

TH&VS ALUMNI NEWS

February 2011

TECH DEPT - VITAL & CONNECTED

MINING AT TH&VS

Did you know that TH&VS housed a full mining program in the 1930's and 40's - including a full mill - in the Tech department? In fact, it was well known that many immigrants would come from Europe - mostly men and their sons - and while the fathers worked in the mines, the sons went to TH&VS to learn the mining trade in the one and two year programs that were offered.

The program and equipment helped to initiate one of the more notable mining programs in the world at the Northern College site in Haileybury where the Mining School exists today.

Our community benefited from the training that these students received, as many of them went on to work in our mines and help to support and boost the economy of Timmins, to raise families in the community, and to continue to support TH&VS by sending their own children back to us for their academic and personal growth.

WAR EFFORT AT TH&VS

Did you know that TH&VS was part of the World War II effort?



Frank Torlone

Frank Torlone, former TH Tech Director, stated that in the early to mid 1940's, the machine shops in the tech area would be taken over and used by local machinists and military personnel who would design and build machinery and machine parts necessary for the war.

Although no students were used in this effort, TH&VS alumni can take pride in knowing that our school played a significant role at this very critical time in history.

HELICOPTERS AT TH&VS

The structure of the ceiling above the new school built in the early 1980's on Theriault Blvd. was so unique in its design that it was able to act as a helicopter landing pad.



A Helicopter inside Tech area (above)

Although a helicopter never landed on it, the Tech staff in the 90's brought a helicopter into the tech area for the students to learn about aviation engines, flight, and electronics

TEXAS GULF & TH&VS

In the spirit of cooperation with business and industry, Bob Sampson, TH&VS Principal



Bob Sampson

in the 1980's, entered into an agreement with Texas Gulf (currently Xstrata Copper)

General Foreman, John Miller, to allow the use of the technical shop for the maintenance and repairs of their large mining equipment.

TH&VS had the only space at the time with a ceiling high enough to house these huge vehicles. In return, Texas Gulf provided pieces of capital equipment that the school otherwise could not afford.

It was one of the great examples of TH&VS working with business and industry to enhance the learning opportunities of the students.



This brief history of the Tech department and the newsletter has been pulled together from memory and from Quill yearbook information.

Thanks to Frank Torlone, Bob Sampson, Don Ceaser, Dino Colasacco Rick Jakubiak, Bill Swain, Vic Power, Norm Bentele, Paul Woodward, Brett Stefanic and many other staff and students for their contributions.

NO DROP IN THE BUCKET

Paul Woodward graduated from TH&VS in the 90's but holds dear memories of his alma mater – dear in the sense that he is ever grateful to the Tech department teachers for looking the other way when he and his cronies were “disturbing the peace”, grateful for their recognition that sometimes boys-will-be-boys, and grateful mostly for the support and direction that he got from all of them.



Paul revelled in the open concept of the shops and saw it as a natural extension to

his growing desire to run his own business one day. And, in fact, this is exactly what happened.

Paul is currently the Manager of all Operations of one of the most successful businesses in town – The Bucket Shop, located at 2031 Riverside Drive in Timmins. Established in 1989, The Bucket Shop and Steeltec Inc. together provide their clients with a full range of casting, bucket construction and remanufacturing, welding and custom fabrication services.

As a way of thanking his own high school teachers and TH&VS, Paul works with Student Services and the Co-operative Education Program to provide hands-on experiences for Tech students. This provides them a real-world experience and an opportunity to hone their skills and abilities in the technical field.

TH&VS thanks you, Paul, for your ongoing efforts to keep our school and students at the centre of our community.



Coop Ed student with Paul Woodward

Did you know?

Dino Colasacco was a student of Welding teacher Norm Bentele, graduating from TH&VS in 1981. He went on to post secondary education at Northern College where he studied Mechanical Engineering and Welding Engineering programs. He has been on the TH staff since 1988. Since then, twenty-two TH&VS Tech students have graduated from Northern College's Welding Engineering program. A great legacy for TH&VS Tech programs!

HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR WELDING STUDENT

Brett Stefanic was one of TH&VS's golden boys at the turn of the millennium – literally. In 2000, Brett represented the school in the Welding Provincial Skills Competition held annually in Southern Ontario, and he won Gold by beating out many other par-



Mayor Vic Power with Brett Stefanic

ticipants. This provided Brett with the opportunity to move on to the National Skills Competition held in Quebec in the same year, and Brett was once more successful in his bid for the Gold. Brett gives credit for

his success to Dino Colasacco who happily gave up much of his own time to mentor him and his fellow students and he describes Dino as “inspirational” in the technical department.

