

THORNHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL ALUMNI TSSAA NEWS

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www.thornhillalumni.com



Newsletter / Website Needs

We are looking for Marriage/Anniversary Announcements, get togethers, articles about significant alumnus, milestone birthdays, your lives in general - anything you feel would be great to have in the newsletter. Please mail your submissions and inquiries to: 2800 John Street, Suite 10, Thornhill, Ontario L3R 0E2. Or by email to:

newsletter@thornhillalumni.com

You're part of the past - Now be part of the future!

A message from the President ... Debbie Peever

As you read this newsletter, your thoughts will probably be far removed from the time you spent at Thornhill. We've all moved on, and have had diverse experiences since our high school days. While Thornhill may be just a memory from the past for some, many of us have continued the friendships we made at high school. Old friendships have continued to hold a very special place in our hearts, and our recent 50th Reunion Celebration enabled us to revisit these.

Our new Alumni Association grew out of the Reunion and was established with not only alumni but with the TSS students of today in mind. Do you remember being 18 and leaving high school? The transition from high school to university, college or work can be daunting. One of The Alumni Association's goals are to be there to furnish support to students through our mentorship program.

There is still great strength in our adolescent bonds. We're different people now in so many ways, but there is that Tiger spirit in each of us that remains ageless ... yet timeless.



A message from the Principal of T.S.S. ... Bob Berman

It is my pleasure on behalf of the staff and students of Thornhill Secondary School 2004 – 2005 to congratulate the outstanding undertaking in making the 50th Anniversary Reunion last spring an overwhelming success. Now, less than six months later, another first worth congratulating is the formation of the Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association and their publication and distribution of the very first Alumni Newsletter.

Together the staff and students of this year and you the staff and students of the past fifty years share a common bond in that all those tangible and intangible things that makes Thornhill S.S. the most special of places has touched us all and will remain in our hearts and souls forever.

It is with great optimism that we view our future partnership and the hope those tomorrow graduates will succeed in continuing to meet the standards and successes set for them in years past. It seems hard to believe but together we can and will make Thornhill S.S. an even better place for students.



We are pleased to offer you a Thrifty Car Rental
Corporate Discount Number of 1660225177.

Call 1-800-THRIFTY (847-4389) or visit www.thrifty.com
to arrange your rental today.

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Officers and Board Members 2004-2005

- President:** Debbie Peever '88
- Vice President:** Ann Raney '83
- Executive Director:** Fran (Brunner) Denby '54
- Executive Advisor:** Charlie Seath, teacher '54-'65
- Treasurer:** Gord Crutcher '55
- Secretary:** Kate Pamerter '87
- Alumni Coordinator:** Elsie (George) Maclaren '55
- Archive Committee & Half Century Club Chair:** Don Kent '55
- Sponsorship Committee Chair:** Anne (Redman) Katz '55
- Festival/Events Committee Chair:** Betsy Sumner '65, Elizabeth (Sand) Fraser '65
- Mentorship Program Chair:** Gord Salt '65
- Steering Committee:** Nick O'Beirn '60, Bruce Clark '56, Marion Clark '54

2004 TSSAA Committee Members



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

As a past student, you have a great knowledge and skills to offer current TSS students, including advice on getting through school, how to apply to college/university and offering mentor opportunities.

If you would enjoy sharing your experiences and expertise, send an e-mail to: mentorship@thornhillalumni.com.

Yearbooks and DVD's from the Reunion are available by filling out the form below

If you would like to have the newsletters mailed directly to your home, instead of viewing them on the website, please indicate this on the form below and add a small donation to cover the print and postage charges.

Tiger Paws



Irene Preklet ('88) graduated from Carleton University with her B.A. and continued her education at Seneca College in Broadcasting. Irene has worked with the Weather Network and is currently with the New VR on their (BT) Breakfast Television segment as anchor woman.



