

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association NEWSLETTER



Save the Date!

Save November 16th for our Annual General Meeting starting at 7:00pm. This year we are planning to go virtual and allow some to participate in the live audience, that way we can ensure that we practice safe distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are going to be creating a Zoom meeting and if you would like to participate this way via either online or by phone you **will need to register by emailing us at ehsalumni1959@gmail.com**. We will register your email and send out the log in details closer to the meeting. If you are planning to attend the meeting in person you will not be let into the theatre until 6:45pm.

School Opening in a time of COVID

By Marilyn McCrimmon

Principal Tina Pierik is very positive about how the 800 strong staff and students of Esquimalt High School have coped with the huge challenges of teaching, studying and working at the high school during the unprecedented COVID pandemic. Safety was Tina's top concern as the administration created a plan to provide quality education, and at the same time, ensure the safe passage of students and staff entering and exiting the building as school opened in September.

The new timetable operates on a quarter system, allowing each student to take two classes at a time, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for each quarter of the school year. The two and a half hour long classes have resulted in teachers and students connecting especially well early in the year. Another unexpected outcome has been that students do not want spares – they want a full timetable.

Each of the three floors of the high school has a separate outside entrance designated for safe one-way entry and exit. Masks are worn in the hallways and hand sanitizer is available throughout the school. Tina reports that although they keep extra masks on hand for students who forget them, most arrive at school with their masks. Students wait outside the school in the mornings and enter together as a cohort, rather than their usual practice of entering the school at any time before the morning bell. Tina speaks with pride when she says that the students are coping very well with all of these changes and differences, even though they do miss their ability to socialize widely with friends.

Students who have opted to do their courses from home through Link, the School District 61 online provider, as well as students who fall behind due to illness, are offered support time at the school.

Fall 2020

An anonymous donation to EHS and a Federal Grant were very gratefully received and very quickly utilized. The school purchased more laptops to loan out to the students. The funds are also being used to keep PE equipment regularly sanitized, and to maintain separate and safe art supplies for students, as both departments face new challenges due to COVID.

It is early days in this challenging school year, but so far, EHS is on track for an unusual but successful school year.

Annual General Meeting Notices

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association AGM

Monday Nov. 16, 2020

7:00pm in Person or Online via Zoom

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm | Gary Moser, Moderator |
| 2. Introduction of 2020 Scholarship winners | Lorna Reid/Dana Bjornsen |
| 3. Welcome from the school | Tina Pierik, Principal |
| 4. Approval of the Agenda | Gary Moser |
| 5. Approval of Minutes from 2019 AGM | Marilyn McCrimmon |
| 6. President's Report | Barry Scott |
| 7. Treasurer's Report | Ryan Richard |
| * 2019/2020 Financial Review | |
| * 2020/2021 Signing Officers & Person to do Review | |
| * Report on Scholarship Account | |
| 8. Director's Reports | |
| * Membership | Ryan Richard |
| * Heritage and Distinguished Alumni | Dave Allen |
| 9. Elections of Officers | Robert Laidler |
| 10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment | |

Esquimalt High School Alumni Foundation AGM

Monday Nov. 16, 2020

(Immediately following Alumni Association AGM)

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|--|----------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Gary Moser |
| 2. Approval of the Agenda | Gary Moser |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes from 2019 AGM | George Copley |
| 4. President's Report | Dave Allen |
| 5. Treasurer's Report | Ryan Richard |
| * 2019/2020 Financial Review | |
| * 2020/2021 Signing Officers & Person to do Review | |
| * Turf Field Account | |
| 6. Fundraising Activities for 2020/21 | Dave Allen |
| 7. Elections of Officers | Robert Laidler |
| 8. Adjournment (Next AGM is November 15, 2021) | |

Grad 2020 Celebration

By Tina Pierik, Principal

Our Graduation 2020 plans came to a halt in March when Covid hit. Our usual UVic ceremony and dinner dance could not proceed as planned. Our grad leadership class and sponsor teachers started to brainstorm what we could do to honor our graduates. Our grads wanted to “be together” as much as was safely possible.



This is where the Grad Car Parade & Curbside diploma pick up idea was born. With support from the Township of Esquimalt, our staff, VicPD and our alumni we were able to host a very special graduation celebration on Saturday June 20th.



Grads and their families met in the parking lots at the Esquimalt Recreation Center in their decorated cars. The cars then proceeded on a 5km route through Esquimalt. Along the way, community members, including the Mayor and Council, and the senior leadership from DND, lined the route to cheer our grad car parade on. The parade ended in the school parking lot where students exited their cars to cross the stage to pick up their diploma. Then it was: pose for a quick picture, pick up a gift bag provided by our alumni and get back in their cars with their families. The final vehicle of the parade was the pirate ship, “The Morgana” (from Buccaneer Days).

It was an amazing day!! Thank you so much to our alumni for coming along side financially to help pull this off.

