



## HOMECOMING FOR GRADS FROM THE 20s, 30s AND 40s – WELCOME BACK TO VIC HIGH

On June 14, 2008, the Vic High Alumni Association is holding a Homecoming for students who attended Vic High any time before 1950. Students from the '20s, '30s and '40s are invited to this festive gathering on Saturday June 14, 2008. Come and join us, meet old friends, reminisce and see the school as it is now.

Registration will begin in the main hallway of Vic High at 1:00 pm, followed at 2:00 pm with live entertainment in the Lawrie Wallace Auditorium. At 2:45 pm, the party will move to the Roper and Andrews Gyms where a reception, with refreshments, will be held.

This is a great chance to come and meet with your Vic High friends. We have about 2500 students from this era registered in our database and with whom we still correspond. So please come and join in the fun.

Cost is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. (Spouses, friends, travel assistants and companions are welcome.) There will be free parking at the school. Registration forms are available in this newsletter or online at [www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com).

If mobility is an issue for you, please be aware that the school now has an elevator. Vic High students will be available to assist you getting into and around the school. On the registration form, please make us aware of any special needs you might have and let us know your last name when you attended Vic High.

Cheques are payable to the Vic High Alumni



Association. They should be sent to the Vic High Alumni Association, 1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1C2. Once we have heard from you, the names of persons who have registered will be posted on the website, allowing grads to see who is planning to attend. We are looking for a great turnout on Saturday June 14.

If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail us at [alumni@vichigh.com](mailto:alumni@vichigh.com) or contact one of the following Alumni Association members:

Lesley Wolfe-Milner (250) 383-3799

Alan Perry (250) 883-1103

Keith McCallion (250) 598-5062

PLEASE DO NOT CALL VIC HIGH – they are busy educating a new generation of students!

*“COME GIVE A CHEER”*

*on June 14, 2008 for the best reunion yet.*

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**CHAIR'S MESSAGE****Roger Skillings '68**

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. It is also the 132nd year of BC's oldest high school: classes began at Vic High in 1876, only five years after the colony became Canada's sixth province. Three school buildings and many thousands of graduates later, Vic High is still a unique and special place.



We learned last year that there was a Vic High Alumni Association as early as 1903. The present Association dates from 1976, when it emerged as a legacy of the school's centennial celebrations. Thanks to fundraising begun that year, the VHS Alumni Association now has over \$200,000 in endowment funds. In the past year alone, we distributed \$8000 in scholarships and bursaries to VHS students and a further \$3000 to support school programs.

Although the Association is run entirely by volunteers, there are costs associated with its operation. These include producing the newsletter, maintaining the website, renewing insurance for the bus we donated to the school, and preserving the Vic High Archives (another legacy of the '76 Centennial). The Association depends on regular

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008 5:15 P.M.****VIC HIGH STAFF ROOM****EVERYONE WELCOME**

contributions from our members to look after these expenses, so that our resources can continue to serve Vic High's present and future as well as its past. Please consider making an annual tax-deductible donation to help us keep up this good work.

I have truly enjoyed chairing the Association for the past five years, and I would like to thank the many talented colleagues who have served on the Board with me. The Board has undergone some renewal in this period, and has adopted a solid strategic plan to focus its activities effectively and efficiently. While it is now time to pass the role of chair to other capable hands, I plan to continue my involvement with the Board, especially in helping with some exciting facility developments that are emerging. It won't be all that long till Vic High's 150th anniversary, and I know we will have much to celebrate then too!

Whenever you get the opportunity to do so, drop by to see good old Vic High. The students, staff and administration are as talented now, or more so, than ever. Thank you for your continued support of Vic High.

**VIC HIGH IN THE NEWS**

Recently there have been a flurry of Vic High stories in the local press – testimony to the energetic staff and creative students at the school! From the pages of the *Times Colonist*:

**September 14, 2007:** *"Ugly duckling destined to be a sleek Spider Series"* with follow-up stories on November 16 and February 8, 2008.

Teacher Kevin Blecic and his autobody students are restoring a 1979 Fiat Spider to as-new condition. Once restored, the car will be sold and the proceeds will help provide new equipment for the program, which is one of only two in the province. Many of its graduates are offered jobs as soon as they leave Grade 12.

