

# VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Charitable No. 88970 8467 RR

MARCH, 1998

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings. Once again we want to update you on the past year of activities of your Alumni Association. Over the past years, we have been able to stabilize the Alumni Association Scholarship and Bursary Fund. With the doubling commitment of the Vancouver Foundation, we will at the end of 1998 have created a fund under their management of \$160,000, the proceeds on interest income of which go to pay our annual Alumni Awards to worthy students in perpetuity. Please see Roger Skillings' report on the Scholarship and Bursary Fund within these pages. I want to welcome new Board members Ron Wickstrom, Alan Lowe, Peter Denby, Roger Skillings, Gary Jones, Robin Steffanick, Don Hendry, and Richie Williams, and thank outgoing member Jim Forsyth for his great help, as we start preparing for the 2001 Millennium 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Please see Lawrie Wallace's column for an update. John Boel's report on the Archives reviews the ongoing work of his excellent committee on the Archives Gallery. Ken Leighton has been the driving force behind the upcoming Pioneers' Tea, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the School. We invite all, especially those graduates before the 1940's, to attend and enjoy an afternoon of reminiscing in the Archives Gallery.

Please take a moment to reflect upon what Vic High has meant to you, and consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Vic High Alumni Association, whether specifically for the endowment fund, or for the Archives, or for the general work of your Association. We continue to maintain a bus for the use of the school, and Alan Lowe is examining the feasibility of improvements to the auditorium and other heritage features of the building. Your help is much appreciated, as always. Good luck and good health to all. Cheers!

Douglas Cunliffe ('71)

## VICTORIA HIGH'S 125<sup>TH</sup>

Remember 1976 when Victoria High School celebrated its centenary so successfully with some 10,000 graduates and friends participating? Since then there have been dozens of class reunions and there have been constant requests for another celebration for good old Vic. High. The alumni's President Douglas Cunliffe '71 and Principal Denis Harrigan have scheduled a 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Western Canada's first public secondary school.

The Year Book of British Columbia, 1911-1914, edited by R. E. Gosnell reported on education in BC as follows: *'The question of providing for higher education very early occupied the attention of the legislature, and as soon as warranted a high school was established. The City of Victoria was the seat of the first institution of this kind. The Victoria High School was opened in August 1876, and continued to be the only free-*

*institution of that rank until the establishment of a similar one in New Westminster in 1884. During 1886 a high school was opened in Nanaimo and in January 1890, one was established in Vancouver.'*

The first class at Victoria High consisted of 43 boys and 17 girls. By 1885 girls far outnumbered the boys. High School teachers received a salary of \$85 to \$187 per month. The fourth and present Victoria High School was built in 1914. It is of interest to note that the publication, Early School Architecture in British Columbia, published by the Ministry of Provincial Secretary in 1980 describes the architecture of the school as follows: *"In every respect Charles Elwood Watkins - Architect paid homage to the beaux-arts style in Victoria High School. The basic form was a massive, four-story block capable of accommodating over 1,000 pupils, with 29 classrooms, a gymnasium and*

## Lawrie Wallace ('30)

*auditorium ... he used the latest advances in building technology, including the use of structural steel and reinforced concrete ... Terracotta detailing abounds, particularly at the entrance bays. Fine art glass, marble and decorative wrought iron contribute to the rich effect of this structure."*

Victoria High School has adapted to change over the decades and V.H.S. still offers the best of educational opportunities and training for community service, and citizenship.

In 1982, Dr. Peter L. Smith, Dean of Fine Arts and Classic at U.V.I.C. wrote to the School Board of Greater Victoria: *"... the long and splendid history of the School has been a symbolic force that has led to uncommon achievement. It is a quality that is immeasurable and fragile, once lost, it can never be recovered. Recent Vic High graduates continue to tell me that the School earned their loyalty and*

love because it felt so solid, stable and substantial. Its very age seems to impact a sense of continuity and security - immunity against the twin sicknesses of rootlessness and alienation about which we hear so much. This power is particularly crucial among a heterogeneous inter-city school population that includes both the disadvantaged and the new comers to our country. I venture to say no other school in Western Canada has a better record in the assimilation and development of these young citizens.

