

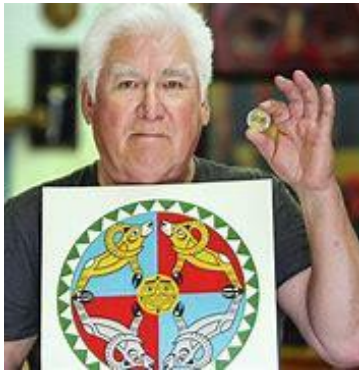
VIC HIGH GRADS SHINE!

May 5, 2021

By King Lee, VHS 1958

Two prominent Victoria High School graduates made headlines recently, one in the worlds of art and finance and the other in the world of sports.

Kwakiutl carver and painter Richard Hunt, Class of 1971, designed a limited edition, \$200 gold coin which the Royal Canadian Mint released for sale in the first week of May 2021, valued at \$4,199.95 each.



The 31-gram coin called Ramming Bighorn Sheep is 99.99 per cent gold and his fourth commissioned by the Mint. His designs were also featured in 2005, 2012 and 2015 Canadian coins. Part of the agreement between the artist and the Mint was that Mr. Hunt will keep one of the 500 coins.

Hunt is one of Canada's premiere native artists, and has been inducted into the Vic High Black & Gold Honour Roll. He's also been honoured with the Order of Canada, the Order of B.C., and an honorary doctorate from the University of Victoria.

Roger Skillings, former chair of the Victoria High School Alumni Association and a 1968 grad, was named to the 2021 Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder category. A two-time national junior tennis champion, the recognition honours, among other things, his visionary work as President and CEO of the B.C. Games for 10 years, his leadership transforming the Commonwealth Centre for Sport Development into the thriving PacificSport brand, and his vision and influence in the creation of the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE).

Skillings comes from a Victoria family with a long history of service to the community and many generations attending Vic High. His father, Waldo Skillings, was a city alderman, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and provincial cabinet minister.

