



Alumni News

WWW.VICHIGH.COM

Ian McKinnon '66

Our new website for the Vic High Alumni Association is up and active.

We hope that this website will help you keep connected to Vic High and to reconnect with some of the people you knew at school.

As a first step, we have posted information about upcoming reunions, put up the last two newsletters of the association, and included some archival photos of the school and its sports teams.

Our biggest priority now is to let you see lists of alumni and provide ways for you to join the association and contact your fellow alumni. In these days of heightened concern about personal information and the frustration of email spam and spyware, however, we are being careful to design a system that will permit contact while protecting your privacy.

Peter Smith and the group who work with him on the school archives will use the site to

give broader access to some of the amazing information and records in the archives.

Looking to the future, we hope that you, the alumni, will shape the website and the services that it provides for the whole Vic High community. It can become a very effective way of getting in touch with old friends. We already know some of the ways that it can help alumni organize and find out about reunions.

We would now like to hear from you about what you want to see on the site; for example:

- Discussion groups for reunions,
- More news about Vic High today,
- Alerts about upcoming Vic High events, such as band performances or major athletic games, and
- Information about how the alumni association is working to help the school and its students today.

Let us know what you want and we will try to meet your needs better. Email us at alumni@vichigh.com.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Roger Skillings '68

The members of your alumni association have the pleasure of working with Principal Keith Forshaw, the school's administrative team and the staff and students of Vic High throughout the year. We are fortunate to see firsthand the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff. Moreover, the students continue to impress us with their many academic, athletic and cultural accomplishments. Simply stated, Vic High

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 6, 2005 7:15 P.M.
VIC HIGH STAFF ROOM
EVERYONE WELCOME

continues its proud tradition of educating its students effectively while instilling values of community responsibility and service.

We sometimes forget that Vic High is truly a "special place", with unique characteristics. Amongst these is the strength of the alumni association. Not surprisingly, some secondary

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schools in Victoria, recognizing the value of our association, are now attempting to organize their own alumni associations. Recently, representatives from Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Mount Douglas Secondary Schools have been seeking our advice. We take heart in knowing that our experience is valuable to them and that, in working with them, we will ultimately strengthen our organization.

As many of you recall, the impetus for creating the Vic High Alumni Association came as a result of the outstanding success of the school's 100th and 125th anniversary celebrations. The 1976 Centennial Celebration, chaired by Lawrie Wallace, was attended by thousands of Vic High grads. Twenty-five years later, Dr. Peter Smith chaired the 125th Anniversary Celebration. It was also attended by thousands of grads and reinforced the rich history of Vic High and the contribution its grads have made to their communities. Over the years, the dedication of many individuals and the effective leadership of Lawrie Wallace, Peter Smith, Fred Packford and Doug Cunliffe have enabled your alumni association to raise significant funds for a variety of purposes. These include the Alumni scholarship and bursary program, Vic High school buses, the new Alumni web-site and newsletter, improvements to the sound and lighting systems in the Wallace Auditorium and the reconfiguration of the Smith Library. As we work on these projects, we are fortunate to be strongly supported by Principal Forshaw, who both understands and appreciates the special significance of the alumni to Vic High.

My thanks go to all members of the alumni board who give unselfishly to "their school". Treasurer Michael Bradley ensures our financial matters are dealt with expeditiously, while Vice Chairs Anne McKeachie, Jill Wallace, Don Kissinger and Ian McKinnon provide expertise and leadership. I want to pay special tribute to the tremendous job Ian has been doing

assessing the feasibility of a fundraising plan and design effort to improve Vic High's playing fields and track facilities. Ian has done exceptional work both clarifying the concept and the process required to implement the facility upgrades and working in a sensitive and cooperative manner with the school district and the City of Victoria. This work is still at a preliminary stage, but we plan to provide you with updates about it on the website and in future newsletters.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you, the alumni of Vic High, for your continued generosity and commitment to Vic High's students. Each donation, regardless of size, is tremendously appreciated. The importance of your financial and other support to the school and its students cannot be overstated. Thank you for continuing to keep Vic High in your hearts and minds. Current and future students deserve all that we can do for them.