Brian Clark ('65) graduated with his MBA from the University of Toronto in 1971. Since 1973, Brian has been employed by Euro Brokers, an international brokerage firm operating in New York City and is now executive V.P. Brian survived the attacks on the WTC on 9/11 when he was in his 84th floor office of the south tower. Brian saved the life of another man in the WTC and was bestowed the highest honour in Canada for his bravery and selflessness as well as other prestigious awards. When searching the web, one can find Brian's name easily in articles written of him as a hero, and family man who now relishes in each and every day - like it's the first day of the rest of his life.

T.S.S. Alumni Association

Online at: www.thornhillalumni.com

We would like to thank the following people for their donations to the Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association.

- Martin Lee
- Brian Clark
- Ann (Redman) Katz
- Bruce Tucker

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Years at TSS: _____ Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Annual Member: <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (Individual) <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (Couple)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Yearbook <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 DVD <input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Carabiner	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	Amount Enclosed: _____
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Please make cheque payable to: TSS Alumni Association and mail to: 2800 John Street, Suite 10, Thornhill, Ontario L3R 0E2

Your alumni association continues to be financially viable through your generous contributions and attendance at our events. The majority of our operating revenue comes from your contributions.

In order to achieve our goal of assisting both the school and current students, **we would like to see more members participating at our events.** We can not reiterate enough - that **WE NEED YOU** - in order to keep our Association alive. Please send us your input and encourage others to be a part of The T.S.S.A.A.

TSS Today

Thornhill Secondary School offers the students of today many different and interactive clubs. Not only do they have sports teams, but also gear towards differently abled people. There is a club named Circle of Friends which pairs students with differently abled students helping them reach their goals and dreams.

A message from the Head of Phys-ed ... Andrew Bos

T.S.S. hosted it's First Annual Stephen Lewis Foundation Charity Run/Walk on Oct. 15th, 2004 and over 1000 students participated in the 2.5 km route - raising \$2400.00 for the Foundation - "Easing the pain of HIV/Aids in Africa." The school also has a new beach volleyball court in place of the tattered one which was there for sports night of the reunion. There is also talk of a new outdoor sports area with basketball and tennis courts to encourage students to place their energies on sports and stay on the school grounds.



A Walkway of Memories...

A walkway was designed inside the quad area at T.S.S. As you can see from the Reunion weekend photo, the stones are engraved with nostalgic memories from alumni.

The bricks are nicely landscaped and leave a lasting impression students and alumni can see - for decades to come. The bricks are available for purchase for \$50.00 each online at www.thornhillalumni.com/bricks or by filling out the form on the left side of this page and placing an "x" in the box marked BRICK on your form.

We Remember

Sandra (Edwards) Caesar, Class of '54

I attended Thornhill "High" School the first year that it opened, which of course was 1954. My memories are of leaving home around 11:30am and riding the TTC bus to Richmond Hill, where we shared the



Richmond Hill High School with the Richmond Hill "kids". They attended classes from 8am until about 12:50 and we (Thornhill) attended from 1pm until somewhere around 6:00pm., only to take the TTC bus back home again, arriving about 7pm. in the dark!! This required mega cooperation from every family, as meal times had to be changed to accommodate the students.

I also remember our trip home during Hurricane Hazel. If we'd been much later we wouldn't have made it, as the bridge on Yonge St (at the bottom of the hill) washed out entirely and there was no entry on Yonge St. into Thornhill from the north.

Another memory that I have was getting off the bus in Richmond Hill (the day after Halloween) to the stench of pig manure and the site of fire engines hosing down the buildings and streets. A bunch of Richmond Hill "kids" had borrowed a manure spreader, loaded it with pig manure and drove right through the town of Richmond Hill with pig manure flying far and wide. It was a site to remember.....not to mention the aroma!! The "kids" were chastised, but if this were to happen now they would probably be up on charges. (email: scaesar605@rogers.com)

Nick O'Beirn, Class of '60 (email: pnobeirn@sympatico.ca)

I remember back in 1958/59 there was a Science Club which met after school, under the guidance of Mr. Thomason, the chemistry teacher.

