

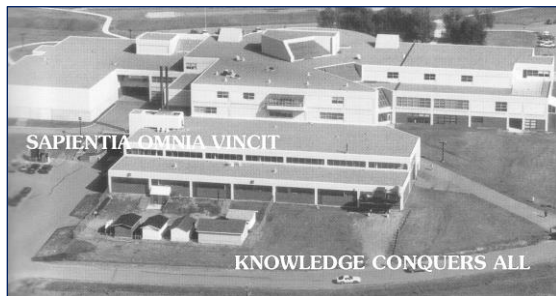
TH&VS celebrates 100 Years of Serving The Community, 1923 To 2023.
Former TH&VS Teachers Share Their Memories.

ROMA SHEWCIW (Geography, 1974-80)

What do I remember about Timmins? It's all about the people and their kindness, generosity and support.

- I had a hard time finding a place to live at first, so the retired custodian offered me two rooms at his place,
- Later I found a small house and the 'girls' sent me to the theatre while they redecorated my place by wall-papering the kitchen and painting the cupboards a bright yellow.
- The Friday night dinners at the Grafs, the 'girls', Steve & Wendy Adams, Vasco & Christy Ciotti, trips to Moosonee on the Polar Bear Express. The list goes on. A very positive experience.

I returned to Sudbury after 6 years and retired from teaching in 2004. Today I knit, embroider, teach Pysanka-making (Ukrainian Easter eggs), garden, Board Ukrainian Center, read, and do whatever else catches my fancy.



WENDY ADAMS (Family Studies, Vice Principal and Principal, 1969-2005)

Steve and I were just rookie teachers in 1969, planning to stay in Timmins for 2 years, and instead we stayed for 46 years. Our family of 4 enjoyed life in this friendly community. So many positive memories of time spent with great friends and wonderful students, Mark's Work Wearhouse, Rotary Club, City Council, competitive swimming, camping and more. In 2015, we moved to Ottawa, but we still stay in contact with the people and the city that gave us so much.

IRENE WOLANSKYJ (French, 1971-75)

When I accepted Principal Noel Rokeby's offer of a job in Timmins, I had no idea where Timmins was. I discovered it was on the "other side" of the Ontario map, someplace I had never been. I enjoyed my French classes, supervised the French Club and coached the enthusiastic *Reach for the Top* team.

In 1976, I returned to Western University to do a Master's in Library Science, leading to a position in the library of the Department of Finance in Ottawa. I completed my MBA and went on to work as a financial and policy analyst at Treasury Board. Finally, I worked on a project to remediate federal contaminated sites across Canada.

Since my retirement in 2008, I have kept busy with occasional consulting, providing support to family members and friends, golfing, gardening, playing bridge and traveling.

My time in Timmins and at TH&VS was very special and I remember the kindness and generosity of Timmins folks - being able to cash an out-of-town cheque at Bucovetsky's solely on the basis that I was trustworthy because I was going to be teaching at TH&VS. Living in Timmins and teaching at TH greatly enriched my life and for this, I have always been grateful.



TH&VS Staff Mini Reunion in May 2022

Back row: H Walkom, W Adams, R Shewciw,
Front row: I Wolanskyj, H Graf, R McLaughlin



THAA mission: "The TH&VS Alumni Association is committed to advancing education through the provision of scholarships, teaching aids and equipment and by sponsoring educational programs at Timmins High & Vocational School."

HEDY GRAF (English, French and Spanish, 1968-1998)

I accepted a TH&VS teaching contract to introduce Spanish at 8:00am daily outside the regular school day, plus 5 other classes in English and later, French too.

I enjoyed my extracurricular involvement with students, especially trips taken to Mexico, Spain, and France. My favorite memory relates to persuading a Toronto taxi driver to bring 3 students and me back to Timmins after returning from an overseas trip and discovering the ONR buses were on strike.

In 1985, I founded the PACE CENTRE, an alternative school designed to meet the independent learning needs of students. Returning to Toronto in 1998, I taught ESL to adult immigrants until 2020 when COVID-19 came. Volunteer activities continue to be important to me: helping students who had quit school to prepare for GED tests; community theatre; church committees, dance classes, and maintaining a *TH&VS Alumni Community* Facebook site. See below.

