

Thomson TRADEWINDS

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!

Your Alumni, in collaboration with the school administration, have settled on a date for our 60th Anniversary and Farewell to the Old School celebrations in 2019. Saturday, May 4 will be the day. There will definitely be an “open house” at the old school during the afternoon, with the usual set-up of decade rooms and other areas in which to reconnect with fellow former Thomsonites. In the evening, there will be a gala Pub Night at an off-campus site, which we hope to announce soon. A luncheon for present and former staff is another possibility. We expect to have a full schedule lined up by this summer. It will be announced in our fall newsletter, but our website (www.thomsonforever.ca) and our Facebook pages will probably have details much earlier than that. If you live in the GTA and would like to volunteer to help with planning and organizing or assisting on the day itself, we’d love to hear from you. If you respond to our webmaster, he can pass along your offer to us. Or if you know any of our Alumni Board members, just contact them. As a reminder, here is the executive of our Alumni Association:

President: Bob McBride
Vice-President: Bob Doi
Secretary: Elaine Selby
Treasurer: Tim Luet



Late February photos show progress on the new school - taken by the sign at the Brockley Drive entrance to the work-site.

If not for the drawing on the sign, the “project” could be a top secret laboratory!





ALUMNUS RETURNS TO THOMSON

On January 10, 2018, **Allan Westlake** (class of 1969) returned to Thomson C. I. for the first time since his graduation ceremony almost 49 years earlier. He was there to speak with a Grade 10 Science class about threats to the environment and possible ways of countering those threats. The class's teacher, **Diana Naumovski**, herself a Thomson grad, had applied to Climate Reality Canada for a "guest speaker" on the topic.

The application fortuitously was passed along to Allan, who jumped at the chance of returning to his *alma mater*. He had recently undertaken Climate Reality Leadership Training with **Al Gore**, former U.S. Vice-President (1992-2001) under **Bill Clinton** and, after politics, with his global climate change activism, recipient in 2007 of the Nobel Peace Prize. Allan had a powerpoint presentation at the ready to share with the students (above right). That presentation included some pretty grim facts and figures. But he followed them up with some thoughts on what people could do to reverse the situation.



The class then broke into small groups to discuss and write down lists of measures we could take to save the planet, with one table each concentrating on global, national, provincial, local and personal measures. To the left, Allan watches as one of the groups reports on its findings and suggestions. He and Diana were both impressed with the imagination and initiative represented in the verbal reports. At the end of the class, the students thanked Allan and made a small presentation to him (right) for his efforts.

Since Allan was curious to see what changes had taken place in his "old"

school, Diana, plus **Stan Farrow**, who dropped in on the session, took him on a tour afterwards, to complete his much-appreciated visit.



Diana surprised Allan (and her students) by putting Allan's yearbook photo and profile on the screen before his presentation. It could serve as a warning to beware what you write in a yearbook! And, as often, its predictions about the future proved inaccurate. Allan actually attended the formerly-called Ontario College of Art (OCA) following graduation and specialized in photography. In addition to many gallery exhibits of his photography, his primary career has focused on building and designing sets for film and TV. "Kim's Convenience" is one of his more recent accomplishments in that area.

His "General Science" prediction has come true with his continued passion for protecting the environment and fighting global climate change - an avocation that led to his Thomson visit. Allan has a website www.allanwestlake.com that features his photography as well as a fuller profile than this brief summary. He has just developed a new interactive website, www.thewilltochange.org which focuses on climate change news, politics and solutions.

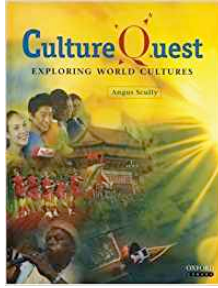
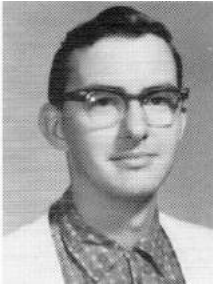
Allan says his decision to attend OCA did not initially meet with overwhelming enthusiasm at home, but a glance at his websites will show that it has worked out pretty well!

ALLAN WESTLAKE - If he doesn't make architecture at U. of T., Al plans to go into a General Science course next year. He questions the existence of "life" at school and is peeved by teachers who classify you before they know you. When not flexing fantastic muscles for the gym team, Al enjoys going to folk concerts at Massey Hall and husseling the girls.





