

# Thomson Tradewinds

DAVID & MARY THOMSON C.I. ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2020

## THE WALLS COME TUMBLING



Alumni President **Bob McBride** lives just south of the old school. So he has been keeping a photographic record of the demolition over the summer months. He has also posted more photos on the Thomson Facebook page.





## BRICK CREW



Over the summer, thanks to arrangements with the principal and the demolition foreman, Alumni committee members were able to salvage about 400 bricks from the old building. When COVID is finally under control, we plan to turn them into souvenirs for a fund-raising project to help finance an Alumni Wall in the new school, celebrating our heritage. The crew: **Sue Botelho, Jim Wray, Bob McBride, Tim Luet, Stan Farrow and Bob Doi**, pictured in the McBride garage - temporary storage! At the school, Bob Doi took a few photos (below) including the notice for future development on the site.







## OBITUARIES

**Sue Botelho** keeps us informed of former students' deaths - and we have a sadly long list this time - all men! **Paul Busuttil** (class of '85) died Feb. 20. **Mike Ladouceur** (class of '75) died May 15. **Shaun Haltaufderhyd** (class of '91) died May 26. **Art Carefoote** (class of '70) died July 2. **Paul Barbeau** (class of '85) died Sept. 20. **Angelo Lamanna** (class of '86) died Sept.-Oct. The one woman on our list, whom **Bob Doi** let us know about, is **Diane Wani** (class of '78), who died March 14. Diane was the maid of honour at Bob's marriage to **Laura Viana**. Our condolences to classmates, friends, and, especially, the families of all these Thomson alumni.

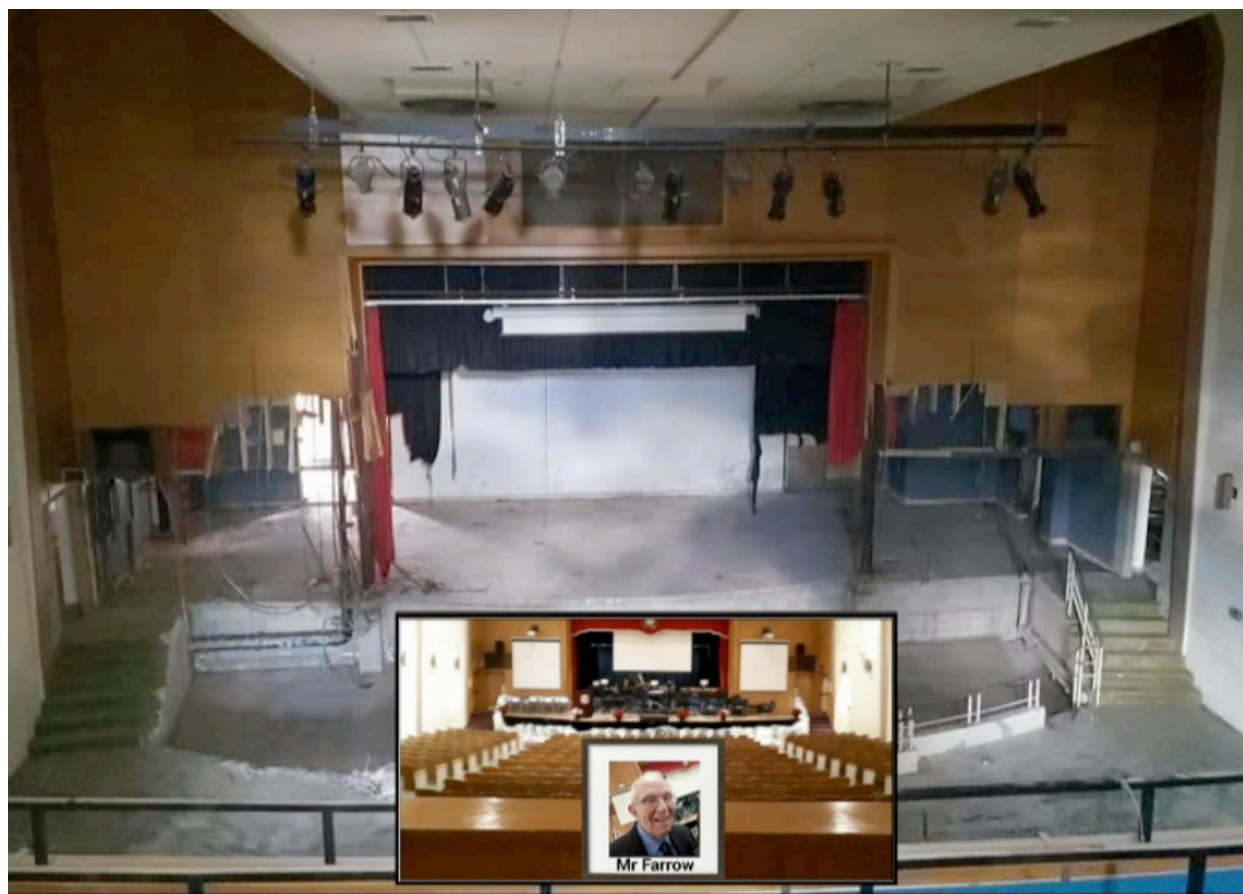


## MUSIC ROOM: AFTER AND BEFORE



**Sue** has also created a “before and after” memory of the Music Room, showing the demolition in progress in the large photo with an insert showing the way it was, with a photographic tribute to **Steven Duff** and **David Joblin**.