**October 20, 2007:** *"Rock survivor: A new Victoria*

*studio honours B.J. Cook, a musical pioneer who did it her way"*

A new recording studio at Vic High will be named for B.J. Cook, who once sang leads with rockabilly star Ronnie Hawkins and with top-ten band Skylark. Cook, who survived a rough-and-tumble career in music, grew up in Victoria and returned to live here in the 1990s. She now enjoys mentoring young musical talent at Vic High.

**October 23, 2007:** *"Hairdo High: Victoria school puts beauty salon into curriculum"*

Art teacher and hairdresser Pam Murray presides over Vic High's brand-new teaching salon. "We've had a few students drop out and come back just for this program," says Vice-Principal Maureen Munro.

Continued on page 4...

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Stephen Bennett

My teaching roots go back to 1980 when I came to Vic High as a student teacher. In 2003 I returned to Vic High as Vice-Principal, and became Principal in 2006.



The school has a long and distinguished history of exceptional students, teachers and leaders. We are inspired by these legacies, and we feel a great sense of pride to be able to build on them. I've had the privilege of meeting some of Vic High's dedicated former teachers and students through the VHS Alumni Association, which continues the long tradition of leadership and support for this unique and wonderful school.

Graduates from decades ago would be amazed at some of the innovative programs to be found in modern-day Vic High. We've had a great deal of press this year on our auto body program, which is one of only two in the province. Carrying on Vic High's remarkable tradition of multicultural diversity, we have a First Nations Studies 12 course in operation, and a First Nations English 12 course in development. New to our school this year is a career-oriented hairdressing course, with an in-school teaching salon – a great resource for keeping some students in school. Also new this year is a French Immersion program which has begun with a grade nine class, and it will expand next year to grade ten. Two of our Science teachers are developing a new

marine science program, and obtained a \$25,000 grant from the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation to implement this program over the next five years.

Our rugby program under the leadership of Clayton Daum is experiencing a renaissance. The past three years have seen a rebuilding phase, and now our Titans are practicing hard for the upcoming season. Our coaches tell me that we have a very good chance to perform well in league play with the talent and teamwork that we have. This year's Titans are a team to watch for exciting rugby.

Besides our athletic, academic and career-oriented programs, the arts have always been a vital part of life at Vic High. In December we held our annual Celebration of the Arts evening, attended by about 800 people. Featured were painting, drawing and photography displays in the corridors; drama, dance and concert band performances in the auditorium; and the celebrated Vic High R&B Band in the music room – powerful demonstrations of the incredibly talented students and dedicated staff at the school. The R&B Band has also received a lot of press recently: it was the subject of a short documentary *Sounds Like Motown* that aired on Bravo, and a full-length version *Motown High* that opened this year's Victoria Film Festival.

The Alumni Association's interest and support for Vic High are extremely important to today's students and staff. They serve to remind us what a prominent role Vic High has played in Victoria's and British Columbia's history and what strong legacies we have to uphold.

*Palma Non Sine Pulvere*



## MEET TODAY'S VIC HIGH STUDENTS

Today's students are committed to their studies and involved in both their school and their community. Keith McCallion (Principal 1989-1994) had the opportunity recently to speak to the three students pictured here: Angela Adamson, Deanna Reid and Tianna Metzger. To read Keith's interviews with these impressive young women and learn more about them and their lives, visit [www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com).

*This newsletter is published by the VHS Alumni Association. Contributors include: Stephen Bennett, Rick Crosby, Barry Gough, Denis Johnston, Don Kissinger, Ken Leighton, Keith McCallion, Ian McKinnon, Roger Skillings and Jill Wallace.*

Vic High In The News ... continued from page 2

**October 23, 2007:** *“Vic High Sets Motown Jumpin’: Mom films story of legend’s bond with school band”*

In 2005 filmmaker Barbara Hager was a parent chaperone on a trip to Detroit where students in Eric Emde’s Vic High R&B Band were mentored by Motown legend Martha Reeves. Inspired by the experience, Hager produced a documentary on the bond that developed between the teenagers and the superstar. *Sounds Like Motown* premiered on Bravo in October. A longer version of this inspirational story, entitled *Motown High*, later premiered at the Victoria Film Festival.

