



Esquimalt High School Alumni Association
NEWSLETTER

YOU'RE INVITED!

What? EHS Alumni Association & EHS Alumni Foundation Annual General Meeting
When? **Monday November 19 at 7:00pm**
Where? in the Esquimalt High School theatre.

Membership in the Alumni Association is not a requirement to attend these meetings so feel free to bring your spouse or school friends to enjoy this informative evening. The executives of your Alumni Association and the Foundation have continued to work hard this past year on your behalf carrying out the following activities:

- * Collecting donations from members for the turf field and Scholarship Fund
- * Selling EHS spirit wear including T-shirts and scarves
- * Providing **THREE \$1,000** scholarships to deserving students
- * Raising almost \$1,200 each for the School Leadership Class, Rainbow Kitchen and the Alumni Association at RibFest September 2018
- * Assisting the new Esquimalt High School robotics team run the Langos Booth at Buccaneer Days
- * Participating at Remembrance Day Service in Memorial Park
- * Helping with the organization of the 6th Annual RibFest in September 2018
- * Assisting with class reunions
- * Growing the new turf field fund for the school with the generous support of the Esquimalt RibFest

Details of these activities and plans for the coming year will be given at the meeting on **November 19.**

Please consider joining one of the executives to assist in promoting our organizations. Please bring the attached two agendas to the AGM meeting. If you have any questions about the Alumni Association, the Alumni Foundation or the AGMs feel free to contact one of the following directors:

Brenda O'Connor (1990): brendaoc25@gmail.com or
Dave Allen (1966): davidwallen@shaw.ca or 250-478-6316.

We are now using e-mail to distribute the information for the AGM and for communication with our members. This has saved the Association hundreds of dollars annually and that money can now be spent directly to support our school. Please ensure we have your current email address. If you have changed your email please notify us at ehsalumni1959@gmail.com. Also place the Alumni e-mail address into your address book so you can receive information from us.

I look forward to seeing you on **November 19** at the AGM's of our two societies.

Yours truly,

Brenda O'Connor
President, EHS Alumni Association

The EHS School Bus:

by Mike Thompson, EHS staff & Athletic Co-ordinator and Chasity Bradshaw, EHS Accounts Clerk

The following is an excerpt from a story shared by an Esquimalt staff member to the entire staff about how the new school bus funding process began six years ago. The full story is found on the Alumni website under the newsletter section [https://](https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/newsletters/)

esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/newsletters/



"In September I brought this dilemma forward to Colin, Carter, and Gord (former Principal and Vice Principals) one day in the office. I think it was Carter that commented that the Alumni Association was looking to get behind a new project. After hearing this, I made the call to an Oklahoma philanthropist and asked him to consider the new plan. He asked me how much I thought it would take to get enough 'stake in the game' to get serious about the purchase. I told him twenty five grand would not only get the process started, but it might even expedite the process so the kids in our school could start to benefit from team travel again.

To be honest, when the money arrived I turned my back on the entire purchase. I thought that if I injected my personal agenda into things, that it would take away from community members, alumni, Ribfest, and the Esquimalt Firefighters raising the remaining finances. A project like this needs input from so many different community members in order to make it work. The more people that can get behind something like this ensures the project's success moving forward."



This donation of \$25,000 along with two anonymous donations totalling another \$25,000 made the process of purchasing the bus move forward. Finally, with the addition of \$20,000 from Esquimalt RibFest and \$18,000 from the Alumni Association and Esquimalt High School PAC completed the necessary funding for the

bus and the identifying wrap on the outside in September of 2014. Amazingly this whole fundraising process took less than two years.

This past year 2017-18 the school bus has been used by 31 different school groups. This included school classes for field trips, many different school teams and several school clubs. There have been a total of 147 trips travelling close to 4500 km. The biggest users of the bus have been a Special Education class and the school athletic teams. The school bus has become a valuable part of the school leading a staff member to note - 'Without the bus, the school would have to charter a bus for most trips and it would be cost prohibitive at a minimum of about \$300 per trip. One trip to a basketball game at Oak Bay and return is about \$400'. The school does really appreciate the effort of all those who made this project happen.

RibFest 2018:

by Dave Allen

Once again, this past September members of Esquimalt Alumni Association worked with members from the Rainbow Kitchen and students from the Esquimalt High School Leadership Class at RibFest 2018. During the second weekend of



September, we had 17 alumni members help prepare and sell about 750 langos (beaver tails) along with pop and water. The resulting funds raised gave each group a cheque of just over \$1200. Considering the poor wet weather on Friday September 7 and Sunday September 9 these returns were very good. Saturday on the other hand was a very busy day with over 16,000 people attending this event at Bullen Park. Along with the



sale of langos, the Alumni Association sold 11 "I 'heart' Esquimalt" t-shirts and 8 Esquimalt High School scarves putting \$230 into the Alumni account. We appreciate the effort of the members working over the weekend as well as the many people who came by to support these three groups. Please mark your calendar as we will be at RibFest 2019 on the weekend of September 6, 7 and 8, 2019. Your help or support will be needed.

Also if any members are interested in purchasing a t-shirt or scarf they can contact the Alumni Association through our e-mail address **ehsalumni1959@gmail.com**.

Scholarship Update:

by Dana Bjornson, Scholarship Committee Chair & Teacher

Each year, the Esquimalt High School Alumni Association allocates funds to help deserving graduates offset the costs of their postsecondary pursuits. Costs for postsecondary training have never been higher. A student's first year at UVIC, for example, costs \$6,500. Should the student be in a Science Program, books will cost an additional \$1,000. Students at Esquimalt come from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds and although some students have access to RESPs or win major entrance scholarships, the vast majority of graduates do not have access to these funds.

