

T.S.S.A.A.

TSS at the ACC

Half Century  
Club Luncheon

A Walkway of  
Memories



# Alumni News

Spring 2006

# 50 Years



## A trip back with the Golden Oldies!

The TSSAA Annual Half Century Club Reunion & Luncheon took place at The Heintzman House on May 11th. This event serves as a reunion for Half-Century alumni and gives the group an opportunity to welcome a new class into membership every year. This year the inductees included Alumni from 1956 and earlier. Gord Crutcher was the Emcee who, like last year, had everyone in stitches with his charisma, character and overall comedic attitude.

A few highlights of the day included a school tour by the B.O.S.S. (Board of Student Senators) from Thornhill Secondary School, a social hour of reminiscing with past classmates and faculty and the official induction of the incoming class to the Half-Century Club.

The lunch was a fabulous catered event that requires a special mention - *just ask an attendee!* The keynote speakers capped off the event with Reverend David Iverson ('55) talking about his time at Thornhill High School, "what the Heintzman House meant to him" - and stated that five alumni from the 50's group became men of the cloth. These included; Doug Martindale, Clive Simpson, Jim Bushell and Art Storey.

*Inductees included Alumni from 1956 and earlier.*

Past student, former teacher and retired Vice Principal of TSS and now councillor for Newmarket; Dave Kerwin spoke about graduating from both Richmond Hill High School and Thornhill in the same year in 1956 and how, after being spotted on the street by a teacher in the 1960's he was "asked to become a teacher", as they were in desperate need. There were no exams, blood tests or background investigations.

Mr. Kerwin also recanted when Mr. Seath "told" him that he was to coach soccer. He didn't think twice of this - "when you were told to do something, especially by Mr. Seath, you would do it!" He then reminisced about his life as vice principal in the early 1980's at Thornhill where the Rugby team he coached (along with Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Cooper) were his eyes and ears of the school, making his job a wonderful, easygoing experience.

Current vice principal of Thornhill Secondary School Sudeshna Dutta spoke about Thornhill now - about the new library which is being built, the science trophies and awards from a multitude of students and Thornhill's competitive aspect in the classroom as well as on the field.

*The list of inductees is too large to place in the newsletter, but can be viewed on our website at [thornhillalumni.com](http://thornhillalumni.com)*



The Half-Century Club was organized in 2004 by The Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association and is a unique and vital group of alumni that either graduated or matriculated from the school fifty or more years ago. The club is solely dependent on the TSSAA and its members are dedicated to supporting the Half Century Club through a volunteer board of directors who oversee the activities of this Club. Since it is a self supporting organization, we need your help to keep the organization alive. Attending these events and becoming a member of the Alumni Association you provide the funding the Association needs to exist.

For HCC information, please contact Don Kent at [hcc@thornhillalumni.com](mailto:hcc@thornhillalumni.com)



## A Walkway of Memories ...

A walkway was constructed inside the quad area at T.S.S. before the Reunion in 2004. The interlocking bricks are engraved with various quotes from Alumni who have purchased a brick.

The bricks are nicely landscaped and



leave a lasting impression for students & alumni for decades to come. The bricks are available for \$50.00 each by sending your cheque to: TSSAA, 15 Thornlea Road, Thornhill, On L3T-1X2.



## Honourary Funnies

Harold Clark is an Honourary Member of the TSSAA and is Brian Clark's ('65) father. Mr. Clark has submitted the following riddles:

Pick a small number, Double it, Add 10, Take half of it, Take away the first number you thought of. The answer is 5.

Name the 10 Human Body Parts which are spelt with three letters. (answer on the back page)

There are three sure signs of old age; one is loss of memory and the other two I can't remember.

### T.S.S.A.A. Executive Board Members 2005-2006

**President:**  
Debbie Peever '88

**Executive Advisor:**  
Charlie Seath, teacher '54-'65

**Treasurer:**  
Gord Crutcher '54

**Secretary:**  
Kate Pamenter '87

**Alumni Coordinator:** Elsie (George) Maclaren '54, Fazal Khan '89

**Archives & Half Century Club Chair:**  
Don Kent '54

**Mentorship Program Chair:**  
Gord Salt '65

**Steering Committee:**  
Nick O'Beirn '56, Bruce Clark '58, Marion (Davis) Clark '54, Frank Maw '65

**Sponsorship Committee Chair:**  
Anne (Redman) Katz '54

**Festival/Events Committee Chair:**  
Betsy Sumner '68, Elizabeth (Sand) Fraser '66



## *Insuring a Bright Future*

Gordon Crutcher honoured for excellence in his field

After graduating from Thornhill High School in 1959, Gordon spent two years at UWO. It finally became apparent that he just wasn't destined to be an Engineer. Instead, he found a special niche in the insurance industry.

