

Keeping Alumni and
Other Friends Connected
Fall 2008

THE OSLER link

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Scott Lyall
Detail of *A Single Man/asm/9085*;
2008; acrylic paint, ink, pen ink
and graphite on printed paper;
84.5 x 71 cm
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid
Courtesy: Susan Hobbs Gallery



Greetings

This issue of The Osler Link profiles Scott Lyall, an Osler Toronto alumnus who left the practice of law for the practice of art, and David Weyant, an Osler Calgary alumnus who left the practice of law to write a screenplay but ended up as Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of Alberta Health Services.

We also report on the events marking the 25th anniversary of the Osler Toronto articling class of 1981–1982 and the 60th anniversary of retired Osler partner, Bill Bryden's association with the firm.

Our Community Investment Report features Osler's sponsorship of University of Toronto law student, Josh Sutherland's nearly 2,000 km biking trip in August 2008 to encourage native teens to attend university; our 22-year sponsorship of the Terry Fox Run; and our fundraising efforts on behalf of the United Way.

As of this issue, The Osler Link is available solely in electronic format. Let us know what you think of this (or any other) issue of the newsletter. And, as always, we'd be happy to share your news and views with the alumni community. You can contact us at: alumni@osler.com.

TERRY BURGOYNE

Chair, Osler Alumni Committee

Artist Exhibits at Power Plant and Abroad

In the summer of 1991, fresh out of law school, Osler alumnus, Scott Lyall, attended a show in London, England called “New York Now.” “It was filled with 80s artists, all crazy, expensive art. Objects were articulated with ideas and philosophy, reflecting the economy of the time – the wealth, the luxury. I was totally excited by it, but I also began to think about it critically,” he says.

Scott returned home to article with Osler with a renewed appreciation for art that was originally sparked by Saturday morning art classes as a child but extinguished by the boredom of painting still lifes in Grade 11. “I’d just gotten into art again,” Scott explains, “and it mattered to me that Osler has an art collection.”



Scott Lyall

It was not a giant leap, then, when Scott announced to family and friends, at the end of his articles in 1992, that he was going to pursue his Masters in Fine Arts at the California Institute of the Arts. “I really liked articling. I worked on a couple of very big things and found it totally involving.” But, becoming a lawyer and practicing law weren’t clear ambitions for Scott. “I went to law school because I was good at law skills – the verbal, the reading, the analysis,” he continues. “I wasn’t wildly focussed coming out of undergrad. I was just experimenting in law school.”

In deciding to leave law and go to art school, he never drew a comparison between the two pursuits where law came up short. His legal training strongly influenced Scott’s art at first. “The school had a strong methodological history with conceptual art and a style of critical analysis based on language and semiotics and the theory of representation,” he says. “The brain patterning from law school and articling meshed very quickly with this highly analytical and critical art-making. The problem was, these capacities in art developed quicker than the ability to make anything. I could completely dissect a painting before I could get it made.”

In creating his art, Scott first works on a computer, starting with a graphic design. That design then becomes a printed picture that is expanded into a sculptural form. “The materials I work with are chosen programmatically, depending on how they will fit architecturally or in relationship to a painting or drawing,” he says. “If I have a scanned image, there are no restrictions on what materials are used. It’s like casting in theatre – the graphic design is made and then realized in 3 dimensions, and then I have to decide which material could play this part.”

Scott’s first solo exhibition was in 1996 at GreeneNaftali Gallery in Chelsea, New York. It was an architectural sculpture of a large dance floor with a DJ booth and an electrical plug from the wall to the booth. The recording equipment was turned off and unattached to the plug. There was also a mobile sculpture inside that was made out of lights. The audience could stand and/or sit on all parts of the exhibit.

His favourite solo exhibition, at Sutton Lane in London, England last year, was entitled, “Simple Agonie.” “The title is that of a 19th century poem that was really one of the last romantic poems before modernist revolutionary poets came along,” Scott says. “The exhibit introduced poetic meter in three-dimensional space ... A literal notion in production graphics became output artworks.” The small show required an enormous amount of preparation, but Scott found the process very satisfying.

After several years in New York, Scott decided to move back to Toronto. “The risk in coming back to Toronto was I’d be dealing with a completely different group of people,” he explains. “I didn’t know other artists here. It was a complete uprooting. I’m from here [Toronto], but I was never an artist here. I’d been in New York for six years.” Scott secured an exhibit at the Art Gallery of York University entitled, “OK!lahoma” early on. That show presented a good opportunity to meet people and announce himself.

