

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association NEWSLETTER



Message from your Alumni & Foundation Presidents

Alumni President Barry Scott & Foundation President Dave Allen

On behalf of the executives of the EHS Alumni Association and EHS Alumni Foundation we hope all members are able to navigate well these unusual and uncertain times we are all facing. The members of the executive wanted the Spring Newsletter to go out as scheduled so we could touch base with the members and let them know what took place at the AGM and what will be coming up when things settle down and we hopefully return to what we used to call 'normal'.

At the AGM we were able to award \$1000 scholarships to 3 very deserving graduates from last year. The details are contained later in the newsletter. As well we have a new Alumni Association President, Barry Scott, a graduate of the class of 1961. As well, Rob Laidler, from the class of 1970, has joined the executive. The list of the entire executive is found later in the newsletter. The minutes of the entire AGM of the Alumni Association and Alumni Foundation can be found at <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/>.

The Alumni Association has received a wonderful donation of artwork from the family of long time Esquimalt resident Joan Thompson. The 25 art pieces were given to the Association by her daughter Flora Thompson and nephew Rob Thompson, a 1983 graduate of Esquimalt. The Association in conjunction with the school were going to set-up an online auction of these items during the school's Fine Arts week at the end of May. The art was to be displayed at the school during that time. Unfortunately, because of the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 this cannot happen, and we are going to look at doing this in May of 2021. All the proceeds from this auction will be added to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Some more details about Joan and her work are contained in this newsletter.

We are still hoping that the Esquimalt RibFest will take place September 11, 12 and 13 at Bullen Park. The alumni will have its usual langos booth at RibFest and work in partnership with the Rainbow Kitchen and School Leadership Class. Please come by and say hello and possibly purchase something from the alumni clothing inventory. In the meantime, please follow the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry "**BE KIND, BE CALM and BE SAFE**".

Alumni Association and Alumni Foundation Executives

Alumni Association

Barry Scott
Gary Moser
Marilyn McCrimmon
Ryan Richard

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

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Trish Best	Director of Reunions
Lorna Reid	Director of Scholarships
Dave Allen	Director of Heritage
George Copley	Director at Large
Robert Laidler	Director at Large
Brenda O'Connor	Director at Large
Tina Pierik	Ex-Officio Member

Alumni Foundation

Dave Allen	President
Gary Moser	Vice President
George Copley	Secretary
Ryan Richard	Treasurer
Barry Scott	Director at Large
Brenda O'Connor	Director at Large
Tina Pierik	Director at Large

Scholarship Winners for 2019

by Lorna Reid

Six awards were presented to 2019 Esquimalt graduates. Three awards were fund-raised by the Alumni Association, and three awards are from organizations that have disbanded, but left the funds in the safe keeping of the Alumni Association.

The three Esquimalt Alumni Association Scholarships are given to students who made a positive impact on the school community while demonstrating commitment to their studies. This year's winners of \$1000 each were Juhi Bhathella, Spencer Tanner and Grace Martin. Juhi's mom accepted on her behalf, and both Spencer and Grace were present to receive their awards.

Juhi Bhathella is currently studying science at UBC. Her career goal is medicine. She was involved in the Esquimalt Youth for Change and Inclusion, Rotary Interact, Model United Nations and ESCAPE (Peace/Environment Club). Juhi was top Leadership student (gr. 9-12), Gifted Program grade rep, a Peer Tutor and a Student Voice Activist. She was a Yale Young Global Scholar and achieved straight A's from grades 9 to 12. Her extra-curriculars included dance, choir, band and the Royal Conservatory for piano.

Spencer Tanner is currently studying chemistry at UVic. He has an extensive sports background, which includes power lifting, the 2019 city and provincial championship in rugby, 2019 championship in Night League basketball, and third place in the Port Alberni invitational wrestling tournament. He has honour roll and attendance awards for the past four years. Spencer's community contributions include volunteer scorekeeper, concession and ticket seller.

Grace Martin is currently attending the Canadian College of Performing Arts. Her extensive arts involvement includes roles in EHS musicals, Victoria Fringe Festival productions, and the

Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival. She has been a member of the choir, concert band, jazz band, vocal ensemble, and she also plays guitar. Grace has done Highland dance and Jazz dance for eight years, and figure skating for seven years.

The \$500 Esquimalt Kiwanis Club Scholarship is given to a community minded student who is pursuing studies in the Fine Arts. There were two winners this year, Jingfu (Theo) Chen and Sarah Santoso.

Jingfu is currently studying at Emily Carr University of Fine Arts and Design and was not able to attend. Jingfu was an honour roll student, a teacher assistant for Art 9/10 and won the top student award for Textiles 11, Math 11 and English 11. He also won a grade 11 service award, was a volunteer for Embrace China 2018 and he helped with the removal of invasive plant species at Murray Pond and Saxe Point. In addition, he was a peer tutor for mathematics. Jingfu also participated in several art exhibitions.

Sarah is currently studying biochemistry and creative writing at McGill University. Her parents accepted on her behalf. Sarah volunteered with the Salvation Army Sunset Lodge and Cops for Cancer and was a volunteer swim coach. She participated in Skills Canada Public Speaking competitions and the choir. Sarah is an accomplished musician. In addition to being a Royal Conservatory Grade 8 pianist, she plays both the oboe and the saxophone. Sarah is a straight A student who graduated with her Double Dogwood in French and English and was a YMCA summer work exchange in Quebec.