Volunteer Opportunity

The EHS Alumni Directors are looking for 2 more people to join our merry group. Meetings are held four times a year in the school staff room at 7 pm on a Monday night and usually take about 90 minutes. Besides the quarterly meetings, committee members are asked to help out at Buccaneer Days and RibFest, but there's no pressure exerted on anyone to do that. All in all, it's not a huge time commitment on anyone's part. Newest director, Robert Laidler, says he enjoys revisiting the “old stomping grounds.” Maybe you will, too! Please email us to find out more information or participate in our AGM.

The “Mitchell Boys”

By Evan Mitchell

When I lived in Nanaimo, my late wife (her father was Albert Hendy, priest at St. Paul’s Esquimalt in the early 50s) and I were passing through Esquimalt and I said that I wanted to visit the BCLC liquor store on Esquimalt Road. I asked her to accompany me as I wanted



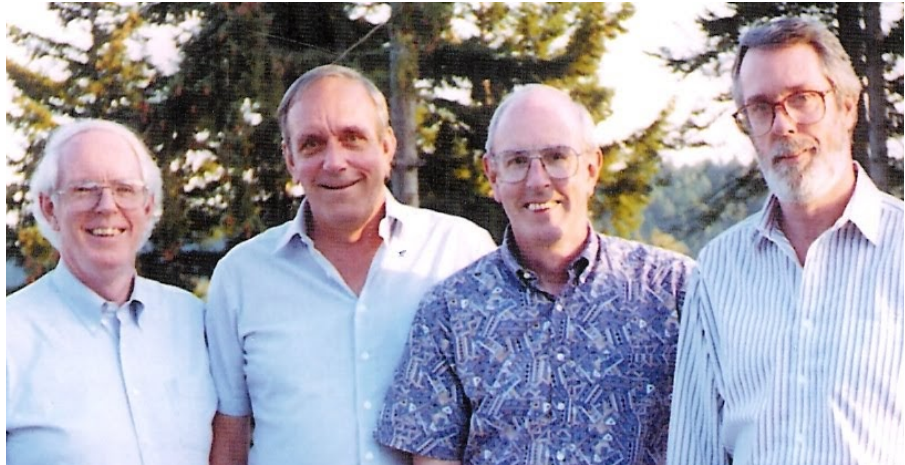
to show her something. Inside we went to the beer section and I pointed out all the different labels and the considerable space which the beer brand Lucky Lager occupied. I said to her that in my day, the consumption of that brand in our town in sales per capita was the largest in any store in British Columbia.

There were no other customers in the store and the middle-aged clerk working in the area asked how I knew that. I explained that I grew up living across the street in an upstairs apartment with my single parent mother and my three brothers. He said, “Oh you were one of the ‘Mitchell Boys’!” My wife went into convulsions of laughter. It seems we left a mark on Esquimalt but, as well, Esquimalt left a mark on us.

As the oldest ‘Mitchell Boy’, I attended grade one and two at Lampson Elementary before we left for four years to live in Metchosin. After my father’s death we moved back to Esquimalt, living first in Moresby House, the old Wren’s Residence during the Second World War which had been converted into suites for families whose fathers were on destroyer escort duty in the Korean War conflict. Subsequently, we moved into the three-bedroom apartment across from the liquor store. It was above Ray Squires Grocery Store and shops such as Fullme’s Drug Store, Sturock’s Barber, Young’s Meat Market, Dorothy Fong’s corner store and the restaurant, to name a few in that block. Later, we lived in a house on Head Street during my Esquimalt High School years.

Malcolm, my brother next to me in age, was the first to pass away some 10 years ago. He had a career in sales and after a number of years in BC’s interior, moved back to Victoria in his later years. Probably the most outgoing of us, he will be remembered for his love of people and his welcoming stories and good nature. He left behind two sons: Cameron, a corporate lawyer in London, Ontario and Andrew (a UVic graduate), president and owner of an International sports marketing firm in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Angus was next in age. He just recently passed away after a long-fought battle with Cancer. He went to Victoria College and then to UBC where he obtained a Commerce Degree. He had an extensive career in the shipping business, ending his career as VP and a partner in Anglo Canadian Shipping. He moved to Salt Spring in



Left to Right: Evan, Bruce, Malcom & Angus 2008

retirement and then back to Victoria with Brigit, his wife. Perhaps the kindest of us all, with a keen sense of humour, he will be remembered for his loyalty and positive attitude. His loyalty was exemplified by his constant friendship with three other EHS graduates: Bill Knowles (RIP), Grant McFarlane (RIP) and Denis Fae. During all the years since EHS, the four of them spent many fishing trips and good times together. Angus had a son Scott (a UVic graduate), who is owner operator of the Trek bike store in Vic West.

