

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2016

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

The old school continues to attract new students of the highest quality. Let us introduce you to two of them, this year's Alumni Award winners for their contribution to school life in Grade 9 (2015-16). The awards were presented at the annual Awards Assembly on October 13, with alumnus **Lorne Bellamy** on hand for the presentation.



Rayyan Wehbe scored 90% or above in all her classes. She also played on the girls' soccer team. As a member of Future Aces, she helped to organize events for the SAC, for multicultural celebrations and for Thomson Future Aces Week. One special event was an ice cream sundae sale! Her favourite subjects are Math and Science, good choices if she continues her quest to become a doctor.

In the community, Rayyan also played soccer, this time in the Islamic Soccer League. Her specialty is defence, but she sometimes plays as a forward. She continues to volunteer as a Beaver leader in a Scouts Canada program at a Lebanese mosque (her family's national background). For most of this past summer she volunteered at a day camp at the McGregor Park Community Centre. Last year she served on the Youth Council at the Oakridge Community Centre and also spent a day at the Ellesmere Community Centre making boxes for the needy. She has two older sisters, aged 16 and 18 and a younger brother, aged 10.



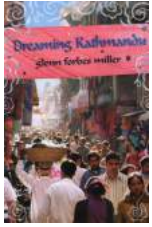
Andreas Ellinas lives and breathes soccer. In school, he played indoor and outdoor soccer. Beyond Thomson's walls, he plays for Wexford in a CSL competitive league. He has been a goalkeeper since Grade 1. He trains twice a week with his goalkeeper coach and three times a week with the full team. One day a week there is a game. That leaves one day with no community soccer duties. But Andreas spends that day working out, not one to sit idly by a T.V. set or ipad. His father was a goalkeeper (his parents escaped from Cyprus during the Turkish invasion), but he does have an older brother (22) who's a mid-fielder. The two can practice their skills against each other. He also has an older sister (24).

Despite his busy athletic life, Andreas has maintained a good academic record. He won a Future Aces Award in Science for his attitude in class and for the good questions he asked. No surprise, then, that Science is his favourite subject. His future career plans include apprenticing in one of the trades. He likes working with his hands, taking abstract knowledge and putting it to practical use. He also likes the team mentality fostered by team sports, working together for the good of all. Mental and physical fitness sounds like a great combination!

We congratulate our winners for their achievements and for the role they have already played in continuing a 57-year tradition of excellence at David and Mary Thomson C. I.

THE WRITE STUFF

In recent issues, our reports on alumni have included incidental mention that some were working on a book or had already had their work appear in print. With this issue we've embarked on a more formal survey of former Thomsonites whose work has appeared in print. Thanks to everyone who responded to our appeal for information.



Glenn Miller was part of a Class of '64 reunion we reported on in our last issue. We mentioned the two books he has published about his treks in Nepal (pictured left). He also has a newer book of poetry in print (*of time and moving water*). He's quite happy to pass his Nepal adventures on for free to any interested readers, but is still 'selling' the poetry book at cost for \$10. He can be contacted at glennmiller45@rogers.com.



In the Spring 2015 issue we reported on **Chris Cameron's** successful attempt to contact **Sharon Dale**, a fellow performer in Thomson musicals of the 1960s, prior to publishing a reminiscence of his career in opera. (His photo from those opera days appears, left.) He has announced that Seraphim Editions will be publishing the memoir in April, 2017. The title, *Dr. Bartolo's Umbrella and Other Tales from my Surprising Operatic Life*, is based on an unintentional moment of comedy onstage when Chris was playing Dr. Bartolo in a production of *The Barber of Seville*. You'll have to read the book for the details. Expect more news in the spring.



Another "personal" memoir is *Through a Starling's Eyes* by **Gisele Gauthier** (1965-1969). In the book she invites you to enter the world of a lost baby bird, desperately in need of rescuing and understanding. Through stories, verse and drawings, the secret realm of starlings opens up to reveal the wonder of a magnificent species. But perhaps the biggest surprise of all is what the intrepid nestling taught his rescuer about being happy. Gisele's book costs \$25 and can be obtained by contacting her at gisele.gauthier@sympatico.ca. She has now moved on to fostering orphaned and injured pigeons - another story in itself.



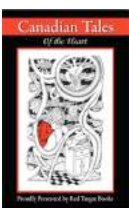
Dianne (Cook) More (1964-1967) has just completed a ten-year labour of love: a coffee table book with photos and stories of families and cottage life on Ril Lake in Muskoka. She is pictured, left, with a blow-up of the book's cover. Dianne edited or wrote all the contents, some stories going back to the 1800s. A fellow cottager owns the graphic design company that produced the final masterpiece, unveiled at a book launch by the lake,



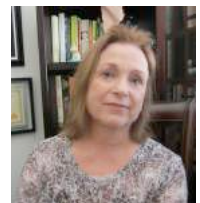
pictured, right. More information about Ril Lake and the book can be found at www.rillake.ca.



In the realm of fiction, **Heather Hunter** (1963-1968), is on a bit of a roll since her retirement as a Scarborough high school teacher. Heather finished her mother's last novel posthumously at her mother's request, but has now completed three novels of her own, the latest of which, *Kristina with a K*, is pictured, left. The cover hints that Kristina will face lifelong challenges because of a decision to take a dangerous shortcut home by the railway tracks. Like her other novels, the book suggests important lessons. www.hunterbooks.ca has details about all of Heather's work.



Nancy (Vendetti) Thorne completes a page full of alumni from the 1960s. Five years ago she rekindled a flame dormant since grade school and enrolled in a Creative Writing program at Durham College, Oshawa. She has had several short stories published in anthologies such as *Canadian Tales* (left) and has just completed a mystery novel for young adults: *Victorian Town*. You can check out her story (and her gorgeous fox red labrador) at her new website www.nancythorne.com.