Socially, culturally, athletically and academically, Victoria High still has an unusual sense of responsibility and pride ... Victoria High School graduates have been Governor - General's medallists at U.V.I.C. and U.B.C. The School has not simply fed upon its past glories, but has adapted to the very challenging present. ...It is a very precious and intangible part of Victoria's spirit."

Yes, Peter Smith '49, author of Come Give a Cheer! - One hundred years of Victoria High School (1876 - 1976), has been appointed as chairperson of

the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Vic. High. The Alumni, Principal and Staff have offered full co-operation to ensure the first weekend in May 2001 (May 4-6), an outstanding success. Send your ideas and suggestions to Peter Smith, Chair 125<sup>th</sup>, c/o Victoria High School, 1260 Grant St., Victoria, BC. V8T 1C2. You will receive more details from time to time in the V.H.S. Alumni Newsletter.

**Come Give a Cheer for Good Old Vic. High on its 125<sup>th</sup>.**

## 1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Alumni financial activity in 1997 was relatively low key after the tremendous response by VHS Alumnus in 1996 to the Association's appeal for funds to establish the \$160,000 perpetual VHS Alumni Fund with the Vancouver Foundation. The \$10,100 in donations is largely the receipt of multi-year pledges under the appeal, while \$1,900 was new donations. Excluding the Class of '97, enrolment of new members was less than half the number signed on in 1996. Interest on investments held by the Association totalled \$5,247. In addition, \$2,343 of accumulated income of the VHS Alumni Fund was received from the Vancouver Foundation. The Alumni's second \$25,000 instalment and the matching grant received from the Vancouver Foundation were paid into the VHS Alumni Fund managed by the Foundation. The Fund is currently \$110,000. The cost of the 6,000 copies of the 1997 newsletter distributed was \$2,603. Construction of the second display panel in the Archives Gallery cost \$3,544. The \$1,000 contribution to the Camosun College Scholarship Fund gives VHS students access to the annual Michael Potter/Harbourside Rotary Scholarship, a 4-year, \$8,000 maximum award. The \$17,253 deficiency in receipts to cover disbursements was met from surplus funds, of which \$15,000 represents 1996 donations for the VHS Alumni Fund. Fund balances at December 31/97 are:

Alumni Endowment, \$21,779; Centennial Scholarships, \$18,839; Bus, \$12,512; VHS Alumni Projects, \$2,884; Class of '45 Bursary, \$525; and Alumni General Account, \$11,399; cash and investments at year end were \$67,938.

**Hugh Ferguson ('41)**

### 1997 UNAUDITED STATEMENT

RECEIPTS	1997	
<b>1996</b>		
Donations	\$10,100.78	\$53,454.19
Vancouver Foundation grant	25,000.00	25,000.00
VHS Alumni Fund	2,343.22	461.85
Membership enrolment fee	2,180.00	3,815.00
Interest	5,247.58	4,396.62
Miscellaneous	59.25	65.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$44,930.83</b>	<b>\$87,192.66</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
VHS Alumni Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Newsletter	2,603.33	4,984.74
Archives	3,872.65	4,586.38
Archives opening ceremony	0.00	1,545.54
Scholarships	2,250.00	2,250.00
Bus license and insurance	1,557.00	1,557.00
Camosun College Scholarship Fund 1	1,000.00	0.00
Liability insurance	631.00	1,099.00
Miscellaneous	270.01	2,583.72
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$62,183.99</b>	<b>\$68,606.38</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>(\$17,253.16)</b>	<b>\$18,586.28</b>

## REUNIONS COMMITTEE

('48)

### Upcoming Reunions for 1998

50 year Reunion - Class of 1948  
 May 26, 27, 28 (Tues., Wed, Thurs.)  
 Contact: Ken Leighton 652-2686  
 6954 Mark Lane Victoria BC V9E 2A1

