

VHS ALUMNI CHAIR CAPTURES PRESTIGIOUS BRITISH PRIZE

Dr. Barry Gough, Chair of the Victoria High School Alumni Association, has won the prestigious Mountbatten Award from the London-based Maritime Foundation.

His book *Pax Britannica: Ruling the Waves and Keeping the Peace before Armageddon* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) won out over 24 others which made the short list. It traces the history of the British Empire between 1815 and 1914, illustrating the immensity of Britain's global ambition and the controlling influence of the Royal Navy.

Dr. Gough is the first Canadian writer to be so honoured in the literary prize's 20-year history. The Maritime Foundation was established in 1981 to promote awareness of Britain's dependence on the sea.

The VHS Alumni Association Chair was unable to attend the formal ceremonies during the foundation's annual awards dinner in London in November 2015. However, he flew to London the next month to receive the silver Armada Plate at an Athenaeum lunch.

"We are absolutely delighted that Professor Gough won this year's Mountbatten Award which was presented at the annual dinner in London last month," stated Anthony Harvey, secretary of the Maritime Foundation, in an email. "Indeed, Professor Gough is our first Canadian winner though our Australian cousins have won in past years."

Dr. Gough's most recent work, published by Heritage House of Victoria, is *From Classroom to Battlefield: Victoria High School and the First World War*. It is available from most Greater Victoria bookstores or from the Vic High Archives (open Tuesday mornings when the school is in session).