Without question, every dollar the Alumni Association provides to help current students continue on their education paths, will go to deserving students. The Scholarship Committee ensures that the winning students are those who have added to the positive culture of the school in some way. This year the Alumni Association will award 3 - \$1,000 scholarships.

Field of Dreams Project:

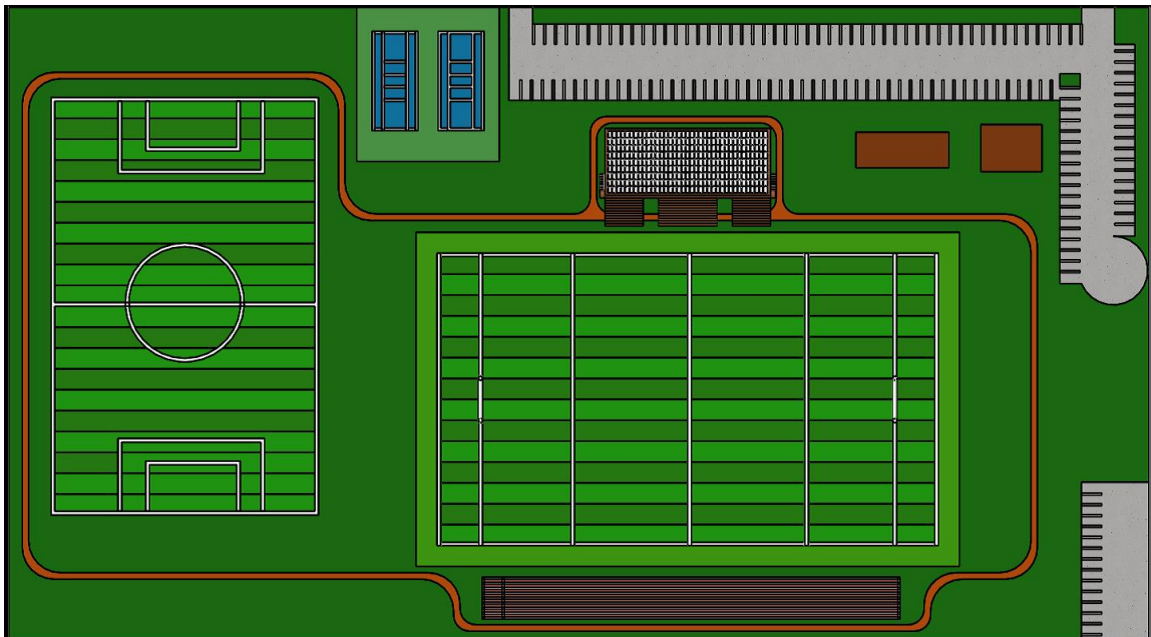
by Tom Woods

Some great progress has been made and much effort has gone into preparing a grant application for this exciting project.

The scope of the project has grown to six phases:

- i. A new state-of-the-art international-sized turf field
- ii. Cutting edge, energy efficient field lights
- iii. Community track/chip trail around the perimeter of both upper and lower fields with a 100 metre asphalt sprint and training lane on the South side
- iv. Re-surfacing and drainage of the lower grass field
- v. Grandstand seating for 500-1000
- vi. A world class, multi-purpose field house and workout area with functionality for both sports events and use for the music program during school hours. The plan is to construct this structure to 'Passivhaus' standards which adhere to the highest level of energy efficiency, reducing heating or cooling costs by 90%

Our very collaborative, community application includes the Township of Esquimalt, Esquimalt RibFest, School District #61, the Songhees Nation and of course with support of the Esquimalt Alumni Association. There are also numerous sporting organizations in dire need of winter training facilities including Gorge Soccer (with 1300 members) and the historic James Bay Athletic Association. Right now RibFest is able to contribute \$175,000 (+ or -) to this worthwhile initiative and we expect at least another \$100,000 from local sporting organizations.



Fall 2018

How much will this Field of Dreams cost you say?

Well, we are swinging for the fence here and would love it if this became a long term capital project with phases implemented over a period of five years. It is not inconceivable that by doing things correctly and adhering to the highest environmental standards to create a showcase facility in Esquimalt, we could see a project approaching \$6-8M.

Hosting sporting events such as the North American Indigenous games or major tournaments in conjunction with a new field and facility on Songhees land, off Admirals is well within our grasp. It is really time we settled for nothing less than the best here in Esquimalt and we are going to keep making noise until we see it happen!

Theatre Upgrades:

by Jason Johnson, Principal

The Esquimalt High School theatre is receiving a much needed makeover. So far, house lighting has been upgraded to modern standards and preliminary work has been done for more work. Expected by the Spring of 2019 is a large powered projector screen with a ceiling mounted projector, new functional lighting mounts, and easily accessible controls for better functionality.

Check out our Alumni website at <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni>.

There you can contact us and view **AGM Meeting Minutes from previous years & other news.**

The Alumni Executive has decided this year that we will not do any formal fund raising. If you wish to make a donation to the **Esquimalt High Scholarship Fund** or the **Esquimalt High Turf Field Fund** you can do so by making your cheque payable to the **Greater Victoria School Board** and note on the memo line of your cheque what the donation is for. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt. Please mail your donation to the address below.

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association

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