THE VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

DRAMA DEPARTMENT,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

ALAN PENTY,

PERFORMS THE HIT MUSICAL

HAIR

ON

MAY 17, 18 AND 19, 2005.

THE PERFORMANCES WILL BE AT

8:00 P.M.

IN THE WALLACE AUDITORIUM AT

VIC HIGH.

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 FOR STUDENTS AND

\$8.00 FOR ADULTS.

Vic High – RESPECTING THE PAST/ LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Principal’s Message - Keith Forshaw

Vic High clearly has a very rich history. Thousands and thousands of people have fond memories of their experience at Vic High. During the past two years, we have been fortunate to celebrate a number of aspects of Vic High’s history with our current students.

Two years ago, the “steam engine”, once an integral part of the heating system at Vic High, was successfully moved from the boiler room to the fourth floor near the science rooms. This unique display intrigues today’s students, particularly, it would seem, the male members of the student body.

This past Remembrance Day we held an extremely thought-provoking ceremony. The ceremony, which was student-led, incorporated the Service Banner used in a ceremony held during the 1919-1920 school year. The banner was recently discovered by our archives volunteers. The first and second world wars had a tremendous impact on the staff and students of Victoria High School and the display of the Service Banner helped our present day students relate to the sacrifices that were made. This banner will be displayed during Remembrance Day Ceremonies in the future.

On February 15, 2005, Flag Day, Vic High held a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the raising of the school’s first Maple Leaf Flag. Once again, the Vic High archives made this occasion possible by locating the original flag. Alf Foxgord, a former biology teacher, joined our current Co-Prime-Ministers to raise this flag once more, symbolically acknowledging this day in history. Gordie Tupper, an alumni and member of the Class of ’66, was on hand to cover this event in the media. Repairs and modifications to the flag to enable it to be hung on the current flag pole were done by Marlene dos Reis (Class of ’85).



Vic High's first Maple Leaf flag is raised again, 40 years later, to celebrate Flag Day 2005.



Vic High's Co-Prime Ministers, Jemma McNeil and Beau Murphy, Alf Foxgord and Gordie Tupper on Flag Day

We are indebted to the alumni and archives volunteers whose hard work and dedication to the school have made these events possible. It is interesting for me to see how engaged and

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reflective the students of today are when introduced to the history of their school.

It is helpful to be able to rely upon the stability and history of the school as we develop programs to meet the demands today's society places on our graduates. The strength of Vic High's Fine Arts Department is well known. Paralleling it, Vic High provides a broad range of respected Career Preparation courses. These programs include Biology, Human Services, Computer Studies, Autobody, Carpentry/Joinery, Electronics, General Mechanics, Machinist and Rhythm & Blues Band. They are intended to provide in-depth, real-life experiences for our students and may also lead directly to employment or to university, college, or further training. With the rapidly increasing demand in the trades, we

are providing first-rate, relevant education for our students.

At the same time, we have dramatically increased our offering of Honours Programs in virtually all core academic areas. We believe this will greatly enhance opportunities for our academically oriented students as they pursue higher education.

To me, the most pleasing aspect of today's Vic High is its tolerant and respectful culture. Vic High has the most diverse student population of any school on Vancouver Island. It also has a strong reputation for being an accepting, respectful place to both learn and work. As I look toward the next school year, Vic High will be strong and secure with a projected enrolment of over one thousand students.

YOUR DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

Michael Bradley '70

Over the years, your charitable donations to the Alumni Association have made a significant contribution to the quality of education and access to opportunities for students of Victoria High School.

Currently, your contributions enable the Alumni Association to award annually over \$6000 in scholarships and bursaries to Vic High students. No other high school in the area has a program, sponsored by its alumni, to reward student achievement and support less privileged students. Your donations have also supported the purchase of modern school buses and funded significant improvements to the Wallace Auditorium.