He also met up with Susan Hobbs of Susan Hobbs Gallery on his return to Toronto. Scott had been a regular visitor to the Toronto gallery before settling back home and Susan had seen Scott’s work at GreeneNaftali in New York. “Scott has been part of the gallery’s ongoing program for the past seven years, although he is also represented elsewhere,” says Claire Christie of Susan Hobbs Gallery.

“He employs a post-studio practice,” she adds. “His work, when done, is a kind of sculptural installation. Many of the elements used are determined on site when he stages a show and operate as interference.” She also references an element of randomness in his paper works, which echoes his installations.

Scott recently participated in SITE Sante Fe’s Seventh International Biennial. Like all other works in the show, his art will be “destroyed” when the show ends in January 2009. The terms of the exhibition require that all of the materials for the various art works be distributed to the community afterwards so that nothing survives as a work of art. “So, for example,” Scott says, “the stretched canvas used in the show was going to the Boys and Girls Club art program.”

The thesis for his latest and largest solo exhibition to date – “The Color Ball” at The Power Plant in Toronto from September 20 to November 23, 2008 – was about “form, the difference between formalization and dispersal, a coming together and a falling apart,” Scott says. “People in contemporary



art think there’s a message to be read (abstract or concrete),” he continues. “This exhibit acts as a suppressor of that function in the form of formal play and a subtle, sensual shifting of perception.”

“When you first walk in to the exhibit at the Power Plant,” Claire says, “time is set in flux. Is it ahead? Is it behind? Scott is setting up a durational element. There is a sense of party, pointing to a celebration forthcoming or past, and a deeper inflection of what might occur at a party.”

What’s next for the artist and alumnus? Scott has two shows coming up in mid-April and late May 2009 in France and New York. Now in the diagramming phase on computer, he is doing lots of research to develop an idea and produce work that can be distributed for both shows.

He is reflective and thoughtful in considering when he first felt some measure of success: “As of a few years ago, the long preparation was over,” he confides. “I realized that it’s done now. I know what I’m doing and it’s not just a bluff.”

Detail of *A Single Man/asm/2688*; 2008; acrylic paint, ink, pen ink and graphite on printed paper; 84.5 x 71 cm

Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid
Private collection, Toronto

Courtesy: Susan Hobbs
Gallery

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COMMUNITY INVESTMENT REPORT

Osler Supports Aboriginal Outreach Program

In August 2008, Osler helped sponsor 25-year old University of Toronto law school student, Josh Sutherland, in his nearly 2,000 km cycling tour among four native reserves in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. A Métis, Josh organized the trip to promote the University of Toronto's Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS) program to Aboriginal youth.

Mounting a bike for the first time in 15 years, Josh set out to encourage native teens to attain university degrees (particularly in law) and bring back valuable skills to their reserves. (Very few Aboriginals have a university degree and only half of those live on reserves.) He also wanted to establish a Diversity Pipeline Initiative as an annual event. "We hope to expand the current LAWS program by offering encouragement and support to these students and building an infrastructure on which they can rely," says Josh.

Josh encountered the odd "hiccup" in his trek through Western Canada. "Being chased by a few rabid dogs, getting the odd flat tire, bad weather and rogue hubcaps," he explains. He also describes, in great detail, some rather precarious sleeping arrangements, including a small storage shed behind an abandoned farmhouse in the Saskatchewan wheat fields.

While unorthodox, the recruiting trip was a great success. "I was amazed by the overwhelming hospitality from the reserves as well as the receptiveness of the students and professionals involved in Aboriginal education," Josh remarks. "I'd pick 5 students, ask them what their hobbies and passions are, and then turn those into an education program and then an area of law in which they could practice," Josh explains. "It was a real improv acting job."



Finishing up his undergraduate degree, Josh identified a few people who held positions that he wanted to assume 15 to 20 years from now. "The commonality amongst them," says Josh, "is a law background. Two are former foreign ambassadors, one is a former U.S. senator and another is a former president of a university." For now, Josh is continuing his legal studies and will be articling with the Ministry of the Attorney General. "Pursuing a political career is still very near and dear to my heart," he says.



