

Position Recently Held:

Director, MBA Consulting Program, University of Victoria,
CEO of Paretologic Ltd

Like most teenagers, my time in high school had a large impact on my life. Life at home was not great so I turned to my high school friends and teachers to help me through the hard times. Life lessons are important and are carried throughout one's life. While at TH&VS, I failed grade 10; a tough lesson to learn at that time. But, it made me realise that I was accountable and responsible for my own life. I took the following saying to heart: "It is not what happens to you but how you handle it that determines the quality of your life".



At some point after leaving Timmins, I became aware that the concept of "entitlement" was not known while I attended high school. Timmins was a mining town where people had to work hard building a life for themselves. This work ethic is something I carried with me throughout my personal and work life. Labouring in the mines in Timmins during high school, I soon realized that education was important not only from a career, but a personal perspective. After TH&VS I went to Northern College, Ryerson and then Concordia University where I earned an MBA. I started teaching as an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa while working for the Export Development Corporation. Upon moving to Victoria BC, I continued teaching with stints at the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University. As a life-long-learner, I went back to school to earn a PhD in my early 50's. As a professor, and perhaps subconsciously remembering my grade 10 failure, I regularly had to remind my students that an "A" paper required "A" work.

Another notable experience during my time at TH&VS was that there were no conspicuous prejudices. The last names of students in my graduating class could have very well been the names of a typical United Nations committee. Even though we had different backgrounds and nationalities, we all got along as equals. Subsequently, my work took me to many parts of the world where I had to deal with diverse cultures. My job would have been more difficult had it not been for my exposure to various nationalities I encountered at TH&VS. Cultural diversity is one of the strengths of a Timmins character.

Family and friends are important; a truth that becomes more evident as I get older. To this day, I still remain in contact with friends from TH&VS even though I live in British Columbia. The bond of friendships made in high school can, and should last a lifetime. To be sure, my formative years were in Timmins. Even though I left many years ago, the Northern spirit is still with me. When I cannot get back to Ontario, I look to Northern BC for some of that spirit that has become part of me. This trait must be genetic because both of my sons started their education at the University of Victoria and finished their degrees at the University of Northern British Columbia. Perhaps some of the Northern magic has touched them too!