



Newington Medallist 2010

Ian Thomas (ON '63)

Ian Frederick Thomas attended Newington College from 1958 to 1963 and comes from an illustrious line of Newingtonians including three generations of Duxes.

Ian was a keen Cadet at Newington and while his initial couple of years in the Cadet Unit were still compulsory, Ian was one of those who stayed on and reached the position of Warrant Officer 2. With 1963 being his last year at Newington, Ian was at the College to participate in many other of the multi-faceted centenary celebrations of that year. Ian has since described his six years at Newington as amongst his happiest and '...generating the best friendships one could ever have in life.'

Since leaving Newington College, Ian has built a highly successful career in management consulting. He was transferred to Toronto from Sydney in 1971 as a specialist consultant in the planning and development of large scale retail

projects. The firm which bears his name has undertaken projects in over 60 countries around the world. Branch offices are located in Korea and Australia and affiliate offices in Dubai and Mumbai.

Although located in Vancouver, Canada, Ian has maintained a long and devoted connection with the school. Ian has lent his talents and experience to support the Newington community during his frequent visits to Australia, for example, acting as Master of Ceremonies at the ONU's 98th Annual Dinner in 1993 and speaking to the inaugural ONU Business Forum in 2006. Amid his busy business life, he has served as the ONU's Vice President for Canada for many years and he was the first Chairman of the AIS USA Foundation when formed at Newington's instigation over 5 years ago. The Foundation came about as a result of Newington receiving special dispensation from the U.S Government for Old Boys living in the US who could make a donation to the Foundation and receive a tax deduction. The program has been so successful that it has spread to 23 leading private schools in Australia.

In 2010 Ian reached beyond his own lifetime by becoming one of the 25 founding members of Newington's Founders Society by bequeathing a gift so that future generations of Newington boys could discover what's possible in their lives. His connection to Newington extended to his son, Trevor (ON '96), when he attended Newington for a short time, and Ian is thrilled that a grandson is due early 2011.

A graduate of York University (Toronto, Canada) and a Certified Public Accountant, Ian has authored award winning articles for organisations such as the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. His article "New Thinking for Regional Shopping Centres" won Urban Land's Award for best article.

Ian is sought after around the world for speaking engagements together with interviews by all aspects of the media – television, radio, newspaper, and magazines on retail/shopping centre issues. He sits on the Board of Trustees of the International Council of Shopping Centres (ICSC) in New York which comprises the most senior executives of the world's largest retail and development companies in the world. He is also the first Australian to be appointed to this prestigious Board. He also sits as a Director of their Foundation Board. In addition, he is the Chairman of ICSC's International Design & Development Awards program. In 1989 he started the "Whistler Winter Conference", which today attracts over 3,000 delegates. In 2002, he also initiated "The Leading Edge" Conference in Vail, Colorado now called "REvent."

Ian has also served on the Board of leading public companies including: Future Shop, Coast Appliances, City Xpress, in addition to charity Boards like Vancouver Opera.

Ian Thomas' commitment to his chosen profession, business development, and personal and active dedication to, not only Newington's philanthropic culture but Australian Independent Schools, is a credit to his family and the wider Newington family thus being an inspiration to all Newington boys.