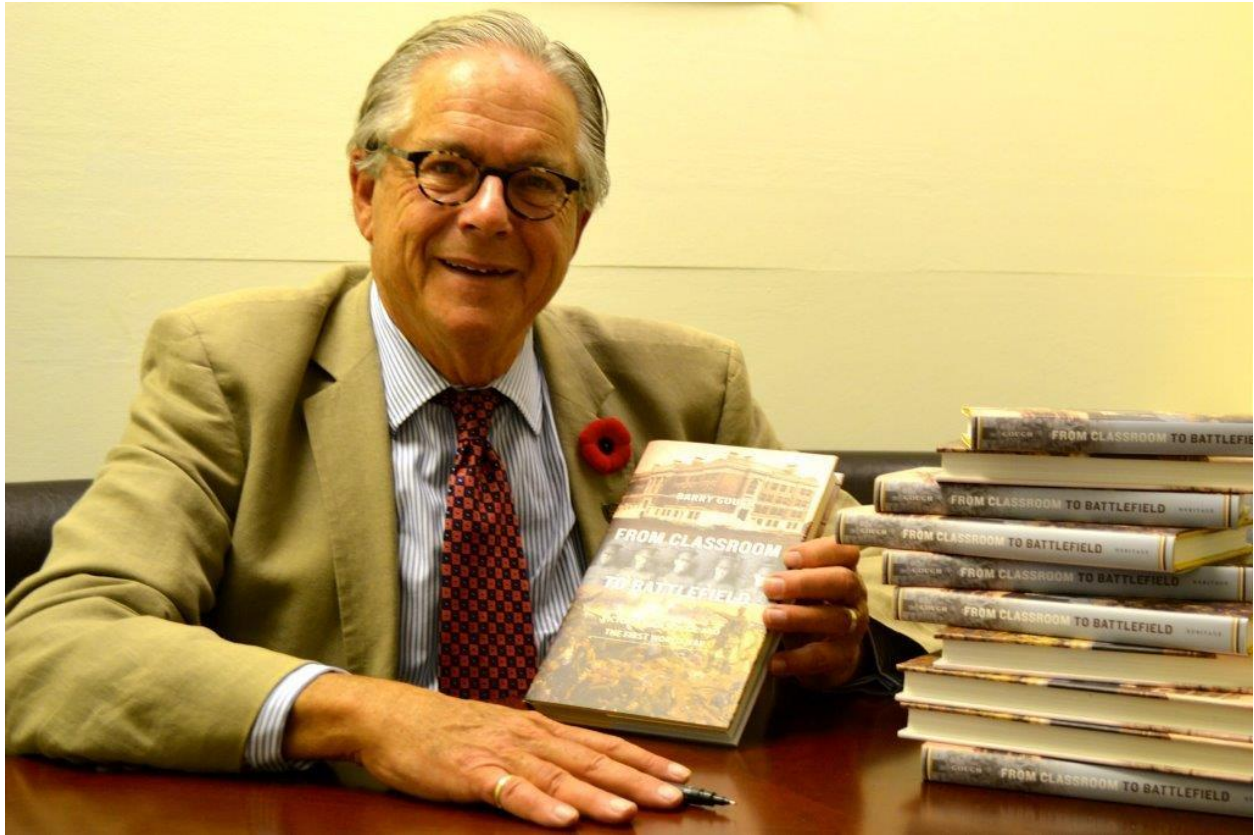


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The next winner of a Communication Award is Barry Gough for the publication of *From Classroom to Battlefield: Victoria High School and the First World War*.

The book not only details the great building that now houses Victoria High School but also brings to life the stories of the nearly 500 teachers and former students who joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force to fight for the British Empire.

It is so much more than a book on World War I; it is a local history of both buildings and people.

The book was written to mark the 100th anniversary of the building of the present school at 1260 Grant Street in Victoria. In April 1914, the school moved into its new building and a few months later, war broke out and teachers and former students started signing up to fight in Europe.

The book begins with a chapter that outlines the different buildings that have housed Victoria High School and how the school became prominent in the province. At one time, it was the only high school in Victoria, so many prominent citizens were students there at one time or another. The description of the building of the new school is detailed and puts the reader “at that place and time.”

The book tells the stories of twenty-two of those from Victoria High School who served in the War and relates their individual histories. It is more than a listing of battle dates and events, as each individual's story relates to their family, their home and, for those who came home from the war, their subsequent achievements.

For those who think history is a boring subject, they need only to read this magnificent book to see history come alive. Dr. Gough's writing style is easy to read and he paints wonderful word pictures so we can share in the joys and horrors that the 22 individuals faced.

Another facet of the book is the story of the extant artifacts in the school. Many students walked daily past the list of the fallen but rarely took the time to read the names. With the publication of *From Classroom to Battlefield*, the names on the list are transformed to real people with interesting lives.

The Roll of Honour also hangs in the school and lists all those known to have enlisted or otherwise gone to war.

The Banner of Sacrifice and Remembrance that displays a maple leaf for all known to have gone to war and indicates by colour those who did not come home was hung outside the school last Remembrance Day, bringing the story home to a new generation of students.

Ten stained- glass Wreaths of Victory and Sacrifice (a laurel wreath embracing two poppies and surrounding the VHS insignia) were placed around the school in the 1920s and remind visitors of the war. These windows are prominent in the school's auditorium on the west and east walls.

All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the Vic High Alumni Association to be used for scholarships and other activities.

Victoria High School was the oldest high school west of Winnipeg when it was established in 1876 and this book brings awareness of both its history and its current worth.

The book is extremely well-written and is the first to detail the history in such detail. For these reasons, it is worthy of a Hallmark Heritage Society Communication Award. As Barry Gough is unable to be with us this evening, I ask former Vic High Principal Keith McCallion to come to receive the award on his behalf.