

TH&VS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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THE STORY OF THE TH&VS "BOOB BURSARY"

The events of 1966 and 1967 changed the lives of numerous people attending TH&VS. Circumstances both positive and negative that preceded this school year, brought these students together. Academic success and failure, school and course changes, and a variety of other circumstances contributed to their coincidental encounter with one another.

A core group of a dozen 14, 15 and 16 year old boys were first united in Grades 10 and 11. Over the next few years, they became good friends and a few others joined this group, struggling with development. Most of these teenagers weren't particularly popular. Their academic and athletic skills varied, as did their personalities. They came from diverse economic and social backgrounds. Strengths of some would support the weaknesses of others.

Three members of the group were walking the school halls one afternoon. Already late for class, and in no hurry to get there, they were approached by Mr. Chester Jury, one of their teachers. After scolding them, he called the trio "a

bunch of boobs'. He advised that none of the three were performing to his expectations. He added they were wasting their lives and, that unless their attitudes changed, they would not succeed in life.

Defying Mr. Jury's remarks, the teenagers laughed the comments off, and began to call one another "Boob".



Mr. Jury, Science department

That was the outward response. They were clearly aware that, although Mr. Jury seemed stern, he possessed a genuine love and concern for youth. Realistically, all 3 admired and respected this educational icon. Unconsciously playing directly into his motive for admonishment, two of the three received top marks for the final term exam. They had previously been close to the bottom of the class.

In Gr. 13, timeless bonds were solidified among the boys in the Gr. 13 lounge. They were loyal and commit-

ted to another. Their values were formed and influenced by other members of the group. They became affectionately known as "The Grade 13 Boobs" by the all students and staff.

In the following year many "Boobs" headed to post secondary institutions all over Canada. Other moved to various careers. The core members kept in touch.

In March 2004, some of the "Grade 13 Boobs" attending a reunion decided to provide an annual bursary for TH&VS students. Honesty, loyalty, commitment to peers and generosity to fellow students would be as important as academic success. The beneficiary should have made a significant contribution to the students of TH&VS. Personal commitment should have a higher priority than academic standing.

The members of the group still remain devoted to each other. They would like to encourage other students to strive for strong, valued friendships, while achieving their academic requirements.

Submitted by Rick Sapinski, TH&VS Class of 1970.

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The "Bunch of Boobs" @ TH&VS

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

MISS RITA SECCOMBE REMEMBERED (1915-2005)

Rita Mary Seccombe passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the Timmins and District Hospital. She was born in the United Kingdom to William and Edith Seccombe, on August 25, 1915, and as a young woman, made Canada her home.

Rita graduated from Queen's University with a fine arts degree and taught high school in southern Ontario before accepting a teaching position at Timmins High and Vocational School in 1947, where she enjoyed a long and successful career.

She was an accomplished visual artist and many of her paintings hang in homes and offices throughout the district. One of her last donations was a painting which hangs on a wall in the newly-built Timmins Public Library. She made the First United Church her

home and the people in it her family. Over the years she created many liturgical banners that were a testament to her faith and her creativity.



Miss Rita Seccombe, Art teacher in the 1972 Quill

Rita was the first woman elder of the Timmins First United Church. Her collection of dolls of famous historic characters, that she knit, has been on public display on many occasions. Rita was active with the Girl

Guides of Canada and supported many causes and organizations with regular generous donations. A keen gardener, Rita had wide knowledge of birds and wild flowers.

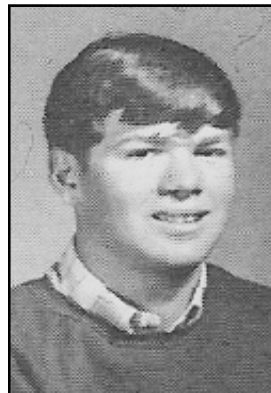
In 2002, Rita approached the TH&VS Alumni Association and established the Rita Seccombe Art Scholarship, whereby a worthy student, who planned to enter the an area of the arts in a post-secondary institution, would receive a \$500 scholarship at the June Graduation ceremony. On her passing, funds were bequeathed to the TH&VS Alumni Association to continue this award. We will always remember her wit, charm, style, grace, and generosity.