**December 31, 2007:** *“Teacher’s focus on First Nations earns praise”*

Vic High teacher Anne Tenning was a finalist this fall for a Governor General's Award, given to top Social Studies teachers by Canada’s National History Society. Ms Tenning, 32, is a graduate of the school

(VHS ’93) and a member of the Chemainus First Nation. She has helped develop First Nations Studies 12, described by former students as a great course, taught by a great teacher.

**February 2, 2008:** *“Vic High mechanics going green: Class hopes province will help pay for electric conversion kit”*

Automotive teacher Mike Grew has written to Premier Campbell requesting \$15,000 to buy a kit that will convert a pickup truck from gasoline power to electric. Leading the automotive class project is Marie Shuman, who is also a member of the school’s environment club. In the long term, Mr Grew thinks his classes can produce the conversion kits themselves.

You can find articles like these on Canadian Newsstand, a searchable database which is accessible through most public libraries.

## DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE

As Vic High Alumni, we are part of something special. Whether you graduated in the 1920s or 2007, we all share a common bond with our historic high school – the oldest in Western Canada.

**Your donations make a difference.** Your donations, and the investment income they generate, support student scholarships and supplement innovative school initiatives. In 2007, we issued \$8000 in scholarships to fourteen outstanding students. We also provided \$3000 to support school programs. This included our first donation of \$2000 from the Vic High Endowment Fund, which was used to assist in buying new stoves for the Home Ec Lab. More recently, we assisted Fairey Tech and the Environment Club’s project – combating Global Warming through their Electric Truck Project.

**Your donations also help the alumni and reunions.** The Alumni Association is an all-volunteer non-profit organization, but we have annual expenses of about \$15,000. This includes printing and mailing the newsletter to over 8000 alumni, insurance for the bus we donated to Vic High, website development and support for the archives. These activities serve

the alumni themselves, whether through reunions, getting in touch with old friends again, or community and family research in the archives.

We are working on ways to expand our electronic newsletter distribution and redirect cost savings to scholarships and school programs. To assist us with this, if you have an e-mail address, please send it to us.

Help us serve today’s students at Vic High as well as the alumni. Our continued success depends on your contributions to this great school.

### *Donation Options*

A donation form is attached for your convenience. All donation amounts are appreciated, but unfortunately tax rules only permit a tax receipt for donations \$25 and above. Alternatively, you may donate online through Canada Helps by visiting our website at [www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com) or going directly to Canada Helps website at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and typing Victoria High School under Search. Canada Helps will produce your tax receipt automatically and your donation goes directly to the Alumni Association bank account.

We continue to be amazed by the generosity of former students, and appreciate your continued support.

## MORE ALUMNI STARS IN THE VHS GALAXY



Vic High's most famous golfer, **Bill Wakeham** VHS '59, has been inducted into the BC Golf Hall of Fame. As a junior, he played at Uplands Golf Club, home of a number of VHS junior golfers. Since his first victory in 1957, Bill has racked up numerous championships and has represented BC and Canada in international competition. His mantelpiece sags with silver trophies. As a sixteen-

year-old, he won the Victoria City Junior Championship and, shortly thereafter, the BC Junior. His final victory of note came 33 years later at the 1980 Canadian PGA Pro-Am held in the Dominican Republic. Earlier that year he had won the West Coast Open. His national and international fame began to rise in the late 1960s. In 1968 and 1969, he was BC Open Champion and, in 1970, Newfoundland Champion. He won the BC Amateur twice and then competed in the World Amateur Cup, America's Cup and the Commonwealth Golf Matches in Australia. Turning pro, he qualified to play on the PGA Tour in 1969. His achievements (and stories) are legion and his reputation is legendary. He still competes in the annual Cedar Hill Open, in which he has been a feature for more than 40 years. You can find him at Royal Oak Golf Club, where he is Head Pro. We salute him and send our congratulations.

