and my father was one of four who survived that battle without injury. What made this special is that my father served under Sergeant **Aubrey Cosins** who won the Victoria Cross posthumously. I grew up with this flag, and when my father died in 1995, our family donated the flag to the Queen's Own Museum at Casa Loma. The flag had been on display but unfortunately taken down. Through an alliance with a Queen's Own paratrooper doctor whom I met at work, it was arranged that my dad's flag be liberated once again and hung on the wall of the Queen's Own Sergeants Mess at Moss Park Armory. It will never be taken down and will always be admired by those who bravely protect our country. My dad was proud to have fought for his country, and I know he would be proud of my efforts.

I am not rich or famous, I have not won any awards or medals, and I have lived a happy normal middle-class life. But one thing I am proud of is to be a graduate of David and Mary Thomson C.I. and a member of its Alumni. Thomson Forever!

## War item rescued

### Captured Nazi flag liberated

JENNY YUEN  
Sun Media

A war souvenir captured by a Canadian soldier in Nazi-occupied Holland has been liberated from a museum cupboard where it languished for years.

The Nazi flag with the signature of eight Canadian soldiers now has a place of honour at Moss Park Armoury after being stuffed in a Casa Loma cupboard for over a decade. Cpl. Norman Selby, 19, took the black, white and red flag with a swastika symbol in the Netherlands in February, 1945 during World War II.

**In Holland**

Selby and 16 other D-Company troops were there to help liberate Holland at a time when the Nazis were retreating. "My dad was a very proud Canadian and proud that he fought for his country," Selby's daughter, Elaine, 44, says.

"To get war artifacts was virtually impossible. So my dad and his buddy were going through Milligen and there was a church steeple. My dad said, 'I'm getting that flag,' gets everyone to sign it and packages it and sends it home to my grandmother in Toronto." Before Selby died in March, 1995 at the age of 69, the family donated the flag to Casa Loma's museum of the Queen's Own Rifles, the infantry regiment of the

A Nazi flag signed by Canadian soldiers was in a cupboard at Casa Loma for a decade. Now it hangs at Moss Park Armoury.

ELAINE SELBY/PHOTO

Canadian Forces Reserve which Selby belonged to. "He got the flag framed so it wouldn't fade anymore and put it up in the museum," Elaine said.

"A couple of years later we had heard that the flag wasn't up," Elaine said she found out the flag wasn't on display last month by running into a doctor who was also in the Queen's Own, while she was working at St. Michael's Hospital. Apparently, a Jewish-American visitor was offended by the swastika on the flag and complained to the museum curator. The flag was taken down for at least

a decade and stuffed in a cupboard, Elaine said. "My brother and I grew up with this German flag in our house and at one point, it was on our basement wall," Elaine said.

"That flag, to me, didn't represent Hitler and the persecution of Jews, it represented what my dad and the men that have served and still serve today, have done for our country."

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*2008 Toronto Sun article about the flag*