

The Spark for the TH&VS Alumni Association

What do an American airline pilot and an Ontario insurance agent have in common?

Craig Drew and Susan Sangster both graduated from Timmins High & Vocational School in 1972, and both wanted to have a class reunion. Both still had friends in their hometown, and both let those friends know about their desire to “get the old gang together”.

And on the August long weekend in 1997, over 200 people gathered at various events over the three days. Most events were for the grads, but classmates and teammates from other school years also wanted to join in the fun. The weekend culminated with a family picnic where the next generation and their “graying” parents had fun in the sun.



So what does this have to do with the TH&VS Alumni Association you ask?

The organizing committee for the reunion was made up of grads that were still living and working in Timmins. The group of ten met almost monthly for a two-year period (it was a great reason to get together and reminisce), to put the weekend events together. Not only did they do a great job

planning the event but the weekend ended up making money.

The businessmen in the group, Dan Racicot and Mark Toffanello, were able to get most of the food donated for the weekend, reducing the cost outlay significantly. When all was said and done, the treasurer, Claire (Deluca) Verdu was happy to announce that we had almost \$900.00 profit for a weekend that cost most people less than \$150.00.



So what was the Graduating Class of 1972 going to do with a profit they did not anticipate?

Monica (Pickens) Chartrand and Wendy (Sheculski) Hietalahti suggested the class finally have their composite picture put up in the hallowed halls of Timmins High. Committee members included Deborah (Arbic) Harris, Veronica (Kostiniuk) Farrell and Debbie (Kelly) Lefond were in agreement, and the composite was produced with the help of Monica’s Mom, Ann Pickens, and fellow classmate, John Lake.

At the same time, Lynn (Stonehouse) Ferrari and Barb (Baleck) Reid mentioned that the newly-formed Alumni committee for Timmins High was just getting started and in need of some seed money. Other grad committee members agreed and the spark of the Alumni committee was lit with a donation.

The Graduating Class of 1972 became the first contributors to the newly formed Alumni Association.

Written by Barb (Baleck) Reid

Re-printed from 1973 TH&VS Alumni Newsletter