They would perform various experiments, filling the school with "rotten egg" smell, plus other less offensive experiments. The science department had some reactive elements, including phosphorous (which must be stored in a jar covered with water to avoid reaction with air) and sodium (which must be stored under oil in a jar to avoid reaction with any water vapour in the air or direct contact with water).

On the particular occasion I recall (I was not a member of the science club) one of the members looked at the sodium jar, and noticed that the brick of sodium was not completely covered by the oil. Mistaking it for phosphorous, he took off the top, and proceeded to add some water to the jar. Sodium is HIGHLY reactive with water! A fire erupted in the jar, and Mr. Thomason ran outside with the flaming jar of sodium, dumping it in the field south of the school. It burned for about half an hour.

I think I recall the name(s) of the junior science experimenters, but they shall remain anonymous for now. No one was injured and the school did not burn down. A couple of badly shaken science club members will forever remember the difference between sodium and phosphorous.

Events



50TH ANNIVERSARY & REUNION A GREAT WEEK OF MEMORIES

Alumni, past and present staff all enjoyed a wonderful weekend of events celebrating Thornhill Secondary School's 50th Anniversary Reunion.

The audience chuckled along with the ever-engaging John Maver, (class of '65) as he emceed the event. He spoke poignantly of life in the sixties, describing how TSS teachers greatly influenced his life. He then introduced his best friend, and our surviving hero from 9-11, Brian Clark. (class of '65) The audience of hundreds of alumni and faculty gave a rousing welcome to Brian as he approached the podium. Brian gave a wonderful speech recounting his time at TSS, also describing the impact on his present life of the teachers he so vividly recalled. His eyes filled when he saw Mr. Kajioka, who then received a standing ovation from the audience. Following Brian at the podium was Steve Bewcyk, Principal of Thornhill Secondary School. He described the planning and work that went into the 50th Anniversary Celebration, explaining how the reunion laid the foundation for great events to follow. He remarked on the extensive program of achievements, and the growth in the number of scholarships we have today.

What future events would you like to see?

Please email events@thornhillalumni.com with your comments or snail mail them to:

TSSAA, 2800 John Street, Suite 10, Thornhill,
Ontario L3R-0E2 (or) Fax us at 905-946-8353.

Next Issue March 2005

We would like to thank all of the Reunion Committee members for their time and dedication in making the 50th Anniversary/Reunion an event which will be remembered for years to come.

Steve Bewcyk, Principal of T.S.S., Andrew Bos, Charlie Seath, Don Kent, Elsie (George) Maclaren, Fran (Brunner) Denby, Bruce Barker, Sandra (Edwards) Caesar, Pat (Bisson) Walker, Liz (Sand) Fraser, Marilyn (Tobey) Bruton, Betsy Sumner, Gord Salt, Pam (Skinner) Blackert, Patti Todd, Debbie Peever, Karen (MacLellan) LaRue, Corey Rotman, Laura Simkover, Allison Landau, Adam Saperia, Shira Birnbaum, Mae Chan, Lou D'Angela and Ian Thomson

View all the Reunion, A.G.M and Festival photos at:

www.thornhillalumni.com



The Half-Century Club is open to all Alumni who attended Thornhill Secondary School fifty (50) or more years ago.



Every spring, the Half-Century Club will host an Annual Meeting & Luncheon. The event will serve as a yearly reunionevent for Half Century alumni, and will enable the school to applaud the contributions of all its distinguished graduates and welcome them back to share memories and experiences with former classmates and the school. This is also an opportunity to welcome a new class into membership into the Club every year. For more information please send your email to: 50years@thornhillalumni.com

Upcoming Events

March, 2005

St. Patrick's
Day ...
At the Track

Events and updated
information is
available on the website at:
www.thornhillalumni.com

Spring 2005

Half
Century
Club
Luncheon