- 1: Josh and Coldwater First Nations children and teens
- 2: Josh setting up camp for the night along the Fraser River
- 3: Josh and Monte at Drumheller Canyon, Alberta

Osler Builds On 22-year Sponsorship of Terry Fox Run

For the past 22 years, Osler has offered a pledge matching program as well as participated as a corporate team sponsor in the Terry Fox Run.

The Run is a family-oriented, fun-filled day that is non-competitive and welcomes all members of the community. Participants can run, jog or walk the 1 to 10 km distance. Most sites also accommodate bikes, wheelchairs, strollers and rollerblades.

The event has raised more than \$400 million worldwide for the Terry Fox Foundation and its research to find a cure for cancer. This year's run took place on Sunday, September 14th, 2008. The Osler team of nearly 200 participants from our offices in Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa raised over \$19,000 for this worthy cause.

Osler Raises Millions for United Way

For five years running, Osler has led all law firms in Toronto in raising money for the United Way.

In 2006 and again in 2007, Osler's Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa offices together raised over \$1 million to support the United Way/ Centraide and its network of agencies in delivering vital social services that build healthier neighbourhoods, create opportunities for youth and fulfill the potential of newcomers. As of mid-November 2008, we raised almost \$950,000 and participation levels have increased.

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OSLER NEWS

Osler Toronto Hosts Articling Class of 1981–1982 Reunion Dinner

On the evening of June 12th, ten members of the Osler Toronto articling class of 1981–1982 gathered at George restaurant in downtown Toronto for a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of their call to the Bar in 1983 (or, in Don Gilchrist's case, the 25th anniversary of his extended tennis-playing sojourn at Oxford, following articles). The event was timed to coincide with a visit from the farthest flung alumnus of the class, Michael Robertson, who is a senior lecturer in law at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.

After a cocktail reception spent congratulating each other on how young they all looked and pouring over old copies of the "Docket" (the Osler staff magazine published in the 1980s) featuring various embarrassing photos of their student years, the group settled down to a delicious dinner from Executive Chef Lorenzo Loseto's tasting menu.

While their time at Osler resulted in a number of lasting friendships within the group, this was the first time in 25 years that this many members of the articling class had gotten together – but the success of the event has prompted the group to resolve not to let another 25 years go by before doing this again!



- 1: Grace Westcott, David Zitzerman and Mark DesLauriers
- 2: Jeff Shaul, Don Gilchrist, Michael Robertson, Terry Burgoyne and Mark Surchin
- 3: Larry Lowenstein and Margaret O'Sullivan
- 4: Attendees at dinner

Ebb and Flow

OSLER CELEBRATES BILL BRYDEN'S 60-YEAR FIRM CONNECTION

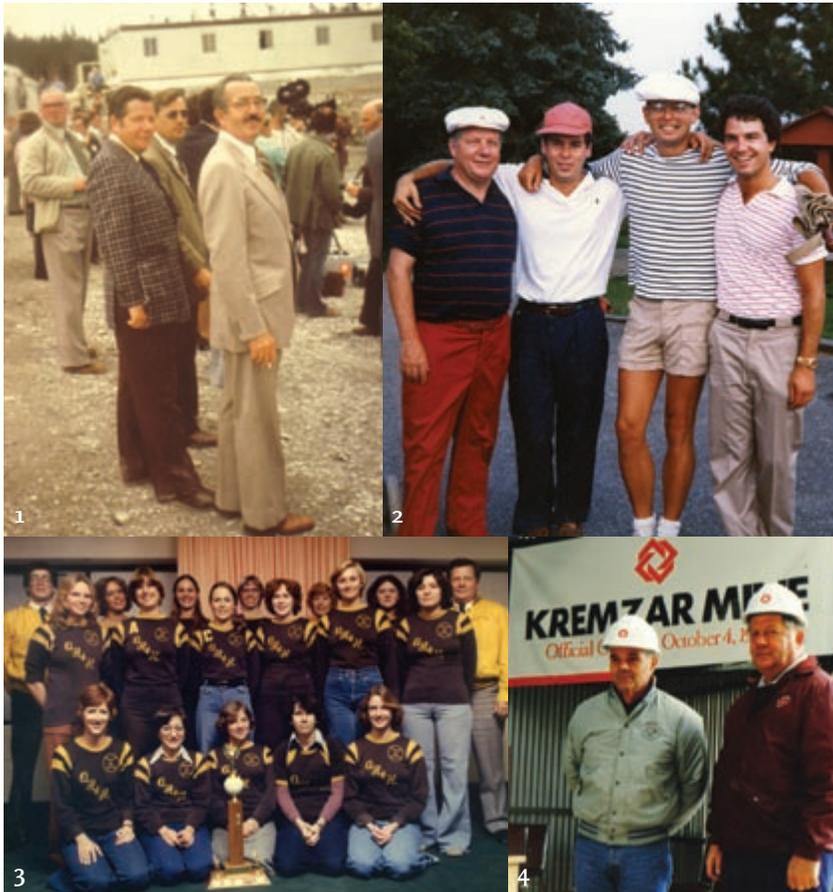
Recently, Osler celebrated its 60-year association with retired partner, Bill Bryden, by throwing a party in Bill's honour. The event was well-attended by many present and former members of the firm, including a blue ribbon roster of speakers.