In addition to annual donations, planned giving provides another way that you can contribute to Vic High. In planning your estate, it is possible to create significant tax advantages through a charitable donation to the Alumni Association. Your estate planner, lawyer or financial planner can explain the

benefits of this type of contribution. Larger donations can also be used to create a special fund that can be used to fund a specific scholarship or other activity in the school.

If you are considering planned giving, please contact, either personally or through your representative, the Treasurer of the Alumni Association, Michael Bradley at treasurer@vichigh.com or by phone at (250) 595-4306. Michael can provide further information and assist in arranging details..

There are other ways that alumni can assist the school and the quality of the educational experience for Vic High students. For example, recently a former student, acting as an executor of an estate, enabled a significant gift of art supplies and books to be given to the Fine Arts Department. Another alumni member recently donated a surplus colour enlarger for use in the Fine Art photography program. Inquires regarding this type of donation should also be directed to Treasurer Michael Bradley.

Thank you for considering ongoing contributions to assist Vic High preserve its tradition of excellence.

MR. LORIMER AWARDED LEGION D'HONNEUR

Many of us fondly remember Dunc Lorimer (known to we students as “Mr. Lorimer”) as a friendly and devoted Vic High teacher, coach, vice-principal and principal. His teaching career at Vic High spanned 28 years, commencing in 1951 with his first teaching job and ending in 1979 when he retired after 13 years as principal. (For the record, it is noted that he did spend three of these 28 years “away” as vice-principal of Lansdowne). Some of us continue to have the privilege of working with him on the board of the alumni association, where he is the honorary vice-chair and serves an active member. Few knew, however, that he was also a war hero – who was recently awarded the Legion d’Honneur by the French government for his heroic efforts on the battlefields of France.

On June 7, 1944, “D-Day Plus One”, Mr. Lorimer arrived in France as part of the Allied troops. He was 24 and a platoon commander with the 1st Canadian Scottish Regiment, one of four brothers with the regiment. A month later, in the midst of battle near Cussy, he was caught

in enemy mortar fire and suffered multiple wounds. The wounds led to surgery and a short month-long period of recovery in England before he was reassigned to his regiment. Only the death of his brother,

George, in August 1944, prevented him from being sent back into the midst of battle.

Last summer, as part of the 60th celebration of D-Day, Mr. Lorimer’s war efforts were recognized by the Government of France. He was one of two members of the Canadian Scottish regiment and thirty Canadian veterans to receive the Legion d’Honneur. The award was presented at a ceremony in Victoria in July 2004, attended by family and friends.

Félicitations, Mr. Lorimer.



Duncan Lorimer and Her Honour, Iona Campagnola at the dedication of the Smith Library and the Wallace Auditorium, November 2003

R&B BAND SHINE

Don Kissinger

Vic High’s R & B Band, under the direction of Eric Emde, is having another extremely successful year. Mallory Manley, a Vic High grad from 2003, has returned to coach the vocals and choreography as a community service. Mallory assisted with one of the year’s highlights, a New Year’s Eve dinner dance at the Parkes Arena. The event was sold out and Mallory observed: “I was hugely surprised by the large turnout of about 1500 people, parents with children, and they were really having fun.”

The R & B Band is heading soon to Toronto and Detroit, Motown - where R & B superstar, Martha Reeves, will do a session with the band. Before the year is over, the band will have held

between 30 and 40 concerts, including a performance at Vic High’s Fine Arts evening on Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. The band will close the year playing in Jazz Fest International on

July 3, 2005. Get out to hear them and you will be in for a great show of professional calibre.

Vic High’s R & B program has been such a success that some of the members of the current and past R & B bands have formed their own extracurricular groups in the city, enriching the musical culture of Victoria.



The R&B Band at work

ARCHIVES DISCOVERY ENHANCES REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The Vic High Archives contains a remarkable collection of information about the school and its former students. Copies of every annual produced during the school's history, with the exception of 1992 and 1994, are in the archives as are comprehensive student records, photographs and countless other memorabilia that speak to the school's history. We are extremely lucky to have a core of hard-working volunteers, Peter Smith, Jim Conner and Frank Taylor, who devote endless hours to preserving the school's history.