The \$500 Esquimalt Writers' Group Award was also presented to Sarah Santoso.

Art Auction for Scholarship Fund

As mentioned in the presidents' message on page one of this newsletter the EHS Alumni Association has been the fortunate recipient of some of the artwork of the late Joan Thompson, a long-time resident of Esquimalt. Her daughter Flora Thompson and nephew Rob Thompson, a 1983 graduate of Esquimalt High school made this donation with the hope that the Alumni Association could raise funds for its work. Your Alumni Executive was very pleased to receive these pieces of art and felt they would like to hold an online auction of the items to raise funds for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The Executive initially was hoping to carry this out in conjunction with the school's Fine Art Week at the end of May 2020. However, with the unusual and uncertain times we all find ourselves, the executive has decided to hold off on this event until May 2021. We will provide more information in coming newsletters, but to give our members a brief background about Joan Thompson and a sample of



Picture of Joan Thompson - 1973



1970 Beach Visit to Patricia Bay; acrylic; 13" x 28"

some of her work we are including the following information contained in some biographical information from her daughter, Flora.

Joan Thompson (Ridgway) was born in England, December 1909. The Ridgway family immigrated with other family members to Vancouver in 1910, moving to Victoria in 1911. Joan attended George Jay School and Victoria High School.

Throughout her life Joan held a variety of positions including – secretary, housewife and, in retirement, receptionist at Victoria Art Gallery. Over the years Joan attended various Victoria night school classes in drawing and painting; as well she attended Art Gallery classes and workshop courses, including a spring two-week session at Banff School of Fine Arts in 1967.

The materials she worked with were pencil, charcoal, conte-crayon, pen and ink, watercolour, oil and acrylic.

In the late 1930's Joan and Ken, her husband, spend several summer seasons at the Provincial Cannery, in Rivers Inlet, where Ken's father, William Thompson, was the manager. Later on Joan did an illustrated memoir of that time (now in the Esquimalt Archives).

Joan's work was exhibited at jury shows, private galleries and on the Victoria causeway. There are numerous paintings and drawings are in private collections. (An illustrated catalogue of Joan's art works has been given to the Esquimalt Archives.)

In 1967, Joan travelled to the United Kingdom, where she visited the Tate Gallery, British Museum and Portrait Gallery in London, the Edinburgh Museum in Scotland, and the World's Fair in Montreal. Joan sketched and did watercolours throughout her trip. On a world tour on the P&O Oriana in 1969, Joan visited museums and art galleries in Australia, Singapore, South Africa and



1974 Thetis Lake; acrylic; 13" x 28"

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London. She sketched in watercolour and ink during various stops on the way. In London she spent a day at the Royal Academy Spring Show for 1969 and took in the French Impressionist collection at the Courtauld Institute. (Illustrated travel diaries are also at the Esquimalt Archives.)

After returning to Esquimalt from her world tour, Joan sketched and painted many local scenes on Vancouver Island. In 1977 she did watercolour/pen&ink sketches in Banff. This was followed by works with pen& ink to record the mountain scenery at Emerald Lake during 1978. Joan continued to pursue her love of sketching and painting at her home in Esquimalt up to her passing in 2006.



1960 Backyard Still Life; oil; 16 ½" x 18 ½"



*1985 Stained glass from
Joan's Design (not for
sale)*



1966 Sandstone; oil; 27" x 34"

Membership

This year we have now accepted the use of Interac e-Transfer for your payment. During these trying times we can not access our mailbox at the school and request that if at all possible you send us an Interac e-Transfer to the Alumni Foundation by using our email address ehsalumni1959@gmail.com to send us your dues payments. Also, we have created an online application form to automatically send us your information via email and we will add you to the registry. It is very secure.

Here is the link to our application form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdy7kjiPBDFd9KZLcw4FfdEvs06QvVux5JLo3_SCwUmi8QUw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1 .

Facebook Pages

We have created 2 Facebook groups/pages to keep in the know of what is going on at the school and what events are going on with the Alumni.

<https://www.facebook.com/ESQAlumni/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/269115476491170/>

Privacy Policy & Policy for Records Retention & Access

The Policy for Protection of Privacy governs how both the Esquimalt High School Alumni Association and the Alumni Foundation collect, use, disclose and safeguard personal information. The Policy for Records Retention and Access establishes a procedure by which an applicant can request access to the records of the association or the foundation.

Thanks to the leadership of Alumni and Foundation director, George Copley, both policies have been updated in line with the new Societies Act. The policies can be read in full on the website <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/onstitutions-bylaws/>.

There are display boards, photo binders, scrapbooks and yearbooks in our archives for reunion committees to borrow. If you are planning a reunion, please let us know, along with the name of a contact person, by using the alumni email address, ehsalumni1959@gmail.com. We are compiling a list of grad classes and the years they have reunions.

Check out our Alumni website at <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni>, where you can contact us and view AGM Meeting Minutes and other news. If you prefer, you can send us a letter or donation to:

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