Gordon began his insurance career in 1961 with the Phoenix of London Insurance Group. During his thirteen years with Phoenix, he held a variety of underwriting and marketing positions, ultimately being appointed as Marketing Manager for Canada.

In 1974, Gordon made a major career change when he moved over to the reinsurance side of the industry, with Sterling Offices of Canada (now called Aon Re). Gordon joined Towers Perrin Reinsurance in 1997 and then Sutton Reinsurance in 2002, where his primary role is to expand the company's portfolio of Canadian P & C treaty reinsurance business.

While also working for Phoenix, Gordon attended evening classes at the University of Toronto. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree, with a major in Economics.

Early in his insurance career, he also qualified for the "Chartered Insurance Professional" designation (Fellowship graduate), after completing the extensive curriculum offered by the Insurance Institute of Canada.

Gordon served as a member of the Governing Council of the Insurance Institute of Ontario from 1989 until 1994. He then was elected to the Board of Governors of the Insurance Institute of Canada (IIC), ultimately serving as IIC's Chairman in 1999-2000.

He has also been President of the Toronto Chapter of the Society of Fellows, as well as President of the National Society of Fellows for Canada.

In recognition of Gordon's contribution to the Canadian insurance industry over his working career, the Toronto Society of Fellows conferred a great honour by selecting him as its "Fellow of Distinction" for 1998.

In 2002, Gordon received the Insurance Institute of Canada's (IIC) highest, non-academic distinction, its Award of Merit.

Gordon is currently a Vice President with Sutton Reinsurance and Treasurer of The Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association.

Gordon is married to Sandra. They have no children. In addition to being active in various Masonic activities, his hobbies include golf, a strong interest in personal computers, boating and cottage life.

**GORDON CRUTCHER, BA (HONS), FCIP**  
Graduated from TSS in 1959



I was born and raised in Thornhill and lived there for 25 years. I attended T.S.S. from Grade 9 through Grade 13 (1966-1972). I enjoyed Grade 13 so much I went twice. Although it was a long time ago, and probably a difficult time of life for all of us, I only remember those years with fondness and pride for the school and the people I knew. I still maintain several friendships with people I first got to know at T.S.S.

## **... M.E.**

Jim Hopper - Engineer of Fatherhood

After high school I worked for a year then attended Seneca College where I received a diploma in Mechanical Engineering. I then spent six years in Edmonton before moving to Ottawa where I attended the University of Ottawa and received a degree in Chemical Engineering. I then lived and worked in Port Hope for four years and I now live in Stratford where I work as a Professional Engineer in an automotive parts plant.

I have a wife of ten years who has 3 teenagers. I still play hockey once a week all year round and hope that some day I'll get good at it. I enjoy living in Stratford which has the small town atmosphere that I remember and value from Thornhill.

Until last year I spent my spare time playing hockey, golfing, working on home renovations, and coaching kid's sports. Most of those activities have been curtailed with the birth of my son in January 2005. It's pretty late in life to have a baby but he's a lot of fun to watch, play and grow. Now I know why people have large families.

Anyone who would like to contact me, can send an e-mail through classmates.com. I would also enjoy hearing from my classmates from Thornhill Public School in readiness of the reunion.

**JIM HOPPER, P.ENG.**  
Cooper Standard Automotive  
Graduated from TSS in 1972



## *Historically, a great Mentor!*

2005 U of Windsor Recipient of the Excellence in Mentoring Award

“Dr. Bruce Tucker’s current and

former students credit him as having a significant impact on their lives and praise him for his unselfish attitude towards his students, his colleagues, his department and his university.”

Bruce Tucker attended Thornhill Secondary School from 1960 to 1966. School was much more than a succession of classes for him, and he remembers fondly the many friends who crossed his path. He especially recalls many games when he and his sister Nancy watched his future brother-in-law Rod Leonard deck opposing halfbacks on the football field and score points on the court. The reunion of 2004 was an incredible high, an unforgettable event that brought together so many of the people who were a part of his every day life four decades ago.