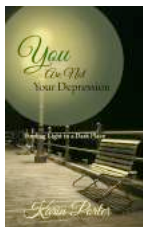
Wes Terrell (1979-1983) was the first alumnus to respond to our invitation on Facebook and the alumni website with information on his science fiction novel, *The Book of Bob*, whose setting is the Christian apocalypse. The two links to Kobo and Kindle versions are almost as long as the book itself: <https://store.kobobooks.com/en-CA/ebook/the-book-of-bob> and https://www.amazon.com/Book-Bob-Wesley-Terrell-ebook/dp/B00JCPRGDI/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1443107231&sr=8-1&keywords=the+book+of+bob+wesley+terrell. The book tries to explain, from a Christian point of view, what may happen with it “hits the fan”, according to the Bible.



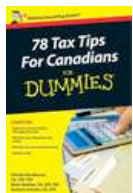
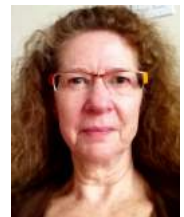
Arlene (Rignall) Johnston (1965-1970) has had three novels published for readers, aged 8-12 (covers to the left). She also writes poetry (one book published) and short stories (many of which have appeared in publications from the Haliburton Highlands of Ontario, where she lives). You can track down her profile and further information at www.smashwords.com/profile/view/ArleneJohnston.



Elaine Allison (Class of 1977) always thought she would write a children's book, but instead produced *The Velvet Hammer - PowHERful Leadership Lessons for Women Who Don't Golf*. She is also one of the contributors to *Roadmap to Success with Deepak Chopra and Ken Blanchard*. She remembers **Ms. Nyman**, her drama teacher, as the one who challenged her students most to be creative and credits her appearances on the Thomson stage for building the nerve to be a successful public speaker. “The Bunch Broads” classmates at Thomson continue to be her supporters, and all critiqued her book. Check out her websites <http://elaineallison.com/books> and <http://elaineallison.com/meeting-planners> for more information.



You Are Not Your Depression is a practical guide written by **Karin Porter** (1967-1971) to help those who suffer from this all-too-common condition. It offers suggestions that can be of help when you are depressed and also describes the nature of depression and the need to have compassion and understanding for oneself when in this state. As the title states, depression is a state of being, not who a person is. The book is available at Friesen Press, Amazon and as an e-book. It is also for sale at Caversham's Book Store in Toronto.



Another type of self-help publication can be seen to the left. *78 Tax Tips for Canadians for Dummies* morphed out of a previous publication, *Taxes for Canadians for Dummies*. The co-author of both these books of invaluable financial advice is **Brian Quinlan** (1973-1978). Brian is a partner at Campbell Lawless LLP, a firm of chartered professional accountants. The firm's website, www.camlaw.on.ca includes a profile of Brian.



Melvyn (Mel) D'Souza graduated from Thomson in 1980, obtaining an Honours B. Sc. in Computer Science from the U. of T. in 1984, an MBA from Heriot-Watt University (UK) in 2006 and a Masters in Information Technology through Charles Sturt University (Australia). He is an accountant CPA, CGA (1998) and currently Vice-President of Global Treasury Operations at Manulife Financial. His review of *Big Ideas in Social Science* is due to appear shortly in the journal *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management*. He has also had reviews appear in *CGA Ontario Statements* in 2014 and has had articles published in the *India Insurance Regulatory Development Authority Journal* and in *Mangalore Magazine, CASK* in 2007. He is often called upon to speak at international financial conferences.

This two-page spread covers most, but not all, of the replies we have received from alumni. And it does not include former staff members who also have had their work published. We apologize to those we have temporarily omitted. We'll catch up in our next edition, when I suspect we will have other responses growing out of this report. So let us know if you or someone you know should be featured in the Spring edition. (stanleyfarrow@rogers.com)



IN MEMORIAM



Paul Barbeau



Chris Snow



Judy Buys



Don Oldfield



Jerry Fitzgerald

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the deaths of three former students and two former staff members. **Paul Barbeau** was a fixture at all our pub nights and reunions until recently. He used to joke that he graduated in 1966 after six years “because they liked having me around so much”. **Chris Snow** graduated in 1979 contributing greatly to Thomson’s yearbook and music programs. He was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church, serving parishes in Newfoundland and Milton despite a 7-year battle with leukemia on top of a 24-year battle with kidney failure. **Dr. Judith Buys** (Class of 1979), a respected and loved Peterborough dentist and businesswoman, was killed in a freak accident when a naphtha lamp exploded at her family cottage near Burnt River, ON. **Don Oldfield** was the metalworking shop teacher from 1959 to 1964, remembered as a strict “sergeant-major” but also a talented builder of sets for stage productions. At the school’s first Christmas Assembly in 1959, he dressed as Santa Claus and entered the cafeteria driving a convertible. **Jerry Fitzgerald** completed a long and distinguished career in Scarborough education as Thomson’s principal from 1985 to 1987. Major losses all!

FAREWELL TO BORSALINO’S

Our April 29 Pub Night at Borsalino’s was another great success. The location and the interior set-up both worked well for gathering informally, circulating to check out fellow alumni and keeping an eye on hockey and baseball. Alas, Borsalino’s has now closed. We know the place has been sold to another restaurateur, but we don’t know whether the replacement eatery/drinkery will welcome us back for more pub nights. We’re sure the name is going to change, so it’s safe to say that our gathering in April marked a farewell to Borsalino’s. Your alumni committee will be checking out what’s happening and, if we need to search elsewhere, we’ll do so in time to let you know in our spring newsletter.

Meanwhile, enjoy the collage of photos from April, thanks to **Bob Forrest**.

