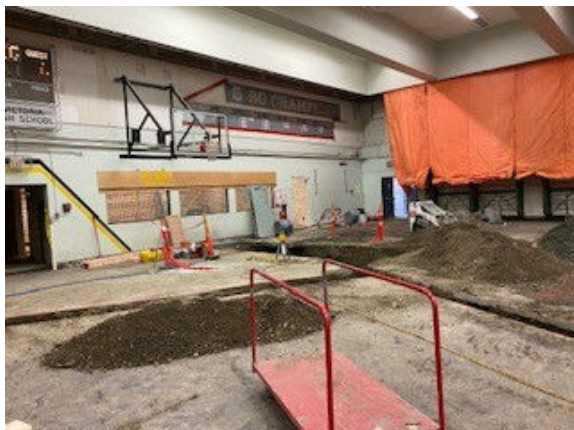




She may be fenced in for now, but her foundation still grounded on enormous blocks of granite, Victoria High School keeps watch as she has for 106 years. Crews inside execute carefully orchestrated interior demolition to make way for seismic upgrades and reconfiguration of some interior spaces.

Today's collaborative learning approaches and broad technology needs will be met during this make-over, proper fire suppression and accessible elevators will be installed, and more, all supported in the 'new' Vic High while the school's most important historic elements will be retained.

The Alumni Association's Archives volunteers, along with alumni with vast heritage expertise, were repeatedly consulted by the project's Heritage Architect on historical design elements and heritage aspects that could be retained or repurposed. This was particularly important in planning the restoration of memorial areas in the main hallway, including the World War I memorial created by former art teacher Bunny Clarke, and the brass panel World War II memorial opposite, both listing the names of Vic High students who gave their lives.



In addition to keeping the Lawrie Wallace Auditorium, the Roper Gym, and the Andrews Gym, as well as many other heritage features, the project includes a \$6 million Neighbourhood Learning Centre and increases student capacity by

200. The Fernwood Street-facing Main Student Entrance will be expanded, while the grand front entry remains to complement the largely unchanged exterior.



Middle photo: Found behind a blackboard: "Freddie Smertz was here 1914"

Interior walls around the stained-glass window-lined stairwells will be removed as sprinkling systems can now be installed, showcasing these beautiful original heritage features. Meanwhile, Archives volunteers are excited about welcoming everyone into the Vic High Archives & Museum which will be on the main floor just off the Fernwood entrance.

And what a relief! The attic, though affected in minor ways by changes to the heating system, will remain relatively untouched, all our autographs will remain for generations to come as each new graduate adds their name to ours.



The Alumni's *Vic High 2020* photobook, full of beautiful photos capturing the school pre-upgrade, can be ordered at [Vic High 2020 Photobook - Victoria High School Alumni Association](#)

Additional Amenities and Enhancements

School District 61 has approved some additional amenities for the Vic High Seismic upgrade. Here's a link to detailed information on the project overall, and on the additional amenities.

For those who are interested, detailed project information can be found at [Victoria High: Planning for the Future - The Greater Victoria School District No. 61 \(sd61.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd61.bc.ca/vic-high-planning-for-the-future)



Stadium & Field Area

Now that the main project is underway, we look forward to the School District's decision on the rest of the outdoor areas, and remain committed to our Association's mandate to support Vic High and its students. We continue our strong advocacy for additional improvements to Vic High's outdoor facilities, and will contribute funds we have raised, approximately \$160,000, to those ends.

Stay tuned! The grand re-opening of the new, old Vic High, currently planned for fall 2022, will be greatly welcomed by us all. May those granite blocks support her and all her students for another century and more.

Watch this site for more updates, photos, curious finds, as Vic High's makeover proceeds.