

**BLACK & GOLD CELEBRATION HONOURS ILLUSTRIOUS ALUMNI**

By King Lee, VHS 1958

If you're attending the May 23 Black and Gold Dinner honouring outstanding former Victoria High School students, you just might get to see a Super Bowl ring or a Grammy. And thanks to presenting sponsors, Vessel Liquor and Urban Grocer, the event will raise funds to help the VHS Alumni Association support VHS students.



The Super Bowl ring belongs to **Mohammed "Mo" Elewonibi**, a member of the Washington Redskins when they won the 1992 NFL championship.

Nigerian-born Elewonibi, VHS 1983, played rugby, soccer and basketball at Vic High and began playing football seriously in Utah. In 1989 he won the prestigious Outland Trophy, awarded to the best lineman in U.S. football. 1997-2005 he played for the BC Lions, then the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.



The Grammy belongs to **Ian McDougall** of the Canadian group The Boss Brass, which won the 1983 Grammy Award for best jazz instrumental album.

McDougall, VHS 1956, grew up in Victoria where at age 11, he joined the Victoria Boys Band hoping to play drums. But there wasn't a full drum kit there, so he looked at the trumpet.

"Play the trombone, son," his father said. "Because a good trombone player is never out of work."

And play the trombone he did. At age 13, he began playing venues around Victoria and became so good that by 1960, he was touring Great Britain with the John Dankworth band.

He returned to B.C. two years later and played with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra before earning Bachelors and Masters degrees in

music at UBC. He then taught music at UVic from 1988 until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 2003.



Ann Kipling, VHS 1951, is an impressionistic artist who has received national recognition for her work. She attended the Vancouver School of Arts in the 1950s, long before it changed its name in 1978 to Emily Carr University of Art and Design, after another former Vic High student and world-renowned artist.

In 2004 she was awarded the inaugural Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts, one of Canada's most prestigious honours. She's also received an honorary doctorate from Emily Carr University of Art and Design, and the Canada Council Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award.



Sylvia Hosie, VHS 1961, is one half of “The Hosies”, Victoria’s legendary entertainment couple whose love story began on the Vic High auditorium stage about 60 years ago. Sylvia has carved a name for herself as an actor, choreographer, director and writer while husband Bill, VHS 1960, had CBC starring roles as a singer and comedic and serious actor. Sylvia went on to a teaching career at George Jay Elementary and was instrumental in developing the performing arts department at Claremont Senior Secondary school.

As posthumous awards, the Black and Gold Dinner also honours a father-daughter duo, two of Vic High’s most ardent supporters.

Lawrie Wallace, 1913-2006, was a student at Vic High (VHS 1930), returning as a teacher for several



years before joining the BC Public Service. His influence as Deputy Provincial Secretary and Deputy Premier was legendary. He was a key figure in Vic High’s 1976 Centennial Celebration, along with Sylvia Hosie and popular teacher and drama coach Tommy Mayne, a 2018 Black and Gold Honouree.

Wallace was the driving force behind the 1948-49 fundraising for the Memorial Stadium, and was instrumental in helping create the Victoria High School Alumni Association. In recent years the beautiful Vic High Auditorium was renamed in his honour.

Jill Wallace, 1948-2011, was the school’s top student in 1966, and also spent her life championing Vic High. She followed in her father’s footsteps in public service, eventually becoming BC’s Deputy



Attorney General. She was a tireless and valued member of the Alumni Association, and spent countless hours helping organize and promote the school’s valuable archives and museum collections until her untimely death in 2011.

CFB Esquimalt Wardroom is the venue, tickets are \$125 each, and tax receipts are issued for part of the price.

Contact Anne.McKeachie@outlook.com (250-472-16610) or donnalomas23@gmail.com (250-642-7073). Ticket Order Form is at vichigh.com, Black & Gold 2020.

Event proceeds help support scholarships for Vic High students, the school’s valuable Archives and Museum collections, and the alumni website, newsletter, and database.

VHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – AGM

Monday, June 1, 2020 5:15 PM, Vic High Staff Room

Join us for a short AGM, learn more about how we connect and support alumni and current students and preserve the history of Vic High. No need to be a Director, or have any Board experience to help out where and when you can, but those spots are open to everyone, too. Contact current Chair Donna Lomas, donnalomas23@gmail.com

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Aaron Parker



2020 is an eventful year for Vic High. We expect enrolment demand in September will exceed our capacity, many of our athletic and academic programs are rejuvenating, and our performing and fine arts programs continue to receive accolades throughout the community. Amidst all of this the renovation of our iconic building is looming, likely the most significant impact on learning at Vic High for all current and future students.

Renovating and seismically reinforcing Vic High is estimated to take two years. During this time we will operate out of the renovated SJ Willis school and the Fairey Tech

wing at Vic High. All the interior clay tile walls need to be replaced, and along with seismic upgrading, our electrical and mechanical systems will be upgraded or replaced. Improved function and enhanced amenities are needed.