Hats are off, too, to noted historian and biographer, **Maria Tippett** VHS '62. In addition to her many prize books about artists and cultural figures of the Canadian scene, including those on two subjects who had connections with Victoria High, Emily Carr and Bill Reid, she has recently had published *Portrait in Light and Shadow: the Life of Yousuf Karsh* (Toronto: House of Anansi, 2007). Karsh has been rightly hailed as "the Rembrandt of photography", and



Maria's portrait of him leaves no doubt this is true. She recounts his early life as an immigrant living in Ottawa in the 1930s, and how he rose to fame by his ability to reveal what he felt to be the inner power of his subjects. His famous portrait of Winston Churchill places Karsh in exalted status for all time, along with his portraits of such celebrated figures as Elizabeth II, Ernest Hemingway, Elizabeth Taylor, Humphrey Bogart and Eleanor Roosevelt. This is a must book for students of Canadian cultural history and yet another feather in Maria's literary hat. She now lives part-time in Victoria and on Pender Island, venturing farther away to England from time to time. She is married to the distinguished British historian Peter Clarke, a Canadian and author of *The Last Thousand Days of the British Empire* (London; Penguin, 2007).

Speaking of historians and their work, **Barry Gough** VHS '56, has added to his publication credits with the fast-selling *Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in Northwest America* (Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2007). As the noted reviewer and sailor Martyn Clark wrote in the *Victoria Times Colonist*, Barry is the principal exponent of Canadian maritime history. He has written widely about



Canadian lakes, rivers and waters. *Fortune* has recently been nominated for two prestigious book awards for excellence in non-fiction: the Nereus Writer's Trust and BC Book Awards. Barry has recently returned to Victoria from Waterloo, Ontario, where he was Professor of History and University Research Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. A former member of VHS staff (1964-65), he shares the distinction of being both a graduate and a teacher at Vic High with his father, John, who was later Superintendent of Schools, School District 61, 1947-1966.

*We enjoy collecting information about the accomplishments of Vic High Grads. If you have some information about noteworthy alumni, please e-mail us at [alumni@vichigh.com](mailto:alumni@vichigh.com) or drop us a note at 1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1C2.*

**REUNIONS**

Please visit the Vic High website at [www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com) to get up-to-date information about reunions. When you are on the site, click on Reunions for the latest information.

**Homecoming Related Reunions – June 12-14, 2008**

Many grad years are planning class “get togethers” to coincide with the June 14 Homecoming. To get further information about these events, contact:

**1940:** Jean Lindsey at 250-658-4806 or [jlindsey@shaw.ca](mailto:jlindsey@shaw.ca)

**1941:** Eileen Wilson at 250-598-0910 or 424-3965 Shelbourne Ave, Victoria V8N 6J4

**1942:** Jack Weber at 250-384-8371 or Fran Blandy at [fblandy@shaw.ca](mailto:fblandy@shaw.ca)

**1943:** Reg Reid at 250-592-7489, Don Elder at 250-592-1690 or Ed Rowley at 250-658-1514 or [edandwilma@shaw.ca](mailto:edandwilma@shaw.ca). *Note: This is a 65 year reunion.*

**1944:** Eric Gee at 250-592-7712 or [ekgee@shaw.ca](mailto:ekgee@shaw.ca)  
*June 14, 11:00 am – Lunch at the Fernwood Inn*

**1945:** Sylvia Kane at 250-721-1802 or 1566 Orelton Place, Victoria V8N 5S7

**1946:** Bob Coates at 250-595-1668 or [jrcoates@shaw.ca](mailto:jrcoates@shaw.ca)

**1947:** Don Mackinnon at 250-656-3181 or Evan Oakley at 250-592-9378

**1948:** Ken Leighton at 250-652-2686 or [kenleighton@telus.net](mailto:kenleighton@telus.net) *Note: This is a 60 year reunion.*

**The scheduled events for the class of '48:**

*Thursday June 12, 6:00 pm – Dinner at Victoria Golf Club*

*Friday June 13, 11:00 am – Lunch at McMorran's 2:30 pm: Golf – see below*

**1949:** Vera Creelman at 250-382-8876. *11:00 am, Saturday June 14 – Brunch at Cedar Hill Golf Course*

**GOLF for ALL Homecoming Grads:**

Grads attending the Homecoming are invited to participate in a nine-hole fun best-ball event on *Friday June 13* at Royal Oak Golf Club, 540 Marsett Place. Contact Jack Nicolson '48 at 604-858-2808, [jacnic@telus.net](mailto:jacnic@telus.net) or 45935 Lake Drive, Chilliwack BC V2R 3T3.

