## The Evolution of a High School Geek

It's been almost two decades since I last walked out of TH & VS. Now I am returning as a different, hopefully better person.

I often make the joke that I have more Facebook friends from high school than I did when I actually attended high school. What I can take from that, is that it took us years to develop into who we were, and that none of us stopped growing when we left school.

Many will remember me as the class clown with big teeth, and a positive attitude toward any project that I engaged in. I used humour as one of my tools to gain the acceptance of my peers. How did I do? Some of that high school enthusiasm carried



over into my military career. I have reconnected with some of the people that made High School great for me, most notably would be Paul Toffanello. He took the time to imbue me with wisdom and pride. He was that one remarkable teacher that made a difference to me, as then I was just trying to find myself. His guidance didn't stop in the classroom, as he helped me with other projects, as well.

The friendships we built in school formed the basis of the friendships we formed throughout our lives and careers. In school, I learned to volunteer for projects that would make my classmates, teachers, and friends smile and feel good.

After 17 years in the Navy, I still volunteer for any project that will make people smile. These projects, such as rebuilding an orphanage in third world countries, and starting "Sailors for a Cure" that assists Cancer charities to raise funds, are both the most rewarding for what they represent, and for how they make me feel.

I look forward to catching up with people to see what accomplishments and achievements they have undertaken since high school. The friends I made at TH&VS were all open minded, giving individuals, who always seemed to try and make the world a better place. I can't wait to see how many of these wonderful people have been successful. I hope that at this Homecoming I can reconnect with those friends that made me smile, and that made my years in high school an experience filled with positive memories. See you then.



Left: Basic Training March 1996 - "I'll show them intimidation!"

Right: Sailors for a Cure 2012

Present Day: I am an active serving member of the Royal Canadian Navy and an advocate for cancer fundraising initiatives.

