



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Roger Skillings '68

Greetings to Alumni and friends of Vic High.

We have recently lost two of Vic High's finest and most inspirational leaders. Duncan Lorimer and Lawrie Wallace passed away in December and January respectively.

Their passionate commitment to Vic High cannot be overstated. In this newsletter, Peter Smith pays tribute to them and their contributions to Vic High, their community and their country. Your Alumni Association will continue to be led by their example, and we will focus our efforts on their priority: helping Vic High and its students.

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that the award for the male athlete of the year has been renamed the George "Porky" Andrews Award after another beloved Vic High leader. Porky Andrews was a legend at Vic High as a student, P.E. teacher and basketball coach extraordinaire. The trophy is awarded each year to an outstanding senior male student who has made a significant contribution to Vic High athletics and has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and sportsmanship. We are also pleased that Marion Andrews, Porky's widow, will be presenting the trophy when it is first awarded in June 2006. The Alumni Association has purchased the trophy.

The Alumni Association's major initiative this

year has been the creation, in the fall of 2005, of a new fund to assist Vic High and its students. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the Victoria High School Endowment Fund. The endowment fund will provide a continuing flow of funds that can be used to pay for "extras" that are no longer covered by provincial and school district funding. Specifically, the annual income from the fund will be used for three purposes:

- To provide materials, tools and supplies for Career Preparation and Vocational programs;
- To purchase materials, instruments and other items for the Performing and Visual Arts Programs; and
- To purchase sports equipment and team uniforms, and to support team travel.

We have invested the fund with the Victoria Foundation, an organization well known for its solid investment history, excellent rate of return and its interest in Victoria and its schools. The Victoria Foundation will highlight our fund on its website as a new fund and will provide a link to the Vic High Alumni Association website (www.vichigh.com). In addition, we will provide a link to their website (www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca). Donations for the new fund continue to come in. To date, we have raised \$25,000.

To those of you who have contributed so generously this year to both the Alumni Association's general fund that supports our scholarship program and to the new endowment fund, we thank you very much. These funds are being used to provide financial assistance and support to Vic High and its students and to ensure that Vic High continues to be a school in which we can all take pride.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Keith Forshaw

Vic High continues to be a most vibrant school. Presently we enroll just over 1,000 students in grades 9 through 12 and we have 86 staff members. As you will know, for many years Vic High has been

noteworthy for the diversity of the student body. This year, as a result of the combination of a strong International Program and the diversity of the neighbourhood, we have students from 29 different countries.

The students at Vic High consistently achieve at a very high academic level. For the first term of the school year, we had 225 "Honour Roll" recipients and 34 "Honour Roll with Distinction" recipients. The Alumni support for the many awards and bursaries at Vic High, such as the Centennial Awards for academics, technology and business education, the Alumni Bursary, the Alumni Career Preparation Awards in Biology, Human Services, Music and Computers, plus other awards in Languages and Mathematics, are truly appreciated by our students and staff.

The school is presently developing notable strengths in the area of Fine Arts and Technical Education. Many students displayed their talents at our Fine Arts Evening on December 7, 2005. Our well known and much respected R & B Band is off to Denmark this spring to demonstrate their talent.

Our students also have the opportunity to

demonstrate their Technical skills through the Skills Canada Competitions. One of our students won an award presented by the Canadian Home Builders Association. Vic High is also proud to announce that the automotive shop is now offering a program called ACE-IT. This allows the students to complete the first three months of Camosun College's entry-level training course while still at Vic High.

A high percentage of our students have been demonstrating a keen interest in both federal and local politics. During the recent federal election campaign, students organized an all-candidates debate in the Wallace Auditorium. A two day student vote for federal candidates followed.

Interest in the environment is also strong and we have many on-going environmental initiatives within the school. We have done very well in awards presented by the Capital Regional District to recognize commitment and contributions to the environment. One of our students was awarded the Ecostar Prize in the Individual Category and the Vic High Environmental Club won the Ecostar Award in the Group Category.

Of considerable note is the fact that our H.L. Smith Library is the first library on Vancouver Island to have EBOOKS (electronic books). The library has purchased three such books. This purchase was made possible through the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2006 7:15 P.M.
VIC HIGH STAFF ROOM
EVERYONE WELCOME



"Generations" by artist Susan Patriarche, grade 12



"Self-Portrait" by artist Tyler Sage, grade 12.

generous donation of our Parent Advisory Council.

