

Student Memories of Peter Este

TH&VS Graduate 1958

Position recently held:

Elementary teacher

I graduated from Grade 13 at TH&VS in 1958. The picture of my wife Helen and I was taken in our Sudbury garden a year or two before we moved to Victoria, BC. We sure don't miss the snow and freezing temperatures!

My main interests in TH&VS were Army cadets, basketball, track and drama, school work came somewhat after that!



My memories start with Mr. Stonehouse (Gr 9 homeroom), a Spitfire pilot in WWII who we could always get off topic when we said that Hurricanes were the best fighters! Then there was Miss Bourne who was a great teacher. I loved the assignment of gathering 25 different bugs, all labelled and mounted! Yes, she stood on a stool to see over the science desk but no one fooled with her! Mr. Clark looked after the cadets and I did admire him and he encouraged me to continue with the cadets. Mr. Menard, Mr. Heath and Mr. Toswell were the greatest coaches I ever had! We learned and yet had fun. I got into the drama club with the insistence of an early girl friend and I must thank her for introducing me to being an 'actor'. Some teachers would say I was an actor anyway! Miss Quinn, Miss Anderson, Miss Secccombe, Mr. Greene and especially Miss Wilson 'sort of' kept me on the straight and narrow!

I just must tell a story of Principal A. A. Rose. A number of Junior and Senior basketball players would want to practice on Saturdays so we would 'get in' to the match box gym and play most of Saturdays. One Saturday, there was a rattling of the doors to the hallway and we thought we had been discovered! We heard keys being inserted into the lock and collectively held our breaths. It was Mr. Rose! We were petrified! He looked about, saw who was there, and quietly said, "I don't know how you got in here but when you leave make sure all is locked!" He turned, relocked the gym door and that was all we ever heard about it, as we continued to practice every Saturday. We always admired him but after this episode we idolized him! What a man and great principal. I sure hope this attitude is still there at TH&VS!

I had a great 35-year career of teaching and coaching Grade 7 & 8's in Sudbury, but love retirement in Victoria even better! I was there for the 1980 reunion and am looking forward to 2012, hopefully seeing many classmates, player buddies, retired teachers and perhaps even some TH&VS girlfriends. I will have my camera ready! See you all there.

PS. I do recall the Sherman tanks that Gary Del Villano talks about... we had exciting times driving them in the 'sand claims' north of Timmins!