THE WRITE STUFF



Just after we went to press with our Autumn 2017 edition, we received one more submission for our collection of published authors from **Angus Scully** (Class of 1965), photographed left (out of his costume as Friar Lawrence in our 1964 production of *Romeo and Juliet*). Angus spent 30 years teaching history with the Peel Board of Education, producing many learning materials, some of which were used Canada-wide. Here is a partial list of titles authored in whole or in part by Angus:

- Canada Today* (4 separate editions from 1979 to 2006, the last retitled *Canada in the Contemporary World*)
- Canada Through Time (Book 1, 1992; Book 2, 1993)*
- High Technology: Canada in the Information Age* (1997)
- Making History* (2000) (all these titles published by Prentice-Hall)
- Juno Beach: Canada in World War II* (Penguin, 2003)
- Culture Quest: Exploring World Cultures* (Oxford University Press, 2006)
- Voices and Visions: A Story of Canada* (Oxford, 2006)
- Exploring Nationalism* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2008)
- and a trio of more independent publications:
- Malton Memories: Pioneers to Airport* (1981)
- “Gallant Men: The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada in the Rhineland, 1945” - *WWII History* (2007)
- Searching for Aubrey - the story of a war hero and the boat that bore his name - *Ottertooth*

OBITUARIES

On a less happy note, we have learned of the deaths of two former students and one former teacher.

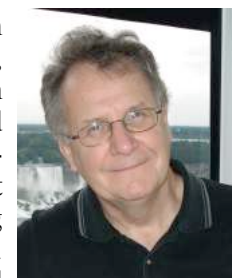
Keith Stanley (left) passed away last July at the age of 49 after a brief illness. His photo comes from Grade 11 in 1985. To his sister, **Ralda** (also a Thomson grad), and the rest of his family and to his many friends we offer our condolences.



Chris Spearing (right, in his yearbook grad photo from 1963 and the photo posted by the family for his funeral notice) died quite recently and unexpectedly on February 12. Chris’s entrepreneurial spirit led him to a career with Liquid Paper Canada and on to ownership and leadership in other stationery supply companies. He also has other Thomson grads amongst his siblings to whom, with family and friends, we send our sympathy.



Finally, a former staff member from the late 1970s, **Rick Harwood**, died January 16 of complications from acute kidney failure at the age of 68. He was at Thomson only briefly before moving on to Agincourt and to Cedarbrae, but any of his Auto Shop students will certainly remember him fondly. His photos show him in the Thomson shop in 1979 and (a fuzzy thumbnail from his obituary) doing what he loved - displaying and racing cars. He refused to retire and was still at Cedarbrae when he died, passing on his enthusiasm to his students. To those students, his family and his friends, please accept our sympathies on your loss.





AUDITORIUM FAREWELL - MAY 11, 2019



The photo, left, from Thomson’s 1990 yearbook (yes, they had colour!) serves as a reminder of almost 60 years of entertainment, information and even community involvement in the auditorium at Thomson. Despite uncomfortable seats, it has hosted many stars of the future (at least in their own minds) on its stage. There will be no auditorium in the new school (a “cafetorium” is more likely). So your Alumni felt we should have some kind of send-off, as part of our anniversary events.

We are proposing an evening of music, spoken word, dance, even athletics on Saturday, May 11, a week after the open house. If you performed on the stage in shows or assemblies; if you didn’t but have since gone on to achievements in showbiz or the media; if you have a group that would like to get together and perform, we are inviting - urging - you to volunteer for “one last time” in the old place. You can

recreate something you did in the past or something you are now doing in the present, or whatever.

An ulterior motive for this event is fundraising for a project the alumni are planning for the new school: a visual wall collage celebrating the heritage of the Thomson family in Scarborough. We will sell tickets in advance and at the reunion the week-end before. We would need performers to be available on the Friday evening as well (May 10) for a technical run-through to check lighting, microphones, order of entrances, exits, etc. **Stan Farrow**, who now has his name on the auditorium, has volunteered to coordinate the program - and even to supply piano accompaniment if anyone needs it. Please contact him (stanleyfarrow@rogers.com) if you’re interested, know of others who might be - or should be! - or have questions.

We look forward to a very special celebration and are counting on you to help make it so!

PUB NIGHT - MAY 5

Last year, we were mourning the demise of Borsalino’s, on Sheppard Ave. near Brimley, the very accommodating venue for a number of our annual spring Pub Nights. Well, the owners and many of the staff from that locale have resurfaced in The Frog and Crown, a pub at 1871 O’Connor Drive, just west of its intersection with Victoria Park Avenue. If you’re driving west into the city, the pub will be on your left after you pass Victoria Park (see the map below).

Our “social conveners” **Donna Pickering** and **Bob Forrest** discovered the place (even with a Borsalino’s sign in the window!) and checked with the owners, who also have happy memories of our pub nights at their Sheppard Ave. location. They said they would be happy to set aside an area for us to meet, reminisce - and, of course, take advantage of their menu.



Our initial plan was to hold the pub night on a Friday evening, so that we could use May 4 as the date for this year’s “small” get-together and also next year’s major reunion event, as a way of reinforcing the date in everyone’s memory. However, The Frog and Crown has a Karaoke night every Friday, and that doesn’t mesh well with an evening of conversation. So we’re going with Saturday, May 5 instead. If you’re in the area and want to check out the location (and the menu!) before May 4 (there’s lots of parking, we’re told), feel free to do so!



Then join us May 5 from 8 pm on with yearbooks and memories in hand. And, with the bigger event a year away, we’ll be happy to accept offers of assistance from any of you so inclined.