Several excellent history teachers gave him a love of history that has stayed with him ever since. After leaving Thornhill, he studied history at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1970 and moving on to PhD studies at Brown University in Providence, RI.

He credits one teacher in particular, Dr. Donald McMurchy with sharing his passion for the study of the past and for encouraging him to pursue graduate studies. The only thing Bruce still fails to understand is how Dr. McMurchy could persist in supporting the Toronto Maple Leafs during those years when it was so obvious that the Montreal Canadiens were the better team!

After graduating from Brown in 1978, Bruce taught at Dalhousie University for five years before moving to Cincinnati with his family in 1983. In 1978 he married Christina Simmons, also a historian. Christina and Bruce are now both history professors at the University of Windsor.

Children, Matt and Daniel were born in 1981 and 1986. Matt is pursuing a PhD in pure mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley. Bruce staunchly maintains that there was no family pressure on son Daniel to enter the history program at Windsor where he is now in second year.

Bruce has specialized in American history, despite Dr. McMurchy’s efforts to interest him in Canadian history. He has published

books and articles on a wide variety of subjects including the American Revolution, American urban history and the migration of people from the Appalachian mountains to American cities after World War II.

He is currently working on a study of heroes and anti-heroes in modern American culture. Bruce believes that he has been immensely privileged to have had the opportunity to work with university students throughout his career. In November 2005, he was presented the “Excellence in Mentoring” Award by the University of Windsor Alumni Association for his work with students.

He sometimes thinks that it is amazing to be paid for following his passion and doing work that is so thoroughly enjoyable. He invites old friends to contact him at [tucker1@uwindsor.ca](mailto:tucker1@uwindsor.ca). Current Thornhill students interested in attending the University of Windsor are always welcome to contact him for advice, mentoring and a warm welcome.

**DR. BRUCE TUCKER**  
Graduated from TSS in 1966

## *Mentorship Program*

With the TSSAA/TSS Mentorship program well underway, we are currently gathering a series of guest speakers provided by the Markham Chamber of Commerce. These speakers will represent industry, business and the arts from the Markham community, bringing a fellowship of inner city groups to help the students of today to plan for tomorrow.

For further information or to add your name to the list of mentors, please contact:

Ms Pier Serio, a current teacher at Thornhill Secondary School [pier.serio@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:pier.serio@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or Gord Salt, the TSSAA Mentorship Chair at: [salt@primus.ca](mailto:salt@primus.ca).



*Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.*

*- B.F. Skinner*

# T.S.S. Today ...

## From the desk of Andrew Bos

The “Tiger” spirit is alive and well in the gym and on the fields of TSS. Looking towards the end of another school year we can reflect on a very good year in sports. In the fall our athletes competed in girls’ basketball, girls’ field hockey, tennis, x-country running, and boys’ volleyball. Our greatest accomplishment came from the girl’s golf team who captured the York Region Championship title!



The early spring weather has given the Thornhill athletes the opportunity to get right to it and numerous boys and girls can be seen practicing on the fields and in the gym. Our coaches have fielded teams in the following sports: track and field, girls’ soccer, boys’ baseball, girls’ slo-pitch and ultimate frisbee. Special congratulations go out to members of the senior and junior badminton teams. This week 19 competitors will be competing in the York Region Championships! In the junior division the players dominated the first 2 qualifying tournaments winning firsts and seconds in each division.



At the end of the day, teams from other schools had left. For the most part all that remained were the Thornhill athletes competing against each for the first and second place honours!

Members of TAC (Thornhill Athletic Council) are now preparing for the annual Athletic Banquet. To many people’s delight, the event will be returning to the school after many years of having the banquet at various banquet halls. The council is hoping to have everyone’s favourite local hangout, “The Golden Star”, cater the event. This casual event will see the athletes get out after dinner and awards and do what they love the most – play sports! Recreational games will be organized by staff and council members. What a great way to end off the year!

Be proud that Thornhill sports continue to thrive and likely will as long as these old walls still stand. Go Tigers!

Andrew Bos  
Head of Phys-ed T.S.S.