As well, the school board and school community are committed to honouring, and where possible preserving, the proud heritage of our school. I have been working with staff and our Alumni Association to communicate how important the heritage of Vic High is to the learning of our current and future students. While we are only in the initial stages of planning, I am pleased with how receptive the design team has been to protecting the proud history of Vic High.

While it is unavoidable that heritage features will be lost in this process, such as the built-in carpentry in classrooms, some of our heritage features compromised in preceding renovations will be restored. A sprinkler system will be installed, which means the walls added around our stairwells can be removed and our beautiful stained-glass windows will once again be featured.

During this busy time we will keep our alumni connected to the school. An open house this spring

will include tours of the school. Ongoing renovation updates will be available on the school and Alumni Association websites starting in the fall. We are very fortunate to have such tremendous support from our alumni. The impact on current and future Vic High students is immeasurable

Thank you to Roger Skillings and Keith McCallion in particular, who have led the charge on the track and Stadium Revitalization project, and to all of our alumni who have contributed to this project and who will continue working with us on it.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to alumni for the support for our three new scholarships – the Tommy Mayne, the Reg Reid Leader Cup, and the Class of 68 Spirit Award. And finally I would like to thank Mr. Art Wild, whose donation made it possible to upgrade our sound board and equipment, and Ms. Heather McPherson who continues to contribute to our garden and foods program in honour of her mother and Vic High alumna Ann McPherson (VHS 1952).

I look forward to seeing many of you out in the spring at our open house.

Come give a cheer!

His guitar-playing is magical, and if you're lucky you'll find Fynn Langvend on the Vic High steps after class, strumming alone or entertaining friends. Vic High is his favourite school. He's been to others, and none compare, he says, with the acceptance and inclusivity he found at Vic High.



SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDENTS

Grade 12 VHS students Sienna Nargang-White, (left), and Simone Griffin recently visited the VHS Archives for research help with their Social Justice class Inquiry Project: “To what extent is the intent and origin of the Victoria High Basketball Team Mascot ‘The Totems’, cultural appropriation.”

They looked at the name in the context of the 1950s when it was first used, and also posited whether it’s time for all Vic High sports teams to share the same name. Each of the 17 teams has its own name and identity, each one starting with the letter T though not necessarily of Indigenous origin.

Class of 1969 alumnus Barrie Moen, in a 2014 article “A Time for T,” found no conclusive explanation



for the first “T” name. His article, in our “Tales from the Attic” series, is posted on the alumni web site at <https://bit.ly/2tPmtJ7>.

Nargang-White and Griffin concluded the name was likely a well-intentioned form of cultural

appreciation or an integration of diversity. However 70 years later, in search of truth and reconciliation, it may be time for a reinvention of Vic High’s team names, perhaps even a single identity representing the school.

Nargang-White a Finalist for Major Scholarship

Congratulations, Sienna, on being one of 88 finalists among 5,194 Canadian candidates for a \$100,000 Loran Scholars Foundation award. Covering four years of undergraduate studies, up to 36 Loran awards are given out after candidates are judged Jan. 31- Feb.1 in Toronto on evidence of character, commitment to service in the community, and leadership potential.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAIR'S REPORT

Donna Lomas. VHS 1977

Welcome to 2020 everyone – a new decade which for the Victoria High School Alumni Association should be packed with exciting activities and projects to coincide with the seismic upgrade and modernization of Victoria High School.

The planning for the seismic project is in full swing and your Alumni Association is working hard to be as helpful as possible. A major focus of activity right now is the organizing, packing and temporary storage of the school’s archives and museum. A team of alumni is hard at work making sure that everything is carefully preserved and available in the future. Fundraising for the Stadium Revitalization Project is ongoing.

This May the next Black and Gold Dinner will be held. This event is a major fundraiser to help support the Alumni operations, the newsletter, student scholarships and special projects within Vic High. Tickets are now on sale and information about the event is in this newsletter. I encourage you to come out and honour our distinguished award recipients while also supporting the current students of Vic High.

The Association is currently working on a new communications plan. An updated plan will allow the Association greater ability to keep its members informed and aware of upcoming events and school happenings. We are looking

to balance increased use of social media and electronic communication with traditional paper-based communication.

As Chair, I encourage everyone to attend and learn more about our activities at our monthly meetings which are usually held on the first Monday of the September-June calendar. Everyone is welcome but in particular, we need alumni members who are looking to participate actively in the Association.

Have a wonderful Spring and I hope to see many of you “Come Give A Cheer” at the Black and Gold Dinner.



CATCHING UP AT THE VIC HIGH ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

Work parties are fun and usually filled with crazy reminiscing about stuff we forgot we knew. Pictured above are VHS 1969 alumni who helped out recently: Diane (Tighe) and Peter George, Donna (Fleming) Graham.