25 year Reunion - Class of 1973  
 June 26, 27 (Fri and Sat)  
 Contact: Lynn Huot 370-1169  
 1632 Amphion St. Victoria BC V8R 4Z6

**Ken Leighton,**

### Coming up in 1999

50 year Reunion - Class of 1949  
 Contact: Vera Creelman 382-8876  
 1145 Faithful Street  
 Victoria BC V8V 2R5

## ARCHIVES

The work of collecting, cataloguing and displaying archive materials is an on-going project. A major focus at present is to complete the South Wall of the Roper Gym Archives Gallery by June of this year. This section depicts the sports history of Vic. High - approximately 120 years of participation in sports from boxing to tennis. The format being used is similar to that of the North Wall where each

decade of the school's history is represented by laser-copied replicas of original photos with descriptive captions. The cost of the new display will be under \$500. You are welcome to drop in to view the displays in the Roper Gym and the Archives Room (room 105). Members of the archives committee are in attendance each Tuesday morning 9:00-12:00. **John Boel ('46)**

## NEW ALUMNI AWARDS PROGRAM – MOVING AHEAD

Due to your Alumni Association's fundraising initiatives over the past few years, a total of \$4,000 will be awarded to deserving students at the October, 1998 Fall Awards Ceremony.

The new program, building on successes of the Alumni Centennial Awards created as a result of the Victoria High School Centennial celebrations in 1976, has three categories of Awards as follows:

1. Alumni Centennial Awards
  - Academic \$750
  - Technology \$750
  - Business Education \$750
2. Alumni Awards
  - School & Community Services \$350
  - Sciences \$300

- Languages \$350
- Mathematics \$350
- 3. Alumni Bursary
  - Bursary \$400
  - Total \$4,000

The new program complements the entire Fall Awards Ceremony by providing awards where current assistance is lacking. Students are required to complete Application Forms and a teacher, administrator or individual in the community completes confidential Nomination forms. Decisions on recipients are based on academic achievement and school and community service, as well as financial need with respect to the Alumni Bursary. Also recipients are required to attend a post-secondary education

institution or a training/apprenticeship program. An Awards Policy Committee was established in October 1997 to recommend the new program to the Alumni Board in March. Committee members included two current grade twelve students, Kirsten Hagen and Sarah Addey, teacher Muriel Fishwick, Principal Denis Harrigan and parent and Alumni Director Roger Skillings. Your Alumni Association anticipates a total of approximately \$6,000 to be awarded to graduating grade twelve students in 1999 and annually thereafter.

**Roger Skillings,**  
( '68)

## HOW TO DONATE TO YOUR ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FUND

The pledge card below provides Alumnus the opportunity to support Victoria High School through the Victoria High School Alumni Endowment Fund. Gifts may be pledged over 2 or 3 years or in a single payment, either by cheque or money order payable to Victoria High School Alumni Association or by Visa or Mastercard by

indicating credit card type, card number and expiry date. If gifting over 2 or 3 years the preferred timing of your payment should be indicated. Please sign and date the pledge card, cut it from the Newsletter and mail it, along with your instalment payment, to:

**Victoria High School Alumni Association, 1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 1C2.**

All donations are tax deductible and an official receipt for income tax purposes will be forwarded upon receipt of your donation.

### VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FUND PLEDGE CARD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We agree to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total) to the benefit of V.H.S. as follows:  
 Single payment Two/three annual instalments of \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheque/Money order payable to V.H.S. Alumni Assn.

Mastercard    Visa    Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_    Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_    Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEDGE TIMING**

1997 month \_\_\_\_\_ Please return your Pledge Card and instalment  
1998 month \_\_\_\_\_ payment to: **VHS Alumni Assn, 1260 Grant Street,**  
1999 month \_\_\_\_\_ **Victoria, BC, V8T 1C2.** An official receipt  
for Income Tax purposes will be forwarded. Charitable No. 88970 8467 RR.

**WANTED FOR THE ARCHIVES**

- 1) Photos or artefacts of alumni who lost their life whilst serving in the Canadian forces.
- 2) Action sports photos from the 80's and 90's.
- 3) Camosuns for the years 1987, 92, 94 and 97.