Submitted by Ross Clausi, TH&VS Class of 1955 and former history teacher at Timmins High.

TH&VS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS



Ted Tichinoff is the Chair of the Alumni Association. Seen here in his school picture of 1974, he remembers almost drowning in a puddle on the football field in Iroquois Falls but surviving to win the game. Ted went on to become a lawyer and has been practicing law with Evans, Bragagnolo & Sullivan since 1982. He and his wife, Elodie, have three children.



Ralph Carr, pictured here in Class 5A11B in the 1968 Quill, has always been a booster of TH&VS. He remembers his Grade 11 experience very well, in that he achieved an 80% final average, including the final marks of two years combined. He became a lawyer, and then a Judge in Timmins in the Ontario Court of Justice, dealing with criminal & family cases. He and his wife, Diane, have five daughters, all of whom excelled in the programs at TH&VS.



Lynne Ferrari (Stonehouse) was a member of the 1973 graduating class at TH&VS. She & husband Louis Ferrari have 2 children, Patricia & Tom. Her TH&VS peer group, including Monica Pickens, Glenda Laine, Mary Priest, Barb Baleck, Bonnie Wilson, Roslyn Forsyth and Sue Sangster, have continued to be a very close group.



Barbara Reid (Baleck), pictured here when she was Head Girl in 1972-73, serves on the Alumni Board. She married her high school sweetheart, Jerry Reid. Currently she is a nurse practitioner at Northern College, having earned a Masters' degree along the way. Barb goes out for dinner regularly with nine of her former TH&VS classmates. Her three sons all attended TH&VS, two choosing to make a career in teaching.

NEW DIRECTOR

Mark Toffanello has joined the Alumni Association Board in 2006. A member of the TH&VS Blues senior football team in 1971, Mark has always been a big



Mark Toffanello in 1971

booster of the TH&VS Blues. His business, Toffanello's Pasta, is well-known in city of Timmins for its quality food & friendly service.

He and his wife, Mary, have three children.

BLUES ARE BACK ON THE GRIDIRON

Once again the sounds of football will be heard in Timmins. After an absence of 30 years, Timmins High has taken the lead in reviving the high school sport.

In September 2006, 40 to 50 boys from Grades 8, 9 & 10, under the direction of Darrell Sokoloski, (Class of 1975), Bill Swain (Class of 1970) and Mark Delich began learning the fundamentals of the game. Other alumni, including Dave MacArthur and David Laneville are assisting the team from the sidelines.

2006 will be a building year with a focus on techniques, plays and learning to play together as a team. Over time, and with practice, the junior students will develop into good all-round football players.

Over 30 former football players and alumni attended the booster organiza-

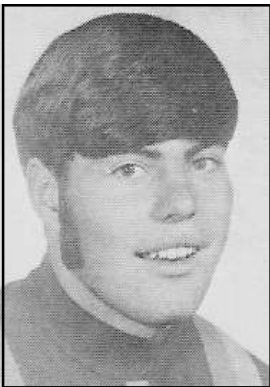


The Blues at the Hollinger Field in 1969

tional meetings. Financial support has come from alumni and the community.

The team plays two exhibition games this year, and plans to be ready for competition in a regular league that includes North Bay in September 2007.

TH&VS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS



Don Wyatt's picture here comes from the 1970-71 Quill. His memorable Timmins High & Vocational School experience is described on Page 1 of this newsletter. Currently, Don is a successful retail businessman in Timmins and a big booster of TH&VS. His wife, Lynn Ceaser, also graduated from TH&VS in 1973. They have two children.



