

TH&VS Alumni Newsletter

TH&VS Alumni Association

10/29/2018

Volume 2

Is high school important? Take a walk through the decades with these TH&VS grads.....

1940's Joseph Durica - 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.

1948 David Clutchey - The high school years in the mid 1940's were a mixture of pleasure, sadness, hard work, excitement and optimism. While our high school years provided us with the education, the social relations and the opportunity to participate in athletics, it gave us more than that. It gave us the skills, the knowledge and the opportunity to grow and develop in a milieu that was the epitome of what Canada is today. A multicultural nation where religion, language, and culture are only names, not dividing points. A country where *'what you are'* is what counts. There is little doubt that TH&VS provided the setting that is a Canadian tradition.

1961 Alan MacLachlan - THOSE WERE THE DAYS.... Attending TH&VS from the mid to late 1950's to 1960 has left me with vivid and enjoyable experiences and memories, yes there were a few hurdles but those notwithstanding, it was a very vibrant and engaging time: teachers, classmates, events, classrooms, halls, and extracurricular activities.

1969 Ralph Carr - Our TH&VS years were in many ways foundational to the rest of our lives but they were not easy - at least not for me. The times of exhilaration and success were tempered by the challenges of teenage awkwardness, frustration and self-doubt to be sure. But we passed through the

high school and looking back remember these years for the most part fondly, thanks to the then support of our parents and the friendships borne out of shared experience - perhaps on sports teams or clubs, maybe when we were in the dog house together or just walking to school.

1975 Dale Ponder - I had the great luck to have some outstanding teachers take interest in me and to encourage me to challenge myself. I can't thank these dedicated teachers enough for doing this for me. It also goes without saying that friendships were a vital part of these years. I learned much from these friendships, including the importance of loyalty, generosity, kindness and shared experiences and laughter. And also, not to take myself too seriously!

1983 Shirley Birnie- My academics and after school activities at TH&VS set me on a course of continued learning and making new friends as our family continues to relocate and spend vacation time in new cities and countries around the world. My life's journey thus far has been incredible. Thank you for the great start, TH&VS.

Editor's note: You can find the full testimonials of these TH&VS grads and more on the TH&VS Alumni Association website www.thvsalumni.ca under *The TH&VS Story*. They were submitted for the TH&VS Homecoming in 2012.

Clearly there is a common theme: the four high school years are precious ones that almost no one ever forgets. Perhaps the most important aspect of high school is not the facts you learn, but the lessons you get about life, society and relationships. High school prepares you for the next chapter of your life.



TH&VS over the years

What is the THAA?



The Timmins High & Vocational School Alumni Association (THAA) is a non-profit charitable organization that was established in 1999 by a group of alumni and former staff members of TH&VS. Currently there are eleven board members and the TH&VS principal serves in an advisory role to the Board.

What We Do



The THAA is responsible for the sustained growth and income disbursement of the funds it receives yearly. In return, as a registered non-profit charity, it issues tax receipts for any donations. With input from the staff and administration, THAA provides approximately **\$14,000** annually in scholarships and funding for special projects such as the school robotics program, athletic jerseys, white boards for classrooms and upgrading audiovisual equipment in the theatre.

The THAA keeps its connection to TH&VS alive by publishing an annual alumni newsletter, maintaining a website for TH&VS alumni (newly-updated) (www.thvsalumni.ca) and supporting school reunions.

Want to Donate or Create a TH&VS scholarship?

The process for creating a scholarship for TH&VS students is an easy one. While there are several options depending on the size of the investment, most scholarships are based on the interest generated annually by the investment of funds with the THAA. As a charitable organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, we will issue a tax receipt for the total donation. Contact us at info@thvsalumni.ca. TH&VS Student Services assist the donor in establishing criteria for the award.

Scholarships invested with THAA awarded this year:

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| Alumni Awards (2 watches) | Lori-Ann Teixeira Memorial Scholarship |
| Bruno Toffanello Memorial Scholarship | Margaret Clausi Memorial Scholarship |
| Ed Collins Scholarship | May Family Scholarship |
| Elisabeth Johnson Bursary | Polish White Eagle Society Bursary |
| Eric Peterson Scholarship | Rita Seccombe Art Scholarship |
| Evelyn Rymer Scholarship | Ryan Reid Bursary |
| Frank Graf Scholarship | Sean Graf Scholarship |
| Hedy Baker-Graf Scholarship | Shania Twain Scholarships |
| Helge Kleven Scholarship | THAA scholarships |
| Lily Anderson Scholarship | |
| Lions Club Gaston | |
| Melancon Humanitarian | |

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