



The author of Victoria High School's centennial history is Dr. Peter Lawson Smith, who was born in Victoria's Foul Bay district on March 31, 1933. His mother, the former Alice Corry, was a Vic High graduate who came back to teach at the school; his father, the late Henry Lawson ("Harry") Smith, was on the VHS staff from 1914 to 1955, and was a popular principal for 21 years from 1934 to 1955. A student at Victoria High from 1945 to 1949, Peter Smith was the editor of the *Camosun* during his graduating year, and was the leading student in British Columbia for 1949. After two years at Victoria College, he completed a B.A. degree at UBC, and then went on to Yale for doctoral studies in classics. He taught at Yale and Carleton University in Ottawa, before responding to the Victorian's innate homing instinct. He is now Dean of Fine Arts and Professor of Classics at the University of Victoria, an institution whose early history is interwoven with that of Victoria High School.

SMITH, Peter L. (1949)

March 31, 1933 August 29, 2006

Died suddenly following a stroke. Born in Victoria, Peter graduated from Victoria High School in 1949 before going on to earn degrees at Victoria College, UBC and Yale. A long-time classics professor and administrator at the University of Victoria, he continued to stay involved with the university even after his retirement. As well, he participated in numerous community activities and undertook various literary endeavours. He is survived by his wife Mary Jean, daughters Cindy Cullen (Tom) and Sarah Smith, son Dan Hinman-Smith, sisters Winsome Oliver and Barbara Peterson (Ben), grandchildren Dallas and Kelsey, mother-in-law Marjorie Levirs, and many other relatives.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nursing staff at VGH 6B for their compassionate care. A memorial service open to all will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, at the University Club on the UVIC campus. Those who desire to do so may contribute to the Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies at UVIC or to a favourite charity.

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Tributes:

It may seem odd, but I was profoundly shocked to read of Peter's death. He was my Classics professor decades ago and I haven't seen him since, but now he will never know how many times I've thought about and been grateful to him. I've kept my (handwritten!) essay about something in the Iliad because of his delighted and delightful comments all through it. I've talked about him to my own kids and friends, saying he was one of the best teachers I ever knew. Always approachable, enthusiastic, and supportive, passionate about his subject, his classes were a joy. I still remember his voice and the infectious/inclusive smile that made me think he's saying, "we're all in this together; let's have as much fun as we can while we can." His death, far far too young, is another wake-up call to us, to make sure we thank people we need to thank who have illuminated our journey in any way. At UVic, there were some Brits and Americans, but for me would have included, locally, Ann Saddlemeier, Edwin Hagmeier, Robin Skelton and

Tony Emery in Peter's excellent company. I will make sure I make contact with the ones still around, just to tell them so. Most sincere condolences to the grieving family, from both my husband, Michael - who also became a teacher - and myself. I wish we'd known Peter after the University years, but will always remember him fondly, and wish so much now we had made sure to tell him so.

Maggie and Michael Hayes

Maggie Hayes

September 12, 2006

Having known Peter for almost 50 years, and having lunched with him and Mary Jean here in Toronto less than three weeks ago, I was deeply shocked to hear of his sudden and untimely death. Peter was a man of enormous enthusiasm and great integrity, a warm friend of Vic High and UVic, and a splendid companion. He will be missed by many.

Michiel Horn

September 3, 2006

A great teacher, administrator, Victorian, scholar and friend. Peter always took the time to see how you were doing. Going to miss him.

Chris Main

September 2, 2006

I had the pleasure of attending classes taught by Dr. Smith and was touched by his kindness, his generosity and his passion for the Classics. He was not only an educator of the highest order, he was a gentleman of the highest order.

Robert Smith

September 1, 2006

I fondly remember Peter from my university days thirty years ago--not only as the Dean of Fine Arts but as a regular participant in the UVic Chorus. I was fortunate to reminisce with him two years ago cruising together in the Mediterranean. He had the same gentle spirit and zest for life and I am sure he will be sorely missed. My prayers are with your family.

Barbara Illsey-Johnson

September 1, 2006

Dear Mary Jean and family: Shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Peter. He was an enthusiastic and interesting person in all his endeavours. He will be missed by all. I knew all the Smith girls from High School days but only met Peter when it came time to work on my own class reunions and I needed his help. Met you Mary Jean only once at the old Princess Mary but my heart goes out to you at a time when you face one of the worst bumps in the path of life. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Horace and Jean Lindsey-Grad Class of 1940 of dear old Vic High.

Horace and Jean (Fletcher) Lindsey

September 1, 2006