Brett moved on to the Kirkland Lake Campus of Northern College to complete a 3-year Welding Engineering Technology program. After achieving success in this effort, Brett began working in the Oil Sands of Northern Alberta near Fort McMurray where he has contracted his services to companies such as Syncrude Canada, Statoil, and Flint Energy Services.

He is currently working for Suncor Energy, Canada's largest energy company. His work experience has allowed him to work with companies and experts in the oil and gas industry from around the world. Brett's expertise is utilized most often in the quality assurance and project management areas of oil and gas development, and he is a much sought after Engineering Technologist in this field.

Brett says that he could never have achieved his success without the opportunity to work in the Manufacturing part of the Broad-Based program at TH&VS, and he maintains that the school's technical department is far ahead of its time in terms of preparing students for the real world of work in technology and trades. Brett has fond memories of assisting on the all-welded TH&VS school sign, spending many late evenings in the shop practicing for Skills Canada, and accompanying his class on technology/trades-related field trips.

A quick end note: Although Brett continues to work in Alberta, he has re-established his home base in Timmins and has promised to return to the shop at TH&VS to offer his assistance to the tech team in his free time. Not only does Brett want to share his own experiences with the students, but also he wants to enlighten them on the various exciting and rewarding career opportunities available in the engineering technology/trade world. Congratulations, Brett! Keep TH&VS proud!

BUILD, FIX, DESIGN & CREATE

The best way to inspire youth to consider careers in the skilled trades and technologies is to provide them with the opportunity to try one.

The Tech Department at TH&VS has adopted this philosophy and endeavors to make the shop experience for the students at TH&VS close to what they will find in the real life situation.

According to Rick Jakubiak, TH&VS Construction teacher, problem-solving and thinking outside the box are essential skills for success in the trades.



Rick Jakubiak

In the 1990's he and fellow teacher Bill (Butch) Swain implemented a four-credit, full semester Broad-Based program to provide such a practical experience.

Their projects over the years included new home constructions, smaller projects and renovations in the community.

As one student said: "I heard about the class and I knew it was something I had to try. It's a great chance to gain practical knowledge that will help me make a smart decision about what I will do for the rest of my life."

Another student expressed it this way: "I love the sense of accomplishment and the feeling of pride you get when you see the results of your hard work."

Statistics Canada estimates that by 2020 there will be a skilled trades shortage of one million workers. Accordingly, the Tech Department is fully engaged in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and supports Cooperative Education.

These programs are a tribute to the partnership between educators and local businesses which allows students to reach their

career goals and meet the demand for workers in the skilled trades. Such training encourages students to stay within the community.



The Pavilion at the Hollinger Park was a millennium project in 2000 of Rick Jakubiak, Bill (Butch) Swain and the construction students. Over 8,000 City of Timmins residents enjoyed the popular Summer Concert at this site in 2010. (See picture above)

TH&VS IN THE COMMUNITY

In the early 1960's and 1970's, Tech students built many of the pieces of playground equipment in the old Gillies Lake Park and in the Hollinger Park

The *Timmins Daily Press* of the day reported: "Towering 32 feet into the air, this



monstrous conglomeration of iron and steel isn't an invader from space nor a new piece of defense weaponry. It's a giant robot slide engineered, constructed and erected by the Grade 11 welding students of Timmins High and Vocational School. The students, under the direction of the Welding teacher Norm Bentele have built the eight and twelve foot slides for use at the Hollinger Park by the community children."

(From left to right in the picture above)

Brian Carpenter, Tom West, Eric "Cubby" Sween, Gil Morrisette, Norm Bentele (teacher), Brian Weber, Joe Corrigan (Tech Director) and Archie Gallino (teacher) were all involved in the project.



Bruno Toffanello

Under the leadership of Tech Director Bruno Toffanello in the 1990's, and his successor Don Ceaser in the 2000's, TH&VS students in Technology programs continued to complete significant projects within the City of Timmins.

Construction at Camp Bickell in the 1990's included new buildings, dormitories, garage, washrooms, nursing centre, and a kitchen/dining room.