- 4) Any photos or artefacts that you think would be of value to our collection.
- 5) We are looking for photos of two of our V.H.S. principals: J.H. McLaughlin 1878-1884 and John H. Kerr 1888-1892 (Jan.)

Items can be left in the Alumni mailbox in the main office. Please include as much information as possible.

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Another year, with its meetings, planning and class reunions, has passed. Now, as well as Reunions, we are rushing along towards 2001 and the 125<sup>th</sup> Victoria High School celebration. All those involved hope the 125<sup>th</sup> will equal or surpass the 1976 100<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Your Alumni Association now has a mailing base in excess of 8,000 and membership of over 2,500. We still solicit your membership. Think of the \$10.00 life membership as a small donation to your school - perhaps to support activities that you enjoyed, or maybe to atone for those classes skipped in celebration of a nice sunny day!

The highlight of 1998 will be the Pioneers' Tea in May. As the youngest of a large family of Vic. High students I

am looking forward to meeting classmates of my older sister and brothers. My wife Doreen's mother is a Vic. High student from 1918 so our association goes back to days that were vastly different from now, but I sometimes wonder how much our old school has changed. I suspect that there are lots of ghosts in these old halls of ours for students of all the year past. We always appreciate changes of address and notes from any ex-student.

**Fred Packford ('49)**

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**VHS      ALUMNI      BOARD**

Lawrie Wallace	Hon. Chair	Howard Taylor	Vice-Treas.	Robin Steffanick	Technical/Staff
Duncan Lorimer	Hon. Vice-Chair	John Boel	Archives		
Ron Lou-Poy	Hon. Solicitor	Ray Orchard	Communications	Directors At large:	
Ross MacKinnon	Hon. Auditor	Peter Denby	Computer	Bill Broadley	Denis Harrigan
Douglas Cunliffe	Chairperson	Fred Packford	Membership	Irene Harrison	Don Hendry
Barbara Anderson	Vice-Chair	Ron Wickstrom	Newsletter	Gary Jones	Alan Lowe
Anne McKeachie	Secretary	Ken Leighton	Reunions	John Skillings	Richie Williams
Hugh Ferguson	Treasurer	Roger Skillings	Bursaries		

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the class of 1998! Despite the Fraser Institute's report on schools, Victoria High School continues to do very well. The results of the January '98 provincial exams showed that Vic High students scored above the provincial and district average in nine of ten grade 12 subject areas. One student scored an impressive 99% on the History 12 provincial. Last June, two students scored 100% and 99% on the French 12 provincial exam. Last September, we had seventeen students receive \$1,000 provincial

scholarships and seven students received \$2,000 UVIC Entrance Scholarships. James Rempel received the UVIC President's Scholarship valued at \$2,500 as well as the C-FAX Ken Dobson Athletic Award.

Last month, four Victoria High School drama students, under the leadership of Ms. Jackie McDonald, received Honours recognition from the Association of BC Drama Educators. Three students are beginning their apprenticeship program as part of an

enrichment option in our Career Preparation Machinists Program. Next year we will offer two more Career Prep Programs, Computer / Information and Electronics, bringing our total to 15 programs, more than any other school in the District.

I would like to thank the Alumni Association for their continued financial and moral support. The staff and students of Vic High are truly grateful and lucky to work with such a committed group of individuals.

**Denis Harrigan**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Vic. High Staff Room

Monday, June 1st  
7:30 P.M.

Everyone Welcome

### PIONEERS' TEA

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:00 P.M.

Everyone Welcome

Admission free to all pre-1940's Grads.

RSVP Ken Leighton 652-2686,  
Doug Cunliffe 382-2202, or  
Fred Packford 479-4677

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**Victoria High School Alumni Association  
1260 Grant Street  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8T 1C2**

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**BECOME A VHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER TODAY.** Clip and fill out this coupon and mail it today, along with a \$10 cheque payable to 'VHS Alumni Association', 1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 1C2.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(NEE: \_\_\_\_\_)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

VHS Years: \_\_\_\_\_