**GENEROUS GRADS LEAVE FUNDS FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIPS, ENDOWMENT**

The Victoria High School Alumni Association has received notice of three generous bequests made by grads who have recently passed away. These gifts will swell the Association’s total endowment funds to over $250,000.

**Tommy Mayne (VHS 1935)**

One bequest comes from a long-time Alumni Association supporter, Thomas W. Mayne (1918-2018). As many of you know, Tommy has long been synonymous with Vic High and the Calamity Players, the school’s celebrated skit group. In his 33 years teaching at Vic High, he directed and produced many plays and musicals before being appointed Social Studies chair in 1962. In 1976 he spearheaded the Vic High Centennial Show at the old Memorial Arena, which played to over 6000 people.

After retiring in 1978, Tommy began another career as a civic leader and arts philanthropist. He contributed countless hours volunteering for local cultural organizations, and made many generous donations to the arts and culture, notably to the Royal BC Museum, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Blue Bridge Theatre, among others.

When the Alumni Association made its annual request for donations, Tommy usually replied with a cheque for $500. One memorable evening in 2015, he treated the Alumni Board to a catered dinner at his home at Berwick Royal Oak, then presented a cheque for $10,000 for the Stadium Revitalization project. In 2016, Tommy was named one of Vic High’s Illustrious Alumni, and at age 97 gave a lively address to attendees of the Black and Gold Dinner.

When Tommy Mayne died in April 2018, the Association’s Past Chair, historian Dr. Barry Gough, once Tommy’s teaching colleague at Vic High, began raising funds for a memorial scholarship. A year later, the Alumni Board voted to add the Mayne bequest – another $10,000 – to these funds, bringing the total to $25,000. The full amount will be invested with the Victoria Foundation to endow an annual award called the Tommy Mayne Scholarship in the Performing Arts.

Continued on page 4
The start of 2019 has provided some insight into potential changes that will likely impact Vic High students within the next few years. In February, Mark Walsh, Secretary Treasurer of the Greater Victoria School District, updated us on the forthcoming seismic upgrade for Vic High. The work, likely to begin in September 2020, is one of the most complex school projects that our province has ever seen. It’s worth remembering that the current Vic High was a state-of-the-art facility when it opened in 1914; we are looking forward to restoring our beautiful heritage building while enhancing our learning spaces to again provide a world-class facility for many generations of Vic High students to come. We will be using the next 16 months to plan the renovation.

We continue to grow in student population and programming. Our arts programs continue to thrive with our Platform 61 dance group performing across the province. We are now being recognized as the top school dance program in the city. In March our musical theatre program completed a highly successful run of the musical *Cry Baby* – just one of many performances we have hosted this year in our beautiful L.J. Wallace Auditorium.

In athletics, our Senior Girls volleyball team won the city championship, our Junior Boys basketball team won the city championship, and our Senior Boys soccer team won the Colonist Shield.

An exciting new project – exclusive to Vic High – is a course in hand anatomy. A select group of senior science students will be studying basic surgery technique with a local plastic surgeon, Dr. David Naysmith (VHS 1967), who has arranged for access to the surgery labs at UVic. This is a great opportunity for students interested in pursuing careers in medicine and health sciences.

Thanks to many generous donations, the Alumni Association has established three new scholarships in the names of two beloved Vic High figures and one prominent grad class (*see Alumni Scholarships, p. 6*). In addition to the bequests received recently by the Alumni Association (*see Generous Grads, p. 1*), I would like to express my sincere appreciation for two other contributions. In 2018 the Skillings family presented their final bursary in honour of Waldo Skillings Sr. This was the 50th continuous year that the family has supported a Vic High graduate – last year’s recipient was our valedictorian and all-round spectacular student Yasmine Dharampaul. I also would like to thank the McPherson family for their support of our school garden project in the name of a Vic High Alumna, Ann McPherson (VHS 1952). Vic High students are very fortunate to have such generous support.

The advocacy and support of our Alumni has become a fundamental aspect of Vic High’s culture. Come give a cheer!

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**Alumni Association Annual General Meeting**

**Monday June 3, 2019, 5:15 PM**

**Vic High Staff Room**

**Everyone Welcome**

Have you considered serving on the Board of Directors? The Alumni Association is governed by a volunteer Board of up to ten Directors. Nominations and appointments to fill upcoming vacancies will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting on June 3.

