



NEWSLETTER

Charitable No. 88970 8467 RR

DECEMBER 2002

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Alumni and friends of Vic High!

After a few months off after the most excellent 125th Celebration in May, 2001 your hard-working Association is back in action! Things are changing at Vic High. We have welcomed a new principal, Keith Forshaw, who replaced Denis Harrigan in early 2002. Denis was a great help, as were the rest of the School staff, in putting on the 125th. By all accounts it was a fine party, and we hope that you enjoyed it. AND we were able to reach our fundraising goals, thanks to all Alumni and friends who contributed. A big THANK YOU to everybody from the Alumni Board!

We have some special treats for you. Please see the advert herein for a set of memento VHS tapes of the 125th Celebration, and a special bonus CD of the May 5th Alumni Orchestra concert in the School Auditorium. Speaking of which, we need to finish what we started with the 125th fundraiser: So far,

through our efforts, \$75,000 has been raised and spent to install carpeting, acoustical panels and accessories into the heritage School Auditorium. It is a nice improvement. But we still need a sound and light system and booth in the middle of the balcony. Then it would be great. I am sure that you can all remember, especially those involved in drama and music, how sound would just disappear and the lights would blind you. A modern school needs a good auditorium, and the School District is too broke to do what needs to be done. Especially as Vic High, as of this September, now has an increased population of 1200 students due to the addition of grades 9 and 10 under the District's current middle school re-organization program. So we need \$45,000 to finish off the project. We are happy to say that the 125th fundraising effort, in addition to replacing the old Centennial Bus with 2 new, 15 seater vans that now see constant use, plus topping up the

Douglas Cunliffe, '71, Chairman

Alumni Scholarship and Bursary Program which now provides over \$7,000 per year in awards to worthy students, and starting the auditorium project and completing a few others, we still have squirreled away \$15,000 earmarked for the Auditorium work., So how to raise another \$30,000 to finish the Auditorium once and for all? So we decided to have A GALA AUDITORIUM PARTY on May 9th, 2003! **COME ONE, COME ALL!!**

Otherwise, it has been a good past year for the Alumni Association with lots going on in our involvement with the School. Thanks to all Alumni Board members, staff and students for your continued dedication to our causes. All new members and volunteers are welcome. Please visit our website for more information.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you May 9th!

VHS 125 PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS!

Greetings to all Alumni of our fine school, Vic High. Over the 26 years since the Centennial Committee, the precursor to the VHS Alumni Association, was first established for the 100th Anniversary of Western Canada's oldest high school in 1976, I have seen the Association flourish under the guidance of those who have kindly taken the time to be involved with monthly meetings and the ongoing events and activities of the Alumni Association. We have been truly blessed by their dedication and hard work for the benefit of the School and its students.

I want to especially thank all Alumni who attended and enjoyed the 3-day VHS 125th Party on May 3rd-5th, 2001. I hope that you had as much fun as our 125 Committee under Dr. Peter Smith had putting it on for you. By all accounts it was a great success. Those who were kind enough to make a donation to our fundraising campaign helped us to meet our targets to purchase 2 new 15-seater buses to replace the gasping Centennial Bus for the use of school students, plus put up some more displays such as the Richard Hunt retrospective now proudly in the front hall, add to our scholarship and bursary program, and begin work on the renovation of the

Lawrie Wallace, '30, Honorary Chairman.

School auditorium. We hope that you can contribute a little bit to finish off the auditorium project. The auditorium is essential to the operation of the School, but has remained essentially unchanged for 88 years. Doug Cunliffe, our Association. Chairman, writes further on this in his column above. Many thanks to all donors! No Reward without Effort!

I look forward to seeing you all at the May 9th, 2003 Gala next spring. It will no doubt be another great party! Please come and enjoy yourself with old friends.

And I wish you and your families all of the very best wishes for the coming Holiday Season. We appreciate your continued support, and welcome you to become more involved with the VHS Alumni as a volunteer by visiting our website, www.vichigh.com.