Vic High is looking extra “dapper” these days. The School District painters have just about completed painting the entire interior of the school in complimentary heritage colours. A grade 9 honours math class calculated that over 117,275.4 square feet of walls have been painted using 1,455 litres of paint. The school looks fabulous! Some Alumni may not know that Vic High now has an elevator serving all floors. We routinely have visitors confined to wheelchairs or temporarily incapacitated staff or students who appreciate this modern convenience. Currently under construction are an expansive weight training room located off the Roper Gym and two first class dark rooms

for our photography classes.

Please feel free to drop by the school and see what is going on. We will even offer you a “free ride” in our elevator.

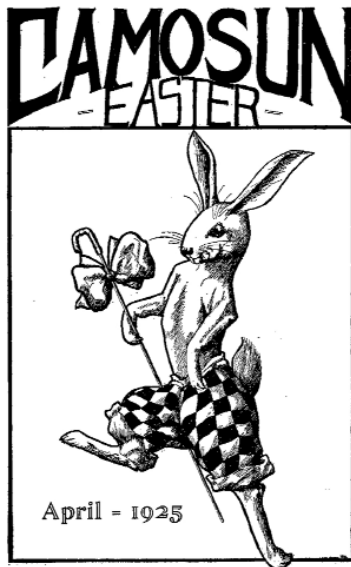


Sean Purves, a grade 9 student, works in the metal shop

THE CAMOSUN TURNS 100

Peter L. Smith, '49

The year 2006 marks the hundredth birthday of the Victoria High School Camosun, one of the most enduring of Vic High traditions. This anniversary is a very special event for the VHS Archives, which can boast an almost complete run of our venerable publication. There have been many more than a hundred numbers, because the Camosun began as an elegantly printed magazine, ranging from two to ten issues a year; it became an annual yearbook only in 1928. Between now and next December, we plan to post on the Alumni website a selection of images spanning this century. Included will be



photographs from several treasured historic copies that have been generously donated by Vic High alumni or their families over the past twelve months. What is quite exciting is that we often own the original classic photographs of the images that appeared in print, from an era when athletic and other group pictures were truly works of art. We hope that many of these will form a permanent photo gallery on our Alumni website (vichigh.com). Watch the website for other graphic and textual excerpts from various Camosuns.

This year we are also mounting a campaign to make our growing collection more efficiently and professionally managed, both by improving our conservation techniques and by gradually establishing an electronic index and finding aid. When friends drop in during our regular Tuesday morning visiting hours, more often than not we can uncover the information they are seeking. At present, we rely on intuitive inspiration; before long it may become a precise science.

If you have never visited our ground floor Archives, drop in some Tuesday morning. Current Vic High students describe the evocative room as “awesome!”

VICTORIA HIGH LOSES TWO VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS

Peter Smith '49

Duncan Lorimer and Lawrie Wallace were surely the two greatest Vic High boosters and supporters in living memory. They died less than a month apart, on December 16, 2005 and January 12, 2006. Their Memorial Services were packed with throngs of loving family members, close friends, former students, colleagues in various walks of life and many other admirers. Both events were celebrations of long and truly remarkable lives—two intertwined lives that had many striking parallels.

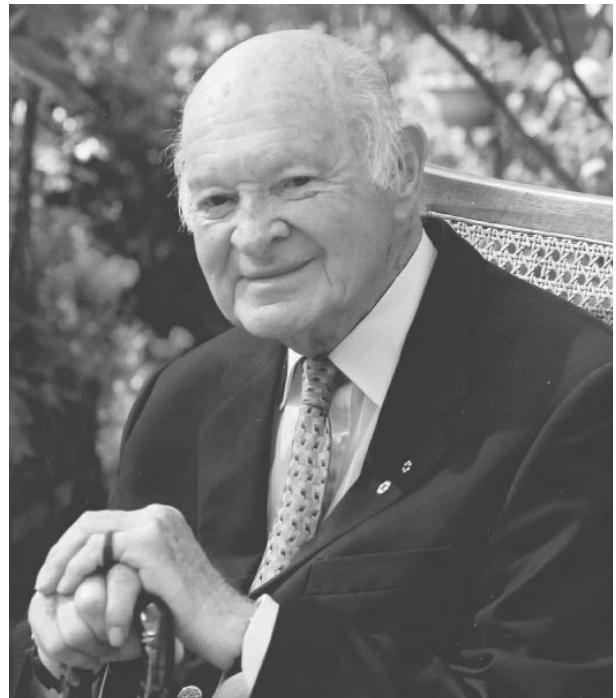
Lawrence James Wallace was one of four over-achieving siblings with pioneer roots in Metchosin; born in Alberta, John Duncan Lorimer and his three accomplished brothers spent their formative years in Sooke. As young men, Lawrie and Duncan were fine athletes, both destined to become future Vic High basketball coaches and fathers of children who

would proudly play for the Black and Gold. Both had impressive records in the Second World War. Lawrie became a Lieutenant Commander in the RCN, serving in the North Atlantic. Duncan was a platoon commander with the 1st Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment. His bravery during the Normandy invasion earned him in 2004 the French Legion of Honour. Lawrie joined the Vic High teaching staff in 1946; Dunc arrived in 1951. Both showed exceptional gifts as teachers and administrators.