The Board extends a warm invitation to all Vic High alumni and former staff to consider volunteering as a Director. No prior Board experience is necessary! If you would like more information regarding what is involved, please contact our outgoing Chair, Ken Gower, at ken.gower1@gmail.com.
It must be Spring. Once again, and for my third and final time as Chair, hello to all Alumni and friends.

When I started this journey, I made a commitment to myself and openly to others that I would serve up to three years (if re-elected, of course). I did this so the Board could be sure of continuity and a predictable opportunity for succession.

My experience as Chair, largely because of the strong support of others, has been meaningful and rewarding. My role has been enjoyable and not excessively time-consuming. There’s been a sense of making a difference for alumni, students, staff, the Fernwood community, and beyond.

Over these three years some significant achievements have been made, while other needs/projects continue to be works in progress. Here are some of these from my perspective:

Achievements
• Thanks to the dedicated efforts of several key Alumni, the iconic Vic High building will continue to anchor the Fernwood landscape for decades to come, following seismic remediation and upgrading. While the School District’s budget submission to the Ministry of Education is not yet approved, preliminary feedback is encouraging.
• The Association’s by-laws have been revised and updated in some important areas related to Board structure and the transfer of assets to benefit Vic High if the Association should ever be dissolved.
• We reached the fundraising goal of $250,000 for the Stadium Revitalization Project (this was already well underway when I became Chair).
• Three new scholarships have been created (see Alumni Scholarships, p. 6). These new awards significantly enhance the diversity and value of scholarship funding for VHS students.
• Milestone class reunions continue to generate a lot of enthusiasm. These reunions not only honour long-term and valued relationships, but also generate even more memories of shared times together.

Works in Progress
• Physical planning: We expect to provide Alumni representation for the School District’s anticipated seismic upgrade planning committee.
• Documentation: We aim to consolidate the formal documentation of Board policy and procedures in an official Board Operations Manual to benefit both current and future Board members.

• Financial Sustainability: Annual operating expenses for the Association are approximately $15,000. The most significant components are insurance, accounting, communications, and internet and website services. In past years the Association has been able to rely on the annual generosity of donors, supplemented more recently by proceeds from the biannual Black and Gold Dinners. As the boomer generation continues to age, our ability to rely on this largest cohort of Alumni will decline. One strategy to meet this challenge is for Alumni to consider making bequests to the Association when they are planning their estates (see Generous Grads, p. 1).

In last year’s message I mentioned how I was looking forward to that year’s Black and Gold dinner and to the 50th anniversary reunion of my Class of 1968. Both these events exceeded my expectations in their quality and attendance. Like so many things in life, the outcomes were achieved through the dedication of talented people who place a high value on their fellow Alumni and on the Association. Congratulations to those and many other Alumni who have organized (some repeatedly) past events and promoted the spirit of Vic High. We all owe you a debt of gratitude.

To conclude, I wish to express my personal thanks to the Association’s Board and to regularly attending members for their support over the past three years. I commit to provide the same to the incoming Chair.
Another bequest is coming from a former student of Tommy Mayne: the Reverend Dr. Walter E. Ellis (1934-2018). Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Wally Ellis came to Vic High when his family moved to Victoria from up-Island prior to his Grade 12 year.

His grad write-up in the 1952 Camosun reads: “This quiet newcomer from Nanaimo has the peculiar habit of collecting high marks.” Did he ever! He went on to collect degrees in political science from the University of Alberta and from UBC, and a doctorate in theology from the University of Pittsburgh. His obituary adds that he “served congregations in Pennsylvania and Washington state and in five Canadian provinces; and taught occasional courses in contiguous colleges or universities.”

Wally’s friends knew him for his eclectic taste in music and his love of Labrador Retrievers, which he often entered in field trials.

Toward the end of his peripatetic career, Dr. Ellis took his final posting in Richmond BC, so that he could be near his aging parents. When he retired in the early 1990s, he moved with them back to Victoria, a place they all loved.

The 1952 Camosun noted that Wally Ellis took part in that year’s Spring Play, the modern classic Our Town directed by Tommy Mayne. In it, Wally played a major supporting role as the local newspaper editor Mr. Webb. This experience must have made a great impression on the young man, for in adulthood this “quiet newcomer” became a talented public speaker. And now, almost 70 years later, a percentage of his residual estate will create the Walter E. Ellis Prize, “which shall be awarded annually to a student or students entering their penultimate or final year at Victoria High School, who exhibit excellence or promise in the thespian or performing arts.” The actual amount of the bequest is not yet known.