Others helping include Lynne (Leatham) Huck, MaryLynne (Aikins) Rimer, Shirley (Beecham) Kasper, Fern (Chapman) Johnson, Edeana Malcolm, Jan (Hammer) Pelton, Cheryl (Chornoby) Bradstock – all VHS 1969. Cathy (Pearson) Crawford, VHS 1968 even brought husband Jim, a very helpful Oak Bay grad, to help, too. And Bill Robertson, VHS 1983, came in several times. Thanks, everyone!

We are now called Vic High Archives & Museum to better reflect the collections of trophies, science and sports equipment, books, school sweaters, uniforms, as well as photos, annuals, school records, and files on past reunions. We're excited about creating more displays in the new school in 2022.

Email archives@vichigh.com to receive emails with work party dates/times. Come when you can. No experience required. Thanks!

ALUMNI AUTHORS ABOUND

Edeana Malcolm (VHS 1969), below, is the latest Vic High author to add her books to the Vic High Alumni bookcase in the school library. Edeana edited the *Camosunet* back in her day, and has had six historical novels published.

Edeana's novels are drawn from her own family's history and contain surprising plot twists. Partly researched in the Vic High archives, her in-progress novels are set in Victoria. You can find her books on amazon.ca (print and digital) or in local bookstores.

Vic High Librarian Wendy Burleson is keen to promote the work of Vic High alumni and teacher authors, and welcomes alumni to borrow from the Victoria High School Alumni Authors Collection found at <https://bit.ly/30UadD7>. Contact her to donate a copy of your book, wburleson@sd61.bc.ca.



VHS ALUMNI CATERS BLACK & GOLD

Keith Campbell, VHS 1987, owner of 1550's Pub Style Restaurant, is catering this year's Black & Gold Dinner. Twenty-five years and still going strong, his food gets great reviews on Trip Advisor and Yelp. Thanks for being part of this year's Black & Gold, Keith. Learn more at vichigh.com, Black & Gold 2020.

STAY CONNECTED

www.vichigh.com – a wealth of news and information, photos, stories and reunion updates. Find and contact registered alumni.

Like us on Facebook – Victoria High School Alumni. Also the current school page l'école secondaire Victoria High School

Come to a meeting. First Monday Sept. to June, 5:15 - 6:30 pm. Vic High Staffroom.

Sometimes we socialize after over appies or supper. Always fun.

Or better still, here's where we can use some help:

- **Archives & Museum** – lots to discover, no experience needed. Email archives@vichigh.com to sign up.
- **Writing stories** – for the website, this newsletter. archives@vichigh.com to volunteer.

DHEENSAW THIRD HALL-OF-FAME SPORTS WRITER FROM VIC HIGH

BY King Lee, VHS 1958

What is it with Victoria High School and award-winning sports writers?

On June 4, 2020, Cleve Dheensaw of the *Victoria Times Colonist* and Valedictorian of the Vic High Class of '74 will join Jim Kearney (VHS 1940) and Jim Taylor (VHS 1955) as inductees into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame, media category.

Kearney joined the *Victoria Times* and Taylor joined the *Daily Colonist* straight out of high school while Dheensaw took a more circuitous route through the University of Victoria and substitute teaching.

But Dheensaw becomes the first media inductee from outside the Lower Mainland. Kearney and Taylor both gained their writing reputations working and living in the Vancouver area.

A second-generation Canadian of South Asian descent, Dheensaw was born in Victoria in 1956, attending North Ward Elementary, George Jay Elementary, S.J. Willis Junior High and Vic High.

At Vic High, he began writing about sports for the school newspaper, the *Camosunet*. He says there was a “cauldron of people” attending Vic High back then, probably 1,200 to 1,400, and remembers fondly his English Literature 12 teacher, Marnie Coburn.

Dheensaw also recalled teachers John Peramaki, who loved hockey, and Barry Camp,

a strict biology teacher with a dry sense of humour who also let students listen to Game 7 of the historic Canada-Russia hockey series on the radio.

“And math teacher Keith Newell,” says Dheensaw. “He was also the track and field coach, my forte while writing for the *Camosunet*.”

While being a reporter was his first career goal, Dheensaw enrolled at UVic for his Bachelor of Education degree and wrote for the university newspaper, the *Martlet*. He says he spent so much time at the *Martlet* that his marks began to slip.



However, he earned his education degree and was a substitute teacher for about two years before he received a call from former *Martlet* editor Michael Reid, by then a *Times Colonist* writer, informing him there was an opening in the paper's sports department.

Dheensaw embarrassingly remembers coming in with crumpled *Martlet* clippings serving as his resume for an interview with managing-editor Gordon Bell. But he did get the call from Bell asking if he could start the next day.

