

# Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2019

## TIME TO SAY GOODBYE



A crowd gathers in the school front foyer to register for our 60th Anniversary and to visit the old school for the last time. Enjoy more photos of the events on May 4 and 11 inside this special edition of Thomson Tradewinds.





## MAY 4 FIRST EVENT: STAFF BRUNCH



A catered brunch was served, cafeteria-style, to past and present staff members in the Staff Room at 10:30 am.

(Left) Checking in outside the staff room



(Right) Conversation before the meal



(Left) Alumni Rep Stan Farrow gets everyone to sit down.



(Above) Harvey Bride, an original staff member from 1959, and Joanne McMinn (from 1960)



(Above) Enjoying the meal



(Left) Bob Heath, Sue Rowan, Bob Myrvold and Bob Carson in post-prandial conversation. (Too many Bobs!)





## MAY 4 OPEN HOUSE: NOON TO 4 PM



Alumni from the 1960s gathered in the original gymnasium.







1970s Alumni (always our largest group) gathered in the newer “Boys’ Gym”.)







Cafeteria South was the gathering place for grads from the 1980s.







The 1990s displays were in Room 112, the former Team Teaching Room since converted to a second drama space.



And the 2000s had the new Cafeteria North area.



**Welcome  
to the  
2000s**





Former Thomson teacher, Stephanie Gartshore, sings “O Canada” during the auditorium ceremonies, with the Thomson Wind Ensemble under the direction of Brooks Gorst.



Alumni Secretary Elaine Selby speaks. The platform party includes: Front row: MPP Christina Mitás and her future Thomson student; MP Salma Zahid, Superintendent Shirley Chan; Principal Bill Papaconstantinou; Second row: student Alice Efimoff (who read the indigenous land acknowledgement); Councillor Michael Thompson; Brooks Gorst; Thomson family member Kathryn Holland (whose mother gave us an interesting and humorous family history); Back row: Alumni members Stan Farrow and Bob McBride (President); and Steve Charlton (an alumnus who previewed his song for the May 11 program).





In the front hall there was a map, on which we invited grads to mark, with a star, where they had come from for the celebrations.



Upstairs was the table, staffed by Alumni and friends, where souvenirs could be picked up.

Below is a photo of the organizational efforts required the evening before to sort and package the many orders.



Tim Luet and Bob Doi, of the Alumni Executive, wave greetings from the windows above the school's front entrance.





## MAY 4: CLASS OF 1978 REUNION



2018 marked the 40th anniversary for the Class of '78. With all the anticipation of Thomson's 60th and the Farewell Open House, it only made sense to run the two events together to capitalize on the additional attendance.

Planning began in the fall of 2018 for our reunion. Arrangements were made to have classmates assemble in the '70s Decade Room near the 1978 grad photos. An estimated 80 class members attended the Open House, with about 60 staying for a Class Photo (top). So much catching up to do: careers, children and retirement on the positive side; loss of spouses, parents and jobs on the sadder side. Thanks to so many who stayed until the end to help clean up the Decade Room.

Our Class continued to show its exuberance and school spirit with 54 of us (plus 16 guests, many of them Thomsonites from other years) gathering for dinner at the Scarborough Town Centre Boston Pizza.

Needless to say, we monopolized much of the dining room! We even managed to convince everyone to leave their mini-reunions and drinks (bottom photo above) long enough to take a Class photo outside the restaurant (middle photo, above).

To end the day of celebrations, 15 of us later attended the evening Social at Centennial College. We are already discussing plans for our next milestone anniversary reunion. Will it be a 45th or 50th? Only time will tell. Thanks to all who attended one or more of the events for making this day especially special for this Thomson Alumnus. - Bob Doi





## MAY 4: EVENING SOCIAL 8 PM - 1 AM



The wonderful facilities at the new Hospitality building on the Progress Campus of Centennial College were the site for our well-attended Evening Social on May 4. Above, stamping the wrist of Jennifer Markiewicz, an early arrival and the first 21st-century grad to join our Alumni committee for future endeavours. Food, drink and fellowship are all on display in the other photos.



The Alumni Planning Committee at the Social:

Standing: Jim Wray, Dawna Kobayashi, Stan Farrow, Elaine Selby, Tim Luet, Bob Doi, Sue Botelho.

