

# Thomson TRADEWINDS

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

## NEW SCHOOL OPENS



On December 10, 2019, the new David and Mary Thomson Collegiate opened for its first day of classes. Members of our Alumni Board were invited to be there and to tour the facilities. Like the staff and students, we were given a souvenir t-shirt with a logo combining elements of Thomson and Bendale crests, with a motto on the back: One Team, One Dream. The “Alumni Team” were photographed, left, in front of the main entrance: Elaine Selby, Stan Farrow, Jim Wray, William Stratias, Lorne Bellamy, Jen Markiewicz and Bob Doi. Stan felt an extra bit of pride, since he had also been inside the “old” school on its first day of classes, September 8, 1959, sixty years earlier. More photos of the school can be found on succeeding pages.





Scenes on opening day: gathering in the main office; the cafetorium; hallway seating; one of the two gyms; gleaming food service facilities; French classroom; music room; library; principal Bill Papaconstantinou on duty. (Photos by Bob Doi)



## INTRODUCING TWO THOMSON VICE-PRINCIPALS

The prospect of a brand new school building and the addition of students from the Bendale population have combined to lift the enrolment at Thomson to over 1300 - enough to merit three vice principals. Two of those transferred from the old school, but one of those two, **Alison Kelsey**, was introduced in our Autumn 2014 newsletter. (You can check it out on our website.) However, it's high time we introduced the other, **Nicholas English**, now in his eighth year, and the longest-serving VP in the school's history.



Nicholas was born and raised in London, England. In 1978 he, his sister and his parents moved to Canada. He attended University of Toronto's Scarborough College, majoring in History and Sociology. He then graduated from U. of T.'s Faculty of Education in 1985 (making this his 35th year in education). He supply taught with the Scarborough Board of Education for four and a half years, including a year spent at R.H.King.

Finally, in 1990, he had a full-time contract at Albert Campbell C.I. starting in January and continuing for 22.5 years, teaching History, Politics, Social Science and English. He was Staff Advisor to the SAC there for 19 years. and Curriculum Leader of History 2003-2012. He was promoted to Vice Principal at David and Mary Thomson C.I. in 2012.

Vice-principals divide up areas of responsibility between them. His include Achievement/Report Cards/Exam Schedule; Commencement and Awards (including our Alumni Awards); Thomson Times; Parent-Teacher interviews; Fire and Lockdown Drills; Assemblies; Immunizations; EQAO testing; Professional Learning Communities; Faculty of Education liaison plus....

His interests include travel, especially to the U.K. and Europe; listening to a variety of music genres; musical theatre; reading; and watching *Coronation Street* and *Doctor Who*.

He feels that every student can achieve success. We just have to help them find the right path to get there. That is probably what he enjoys most about the VP role: helping find the right programming for struggling students. He enjoys building relationships with everyone in the Thomson community, something he feels essential for success in his role. He's very proud to be part of the administrative team that has opened the new building. It is a bright, beautiful and fit-for-purpose structure that will serve Thomson throughout the 21st century while carrying on the DMT legacy of the past 60 years.

**Aatif Choudhry** is the newcomer to the administrative team. He was born in Toronto in 1983 and moved to Scarborough with his parents and older brother in 1987. He attended Grey Owl Jr. Public, Dr. Marion Hilliard Sr. Public and Lester B. Pearson Collegiate, graduating in 2002. He graduated from Ryerson University in 2006 with a major in Information Technology Management and a minor in Entrepreneurship. He earned his Bachelor of Education at Nipissing University in North Bay in 2007.



He started supply teaching in September, 2007, but quickly found a permanent position in October teaching Computer Science and Computer Engineering at Weston Collegiate. In 2009 he moved to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to pursue a teaching contract with their Education council (ADEC) until July, 2011. From 2011 to 2016 he taught Business Studies and Computer Engineering at Woburn Collegiate, being also involved in Cooperative Education and Student Success and as a Guidance Counsellor. From 2014 to 2016 he was also the Curriculum Leader for Business Studies and Technological Education.

In 2016 he was appointed Vice-Principal at John Polanyi Collegiate (Lawrence Ave. W. between Allen Rd. and Bathurst St.). Finally, for this academic year he moved east across Lawrence to Thomson. His areas of responsibility include Special Education; Intensive Support Program (DD); Information and Communication Technology; Urban Priority High Schools (UPHS) and School Climate.

His interests include travel, music, theatre and film, gardening and landscaping, healthy and active living, ice hockey and light off-road adventures.

He believes in fostering a learning environment that values healthy relationships and respect and fairness. He is firm in his belief that every student can achieve. He is very grateful for being part of the amazing Thomson staff. The new building is bright, beautiful and truly a gem. He is looking forward to seeing it in full bloom when it is finally completed.





## PEOPLE NEWS



Dave Holoway (Holowaty)



Dave Sheppard



Wayne Sheppard



Marie Vincent

Alumni member **Bob Forrest** has sent along sad news about the deaths of three of his friends, who were all Thomson Alumni. Two were brothers, **Dave and Wayne Sheppard**. Dave (Class of 1972) died in December of last year and Wayne (1974) in September. Also, **Dave Holoway (Holowaty)** (1974) died in January, 2020. We send our sympathies to their families and friends and thank Bob for letting us know.

We have also received word that **Marie Vincent**, vice-principal from 1971 to 1973 and an unabashed school spirit promoter, has died. She had moved to Parry Sound and for many years ran a Bed and Breakfast there.

One obituary we are very pleased not to include here is that of **Carolyn Kay**. In our Spring 2019 Tradewinds, we announced that Carolyn was seriously ill with acute myeloid leukemia. Happily, a stem cell transplant was performed last June 28 (thanks to a young, anonymous donor). On October 1, Carolyn was able to move back home to Peterborough after six months away in Kingston and Ottawa for treatment. She is in remission with a good prognosis and she hopes to return to teaching this fall at Trent University.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanks again to **Bob Forrest**, we have reserved Saturday, May 2 at the Frog and Crown on O'Connor Drive for our annual Spring Pub Night. However, this is not a normal spring for social activities, courtesy COVID-19. As we go to press, that date seems rather precarious. So we urge anyone who would like to join us to keep posted on our web site ([www.thomsonforever.ca](http://www.thomsonforever.ca)) or via the Thomson Facebook group for updates. Keep safe!

Also, now that the Thomson Alumni have drawn up a Constitution and official Bylaws, we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting, usually in the fall, but, since we were a little late getting organized this year, we've set aside Monday, May 25 for the meeting. Anyone who is a paid-up member (if you get a notice of the meeting via email, you're paid up!) is welcome to attend. The agenda will include a report on our activity for the past year and our plans for the future, a financial statement and the election of a Board for the coming year. The meeting will be held at the Scarborough Civic Centre in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 (combined). There is parking on Borough Drive. Enter via the walkway just left of the Library. We'd love to see you there to keep in touch. Again, keep checking for updates on whether we need to postpone that gathering.

Finally, there's the matter of when the new school will have its official opening. As the Alumni discovered on our Opening Day visit, there is still a lot of work to be done, especially on the four-storey staircase at the school's main entrance. Principal **Bill Papaconstantinou** feels it will be into the fall, possibly October, before the building and the grounds are fully presentable. The photo, left, looking south on Brockley from a third-floor window near the library shows that further landscaping needs to be done.

Yes, that's the old Thomson red brick building in the distance, left. We are hoping to salvage a few souvenir bricks when it is torn down and will let you know details when we have them.