A third bequest is coming from the estate of Mrs Cynthia Mooney (1934-2017), whose name at school was Cynthia Ross. Though she attended Vic High for three years, Cynthia Ross seems to have blossomed in her Grade 12 year. She made the Senior Rep. Basketball team, and drew this comment in the Camosun: “A new addition to the team this year, Cyn has used her height to a good advantage in her centre position.” She also played on the school’s extramural volleyball and tennis teams, and was a member of the Leader Corps and Girls’ Hi-Y.

After graduation, after a few years working in BC’s Department of Education, she married Charles Mooney, an accountant with the federal revenue service. His job soon took them to Edmonton, Ottawa, and Vancouver. Wherever they went, Cynthia was engaged in community work with such charities as the Canadian Diabetes Association and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

In adulthood, one of Mrs Mooney’s close friends was Dr. Adrienne Chan (VHS 1968), the younger sister of classmate Benita Chan who was also a devoted supporter of the school. The Chan, Ross and Mooney families would get
In 2014, the Alumni Association hosted its first Black and Gold Dinner to honour some of the school’s most accomplished graduates. Since then, the event has been held every two years with increasing popularity.

Looking toward future honourees, our Black and Gold Dinner Committee has compiled a list of 120 former Vic High students who went on to great accomplishments and made our school proud. The question is, who have we missed?

Our list is continually being updated to include all of Vic High’s best. If you know of someone from your grad class – or from some other grad class – who has gone on to gain international, national or provincial success, please contact us at Anne.McKeachie@outlook.com. Include the candidate’s name, accomplishments, years at Vic High, contact information (or if deceased, that of a relative or friend), and your name and contact info for follow-up.

Next spring, another set of illustrious grads will be featured at the fourth Black and Gold Dinner. Date and other details will be announced soon. Those to be honoured in 2020 are:

• Ann Kipling, class of 1952 – impressionistic portrait and landscape artist
• Ian McDougall, class of 1956 – internationally renowned jazz musician
• Bill and Sylvia (Mobey) Hosie, class of 1960 and ’61 – nationally acclaimed for their work as singers, actors and directors
• Moe Elewonibi, class of 1983 – NFL and CFL football player

And posthumously, a father-daughter pair of honourees:

• Lawrie Wallace, class of 1930 – former BC Deputy Provincial Secretary
• Jill Wallace, class of 1966 – former BC Deputy Attorney General
Save the Date!

Vic High Alumni are encouraged to join us for the annual Union Club Open Golf Tournament on Thursday September 26 at Gorge Vale. Again this year, the Alumni Association is partnering with the Union Club, with all proceeds in excess of $10,000 coming to the Vic High Stadium Revitalization project. Last year, in the first year of this partnership, Vic High realized $5,000 from the event.

Registration of $150 per person includes 18 holes of golf (scramble format – duffer-friendly!), a power cart, prizes, and a buffet dinner back at the Union Club.

It’s great fun and it’s also open to non-Union Club and non-Alumni men and women. Make up a foursome – or two! To register, email Tournament Director Gary Kirk (VHS 1968) at dgkirk@telus.net.

Another way you can help is by selling sponsorships (large or small) as every dollar raised by Vic High goes directly to the stadium fund. If you are willing to sponsor, or know someone who would be, please contact Keith McCallion at keithmccallion@shaw.ca. We issue tax receipts for donations of $25 or more.

New Alumni Scholarships

In recent years, through the generosity of Alumni, families and friends, the Alumni Association has added four new scholarships and bursaries to Vic High’s student awards program. They are:

• Dorothy Evans Music Bursary (2013)
• Reg Reid Leader Cup (2018)
• Tommy Mayne Scholarship in the Performing Arts (2019)
• Class of ’68 Spirit Award (2019)

Funds raised for these four awards are being invested with the Victoria Foundation.

The fundraising target for each one is $25,000, which will support an annual prize of $1,000 in perpetuity. To date, we are pleased to report that the target for the Tommy Mayne Award has been achieved (see Generous Grads, p. 1); we are hopeful of soon reaching the same target for the Evans (currently $22,500), Reid ($17,500) and Class of ’68 ($12,000). For 2019, interim financing of $500 will be provided for each award.