The richness of the school's history and last November's Remembrance Day ceremony were enhanced by the recent discovery of a long-lost banner by Jim and Frank. The banner, 30 feet tall, was created to pay tribute to the alumni who served in World War I. More than 450 red and blue maple leaves are displayed, representing the Vic High students and staff who served in the war. The blue maple leaves – almost 400 of them – represent the alumni who came home. The red maple leaves – about 85 – pay tribute to those who lost their lives.

The banner was found in a storage box last spring. Peter Smith used the archives' resources to find out more about it. His search turned up an original photo showing the banner hanging on the school's east face at a ceremony during the 1919-20 school year. The picture was accompanied by an unsigned note that said: "This photograph was taken on the occasion of the review and inspection of the cadet corps by the top army officers in the area. The event was held late in the school year and was an open house day with the parade in the morning, lunch in the cafeteria, followed by a track meet in the afternoon..."

The banner was unveiled at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony in the Wallace

Auditorium. It serves as a graphic reminder to today's students of the significance of the World Wars I and II and the contribution to the war effort made by Vic High's staff and students of the day.

NOTE: If anyone has an extra copy of the 1992 or 1994 annual, their donation to the archives would be very much appreciated. Alternatively, the loan of a copy of these annuals would enable archives volunteers to scan and preserve them, making the collection complete. The volunteers in the archives can be contacted through the school's administrative office (250 388-5456) or by sending an e-mail to the alumni association at alumni@vichigh.com.

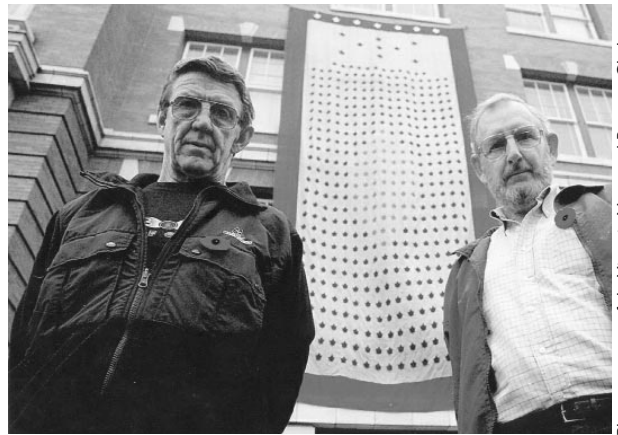


Photo courtesy of the Victoria News and Brennan Clarke

Fred Taylor and Jim Conner, Vic High Archives Volunteers, with 1919-20 banner



Ceremony in 1919-20 honouring Vic High alumni who served in WWI

VIC HIGH STUDENTS EXCEL - ONCE AGAIN

Jill Wallace '66

The best, the brightest and the most accomplished of Vic High's Class of 2004 were recognized at an awards ceremony on November 3, 2004. Scholarships were awarded to over sixty exceptional students who excelled in academics, technical education, citizenship, sports and the arts. The Class of '04 had an impressive 20 graduates who were Provincial Scholars and 12 who received UVic entrance awards.

The breadth and depth of the talent of today's Vic High students was evident at the ceremony. Luke Rogers, the top academic student in the class, was the recipient of several awards, including the Governor General's Bronze Medal for Excellence. Another outstanding student was Claire Doherty. In addition to receiving the Kiwanis Golden K Scholarship, the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship, a UVic Entrance Award, and a Provincial Scholarship, this talented young woman was awarded a Millennium Scholarship. These prestigious scholarships are awarded to students throughout Canada who demonstrate outstanding community service, strong academic achievement, capacity for leadership, the ability to motivate others and an interest in innovation. The \$4000 award is renewable for up to 3 years.

Fifteen Alumni Association awards, with a total value of \$6000, were presented. These awards have been specifically developed to honour students who excel in specific subject areas, including biology, visual arts, mathematics, languages and technology and to recognize students who have achieved overall excellence, but have not received another major award.