Brian Jones' Grade 12 picture comes from the 1973 Quill. His favorite memories of TH&VS include Mr. Joe Bilenki, a music teacher who instilled in him a life-long love of music. He also remembers being sent home from football tryouts by Coach Vince Delmonte because he did not meet the minimum 95 pound weight restriction. Brian returned to Timmins in 1983 to establish a CA practice. His wife, Debbie Monahan, also attended TH&VS; they have 3 children.



Wendy Adams is pictured here in 1969, when she joined the staff at TH&VS filling a Family Studies position, along with her husband, Steve, who joined the Math Department. When TH&VS moved over to Theriault Blvd, Wendy became a vice principal. She was TH&VS Principal from 2003 to 2006.



Ross Clausi is pictured here as he appeared in the Grade 13 class of 1955-56. He joined the history department of TH&VS in 1965. His wife, Peggy, also attended TH&VS, graduating in 1958. Ross was a key organizer for the 1980 Homecoming Reunion and Homecoming 2000. He was a founding member of the Alumni Association, recognizing a need for celebrating the traditions of TH&VS in a concrete and practical way.

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TH&VS Alumni Association Mission Statement:

The TH&VS Alumni Association is committed to enhancing excellence in education by pursuing private funding support for meaningful school wide needs and priorities in the hopes of maximizing the intellectual, academic, athletic, social & spiritual needs of each student.



Timmins High on Preston Street South

TH&VS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Timmins High & Vocational School Alumni Association was established in 1999 by a group of interested and active alumni and former staff members of TH&VS. Following a most successful TH&VS Reunion in August 2000, the organizing committee directed all of the net profits to the Alumni Fund.

The group is responsible for the growth and income disbursement of the funds received yearly by the alumni association. With input from the staff and administration, the collective mission of the association is to attract and maximize private funding support for a wide range of needs for the students and the school.

In recent years, alumni funds have supported scholarships, the Blues hockey team and special projects such as the purchase of specialized audiovisual equipment for use of the staff at the school.

Individuals currently on the Board of Directors include Ted Tichinoff (Chair), Barb Reid, Ralph Carr, Mark Toffanello, Lynne Ferrari, Don Wyatt, Brian Jones, Wendy Adams, & Ross Clausi. John Sullivan, the current Principal of TH&VS, has an advisory role on the Board.

If you believe that TH&VS has made a difference in your life, and you would like to play a part in its future, consider a donation to the TH&VS Alumni Association, a charitable organization. A tax receipt will be provided for you.

SCHOLARSHIPS #1 PRIORITY

The most prominent activity of the TH&VS Alumni Association is the management of funds for scholarships for graduating students of Timmins High. The interest from donations finances such scholarships as:

Shania Twain - for 2 students who exemplify such qualities as commitment, hard work, determination and a willingness to work hard to achieve a goal.



Alumni Association - for the 2 top graduating students with the highest marks.

Susan Hall - for a student pursuing music in post secondary studies.

Lily Anderson - for a student achieving the highest mark in Grade 12 academic English.

Rita Seccombe - awarded to a student

pursuing Art studies at a post secondary institution.

Frank Graf - for a student pursuing a career in the teaching profession.

Sean Graf - for a student pursuing a career in social work.

Spooner family - for a deserving student going to community college.

Every year in June, a staff committee of teachers sort through all the graduating students to distribute scholarships to deserving students. Many scholarships have definite criteria such as chosen profession, marks, or family ethnic background, but others are awarded for effort, participation in school extracurricular activities and volunteer hours.

Students are advised to check out the availability of scholarships in the Students Services area and talk with a guidance counselor to see how they may qualify.

QUILL ANYONE?

The Alumni Association is working to complete a collection of the Quill, the TH&VS yearbook.

If you are willing to donate one or more yearbooks to the collection, please mail the book(s) to TH&VS to the address on top corner of this page. Photographs, and other memorabilia are also appreciated since the Quill was not always produced. Here are the Quills that are still missing:

1920 - 40's	1951-54	1964-65
All yrs	1958-59	
	1959-60	
1976-77	1989-90	2001-02
1979-80		2002-03