## B.O.S.S. 2005/2006



Top L-R: Andrew Schwartzbog,  
Rushil Mistry, Adam Saperia,

Bottom: Mandy Woznica,  
Sarina Isenberg,  
Nicole Gilead,  
Johnathon Rayman

Absent: Ely Rygier

The T.S.S.A.A. Executive and members of the B.O.S.S. developed an even deeper alumni-student relationship after organizing our alumni tour of the school for the Half Century Club members. They relished the experience of learning about the past and introducing T.S.S. of now. They believe we are a solid organization with a great mission to all students of T.S.S. and alumni past and present.

## Shooting for the Stars at The Air Canada Centre!



The winter sports brought many of these same athletes back into competition with the addition of many new ones. Thornhill competed in: boys’ hockey, boys’ basketball, girls’ volleyball and in skiing and snowboarding. The senior boys’ basketball completed a successful season by playing an exhibition game at the ACC! The boys were given the “red carpet” treatment playing on the main floor and had the chance to feel the excitement of a real NBA game. Over 130 fans traveled by bus to the game to support the teams. 6

# Thank you

## Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association Members 2005-2006

Berthe Agg  
Joe Agg  
Barry Andrews  
Pat Angiers (nee Collins)  
William Armstrong (staff)  
Peggy Bardeau (nee Street)  
Neil Barratt  
Beverly Baxter (nee Lean)  
Roger Brain  
Sharon Brain (nee Rumble)  
Gail Brownlee (nee Steffler)  
Jacob Brunott  
Sandra Caesar (nee Edwards)  
Aly Champsi  
Rick Charles  
Brian Clark  
Bruce Clark  
Dianne Clark (nee Hall)  
Marion Clark (nee Davis)  
Vijit Coomara  
Scott Cottenden  
Lynn Coulter (nee Condon)  
William (Fraser) Craig  
Gordon Crutcher  
Steve Cyr  
Jim Darlington  
Tom Davidson  
Jim Dillane  
Richard Elliott  
Wendy Fairley  
Al Findlay  
Sylvia Foster  
(nee Thorneycroft)  
Ted Foxley  
Elizabeth Fraser (nee Sand)  
Larry Fryer  
Barbara Golding (nee Tyson)  
Bill Harvey  
Marilyn Henry (nee Hunter)  
James Hopper

Hugh Hunt  
Doug Jackson  
Marlene Jackson  
(nee Jamieson)  
Frances Jamieson (nee Barrett)  
Howard Johnson  
Joan Johnson (nee Every)  
Trudy Johnson  
John Kajioka (staff)  
So-Hee Kang  
Anne Katz (nee Redman)  
Jim Kellam  
Lynda Kellam (nee Henry)  
Archie Kent  
Don Kent  
Dave Kerwin  
Erika Kerwin  
Fazal Khan  
Diane King (nee Derry)  
Rod King  
Irene Lamb (nee Watters)  
Leonard Lee  
Martin Lee  
Gayle LeMasurier (nee Fuller)  
PJ LeMasurier  
Nancy Leonard (nee Tucker)  
Rod Leonard  
Paula Lishman  
(nee Vockeroth)  
Elsie MacLaren (nee George)  
Robert Martin  
John Maver  
Frank Maw  
Robin McLean  
Marlene McVicar  
Bradley Merritt  
Bob Miner  
Paul Morris

Margaret Nagel  
Ted Nagel  
George Neeland  
Cliff Nuttall  
Nick O'Beirn  
Kate Pamerter  
Steve Peck  
David Peever  
Debbie Peever  
Al Podhorodeski  
Arleen Podhorodeski  
(nee Leach)  
Mari Riley  
Mike Robbins  
Gord Salt  
Erica Schwartz  
Brian Seath  
Charlie Seath  
Susan Seath  
Judy Speirs (nee Martin)  
Peter Speirs  
John Spence  
Betsy Sumner  
Doug Thomson  
Bruce Tucker  
Neville Twine  
Lynda Valcourt  
Richard Valcourt  
Nancy Watt-Durant  
Shannon Weigel (nee Seath)  
Anne Werfhorst (nee Savage)  
Allan Whyard  
Nancy Wolfe (nee Brown)  
Andrew Woodcock  
Marion Woodcock  
(nee Robinson)  
Mary Wybrow

## Donor Honour Roll: Your Gifts, Our Thanks!

Thank you to all of our members of the Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association. Listed below are the alumni who have shown their affinity for the Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association by making a further donation to the Association.