This year's alumni award winners include: James Player, an honour roll student and an artist (he has mural displayed on a building on Wilson Road facing the railroad tracks) who has done extensive volunteer work for the

Special Olympics and the Western Wilderness Committee; Max Rector who is attending the Carpentry program at Camosun and intends to become a woodwork teacher; Rachel DeMott, who is attending the University of Toronto and was a member of the R&B band at Vic High, a

talented seamstress and an avid athlete on several teams; and Sandra Andersen who is currently at UVic and is planning to attend Brown University in the fall. The winner of the visual arts award was Aja Rob. Aja is a very talented artist who left her home on Saltspring Island to attend Vic High and participate in its fine arts program. She is currently attending the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. In a gracious letter of thanks to the Alumni Association, Aja described her love for Vic High and the opportunities it provided her. She concluded her letter by saying: "I hope some day I may honour Vic High as it has honoured me."

The Alumni Association is proud of the contribution it is making to recognize and support Vic High's talented and deserving graduates. Ongoing contributions to the Alumni Association will assist us in maintaining and enhancing these awards. We thank you for your contributions.



Luke Rogers, Vic High's top academic student in 2004, receives his awards at the November awards ceremony

EXPERIENCE VISUAL ARTS AT VIC HIGH

Don Kissinger



A simple walk through the main floor halls of Vic High these days is a thrilling experience – thanks to the outstanding art work exhibited by the students of Sonja Olsen and Allison Pugh. If you have not done so recently, come by the school, and take an artistic tour of the present moment filled

with your own reminiscences of Vic High. The only requirement is that you check in at the office and let the staff know why you are there.

Vic High's highly motivated art students, thanks to a program sponsored by the Greater Victoria Art Gallery, are also currently involved in some "extra-curricular work" with professional artists associated with the gallery. Their works will be exhibited at the Moss Street gallery, commencing on May 12, 2005 and will be a "must-see".

This year at Vic High saw an unusual display of visual arts. Welding students in Bill Morrison's Tech Ed course, under the direction of volunteer Dr. Winestock, produced four large art-metal "humanoids" which were displayed in the halls of Vic High. They were later sold for about \$400 each at a silent auction held in conjunction with School

District 61's Tech Ed display. The money will be put back into the tech ed program at the school. "Dr. W", a retired radiologist who has a love of welding, art-metal work and working with young people at Vic High, is making a great impression at the school and the kids love him.

On Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m., Vic High will hold its

annual Fine Arts Evening. This event will include a new display of student art and a performance of the R & B Band. It provides a great opportunity to experience the excellence of the Fine Arts program. You are all welcome.



WHATS ON

FINE ARTS NIGHT (WITH R&B BAND)

MAY 4TH, 7:00 PM

VIC HIGH

HAIR - MAY 17, 18 AND 19TH

8:00 P.M.

WALLACE AUDITORIUM

ART DISPLAY -

MAY 12 - MAY 28TH

GREATER VICTORIA ART GALLERY

R&B BAND - JULY 3, 2005

JAZZ FEST

VIC HIGH ATHLETICS

Don Kissinger and Kevin Costain

Donna Blackstock (VHS '73) and long time Vic High P.E. teacher, was recently honoured by UVic's Faculty of Education. She was recognized as a "distinguished alumna" of the faculty for the enormous contribution she has made to Vic High and the community. Her years of dedication to Vic High and its students and Greater Victoria sports associations, the leadership she has shown in developing sports in the feeder schools (particularly volleyball) and her participation in a current research project at UVic looking at "girl's only" P.E. were cited as her special accomplishments. Her photo will soon be hung in the gallery of distinguished alumni in the hallway outside the Lam Auditorium. Congratulations, Donna. This is an honour that is richly deserved.

There have been three major highlights in this year's athletic activities at the school. The senior girls' field hockey team, coached by Gill Hawkins, finished second on the Island and competed at the Provincials. In addition, one team member, 16 year old Robyn Pendelton, has been named to the junior national team and has participated in two international world qualifying games in Santiago, Chile and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Graeme Gordon, a wrestler, placed third in his weight class on the Island and won the gold medal in the Island's 15 and under tournament. He also wrestled in the provincial championship. Well done to the entire field hockey team and to Robyn and Graeme for outstanding performances.

