

Student Memories of Rick Sapinski

Grade 13 Boobs, 1970

TH&VS Graduates 1970:

Denis Alarie, Ray Alarie, Lowell Auger, Chris Dobson, Paul Barnby, Doug Campbell, Denis Deluca, John Dutkiewicz, Rick Sapinski, Barry Stearns, Bruce Stewart, Don Wyatt,

Position currently or formerly held:

Business Owners, Chartered Accountants, College Teachers, Engineers, Police Officers, Engineering Technologists, Entrepreneurs, & Optometrists,

For a variety of reasons, a group of young male TH&VS students ended up in grade 11 together. They became close friends and like many young people, at times their behavior left much to be desired.

One day in 1966, Mr. Jury, a highly respected teacher, scolded a group of these individuals who were late for class. He called them a “bunch of boobs” and tried to persuade them to be more productive. The name stuck and so did Mr. Jury’s message.

The group grew larger and a number of young girls joined this circle of friends. When they went into grade 13 in 1969, the rules changed that year for the school’s senior grade. Class attendance was left to the discretion of the students. They were also provided with a “grade 13 lounge”. This was a large room in the basement of the school, where the 13’s had their lockers, ate their lunch, and gathered before school and during breaks and spares. Staff supervision was kept to a minimum and discipline was generally the responsibility of class representatives. This experiment was quite controversial. Many of the students tested boundaries relating to class attendance and a more liberal approach to school rules for the grade 13 students. As it turns out, the students that experienced these changes enjoyed as much success as students from other years.

We believe that our class members enjoyed stronger relationships as a result of the manner in which we were treated by the school that year. A large number are still very close friends. A few students from the previous and subsequent years joined us. Many of our children have become friends and associate with each other as well as some of the “Grade 13 Boobs.”

Some of us have been motorcycling together for over forty years. A few of our children (now adults) hunt, motorcycle and snowmobile with us. A group of twelve of us gets together for a winter trip every year. Our wives participate in many of our activities. People travel from Timmins, North Bay, Huntsville, Mississauga, Waterloo, Kitchener, London, Wallaceburg, and Regina Saskatchewan in order to get together. Our experience at TH&VS has clearly influenced who we are today. It also acted as a catalyst in the development of our lifelong friendship.



D Deluca



R Sapinski



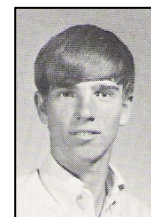
B Stewart



D Wyatt



R Alarie



P Barnby