Come give a Cheer!!

ALUMNI GALA CONCERT AND/OR DANCE

May 9, 2003: 2 Venues, 1 Incredible Night!!!
AT VIC HIGH

\$25

FEATURING: Alumni Orchestra & Friends & Calamity Players & VIC HIGH R&B Band

DETAILS AND TICKET ORDER FORM INSIDE...SEE YOU THERE!!!

\$25

THANK YOU ALUMNI

I never cease to marvel at our old School. Despite fairly major changes over the years in its physical structure, would you believe that it is finally getting a honest-to-goodness elevator? Vic High still seems totally familiar. At first glance, neither its teachers nor its students bear a close resemblance to their counterparts of fifty years ago. But in its spirit, the School feels much as we have always known it: stable, strong, tolerant, harmonious, and joyfully vigorous.

I also never cease to marvel at my fellow VHS Alumni. When I first agreed to chair the 125th anniversary celebration, I felt that we mustn't even dream of matching the massive endeavor of the 1976 Centennial. Surely we should be content with a quiet little party on a Saturday afternoon in May, and avoid setting some totally unattainable goal for alumni fund-raising.

I was delighted to be proven wrong. As everyone now knows, our quiet little party grew into a jam-packed celebration, involving thousands of nostalgic Vic High grads, young and old alike, who swarmed all over the School and crowded the two venues of our Saturday night gala. To these faithful and magnificent supporters, we all express our heartfelt thanks. What

a great expression of Vic High love and loyalty! What a terrific blending of generations we witnessed that weekend!

It would have been enough if you had just come and enjoyed the party. But your collective generosity was doubly gratifying, and this made the event so much more meaningful. I have been involved with quite a few "good cause" charitable appeals, and I have never encountered such an incredibly high donor participation rate. As the envelopes began to arrive by the box-load, it was the rare registration form that did not include some gift for the fund campaign. So many of you, without any heavy persuasion on our part, were willing to make a \$125 donation, and there was a significant number who gave a 1000 to join our Millennium Club. We thank you all profoundly. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will read about the wonderful benefits that have accrued to the School from our campaign.

I was particularly heartened by the collaborative effort of all who participated in VHS 2001. Staff and students were front and

Peter L. Smith, '49, Chair, VHS 2001 Committee

centre. The kids were absolutely terrific, from the creative drama students to the talented musicians in the R&B Band, to the expert guides who played such a major role in hosting the event. Alumni Chair Doug Cunliffe was everywhere at once, masterminding a superb campaign. It was he and Lawrie Wallace who had developed such imaginative plans for our fund drive, viewable on the Alumni Website.

In his Annual Report for 2001, Doug did a beautiful job of thanking everyone who worked on our 125th. Though space won't allow me to go through that whole list again, I do want to echo his praise of our tireless Registration team (Bill Broadley, Howard Taylor, and Hugh Ferguson), who each contributed hundreds of hours to the cause. Another group who gave a superb team effort were our Archives volunteers, under the able leadership of former Vic High Librarian Peter Denby. Those Vic High Archives, by the way, have recently been moved to another excellent home within the School, now behind the Home Economic rooms at the east end of the ground floor, near the Vining Street entrance. Materials donated during VHS 2001 have considerably enhanced the School's archival collection.

Many thanks to everyone!

Remember the 125th?

Now is your opportunity to relive it!

- Visit with Old School Friends and Teachers!!
- See events you may have missed, or wish you could see again!!

AVAILABLE NOW!!

Videos and an Audio CD!!!

*Which cover the FUN and EXCITEMENT of
The Vic High 125th Anniversary.*

Tapes: May 3rd-5th 2001

- 1) Thursday Guest Speakers & the Alumni Teacher's Wine & Cheese evening. (approx 30min)
- 2) Friday & Saturday Overall Event Coverage (approx 1 hr)
- 3) Entertainment in the Auditorium - Pop Choir, Dance Class Youth Choir (approx 1 hr)
- 4) The Orchestra Reunion Concert (approx 44 min)
- 5) Music CD of the Orchestra Reunion Concert (approx 35 min)

Order individually or as a set through the Alumni Association. Look for the order form in this newsletter.