**Hugh Adams,  
Nancy Adams (Underhill),  
Pat Angiers,  
Roger Brain,  
Sharon Brain,  
Brian Clark,  
Bruce Clark,  
Marion Clark (nee Davis),  
Fraser Craig,  
Gord Crutcher,  
Sandra Crutcher,  
Pat D'Souza,  
Elizabeth Fraser (nee Sand),  
Larry Fryer,  
Elsie Maclaren (George),  
John Kajioka,  
Ann Katz (nee Redman),  
James Kellam,  
Lynda Kellam (nee Henry),  
Archie Kent,  
Don Kent,  
Dave Kerwin,  
Janice Landry,  
Leonard Lee,  
Martin Lee,  
Gayle LeMasurier (nee Fuller),  
PJ LeMasurier,  
Frank Maw,  
Robin Mclean,  
Kate Pamerter,  
Debbie Peever,  
Al Podhorodeski,  
Charlie Seath,  
Tom Siddall,  
Betsy Sumner,  
Bruce Tucker,  
Shannon Weigel (nee Seath).**

## New Equipment Peaks Interest from Current Students

Through your donations and support, the Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association was able to donate equipment to the Thornhill Secondary School Audio Visual Department it desperately needed.

The students of T.S.S. thanked the TSSAA for their generosity in helping the school gain this equipment and open new doors for them. The students stated that they were looking forward to becoming members upon graduation.

*Pictured is B.O.S.S. executive including Rushil Mistry receiving the cheque from TSSAA Executive Advisor; Charlie Seath.*





Thornhill Secondary School Alumni Association  
 15 Thornlea Road, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 1X2  
 newsletter@thornhillalumni.com

# T.S.S.A.A

## Reunion Info!

Thornhill Public School is celebrating their 160th Anniversary!

*It is a time to reflect on the past, embrace the present, and celebrate the future.*



1949

We would like to send you information regarding this Anniversary Celebration, But, need to know where to send it.

If you have any artefacts, class photos, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, track & field ribbons or such, that you'd like to share, please let us know. We'd like to post photos & stories for everyone to enjoy.

### Contact info:

TPS Council Chair: Chuck Magerman  
 Thornhill Public School  
 7554 Yonge Street,  
 Thornhill, Ontario L4J 1V8  
 (905) 889-1566 ext. 160

Marie Sirdevan:  
 msirdevan@mtsina.on.ca

[www.thornhillalumni.com/tps160.html](http://www.thornhillalumni.com/tps160.html)

## In Memorium

Our '50's era, sadly, has lost another member. Ian Ross passed away in early December of 2005. He succumbed to a massive stroke and coronary heart attack.

Ian was a jovial soul, who kept in touch with many of the '50's "gang" and was a true friend to those that knew him well. His attitude was always positive and never negative, or antagonistic. He often referred to himself as "fat, dumb and happy". One could never agree with the "dumb" part of that statement, because Ian was anything but dumb. He always remained optimistic, even through the difficult periods of his life.

Ian adored his children and grandchildren and was very proud of his extended family. He loved good scotch, his pipe, playing a round of golf with his buddies and was the "teller" of many a tall tale. He was a tease, but always careful of not hurting anyone. He had a twinkle in his eye, unlike any other that I know. When you saw the eyes start to twinkle, you knew that something was up and invariably he would have you laughing.

Ian touched many people over the years and had a positive effect on most. We, his friends, very much miss him and his corny e-mail jokes that he loved to send. He has left a big void in the lives of all who knew him well.

Joe West and  
 Sandra (Edwards) Caesar

On another sad note, Carole Suter - nee Jarman, wife of Doug Suter passed away from cancer on January 11, 2006.

# Alumni News

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

In order to achieve our goals for alumni, the school and current students, we would like to see even more alumni participating at our events. We can not reiterate enough - that WE NEED YOU - in order to keep this Association alive.

Please send us your input and encourage others to be a part of The T.S.S.A.A.

If you would like to help in any capacity, whether from near or far, please contact us at [info@thornhillalumni.com](mailto:info@thornhillalumni.com) There are many aspects you can help with including: stuffing envelopes, sending out mailings, emailing, calling alumni, organizing events, offering ideas for events and reunions, helping with the designing or publishing of the newsletter and other materials we send or any other way you feel you would like to help, please contact us.



The answer to the ten Human Body Parts which are spelt with three letters (from page 4) are:

Eye, Hip, Arm, Leg, Ear,  
 Toe, Jaw, Rib, Lip and Gum.