Check out **TH&VS Alumni Community** on Facebook for memories and news on the successful bursary initiative by TH&VS Alumni for new TH grads.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1234958369987624/>
1,851 members as of October 31, 2023.

HEATHER WALKOM (English, 1972-75)

Motivation for coming to Timmins & TH&VS

I had an early '70's romantic idea of moving North, and Timmins was my first step - and my last. Growing up in S.W. Ontario, I had no idea how cold and how long winter could be. As well, I missed my family far more than I had ever guessed I would. I also missed theatre. Nevertheless, I stayed three years rather than the two of my first plan because I liked the school and the people so very much.

Best memory of Timmins High

The kids! They were great. They were well-motivated and polite, very friendly and helpful.

Favorite memory of life in Timmins

I enjoyed the friendships I made, especially with other younger and single people on staff, some of whom have remained life-long friends. Evelyn Rymer and Hedy Baker-Graf were wonderful mother figures helping all of us along. The ladies' potluck dinners were always fun. Plugging in my car whether at home at school, going to the laundromat, or shopping at the 101 Mall were novel experiences, as was snow in October and June.

Where did you go when you left Timmins

I returned to Southwestern Ontario, close to my London home and family, my Toronto family, and Stratford! I taught English at one school for the remainder of my career as there was a good cross section of great kids from the town and the country and the staff were focused on doing what was best for our kids.

What are you doing now that you are retired

I am enjoying my freedom from bells and timetables! I have time to read and garden, to visit with my family and friends near and far, and to go to theatre in Stratford, London and elsewhere.

Looking back, I realize I was at TH&VS for a very short period of time, but it was significant to my development as a teacher and an important period in my life.



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What is the THAA

The TH&VS Alumni Association (THAA) is a non-profit charitable organization that was established in 1999 by a group of alumni and former staff members of TH&VS. Currently, there are 10 board members and the TH&VS principal serves in an advisory role to the board.

What does the THAA do

- Responsible for the sustained growth and annual income disbursement of the funds it receives. In return, as a registered non-profit charity, it issues tax receipts for any donations.
- Provides funds annually for scholarships & bursaries with input from the staff and administration.
- Publishes an annual alumni newsletter.
- Maintains a website for TH&VS alumni (www.thvsalumni.ca).

Donate or Create a TH&VS scholarship

- Most scholarships are based on the interest generated annually by the investment of funds with the THAA.
- As a charitable organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, the THAA issues a tax receipt for the total donation.
- TH&VS Student Services is ready to assist the donor in establishing criteria for the award.
- Contact us at info@thvsalumni.ca for more information.

28 scholarships invested with the THAA were awarded at June 2023 graduation (\$21,400)

- Helen Evanoff Memorial Award (new)
- Rigg Family Scholarship (new)
- Schumacher Alumni Scholarship (new)

Newest THAA Board Member, June 2023

Owen Rigg is a 2005 TH&VS graduate. After attending Long Island University on a NCAA Athletic Scholarship, he returned to Timmins in 2009. Owen is employed by Ministry of Mines and Golf Ontario.



Owen is involved on numerous boards of directors in the community and region including the Northern Golf Association, the South Porcupine Arena Association and the

Timmins U18 Hockey League. In his free time, he competes golf competitions across the province. During the winter, he represents the Northern Ontario Hockey Association as the District One Referee-in-Chief for District One.

Memories of TH&VS

Great memories of his TH&VS Days include the Timmins High Hockey Team and Golf Team. According to Owen, TH had a huge influence on him, as he ended up on scholarship in the USA, having his education costs covered. He credits his success to the teachers and coaches who worked with him to achieve that goal.

Owen believes that TH&VS played a significant role in his development, and so it is important for him to see that young people from TH&VS have similar experiences and opportunities that he received. For him, community service and volunteerism are important in making such experiences available for others. He is grateful that he was asked to serve on the TH&VS Alumni Board to do that.

CONTACT US:

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#1



#2



#8



#3



#4



#5

TH&VS Memories Over the Years

1. United Way School Competition 2009
2. Little Shop of Horrors Musical 1991
3. TH alumni Shania visits in 2005
4. TH Yearbook Quill 1988-1989
5. TH Pavilion at Hollinger Park HC 2000
6. Sr TH Blues basketball team 2011
7. TH football at the Hollinger 1961
8. TH Homecoming banner 2012



#6



#7



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