CHANGES AT VHS

With the reconfiguration of our School District, we are pleased to be able to again welcome Grade 9 students to our Victoria High School Family. This is the first such enrollment since the 1953-54 school year when, according to my records, we enrolled four divisions of Grade 9's. After this there was a change in the junior high school make-up to include Grades 8,9 and 10, leaving only Grades 11 and 12 for the senior high schools, a deplorable situation in our opinion at the time. We did, however, offer courses at the Grade 10 level to accommodate students who were short some Grade 10 subjects. Because of this, we were able to encourage a number of full-time Grade 10 students to enroll for the extra year of the senior high experience. One such student graduating in 1979 commented in our School Annual, the Camosun: "Come to Vic High in Grade 10 and enjoy 3 great years."

Duncan Lorimer, '51-'79, Hon. Vice Chr.

There are bound to be problems such as space, but I am confident that with our present staff and a co-operative student body, such problems will be overcome and our Grade 9 students will "enjoy four great years at Vic High."

2002 Alumni Association Committee

Doug Cunliffe<Chair>
Lawrie Wallace<Honorary Chair>
Duncan Lorimer<Honorary Vice Chair>
Fred Packford<Membership>
Ken Leighton<Reunions Liaison>
Peter Smith<Archives>
Roger Skillings<Scholarship/Bursaries>
Cam Shaw<Website Management>
Keith Forshaw<Principal>
Don Kissinger<Staff Member>
Reg Reid<Director At Large>
Doreen Packford<Director At Large>
Peter Denby<Director At Large>
Ray Orchard<Director At Large>
Michael Bradley<Director At Large>

Fred Packford, '49, Membership Chair

Membership Report

HOW TIME FLIES! Just 10 years ago the concept of an Alumni Association was presented to the existing Centennial Committee and received their blessing to attempt to put together a working committee. A lot of support immediately surfaced from Staff, Support Staff and grads, as an action committee was formed. The initial goal was to raise \$10,000 through a membership drive, and it was estimated that 10% interest on this sum would be sufficient to pay the then-annual Alumni scholarships and bursaries, which were then sapping the depleted Centennial Committee capital fund. Promotion of class reunions by the new Alumni Association was initially quite successful in both raising awareness of the Association and selling memberships. Some "arm-twisting" occurred, but it was clear then that we were backing a winner. Now, 10 years later, the Vic High Alumni Association, one of the few such associations in public schools in the country, is setting the standard and being extensively copied. Bravo to the Association and those that have worked so hard to bring this to reality. We have now issued 4,475 membership cards and have a mailing list of nearly 14,000 names. This membership includes 275 new 2002 grads. Many successful activities have been organized and taken place, culminating in the 125th Anniversary in May 2001. More than \$250,000 has been raised for the School, an endowment fund has been established, and a widely renowned Alumni Archives has been developed. NOT BAD for an attempt to raise \$10,000 a decade ago - and a good thing, as interest rates aren't 10% anymore.

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Principal's Report

It has been a hectic but very successful start to our school year! The staff has worked incredibly hard to make a major transition from a school enrolling 850 grade 11's and 12's to a school enrolling 1179 students from grades 9 through 12. This is kind of like 'back to the future' for Vic High. Included in this number are 31 international students from 9 different countries. In addition, there have been significant additions to our staff as well as the acquisition of resource material, equipment, supplies, and furniture, all of which constituted a massive undertaking. Notable

building alterations have been carried out with great care, and the renovations fit in nicely with the rest of this wonderful Vic High building.

We also have a revitalized Parent Advisory Committee who are keen and enthusiastic. The Alumni Association's support of our scholarship program, as well as providing the school vans for transportation, makes a tremendous difference to our school and the students. The Archives are an outstanding resource for both the school and the community.