Bruce was born in 1943 and passed away far too soon in 2006 from cancer. Bruce was a natural leader and star athlete at Esquimalt High School. Bruce worked in education for 33 years, retiring in 2001 as Principal at Dover Bay Secondary School in Nanaimo, BC. Bruce served on several professional committees and also taught post graduate courses at Malaspina University- College and UVic. He was an administrator who motivated people not only with words but by the strength of his personality. Bruce was a true professional, leader, visionary, a mentor to many and a true advocate. He was also a Canadian Resource Team member and a researcher on several projects in the Caribbean, Africa and Indonesia from 1982 – 2002. Community involvement included Nanaimo Youth Services, Rotary Club, North and Neighbourhood Heroes. Bruce was foremost a family man to wife Patty, son Paul, daughter Allison, and a friend in all walks of life.

After high School, I joined the Canadian Air Force where my training, when I left, afforded me the opportunity to move to California where I worked for Hewlett - Packard. Upon returning, I went to work for Woodward Stores Ltd. I spent 29 enjoyable years in 12 different store locations. When the company went under, I spent the next 13 years as a professional fundraiser, specializing particularly in Capital campaigns. My first wife passed away in 2007. A few years later, I met and married Jan and we live on Mayne Island. I have two sons: Sean, a UBC graduate in engineering, who works in Saanich as a quality control manager and Aaron, a graduate of Brandon University, who teaches in St. Thomas More High School in Burnaby.

Our mother Phyllis was a saint. How she ever managed to instill in us so thoroughly the need to do the best we could, given all she had to bear in our growing up as hellions in Esquimalt (and there are many stories I could have told) has always amazed me. One thing I do know is that the common thread in all of us 'Mitchell Boys', other than our love for basketball, that she instilled in us and that we, in turn, have instilled in our sons and daughters is the desire and need for a good education. Thank you, Esquimalt High School, for the solid building blocks we were able to pass along.

Love to hear from anyone who cares to write me at egmitch2@gmail.com

"Virtual" Ribfest



Everything is different for now - even The Esquimalt Ribfest. The Esquimalt Firefighters Charitable Foundation and the Esquimalt Ribfest Society have raised thousands for our community over the last few years. Our desire to continue to do our charitable work is stronger than ever with the challenges we all face with COVID-19, so we decided to hold a Virtual Ribfest.

Rib fans were invited to come to the Curling Rink parking lot on September 12th. For a donation of \$10 or more, you received a free bottle of BBQ sauce (limited supply) from one of our Ribbers. Next, thanks to a partnership with Country Grocer, you could buy a discounted pack of ribs. Everyone was invited to take a photo of their awesome rib dinners after grilling up those delicious ribs, and then post the photo to the Ribfest Facebook page. All photos were entered into a draw for one of 6 rib dinners for the 2021 Esquimalt Ribfest.

What a day! We raised \$5,000 because Esquimalt residents care about their community. The drive through BBQ sauce and donation event was a great success.



On behalf of the Esquimalt Firefighters Charitable Fund, we want to thank you for your support.



Art Auction for Scholarship Fund Delayed

As mentioned in the spring newsletter the Alumni Executive has delayed the Art Auction Fundraiser until at least late May 2021 or even later due to the limited gathering size allowed under COVID-19. The executive is very grateful to have received a generous donation of art from the family of Joan Thompson a former resident of Esquimalt. There are about 20 paintings in the gift to the Alumni Association and it is hoped that we can raise about \$1500 for the EHS Scholarship Fund. We hope to display the art in the lobby of the school so the pieces can be viewed by the public and alumni members and then hold an online auction of the pieces. Several of the works were posted in the spring newsletter and several more are attached below. Hopefully the restrictions on gathering will be lifted later in 2021 so we can carry out this fundraiser.



1964; Still Life with Enamel Jug and Fruit: Oil; (30" by 36")



1995; Hyde Park, London: Oil on Wood from 1969 sketch; (16" by 12.5")



1966; Sandstone: Oil; (27" by 34")

Are You Planning a Reunion?

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.

ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2020-2021 FUNDRAISING DRIVE



This past year has been challenging for all of us as we navigate the unusual and unsettling times of COVID-19. It has been especially difficult for any groups trying to carry on fundraising activities. Your EHS Alumni Association has experienced this as we have not had access to our usual events namely Buccaneer Days and Esquimalt RibFest, both cancelled due to COVID-19. However, the programs at the school still have needs and as a result we are turning to our members to ask if they can help by donating to the Alumni Association so we can continue to support the students at Esquimalt High School. We wish to continue with our offering of 3 - \$1,000 scholarships, help with school activities in Fine Arts and Clubs and again add to the new Turf Field Fund. Any donations of \$20 or more will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Donations received **before December 7, 2020** will be issued receipts for 2020 and donations **after this date** will be receipts issued for 2021.

- Please make cheques payable to: **Greater Victoria School Board**
- Include notation on the memo line of the cheque for **“Scholarship Fund of EHS”, “Turf Field” “School Activities” or “All Three”**.

Thank you for assisting the students at Esquimalt High School.

For income tax purposes, please complete & mail this slip with your donation. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount: \$ _____

I wish my donation to go to **(Select One)**:

Scholarship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alumni Supported School Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turf Field Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support all Three	<input type="checkbox"/>

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