Arguably one of the most beloved individuals ever to practice at Osler, Bill first joined the firm as a student in September, 1948. His leading mining law practice was anchored by such stellar clients as Texas Gulf Sulphur Company. In the 1960s, the company became involved in and eventually won what was (up to that time) the largest legal case in Canadian history.

Bill's career at the firm combined a successful corporate and mining law practice with extensive involvement in myriad other activities both within and outside of the firm, many of which continued well beyond his retirement in the early 1990s. His support of internal firm events and activities is prodigious and legendary, engendering immense good feelings among Osler lawyers and staff as well as goodwill for the firm.

Bill coached the "girls" baseball team; took the lead in organizing various social functions at Christmas (including being suspected of masquerading as Santa); led the firm's men's football, baseball and hockey teams; initiated the lawyer/staff summer picnics; and helped out with the United Way Bake Sale.

Bill's activities outside of the firm have been no less hectic, including his presidencies of the Canadian National Exhibition; the Canadian Long Horn (Cattle) Association; the Toronto Humane Society; the Albany Club (at a time when it became the first downtown club to admit women); and the Corporate/Commercial Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association.



Highlights from Bill's storied career with Osler:

- 1: Jim Spalding (AMAX Gold), Bill Bryden, Don Wakefield (in sunglasses) at the opening of Newfoundland Zinc Mine
- 2: Bill Bryden, Clay Horner, Bruce Bailey and Mark Greenberg
- 3: Bill Bryden (far right) and Blake Murray (far left) with the Osler women's baseball team
- 4: Bill Bryden and Charles Stott (CEO, AMAX Gold) at the opening of Kremzar Mine



A successful former farm operator and breeder of cattle and Golden Retrievers, even today, in his 80s (but looking ever youthful), Bill volunteers at, and serves as president of, the Palliative Care and Bereavement Support Unit of the Dufferin Hospice in Dufferin County.

The inimitable, limerick-spouting Brian Bucknall was the first of several speakers on hand at the celebration. Brian was followed by such celebrated luminaries (spanning several Osler generations) as Allan Beattie, Purdy Crawford, Clay Horner and Bill's long-serving assistant, Louise Milledge. Each speaker provided eloquent, entertaining and humorous reminiscences of, and insights into, Bill's storied career at the firm.

Bill himself concluded the festivities by reflecting, in typically modest fashion, on his time at Osler. Not surprisingly, those in attendance at the party enthusiastically joined Brian in a toast to Bill and his great legacy to the firm.

More highlights from Bill's storied career with Osler:

- 1: Clay Horner, John Black, Doug Rienzo, Steve Smith, Mark DesLauriers, John Goodwin, Terry Tone, Jim Southey and Bill Bryden
- 2: Bill Bryden and Frank Clifford
- 3: Bill Bryden and an assistant



Kathleen Romeo

KATHLEEN ROMEO (1943–2008)

The Manager of Osler's New York Office, Kathleen Romeo, passed away in September of this year after having been ill for several months. Kathleen had been with the New York office since virtually its inception. Apart from her other responsibilities, she was exceptionally giving of her time in helping members of the firm who transferred between Canada and the New York office over the years. Kathleen was an extraordinary individual. Her warmth, kindness and devotion to our firm and its values left a mark on everyone with whom she worked. She will be deeply missed.

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