Finally, rugby has returned to Vic High. A group of enthusiastic young men approached Vice Principal Costain in October to see if rugby could be rejuvenated at the school. A coach, Aaron Frisbee, newly arrived from New Zealand, was found and the "lads" began practicing in November. The Titans were

entered in the league for the first time in a decade and their hard work immediately showed. During their four exhibition games, they won three and surprised the Victoria High School rugby world. Their only loss was a hard fought game against Oak Bay. The Titan's season – even as the official season just gets underway – has already been a huge success and several team members are being looked at as potential Under 19 B.C. and national team members.

VIC HIGH ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY RECIPIENTS - 2003/04

Academic Centennial

James Player

Technology Centennial

Max Rector

Business Educational Centennial

Rahmat Azizi

Alumni Bursary

Aja Robb

Noel Collison Bursary

Rahmat Azizi

Skillings Bursary

Genevieve Turcotte

Biology Career Preparation

Marco Juras and Nicholas Forrester

Coaching Career Preparation

Lana Solaczek

Journalism Career Preparation

Laura Scotten

Languages

Sandra Andersen

Mathematics

Paul Bohemier

Visual Arts

Aja Robb

Excellence in more than one program

Rachel DeMott

REUNIONS

Ken Leighton '48

2005

**Class of 1940,
65 year reunion:**

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Luncheon at the Princess Mary at 12:00 noon
Contact Jean Lindsey at 658-4806 or jlindsey@shaw.ca
[Congratulations to the Class of 1940. We understand that they will have more than 65 members of the class at the 65th reunion!]

**Class of 1955,
50 year reunion**

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Tour of Vic High at 1:30 p.m.
Dinner at the Trafalgar Pro Patria Legion on Gorge Road (at Jutland Street). Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

June 8-15, 2005

Alaska Cruise with special events planned for the class of '55. Very few cabins are left.

Contact Irene Harrison (Foot) at 727-0097 or ireneh@islandnet.com for information on both events.

**Class of 1965,
40 year reunion**

Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, 2005

Saturday: Drop in at Vic High, Roper Gym, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and dinner at UVic Commons Block, 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: Potluck lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., location TBA.

Contact Freida Eriksen at 382-3467 or eriksen@pacificcoast.net. There is also a website for the reunion: www.eat-vancouver.com/vichigh.htm.

**Class of 1975,
30 year reunion**

Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 2005

Friday: Reception at McMorrans; Saturday: Dinner dance at McMorrans.

Contact Ann Thomson at 384-3383 (home) or 384-6784 or stampers@shaw.ca.

**Class of 1985,
20 year reunion**

Contact Tarsam Basi at 383-2217 or tbasi@shaw.ca to discuss a possible reunion this summer.

2006

**Class of 1956,
50 year reunion**

June 2, 3 and 4, 2006

A committee is actively planning for the reunion. Contact Suzanne Sjostrand (Buttery) at 658-5516 or Margaret Moore at 658-8789.

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK THE VIC HIGH ALUMNI WEBSITE, www.vichigh.com FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON REUNIONS.

VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BOARD

Lawrie Wallace	Honourary Chair	Ian McKinnon	Vice-Chair
Duncan Lorimer	Honourary Vice-Chair	Gillian Wallace	Vice-Chair
Ron Lou-Poy	Honourary Director	Michael Bradley	Treasurer
Ross McKinnon	Honourary Auditor	Stephanie Lister	Secretary
Reg Reid	Honourary Director	Keith Forshaw	Principal
		Fred Packford	Membership
Roger Skillings	Chair	Doreen Packford	Membership
Don Kissinger	Vice-Chair	Ken Leighton	Reunions
Anne McKeachie	Vice-Chair	Lesley Wolfe-Milner	Director

Contact us at: alumni@vichigh.com and visit our website at www.vichigh.com



Alumni News
 VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



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