Seated: Wayne Moss, Donna Pickering, Bob McBride, Bob Forrest, Lorne Bellamy





## MAY 11: AUDITORIUM FAREWELL 8- 11 PM



Before the old school disappears, alumni and present students combined for a “last show” on the stage. MCs Tom Hayes and Jennifer Valentyne, Thomson Alumni both now with Global TV, posed with Stan Farrow. Bob Doi got a program cover autographed by the trio.



The first performance was by the present Thomson Vocal Ensemble. Former teacher Stephanie Gartshore (from earlier in the 2000s) returned to conduct them while Brooks Gorst, their usual director, accompanied them on the piano. Their second number, “Pure Imagination”, from the movie *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, featured on-screen visual excerpts from the movie.





Keith Woodend reprised his role as The Mikado, from the operetta by the same name, presented at Thomson in 1961.

Lorne Bellamy (below) reprised his role as the Sergeant of Police (from "The Pirates of Penzance") in 1962. In both images, a photo from their appearance in the 1960s was shown on the screen.

As the two oldest alumni performers, Keith and Lorne were joined onstage by our youngest - the Thomson Vocal Ensemble - acting as their chorus.

Stan Farrow reprised his role as the piano accompanist from those earlier shows.



Jo Ann (Menchenton) Sutherland sang "Father and Son" by Cat Stevens.

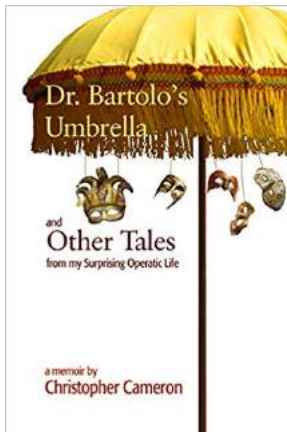


Recent graduate Mary Wilson teamed up with Brooks Gorst to perform music by John Williams from the movie, *The Terminal*.





Christopher Cameron read an excerpt from his memoir (left) with scenes from his past, including a Thomson stage musical and a Canadian Opera Company production.



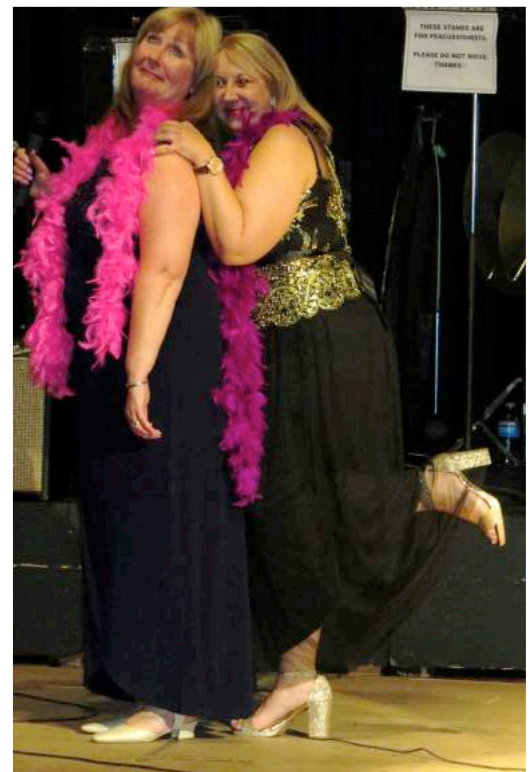
From his "Music Night" performance in the early '60s, Lorne Bellamy (right) sang "The Irish Ballad" by Tom Lehrer. ("Rickety Tickety Tin")



David Barrett performed one of his own songs: "Sail Away with Me".



Jeff Ireland and Larry Rodricks (left) closed Act I as the Ragtime Piano Duo.



Leanne (Hatswell) Irwin and Debbie Knight reprised an auditorium assembly number: "Bosom Buddies" from *Mame*.





Audience members and performers mingled in the front hall during intermission.



The Thomson Stage Band, directed by Tim James, kicked off Act II with “Big Noise from Winetka”.



