

Thomson TRADEWINDS

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

ONE LAST LOOK



The early March photograph, above, showing the front facade of David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute, complete with our 60th Anniversary banner towards the right hand side and white proof that Toronto had a lot of snow in February, serves as a reminder that this view will soon be only a photographic memory. Our 60th anniversary celebrations in May will provide alumni and former staff members one last opportunity to visit the “old place” to renew acquaintances with familiar surroundings and, at least equally importantly, with classmates and colleagues we may not have seen for a while. So this issue will outline the major events coming up.

SATURDAY MAY 4, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: STAFF BRUNCH

The first event is a Brunch for former and present staff members, to be held in the Staff Room at the school. “Catering by Nikos” will have muffins, bagels, cream cheese, home fries, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, pancakes, syrup, coffee, tea, juice, water and all the trimmings, with china tableware and “real cutlery”! The price for this meal will be \$20. As with all monetary items at the reunion, we will be using online order forms on the Alumni website (www.thomsonforever.ca). Include payment with the rest of your order to reserve a place. There are no printed tickets. Just come to the table outside the staff room and get your name checked off on our list. Then enjoy a morning reunion before the Open House begins at noon.





SATURDAY MAY 4, 12:00 - 4:00 PM: OPEN HOUSE

The centrepiece for May 4 will be the Open House at the school. We are planning to have most of the building open for alumni and staff to circulate to the areas that mean the most to them and to have one last look around. Bring your cameras to take photos, and even family members to show and tell them what you remember. Admission is free.



Of course, we will be setting certain areas aside to serve as meeting places for different eras - decade rooms, as we call them. Present plans call for alumni from the 1960s to meet in the Girls' Gym (the original gym from 1959), which has entrances in the front hall and from the 130s hall. The 1970s, our largest cohort, can make their way to the Boys' Gym, in the north-west corner towards the back of the school. The 1980s will be in the south section (the older part) of the Cafeteria, while the 2000s will be in the north half, now

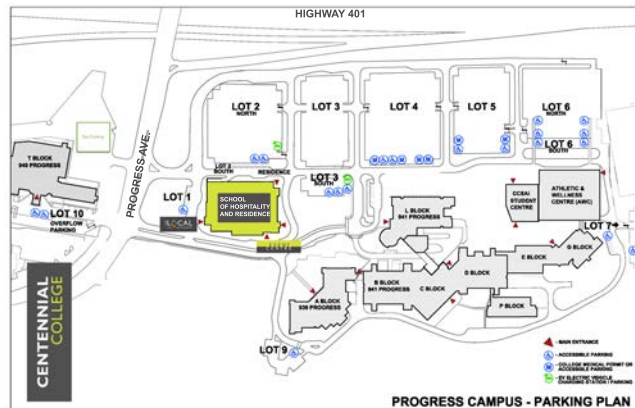
marked off by walls and doorways. That leaves the 1990s to travel to the very back of the school, to Room 112, used over the years as a stepped team teaching room and more recently as a drama room.

About 1:30, we will be holding our formal auditorium program, with the school's Wind Ensemble on-stage, along with past principals, various dignitaries, Principal **Bill Papaconstantinou**, and representatives from the Thomson family and the Alumni. Since all the school yearbooks have recently been digitized, we hope to see some of those photos up on the screen before formalities begin. And brush up on the School Song, especially if you haven't sung it since our 50th! (We will have the lyrics available on-screen and/or in the day's program.)

There will be a registration desk in the front foyer, to help us keep track of who was there. We expect one of the student organizations to be selling refreshments. We're told the SAC room will be open for past politicians to compare notes. And pray for dry weather since we understand our roof has sprung a few leaks! Yes, maybe it's time to replace our old *alma mater*, but not before saying a fond good-bye!

MAY 4, 8:00 PM - 1:00 AM: SATURDAY EVENING SOCIAL

We've fancied up the name a bit, but the final event for May 4 will be a get-together in the evening at the Centennial College School of Hospitality Event Space just off Progress Ave. (there's a stoplight) south of the 401 and north-east of Markham Rd. (A map of the campus area (site in green) is included below.) The "employees" are all Centennial students, and they will have an evening-long selection of finger food for us plus a cash bar in their almost-brand-new building. We plan on having music tracks playing and perhaps some visuals throughout the evening. As the map shows, there is lots of parking (free after 5:30 pm). Use either the west entrance to the building (by The Local restaurant) or the east. Please note that this is not a dinner or dance.



Cost for this event is \$45. It's included on the order form on our website. The Alumni are using the social as a fund-raiser to help pay for an alumni presence in the new school in the form of a wall-mural tribute to the Thomson family.

Many of you will have heard of the crisis we had in February when our original site at JC's Banquet Hall reneged on the contract we signed in May because they had double-booked. Thanks for all the support and suggestions we received. We actually think we lucked out with a far more attractive venue and a chance to support Scarborough college students.

**SATURDAY MAY 11, 8:00 - 10:30 PM: FAREWELL TO THE AUDITORIUM**

We've added one event to the usual anniversary line-up, and we have chosen to hold it the following week-end,



on May 11. It's an evening variety program for which we have invited any alumni who feel the urge, to come back and perform one last time on the old stage. Some will be reprising performances they gave while at Thomson: **Keith Woodend** (as the Mikado) and **Lorne Bellamy** (as the Sergeant. of Police) from our Gilbert and Sullivan musicals in 1961 and 1962; **Debbie Knight** and **Lee-Anne (Hatswell) Irwin** with "Bosom Buddies" a comedy song from *Mame*, which they sang in one of our assembly programs; **Lisa (Kambeitz) Rigg**, doing "Adelaide's Lament" from our 1986 production of *Guys and Dolls*; **Glenn Pelletier**, as Sgt. Rentfree, from 1978's *Howdy Dude* (lyrics and music by **Stan Farrow**); and **Larry Rodricks** and **Jeff Ireland** playing a ragtime two-piano number they performed in the early 1980s.