Keith Forshaw, Principal

Another big change at Vic High this year is the increased number of clubs and sport teams. The school fields and the gyms are very busy indeed. The clubs and sport teams, which are now in action, include the following: Rowing, Cross-Country, Senior Boys' Soccer, Girls' Field Hockey, Junior & Senior Boys' Volleyball, Girls' Volleyball, Junior Boys' Rugby, Wrestling, the Yoga Club, Car Club, S.K.Y Club, Environment Club, and the Chess Club to name a few. We look forward to an exciting and successful year!

Reunion Activity Report

Ken Leighton, '48, Reunion Chair

Upcoming Reunions 2003: Class of 1953 <> 50 year reunion Saturday, May 3, 2003. Day of activities including dinner at the Princess Mary. Contact Ruth Timnick #210-1610 Jubilee Ave. Victoria V8R 6P3 (250)598-5193 nictim@shaw.ca.

Class of 1948 <> 55 year reunion Wednesday June 4 and Thursday June 5. Please send in any change of addresses you know of plus any requests. There will be a newsletter in March. Contact Keith Leighton 6954 Mark Lane Victoria (250)652-2686 kenleighton@telus.net

Upcoming Reunions 2004: Class of 1954 <> 50 year reunion Friday July 30 and Saturday July 31 2004. Contact Val Coulter 5200 Santa Clara Victoria V8Y 1W4 (250)658-5130.

Class of 1949 <> 55 year reunion in 2004. Contact Vera Creelman 1145 Faithful St. Victoria V8V 2R5 (250)382-8876 eugene_creelman@telus.net

BAND INSTRUMENTS URGENTLY REQUIRED. CONTACT ERIC EMDE, BANDMASTER, 388-5456.

MAY 9, 2003 GALA CONCERT AND/OR DANCE

CONCERT: 7:30 to 9:30, \$25.00 per ticket:

We plan a fun-and-nostalgia-filled evening for you at the School. Come and enjoy. Starting at 7:30 sharp(don't be late!) in the auditorium will be a Gala Concert of memorable music performed by the Alumni Chamber Orchestra and Friends, PLUS the Calamity Players with Tom Mayne, famous drama teacher extraordinaire, our own Peter Smith and other magical Characters.

BOOGIE DANCE: 9:00 to Midnight, \$25.00 per ticket:

On the same night, starting at 9:00, the New Gym will rock to the fabulous sounds of band teacher Eric Emde's famous Vic High R&B Band. Tickets are separate from the Concert. Come and shake a bootie!

CASH BARS in the Old Gym for both, **SNACKS** in the Cafeteria

ALL ENTRY FOR BOTH EVENTS at Boys Entrance, 1st Floor. **Space is limited for both, so order your tickets now to avoid disappointment!**

GALA / DONATION / VIDEOS MAIL-ORDERS FORM

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

Order Form:

1. Alumni Membership-----Membership at \$10/ea=\$ _____

2. Gala Concert-----Tickets at \$25/ea=\$ _____

(Auditorium 7:30pm-9:30pm, May 9th 2003)

3. Gala R&B Dance -----Tickets at \$25/ea=\$ _____

(NEW GYM 9:00pm-12:00pm, May 9th 2003)

4. Tax-deductible Auditorium Upgrade Donation-----Amount=\$ _____

5. 125th Videos: 1. 4 tape set + CD-----Copies at \$125/ea=\$ _____

(See Advert!!) 2. Single Music Tape or Music CD-- Tape# _____ CD _____ Copies at \$30.00/ea=\$ _____

6. 125th Music concert CD-----Copies at \$30.00/ea=\$ _____

Total enclosed cheque:-----=\$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$15 or more. Please ensure name and return address are correct. Tickets and tax receipts will be mailed to you. Videos and Music CD by mail-order separately, prices include taxes and shipping.

Please pay by cheque or money order to

Victoria High School Alumni Association, 1260 Grant Street, Victoria, B.C. V8T 1C2, tel. 388-5456, local 100