Above, Lisa (Kambeitz) Rigg and Jennifer Valentyne recall appearing together in *Guys and Dolls* in 1986. Right, Lisa performed “Adelaide’s Lament” with her 1986 self on the screen behind her. She travelled all the way from St. Louis to reprise her performance.



Left, Laura (Sheils) and Wayne Adlam emoted to “Summer Nights” from *Grease*.





Steve Charlton stirred memories with his version of James Taylor's "Sweet Baby James".



Shirley Turchet gave a poetic reminiscence of her years in Thomson's Drama Dept. (1974-1987), illustrated by images such as the dance from *Howdy Dude* (1978).



Don Montgomery as "Mister Cellophane" from *Chicago*



Keith Woodend returned with the style of singing he performs today as a "crooner" with big bands in the Niagara area. He felt it would be fitting, with alumni of various backgrounds on hand, to sum things up with Paul Anka's "(I Did It) My Way".



Stephanie Gartshore proved she is a talented vocal performer as well as teacher, with the appropriate "Time to Say Goodbye".





The Thomson Wind Ensemble played a suite of music by John Williams from various Star Wars films. The suite was adapted and arranged by the ensemble's director, Brooks Gorst. On the screen were appropriate excerpts from the films to match the music.



The evening ended with the singing of the Thomson School Song, accompanied by the Wind Ensemble.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our 60th Anniversary. The building where we spent our high school years will soon be a memory, but we think we said good-bye in style!

We are indebted to Bob Doi and Elaine Selby for the reunion photographs.



## NEW SCHOOL TO OPEN SOON

Design Rendering of the New  
David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute

CONTINUING OVER FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE FOR STUDENTS IN SCARBOROUGH



Representing Leadership in Public Education for the 21st Century

While we were busy saying farewell to the old building in May, we didn't anticipate that it would still be operational in September. A wet spring, inevitable labour disruptions and the usual construction problems made it obvious by August that the school would not be ready in time for the opening bell on September 3. So administration, staff, students and parents reverted to Plan B, which was to use the present building until the new one was sufficiently ready to allow everyone to move in. Back in 1959 that option wasn't available,

but we are lucky to have a fully functional building in place for the interim planning in 2019.

Present plans are to use a week-end in the near future to make the move. The Friday will be a P.A. Day and the Monday a "Moving Day", with classes recommencing on the Tuesday. So there will be a four-day transition operation. Of course, not everything in the old school needs to be moved out immediately, but there is certainly pressure to have the building vacated and the land available for new designated uses as soon as possible.

You can keep informed on our Alumni website and through other connections as to the timing of the move, of an official opening and, we hope, a special opportunity for alumni to tour the new facilities.

## OBITUARIES

We are saddened to report the deaths of two men who were there when the original Thomson Collegiate opened in 1959, one as a teacher and the other as a student.



**Harvey Bride** transferred from R. H. King Collegiate to become the first Head of Modern Languages at Thomson, moving on to the same position at Mowat Collegiate when it opened in 1969, where he finished his career. As you will see on earlier pages, Harvey managed to get to our 60th in May, despite the increasing effects of Parkinson's, but he succumbed to his ill health in August.

Harvey had a well-deserved reputation as a task-master, earning respect and praise from students who came to realize how much they owed to his demanding approach. The fact that this approach was rooted in a genuine concern for their success and their welfare became evident when he also became our resident consultant on where grads were and what they were doing, long after he (and they!) left Thomson.

Lorne Bellamy, from our Alumni team, attended Harvey's memorial service and, as so often happens, was surprised to learn of interests and talents that few of his students or colleagues were aware of. Harvey was a fine pianist and also a long-time member of his church choir. He was very involved in many church-related activities. But he did not publicize those in his "teacher" *persona*.

One story from those early Thomson days does serve to illuminate an occasion on which he did allow his two *personae* to overlap. One of his students, Carol Anne Balmer, became rather famous in our community after winning both the Miss Toronto and the Miss Canada pageants. A compulsory part of both beauty competitions involved a talent section. Carol Anne decided she wished to sing the French popular song *Le Fiacre*, about a horse-drawn carriage and the doings of a woman passenger in it. Harvey accompanied Carol Anne on the piano and coached her on her French pronunciation.