## STAN FARROW AUDITORIUM: AFTER AND BEFORE



As a sequel, Sue has put together this photo of the auditorium semi-demolished, with an insert of the set-up for our Farewell Concert in May, 2019. She has even worked in a photo of Stan.

## OBITUARIES: STAFF

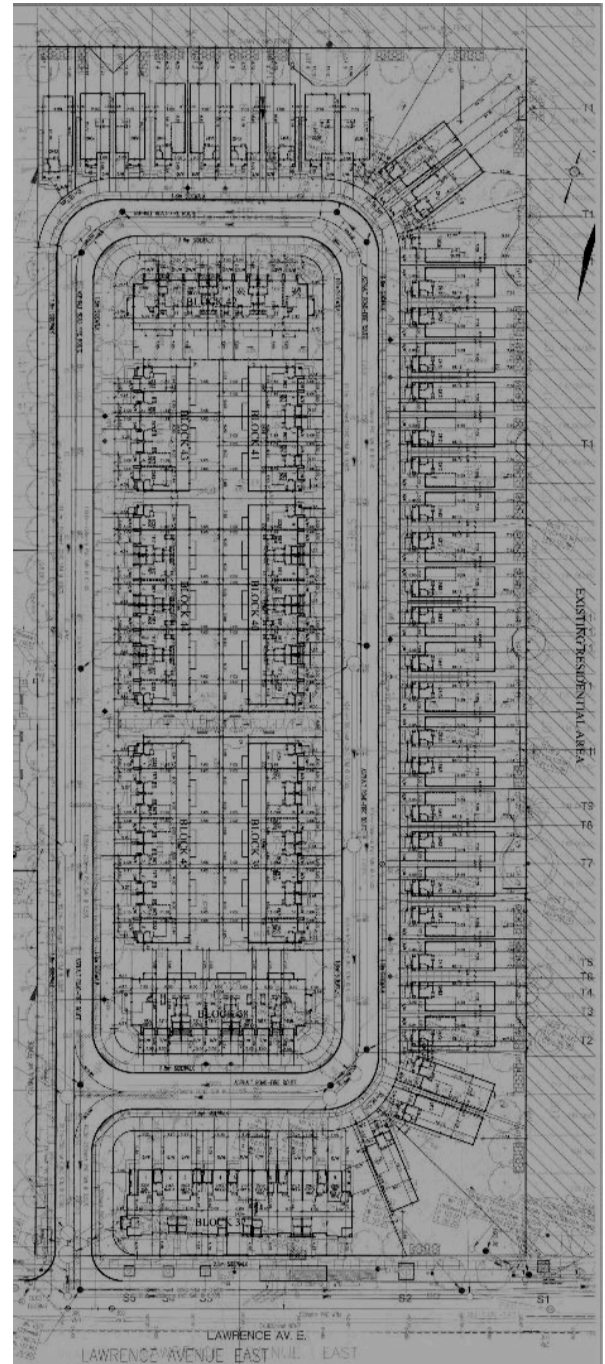


We also said a sad farewell to three staff members from the early days who died this spring and fall. **Joanne McMinn** taught French and German in the Modern Languages Department from 1960 to 1978 before transferring to Mowat collegiate to complete her career, working again with **Harvey Bride**. She died May 25 at the age of 88. Joanne was at our 60th Reunion last year, where many former students had a chance to express their love. **Gail Tyler** joined our Geography and History Departments in 1968, teaching into the mid-'70s, when she left to raise a family. She died September 18 at the age of 77. Her obituary photo celebrated her favourite Toronto Blue Jays. **Neil Swann** came to Thomson in 1961 as Head of the Geography Department, but was also active as a football coach during his time here. He moved to Mowat in 1974 to complete his career. He died September 29 at the age of 91. Interestingly, all three black-and-white photos above are from the 1970 yearbook.





## 2740 LAWRENCE AVE. E.



Left, above, are the floor plans for Thomson C.I., in case you want to try to figure out which rooms are in our demolition photos. You might also be interested in a rather scary pair of videos on the Alumni website ([www.thomsonforever.ca](http://www.thomsonforever.ca)) of a walking/electric bicycle trip through the abandoned building before its final demolition. The floor plans might also help you trace the itinerary for the videos.

Right, above, are the plans for the townhouse complex that will be built on the site of the school, including a new entrance road about where the west driveway was. There will also be a few detached houses and a park on the rest of the old school property. Anyone really anxious to live where you used to go to school?

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Finally, a sad reminder that until the pandemic is under control, Pub Nights, Alumni Annual Meetings and even an official School Opening for the new building are all on hold. Stay safe. Stay well.