Others have chosen to do something "new": **Laura (Sheils) and Wayne Adlam** (1979-80 - a vocal and guitar duet); **Dave Barrett** (1971 - vocal with guitar); **Christopher Cameron** (1969 - reading from his book about life as an opera singer); **Steve Charlton** (1974 - vocal with guitar); **Don Montgomery** (1977 - "Mr Cellophane" from *Chicago*); Lisa Schnalzer (1980s - a professional belly dance); **Jo Ann (Menchenton) Sutherland** (1981- vocal solo); and **Shirley Turchet** (long-time staff member reminiscing on her drama and stage experiences). The 2000s will also be represented. **Brooks Gorst**, Thomson's present "music man" has invited **Stephanie Gartshore** (teacher 2005-2009) back for a wonderful vocal solo. He will also lead the school's Vocal Ensemble in one number and the Wind Ensemble in a big finale of Star Wars music accompanied by movie excerpts on the big screen. The Stage Band, under the direction of **Tim James**, will perform the jazz classic "Big Noise from Winnetka". And Brooks has promised he'll finish off the evening with the School Song!



Jennifer Valentyne and **Tom Hayes**, grads from the 1980s, have agreed to M.C. the evening's festivities. Jennifer has just recently begun a stint as hostess on the local Global TV 7-9 morning show, and Tom, an award-winning news journalist, has been freelancing lately with Global News. So they know each other well. And they have both performed on our stage in the past.

Tickets for this gala performance will be \$20 each, available with the on-line order form. Like the previous Saturday's Evening Social, we're using the event as a fund-raiser for the alumni project in the new school. So make it a date!

OTHER DETAILS

When you log on to the Alumni website, you will also notice a selection of souvenirs available for purchase. The fact that our 60th also constitutes the building's final year may entice you to stock up on clothing and other mementos of the occasion. If so, you will be pleased to know that all the prices for souvenirs and for admission to costed events include HST, so what you see is what you pay. We'll do the financial calculations for the government at our end. And everyone who purchases anything (tickets or souvenirs) will get a year's free membership to the Thomson Alumni, to help you keep in touch through our newsletter and other activities.

On May 4, we will have a table set up (perhaps upstairs) at which you can pick up your orders of souvenirs and tickets. If, by chance, you can't attend on May 4, please arrange for someone to pick up your order. (We suggest supplying them with a written note to that effect.) Tickets for the May 11 auditorium show can be purchased on May 4, but we can't guarantee the same for the May 4 Evening Social. We really need to give Centennial a fairly accurate count of ticket sales. So don't wait!

Finally, we've already had a number of alumni volunteer to help out in advance or on the days of the events. If you would like to give us a hand, contact info@thomsonforever.ca and indicate when and how. We will need people to set up decade rooms from 4 pm on, on May 3 (Friday), especially the 1990s and 2000s. Helping at the souvenirs table or the registration desk on May 4, taking tickets on the evenings of May 4 and 11, or even just getting online to spread the word will also be much appreciated.

May the Fourth (and the Eleventh) be with you!



GRAD NEWS: CAROLYN KAY

First, the good news. In November we received a note (from Carolyn's husband, **Tom Childs**) that she had been awarded a new Trent University teaching fellowship. Carolyn, pictured right as a present-day professor at Trent and in her 1976 yearbook grad photo from Thomson, teaches Modern German History and Holocaust Studies. Her fellowship is to focus on designing and measuring approaches to teaching the history of genocide with particular emphasis on utilizing new methods of learning, teaching and evaluation, while simultaneously working to better understand factors that impact student anxiety in the course of learning difficult subject matter.



Classmates who remember her starring comedy roles in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Mad Show* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* will not be surprised that she was on our line-up of performers for May 11. But in late February Carolyn was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. She has just completed a first round of aggressive chemotherapy and, if that is successful, she will then need a bone marrow transplant. Luckily, she was very fit physically and mentally before her diagnosis. So we send her our best and hope this newsletter adds to the number of supporters pulling for her.

OBITUARY: ROSEMARY LUDVIGSEN



If you were a Modern Languages student or teacher at Thomson in the 1970s and 1980s, **Rosemary Ludvigsen** would have been the Department Head overseeing the curriculum and the approaches to learning and teaching in your classes. In her twenty years at the school, from September 1969 to June 1989, Rosemary earned the respect of both students and staff members for her expertise and her supportive approach. Her death following a stroke in November came as a serious shock to all who knew her. She had been out grocery shopping with her older sister in the afternoon with no hint of what was about to happen. We send our sympathy to her family and friends - and to the many Thomsonites who remember her fondly.

THE NEW SCHOOL: PROGRESS

The photo below, taken the same day as the photo of the present school at the beginning of this newsletter, shows what things looked like in early March. Despite our February weather in the Toronto area, construction is moving ahead for a building that will look quite a bit different from the one we all inhabited for varying amounts of time. And, the question in everyone's mind: what name will it have? **Bill Papaconstantinou**, who has officially been named principal of the new school and is busy with all the details involved in readying it for opening in September, continues to lobby for the school name to be transferred along with him. So has your Alumni. A recent article in the Scarborough Mirror seemed to suggest that as a likely scenario. We don't expect any official announcements before our reunion - but think Thomson!