Soon, of course, their career paths would diverge. In 1953, Lawrie Wallace left Victoria High to head the Department of Education's new Community Programs and Adult Education Branch. In 1958, he masterminded the first of his four B.C. Centennial Celebrations, a tour de force that earned him promotion to Deputy Provincial Secretary (1959-1977), and then appointment as British Columbia's Agent General for the United Kingdom and Europe. Along the way, he served as "Super Deputy" to three B.C.



Duncan Lorimer, 1919-2005



Lawrie Wallace, 1913-2006

premiers. He received innumerable honours and unanimous acclaim for his ability, his efficiency, and—above all—his integrity.

Meanwhile, it was Duncan Lorimer’s destiny to become Principal of Victoria High from 1966 to 1979. He was the last and one of the very best of those who can be described as “career principals” of VHS. In an era of social upheaval and sociological change, the school could not have been in better hands: firm and strong, yet humane and tolerant. Shrewdly realizing that one of Vic High’s prime assets is its unique and historic tradition, Duncan conceived the idea of a massive VHS Centennial Celebration for the year 1976. Crossing his fingers, he dared to ask his old friend and colleague, Lawrie Wallace, if he might agree to chair such an event. With Duncan as Vice-Chairman, Lawrie and a huge committee of alumni volunteers staged a dazzling weekend event in May 1976 that will still enjoy legendary status in 2076.

With his unparalleled skills as a fund-raiser, Lawrie had made sure that the 1976 Centennial would leave a handsome financial legacy, which in the first instance bought a splendid new black-and-gold school bus. Some fifteen years later, that legacy led indirectly to the creation of the Victoria High School Alumni Association, with Lawrie and Duncan as Honorary Chair and Vice-Chair. Seldom did either of them miss a monthly meeting over the next dozen years, as the Vic High Alumni greatly enhanced and expanded its program of financial and moral support. Several of the current Board members were students at Vic High during Duncan’s tenure as Principal, and no fewer than four can remember the years when Lawrie was a vigorous young teacher.

In November 2003, wide-eyed young VHS students attended a moving ceremony in which the School Auditorium was named in honour of Lawrie Wallace and the Library in honour of former Principal Harry Smith. After delivering

an eloquent address in praise of Harry Smith, Duncan Lorimer also expressed his personal appreciation for the loyal and unstinting support that Lawrie had given to Victoria High in the 73 years since his graduation in 1930. It is a pity that we could not have given a similar accolade to Duncan, whom many of us will visualize always in his black-and-gold jacket and tie.

They were two of a kind, Duncan and Lawrie. We may never see their like again.

ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni awards were once again presented to graduating Vic High students at an awards ceremony in December 2005. A complete list of the award winners has been posted on the Alumni website and the students and staff of Vic High continue to express their appreciation for the contribution these awards make to Vic High and its students.

We are pleased to announce that we are increasing the amount of the Alumni awards in 2006. The amount of the major awards, for the top students in each of the academic, fine arts and technical education programs, is being raised from \$800 to \$1000. The awards for specific courses are being raised from \$300 to \$500. The increased amounts will assist students in meeting the current costs of post-secondary education and training. \$8100 in Alumni awards will now be distributed annually, up from \$6500. Other minor adjustments, including permitting students to defer their awards if they don’t proceed immediately after graduation to post-secondary education or training, are being made.

We are grateful to the support we receive from our Alumni that make these important awards possible. And we congratulate each of the award winners.

REUNIONS**Ken Leighton '48****2006****Class of 1946,****60 year reunion:***Friday, June 9, 2006*

A luncheon will be held at the Harbour Towers Hotel.

Watch your mailbox for a letter providing complete details, including contact phone numbers and an e-mail address and check the Vic High Alumni website at www.vichigh.com (click on "Reunions").