“Trouble was,” laughs Dheensaw, “there was a UVic party the next night so I politely said I wasn't available.” There was a long pause at the other end before Bell asked if the following day would be “convenient.” Dheensaw replied that it would be fine.

After the tenuous, almost non-start to his journalistic career, Dheensaw went on to write six books and carve out a reputation as a reporter who specialized in local amateur sports.

He has also covered Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Pan American Games during his three-decade-plus career at the *Times Colonist*, and the 63 year old definitely earned and deserves his place in the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame.

REUNIONS

Never stay home thinking you won't know anyone. After all, Vic High is the 'tie that binds', and we're all friends now. Go to vichigh.com – Reunions for info on each one, and Planning in a Nutshell to start your own.

In 2020 Class of 1955 – it's your 65th! June 10, 2020
 Class of 1960 – it's your 60th! Sept. 11-13, 2020
 Class of 1965 – it's your 55th! April 29, 2020
 Class of 1970 – it's your 50th! May 27-29, 2020
 Class of 1975 – it's your 45th! Sept. 25-27, 2020
 Class of 1980 – it's your 40th! June 6, 2020

In 2021 Class of 1971 – it's your 50th! 2021
 Class of 1981 – it's your 40th! 2021

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

Our Annual "Help the Alumni Association Keep Operating" fundraising drive added \$11,335 to the annual budget. You DO make a difference!

And we active volunteers thank you.

Funds are used to top up scholarships as needed, cover website hosting and database upgrades, purchase acid-free supplies for the Archives, pay for insurance, and more.

September 19, 2019 the Union Club Open Golf Tournament, produced jointly with the Vic High Alumni Association, raised \$8200 for the Stadium Revitalization project. Thanks to sponsor Russell Books, prize donors The Parsonage Cafe and Little June Coffee Shop, and all the players.

Found in the Archives



Autograph books – remember those? – were once much more than places to capture signatures of your classmates. This lovely drawing, from one Vic High student's donation to the Archives, is dated 1928.

DONATION AND MAIL FORM

Registered Charity #889708467RR0001

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

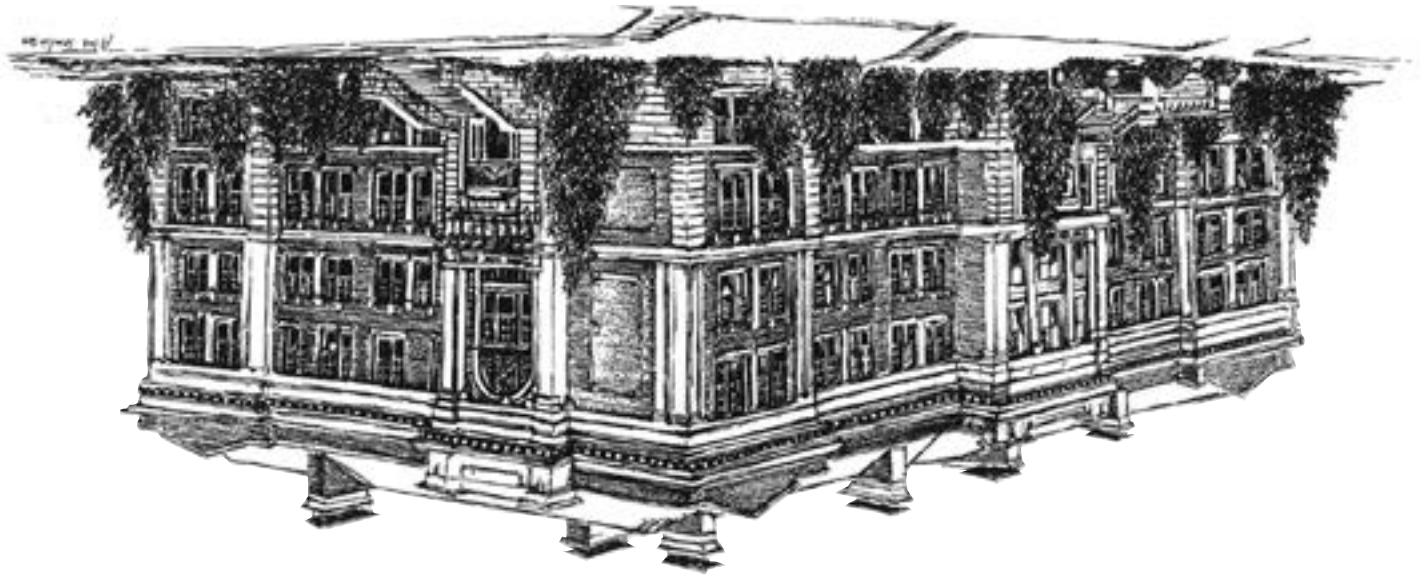
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Please supply name and address of the person to whom we will send a notification of your donation.

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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