Don Ceaser

Construction and renovations at Camp Chimo included washrooms, garage, barbecue cover, storage and other renovations.

Other projects included the construction of

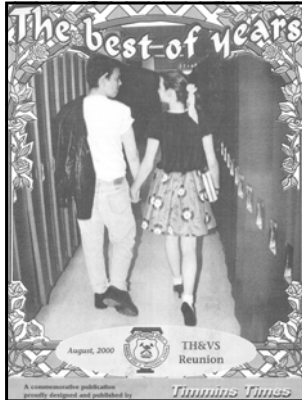
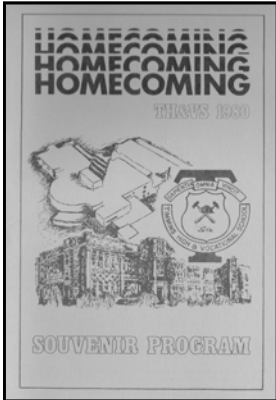
fishing huts (fund raiser for the Seizure & Brain Injury Centre), garbage bins for Mattagami Region Conservation Authority and the Christmas Wreath featured on the old McIntyre Mine head-frame in Schumacher.

In 2010, a portable replica of the logo for the Timmins Centennial celebrations in 2012 was built for use at community events. (See picture below)



TH&VS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address Timmins High & Vocational School
451 Theriault Blvd
Timmins ON P4N 8B2
Phone/fax 705-268-2149
Email info@thvsalumni.ca



TH&VS has had 2 previous very successful reunions: in 1980 on the occasion of the closing of TH&VS at the Preston Street location (above left), and again in 2000, when more than 2,000 alumni attended to share memories and re-live the good old days (above right).

Check us out at
www.thvsalumni.ca



Become our fan on Facebook
at THVS Homecoming 2012



Follow us on Twitter
at THVSAumni

TH Homecoming is the Kick-off Event!

TH&VS Homecoming has been designated as an official event of the 2012 centennial celebrations of the City of Timmins.

We hope that alumni will come for Homecoming on the civic holiday weekend of Fri Aug 03 to Sun Aug 05 2012 and "Stay & Play" in the city for the first week of August.

Check on the City Centennial website for announcements of community events that week.

www.timmins100.ca



We Need Email Addresses!

The success of the Homecoming depends on many alumni locally and right across Canada making plans with their former classmates & friends to attend the event.

Please send email addresses to info@thvsalumni.ca to register now with the THVS Alumni Association. This will guarantee that you receive the latest developments as they happen.

We also need your input: photos, ideas about HC events, and what you liked best about the last Homecoming in 2000. Photos will be scanned for use at Homecoming in the Decade Rooms and at the Mac in a slide show and returned to you.

Progress Report - TH&VS Homecoming 2012

The Homecoming 2012 Committee consists of alumni from various decades, all of whom are participating and volunteering their time in this work-in-progress to ensure that your Homecoming is a very special time.

Alumni cannot register for Homecoming at this point because final costs have not yet been determined. However, registering on the THAA website (www.thvsalumni.ca) will ensure you receive all the latest developments as they happen. We believe that attendance will surpass the last Homecoming in 2000, and we are excited at the prospect of seeing all of you at the event.

We hope to make this a meaningful, enriching, and wonderful time that will rekindle friendships and provide you with a nostalgic romp through your years at Timmins High & Vocational School.

Tentative Homecoming 2012 Format

- Fri Aug 03** 11:00am - Registration at TH&VS, activities, tours at TH&VS
7:00pm - Welcome Back Social at the McIntyre
- Sat Aug 04** 9:00am - Staff Breakfast prepared by Tech dept
10:00am - Registration, school activities, tours
6:00pm - Dinner at various community venues
8:00pm - Dance at the McIntyre
- Sun Aug 05** 11:00am - Tailgate party and football game at TH
Open air concert

***TH&VS Homecoming 2012 - a dream in the making.
You'll want to be a part of it!***

What is the THAA?

The TH&VS Alumni Association (THAA) is a non-profit organization devoted to the provision of funding to meet the needs of TH&VS and to maximize the opportunities for the students to achieve their best in all areas.

The volunteer Board of the THAA accepts donations and supervises the investments of those funds. THAA provides scholarships for graduating TH&VS students and responds to the requests of the school for funding projects as required.

Timmins High & Vocational School - a tradition of excellence since 1923.