

# Timmins Good Old Boys

*\* Special thanks to Dave Clutchey, TH&VS graduate of 1947, who submitted this story and pictures at the recommendation of Vic Power, TH&VS Graduate of 1952.*

*If you have a TH&VS story &/or pictures to share please email to [info@thvsalumni.ca](mailto:info@thvsalumni.ca)*

*Wendy Adams, Editor*

It all began more than 65 years ago in 1947. Only two years following the end of World War II, TH&VS had its best senior football team since before the war and arguably one of its best ever teams. Led by quarterback, Bob Gavan, halfback, Don Menard, and linemen Don Brennan and Ed Day, the team rolled through its opponents reaching the final game in Sudbury.

Who was to know that all four of those players would play a larger role in life by forming a group of former Timmins High School athletes and graduates that is still carrying on a tradition started 44 years ago.

The year was 1969, it was spring in Ottawa and the flowers on Parliament Hill were in bloom. The Brennans were now living in Ottawa along with the Ga-



**1947-48 SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM AT HOLLINGER PARK**

Back Row L to R: Gary Blake, Gabe Prest, Bob Gavan, Don Menard, Darrel McLaughlin

Front Row L to R: Don Brennan, Ken Trevenna, Ed Day, George Taylor, Dave Rose, Peter Burke, Keith MacDonald

vans, both having moved from Timmins as the gold petered out in the mines and many young men and women were forced to look elsewhere for jobs. However friends were not forgotten.

Thus it happened that Lloyd Kramp was visiting the Brennans on a beautiful Sunday afternoon when the conversation turned to golf. Both men, avid golfers at the time, speculated on how great it could be if they could get a Timmins foursome together to play some weekend. The idea took hold and soon Bob Gavan, and Don Menard, a teacher at Pickering College in New-

market, enthusiastically joined up. They played their first game in Peterborough in the spring of 1969.

Who coined the name **Timmins Good Old Boys** is a mystery but it remains today, though sometimes euphemistically referred to as the '**Timmins Old Boys**'. In a letter to Ed Day, (April 30 1985) Don Brennan related that he had had lunch with former teacher Colin Sellar in which he explained to Colin "that over the years we have held an annual golf tournament for '**the good old boys**' from TH&VS." That is the first mention of the term that we can find.

For the first ten years the foursome played together at such golf courses as Perth, Lindsay, Kingston and Picton. Finally it was decided to enlarge the group. In a letter from Don Brennan to a select group of former football players and TH&VS students, it was stated: "**This being our tenth anniversary, plus the fact that the team of Menard & Kramp are no longer any competition for the Ottawa machine (Brennan and Gavan), we would like to see as many of you as possible join us this year.**" **June 10 1978**

The criteria for new membership was clearly established with a ten point qualification criteria, some of which cannot be published for family reasons.

Others included:

- \* Drinking cheap wine/beer in the boy's locker room during school dances.
- \* Getting punched out by Mr. Gauthier or insulted by Miss Wilson. (Two highly respected teachers)
- \* Being a linesman on the football team and getting run over by Don Menard on his way to a touchdown.
- \* Still owing Abbie Ellis money for pool hall games lost. (Cont'd on Page 2)



## TH&VS Homecoming 2012

**Civic Holiday Weekend  
August 03-05 2012**

Mail Shania Twain Centre  
c/o City of Timmins  
Timmins ON P4N 1B3  
Tel/fax 705-268-2149  
Email [info@thvsalumni.ca](mailto:info@thvsalumni.ca)

TH&VS Homecoming is less than 1 year away! Make plans now to come home to renew acquaintances with your class-mates. Stay and play in the City of Timmins and enjoy the centennial celebrations in the 1st week of August. Check out those activities at [www.timmins100.com](http://www.timmins100.com).

You can help by inviting former TH&VS students or staff to register on our website [www.thvsalumni.ca](http://www.thvsalumni.ca). Paid registration for the event will begin in October 2011 online, by mail or in person at the Shania Twain Centre.

Among the first to sign up were Bob Chase and Ray Carbonneau. Adolf Deluca, Gabe Prest, Murray Ball, John Hrynuk, John O'Toole, Tommy Moran, Dave Mennie, Ron Fournier, Roger Paquette, Jerry Clatworthy and Ken Ellis all participated when they could. Orillia, Horseshoe Valley, Renfrew and Bobcaygeon became some of the venues for the event.

Don Ouimet joined the group in 1985. The 1990's saw the addition of a second generation of alumni including Ed Day, Darrel McLaughlin, John Vintar, Dave Clutchey, Omer Carbonneau, Sherman Everard, Gerry Hunt, Gord Hunt, Les Finnerty, Ernie Domenico and the Kemballs, Walter and Bob. The venues shifted to Guelph, Kirkland Lake and Niagara Falls.

### THE LADIES

Perhaps the most important advent of the 1990's was the inclusion of the ladies. On June 1 1989, the first acknowledgement of ladies was made in a letter to the members: ***"The ladies are invited to join the members for libations, dining and subsequent evening of levity every 22 years."***

***Needless to say not only are the ladies an integral part of the group, a number play golf and their social skills have contributed to lively and entertaining get-togethers over the past 15 years. Since many of the ladies are***



**64 years later at Grey Silo Country Club, Waterloo, ON June 09 2011**

Front L to R: Les Finnerty, Dave Clutchey, Ernie Domenico, Darrel McLaughlin, Mary Colameco, Norma Purificati, Don Ouimet  
Back L to R: Omer Carbonneau, Dennis Colameco, Gord Hunt, Gerry Hunt, Mark Scullino, Fred Purificati, John Vintar, Ty Savela, Joe Parco, & Ed Day.

***Timmins girls and TH&VS graduates, there is a common bond amongst the group.***

### THE FUTURE

Sadly time takes its toll. Two of the original members, Bob Gavan and Don Menard are deceased, and the remaining two original members, Don Brennan and Lloyd Kramp, are unable to attend because of health issues. Ed Day and Don Ouimet now are the de facto leaders of the group.

A third generation of former TH&VS athletes and students keeps the idea

alive and the activity ongoing. Led by former football player Joe Scullino, a group including his brother Lou Scullino and nephew Mark, Fred Purificati, Joe Parco, Ty Savela, Alan Zender and Dennis Colameco, have brought new and vigorous vitality to ensure the future of the "Timmins Good Old Boys".

Prospective newcomers are encouraged to join and those interested can obtain more information by emailing Ed Day at [eday2@cogeco.ca](mailto:eday2@cogeco.ca)

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