Contact person is Bob Coates at jrcoates@shaw.ca

Class of 1956,**50 year reunion***Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 2, 3 and 4, 2006*

Friday, 7:00 p.m.: Wine and cheese reception at Vic High

Saturday, 6:00–11:00 p.m.:

Social and Dinner at the University Club, UVic

Sunday, 11 a.m.–3:00 p.m.:

Brunch at McMorran's Beach House Lookout Room

For more details, check the 1956 website at

www.vichigh1956.com

To register, contact Karryn

(Rudd) Barclay at

karryn@shaw.ca or 595-7649,

Barbara (Richardson) Harrison at bharrison@shaw.ca or 721-

5158 or any member of the organizing committee listed on the website.

OPEN TO ALUMNI, PARENTS, STAFF & FRIENDS OF VIC HIGH MUSIC

If you have had a chance to hear our Vic High students sing in the last couple of years, you will have noticed a new energy and excitement in the air. Sampling from a global palate of vocal traditions, our students have been exploring and enjoying the roots of rhythm and blues music: from the Appalachians to Africa, from Middle Eastern chants to Bob Marley to the Carter Family. Thanks to directors Mark Hellman and Eric Emde, this group is wowing audiences with their exciting blend of vocals, percussion and movement.

Now you, too, can be part of this exciting new adventure in building a Vocal Community at Victoria High School. Rehearsals are once a week (you need to be available either Monday or Wednesday evenings), and in May the Vic High Vocal Community will host two public events, inviting other community-based choirs (including Victoria's famed Getting Higher Choir, Louise Rose and her Good News Choir, the Balkan Babes, and many more) to help launch this new and exciting direction in music making and community building.

Call Mark Hellman at 382-7048 for more information.

TO THE CLASS OF '66

Did you know that we broke the camera? The class of 1966 is the only graduating class that does not have an official class picture hanging in the halls of Vic High. Apparently, the photographer's equipment failed. If anyone has a picture of the class at our graduation ceremony, please contact Ruth (Luining) Ferne, who is now the secretary at Vic High, at (250) 388-5456 or at rferne@sd61.bc.ca or the Alumni Association at alumni@vichigh.com.

Today's technology may enable an amateur photo to be enhanced and enlarged so that we may grace the halls of the school.

Don't forget to visit www.vichigh.com

Our website contains information about the school, the Board of Directors, reunions, copies of the newsletter, archival pictures and much more. It is regularly updated and is a great tool for helping alumni to keep in touch with Vic High and each other.

DONATION AND MAIL FORM

Your contributions to the Vic High Alumni Association allow us to continue our work supporting Vic High students through the scholarship and bursary fund, funding for school activities and assist to restore the school.

Even if you are not able to contribute to the VHS Alumni Association at this time, please return this form to ensure that we have your current e-mail address.

Name: _____ [Nee: _____]

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone Number: () _____

E-mail: _____ VHS years: _____

I wish to make a voluntary tax-deductible donation (if yes, tick one box only):

FRIENDS OF VICTORIA HIGH (\$15.00 OR MORE): \$ _____ *

VHS SUPPORTER (\$100) or VHS PATRON (\$500 or more) \$ _____ *

*You will be mailed an official receipt in this amount for Income Tax purposes.

Please enroll me as a new lifetime member of the \$ _____

VHS Alumni Association (\$10.00) [Note: This is a one-time payment.]

I enclose a cheque/money-order for the total, \$ _____

Personal information provided to the VHS Alumni Association will be used and disclosed only to support the purposes of the society; i.e., to provide financial and other support to the school and its students, to facilitate reunions and communications amongst Vic High Alumni and documenting the history of the school. If you do not agree to the use of information about you for any of the purposes, please indicate below.

I do not consent to the use or disclosure of my personal information for any of the above purposes.

Please specify. _____

Alumni interested in Planned Giving as part of your estate planning should contact the Alumni Treasurer at 250-595-4306 or by email at treasurer@vichigh.com

LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT VIC HIGH?

For those of us who are still on the Island, the Vic High PAC (Parent Advisory Council, the current evolution of what was once the PTA) raises money for school activities in partnership with Thrifty Foods through the Smile Card program.

This simple cash card program lets you put money on a Smile Card using cash, a credit card or a debit card. You then use the Smile Card to pay for Thrifty Food purchases you make. Thrifty Foods gives the Vic High PAC money

equal to 5% of the money you put on your card. If you load a Smile Card with \$100, you can spend the full \$100 at Thrifty Foods and the Vic High PAC receives \$5 from the store. You can put any amount you like on the card and they can be refilled any time you like.

If you would like to support Vic High through this painless program, alumni may call the PAC representative Edna at 598-7426 or email her at: beulahbelle@shaw.ca



Alumni News
 VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



Victoria High School Alumni News
 1260 Grant Street
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