Harvey was pleased to see so many former students back in May and to find out how they were doing. That life-long character trait, perhaps unlike his hidden talents, came as no surprise.





**HARVEY PEDDLE:**  
This final year at school for Herv, saw  
him set a torrid pace,  
Aside from Lord High Executioner, he held  
the President's place.  
He played the French horn in the band and  
kept his marks up high,  
This school will wait a while to find a  
better all 'round guy.



**Harvey Peddle** was a member of the first Grade 12 class in 1959-60 and the first Grade 13 graduating class in 1960-61. (New schools in those days always permitted Grade 13 students to complete their diploma at their previous schools.) He was elected Vice-President of the first Student Council in 1959, following that up with election as President the following year.

Lorne Bellamy was also able to attend the funeral service for his schoolmate and to pass along to the family the mementos to the left, taken from *The Leaflet*, the predecessor to our yearbook until 1963. They include Harvey's graduation "profile" and a photo of Harvey (centre) as the comedy lead, Ko Ko (the Lord High Executioner), in Thomson's first big musical production, *The Mikado*. (Lorne played Pooh Bah with the fancy mustache.)

Harvey was a graduate Engineer and spent his entire working career with General Motors.

**Dave Bower** was not part of the

original staff or student contingent at Thomson, but he certainly was "an original". As part of the Science Department from 1969 to the mid-1970s, he brought with him an uninhibited enthusiasm for teaching and for Thomson. His photo from the 1974 yearbook captures a bit of that character, but his colleagues and students from those days will undoubtedly have many special memories of a man who made his classes very interesting and who was always looking for ways to make our school a memorable place to be. We learned of his death just before we went to press and we hope this brief obituary will cause those who remember him to remember him fondly.



## RECOGNIZE ANYONE?



David Barrett, a Thomson grad who performed at our Auditorium Farewell evening, sent along this prized photo of his younger self in pretty good company. Left to right: Bob Dylan, Lou Kemp, David, John Donabie and Ronnie Hawkins. The photo was taken by Arthur Usherson at the Nickelodeon Tavern on Yonge St., January 9, 1974 following the first Dylan/Band concert at Maple Leaf Gardens. It has appeared in numerous memoirs of the participants, and now we can add the Thomson Tradewinds to that list!





## GOOD NEWS ITEMS



**Dr. Tilo Kunath** (class of 1990) is shown receiving the Tom Isaacs Award 2019 from Dr. Joy Milne for his outstanding work in Parkinson's research. He was chosen in recognition of his empathy and enthusiastic engagement with the Parkinson's community and for his willingness to share his expert research knowledge.

Tilo obtained his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2003 and conducted postdoctoral studies at the University of Edinburgh. Since 2007 he has run his own laboratory in Edinburgh, where he has pioneered work into the development of cell replacement therapies as a treatment for Parkinson's.

He recently made headlines for his work with Dr. Milne. She had noticed that her late husband's scent changed about 12 years

before his diagnosis with Parkinson's. At a research meeting that included many Parkinson's patients, she bravely reported this fact to Dr. Kunath, who pursued the idea further, contacting researchers at the University of Manchester, who have now identified chemicals in the skin responsible for a unique scent in people with the disease.

Congratulations, Tilo, for this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for the work you continue to do.

**Dr. Paul Thistle** completed his Grade 12 at Thomson in 1981 but moved to Churchill for his Grade 13, because they were semestered and we were not. He earned his M.D. from the University of Toronto in 1989, going on to complete specialty qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology.

In 1995, at the peak of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, he accepted a position at the Salvation Army Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe, Africa. Since 2012 he has served at Karanda Hospital in the north of that country.

His classmate at Thomson (and at Churchill), Warren Viegas, keeps in constant touch and has

taken on the task of heading up numerous fundraising efforts on Paul's behalf. This past summer there was a golf tournament and luncheon at Angus Glen, attended by a few former Thomson students and teachers. This month Warren has arranged for a discussion on Financial and Investment Strategies headed by local investment experts, with an online financial donation to support the Karanda Hospital. You can learn details by contacting Warren at [warrenv@sympatico.ca](mailto:warrenv@sympatico.ca).

A postcard from "The Thistles" (above) gives website details to help you follow (and support) Paul's work.

