

## *Student Memories of Joseph Durica*

## *TH&VS student in the 40's*

When I attended Timmins High, the school was quite large with a small gym and an auditorium above it. There were no snow days or cold days even when the temperature went to 40°F below zero. There were no school buses in those days. School hours were from 9:00am to 12:00 noon and from 1:30 to 4:00pm. We had no cafeteria and most went home for lunch.



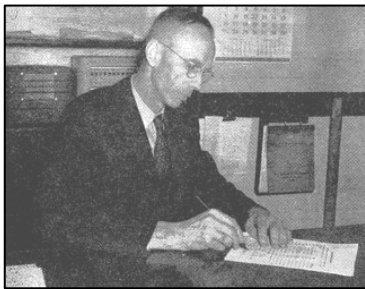
Front entrance of TH on Kent Street

There were three different streams or programs for students:

1. General: Mostly academics and towards further education with exposure to Technical courses in Grade 9.
2. Commercial: Business education - shorthand, business practice & typing. Also sewing and cooking
3. Technical: Machine shops, Electricity, Woodworking, Drafting, Mining and Metallurgy. Students specialized in Grade 11 and drafting was taught throughout. Graduation was after Grade 11.

Mining and science classes were held in the mining room. It had a fully equipped assay office for testing rock samples as well as crushers, grinders and a small furnace. We were taught mining procedures as well as some surveying.

The machine shop during the war years was used in the evenings to train men as machine operators to go to Southern Ontario to work in war factories. I worked at the Dome Mine machine shop right out of school and there we manufactured water pumps and valves for merchant ships.



The Principal of TH&VS at the time was Mr. Tanner and the Vice Principal/Technical Director was Mr. Alex Rose who was also our drafting teacher. Our Tech teachers were Mr. Rose - drafting, Mr. Leppan - machine shop, Mr. Peel - woodworking, Mr. Jackson - electricity, Mr. Walli - science and mining, Mr. Napper - math and Mr. Hartman - English.

Mr. Rose (left) later became Principal and he was a very fine, caring man who found me my first job and granted me a Grade 12 certificate upon graduating. Mr. Walli moved to Haileybury to re-open the School of Mines there. Mr. Leppan moved to Oakville and Mr. Hartman became Principal in Mattawa.

During our Phys Ed classes, the boys were taught how to march as soldiers around the school with wooden rifles. As for sports, there was intramural basketball, football and hockey. We also had a school football team that played against Kirkland Lake and North Bay.

As to graduation, there was no such thing as credits. You were assigned a timetable with no selections or options until in the tech program in the last year. There was a graduation ceremony, but there were very few dances.

As for Timmins itself, the population was about 25,000 and the long standing and serving mayor was Mr. Bartleman, a real colourful person. There were 2 trains daily to and from Toronto.

As for stores we had 2 department stores: Sam Bucovetsky's and Friedman's. We also had a Kresges, Woolworths and Metropolitan stores. We had 3 hardware stores on Third Avenue between Pine and Spruce Streets: Marshall Ecclestone, Taylor Hardware and Pierce Hardware. There were also 2 others including City Hardware on Pine St South and Ideal Hardware on Third Avenue near Birch Street. There were only 2 hotels: The Empire and Goldfields but there were over 20 taverns and small hotels. We also had 6 movie theatres: Palace, Goldfields, Empire, Broadway, Cartier and Victory.

We had 4 sawmills: Feldman's and Wickes Lumber were south of the Wilson Avenue bridge on the south side of the Mattagami River, while McChesney's and Fesserton were north of the bridge on the east side of the river.

As for gold mines at the time we had Hollinger, McIntyre, Dome, Pamour, Paymaster, Preston East Dome, Buffalo Ankerite, Aunor, Delnite, Moneta, Gillies Lake, Desantis, and a copper nickel mine at Kamiskotia.