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all donors who are supporting these and other student awards. If you would like to contribute, make your cheque payable to the Vic High Alumni Association, 1260 Grant Street.

Gone but Not Forgotten

Since last year’s Alumni News, we have lost two grads whom we previously honoured as Illustrious Alumni: Tommy Mayne (VHS 1935), longtime teacher, cultural leader, and arts philanthropist, who died in April 2018; and Jim Taylor (VHS 1955), nationally acclaimed sportswriter and humourist, who died in January 2019.

Tributes poured in for both these men, who were loved and admired far beyond the halls of Vic High. While we don’t have space in this newsletter to reprint such tributes, we have posted a selection on our website – go to www.vichigh.com and click on News, then In Memoriam – Alumni Assn Icons.

Reunions in 2019

More details of all these events are posted at www.vichigh.com – click on the Reunions tab.

Class of 1974 – 45 year reunion
Friday Sept 27, 2 pm – school tour including attic and VHS Archives.
Saturday Sept 28, time TBA – dinner at Gorge Vale Golf Club.
$20 per person, plus catering costs

Class of 1971 – 50 year reunion in 2021
To be a volunteer, join the organizing committee, or get further information, please contact Elaine Ellinger at ekell@shaw.ca or phone 250-642-4010.

Start Your Own Reunion!

Visit vichigh.com – click on Reunions, then Planning in a Nutshell. Then for further information or advice, email our Reunion Coordinators at reunions@vichigh.com.
Victoria V8T 1C2. You can also donate online through Canada Helps – go to vichigh.com and click on Support Us, then Donating Online. In either case, be sure to indicate which award you wish to support. We issue tax receipts for all donations of $25 or more.

The Dorothy Evans Music Bursary
Dorothy Evans was a strings teacher in Victoria, most notably at Victoria High School from 1950 to 1964. Here she created the first orchestra program in the district, which evolved into the award-winning Greater Victoria Schools Symphony Orchestra. She inspired many of her students to become professional musicians, and many more to enrich their lives by making music a lifelong hobby.

We are tantalizingly close to the fundraising target of $25,000. For a profile of Dorothy and her career, go to vichigh.com and click on News, then Feature Articles. For a description of this award, see our 2013 newsletter – go to vichigh.com and click on Newsletter Archive in the right-hand column.

The Reg Reid Leader Cup
One of the school’s most prestigious recognitions is the Leader Cup, which has been awarded annually since 1928. Last year it was renamed the Reg Reid Leader Cup, after one of Vic High’s most loyal and long-serving leaders. The Leader Cup has never been accompanied by a monetary prize – until now!

Our newsletters have recently featured articles remembering Reg Reid (2017) and announcing the rededication of the Leader Cup (2018) – go to vichigh.com and click on Newsletter Archive in the right-hand column.

The Tommy Mayne Scholarship in the Performing Arts
This year we were able to reach the target of $25,000 thanks to a bequest from Tommy Mayne and devoted fundraising by Dr. Barry Gough (see Generous Grads, p. 1).

The Class of ’68 Spirit Award
Last year, members of the very active Class of 1968 held their 50th anniversary reunion, and its organizers wanted to commemorate the event by doing something special for the school. Through donations and a silent auction they raised $11,000 toward their goal, and they continue to solicit donations and to generate income through special events.

Their scholarship will be awarded to a graduating student who shows qualities including leadership, cooperation, sound character, and yes, school spirit.

Don’t forget to visit www.vichigh.com
Our website contains information about the school, reunions, and the Board, along with archival photos, back issues of the newsletter, and much more. It is a great tool for helping alumni to keep in touch with Vic High and each other.

Photos in this issue are from the award-winning Vic High Archives and from private collections.

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 email; or you can email us at alumni@vichigh.com.

Name: ____________________________________________ Grad year ____________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Postal Code: _________________ Telephone Number: (____) _______________ Email: ________________________________

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ Other $ ________________ (We issue tax receipts for donations of $25 or more)

Enclosed is my cheque payable to the Victoria High School Alumni Association OR Use your Visa or Mastercard to make your donation online at www.vichigh.com or at www.canadahelps.org

☐ I would like to make my donation in the memory of ____________________________________________

(Please supply name and address of the person to whom we will send a notification of your donation.)

For the Alumni Association privacy policy, please visit our website www.vichigh.com

We would like to post the name of donors on our website. If you do not want your name included, check this box. ☐

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