**Other Reunions**

**Class of 1958 – 50 year reunion:**

*Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, 2008*

*Friday:* Registration and reception at McMorran's Beach House.

*Saturday:* Buffet dinner at the University Club. Contact Hazel Johansen at 250-472-6043, [hjohansen@telus.net](mailto:hjohansen@telus.net) or at 1779 Barrie Road, Victoria V8N 2W4

**Class of 1961 – 65th Birthday Lunch**

*Monday May 3, 2008*

A buffet luncheon will be held, starting at 11:30 am, at the Holiday Inn on Blanshard Street. \$25 per person plus cash bar.

Contact Sharon Chow at 250-477-2924.

**Class of 1978 – 30 year reunion:**

*Saturday July 12, 2008*

Drinks and appies will be served at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

Contact Pete Rees at 250-727-3579 or [prees@telus.net](mailto:prees@telus.net)

**Class of 1983 – 25 year reunion:**

*Friday June 27, 2008*

Join us at 7:30 pm at the Velox Rugby Club, Gordon Head Road, Victoria

Contact Tak Niketas at 250-386-1361 or [tniketas@shaw.ca](mailto:tniketas@shaw.ca)

**Class of 1998 – 10 year reunion:**

Contact Sarah Boyd at 250-652-0615 or [sboyd24@hotmail.com](mailto:sboyd24@hotmail.com)

**ALUMNI RUGBY GAME**

The second annual Titans Alumni Rugby Game and BBQ will take place on Thursday May 1, 2008 at the Vic High Stadium. Events start at 3:20 pm with an alumni game, followed at 4:00 pm with a Titans regular-season game. There will also be a reception in the Roper Gym following the game.

All alumni are invited to attend. In particular, ex-Titans are encouraged to come back to play against and cheer on a young, promising team. More details are available at [www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com) and through coach Clayton Daum at the school, 388-5456, or at [cdaumen@yahoo.com](mailto:cdaumen@yahoo.com).

**Don't forget to visit**

**[www.vichigh.com](http://www.vichigh.com)**

**Our website contains information about the school, the Board of Directors, reunions, copies of the newsletter, archival pictures and much more. It is regularly updated and is a great tool for helping alumni to keep in touch with Vic High and each other.**

**DONATION AND MAIL FORM**

We appreciate your contributions to assist us in supporting Vic High and its students. *However, even if you cannot contribute at this time, please use this form to update your address and e-mail address or do this by e-mailing us at alumni@vichigh.com.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ [Surname at Vic High: \_\_\_\_\_]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ VHS years: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation\*:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/money-order payable to the Victoria High School Alumni Association  
 OR Use your Visa or Mastercard to make your donation online by visiting our website at www.vichigh.com or Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org/

Please enroll me as a new lifetime member of the VHS Alumni Association (\$25).

*Personal information provided to the VHS Alumni Association will be used and disclosed only to support the purposes of the society; i.e., to provide financial and other support to the school and its students, to facilitate reunions and communications among Vic High Alumni and to document the history of the school. If you do not agree to the use of information about you for any of the purposes, please indicate below.*

*I do not consent to the use or disclosure of my personal information for any of the above purposes. Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_

*\* You will receive an official receipt for Income Tax purposes*

**REGISTRATION FORM – HOMECOMING EVENT**

**Grads from 1920s, 30s and 40s**

**DATE OF EVENT:** Saturday June 14, 2008   **WHERE:** Vic High

**Registration:** 1:00 – 1:45 pm   **Entertainment:** 2 pm   **Reception:** 3 pm

**Cost:** \$25 per person   \$40 per couple (spouses, friends, travel assistants/companions)

**REGISTRATION DUE BY  
SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2008**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please indicate your surname at Vic High, if it is different, and the year you graduated/attended)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheque payable to:** Vic High Alumni Association

**Please send to:**        Vic High Alumni Association  
                                  1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1C2

FREE PARKING AT VIC HIGH. THE SCHOOL ALSO HAS AN ELEVATOR AND IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.



**Alumni News**  
VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Victoria High School Alumni News  
1260 Grant Street  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8T 1C2

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