

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association NEWSLETTER



Message from Alumni Association & Alumni Foundation Presidents

by Barry Scott, President (Alumni Association) & Dave Allen, President (Alumni Foundation)

On behalf of the directors of both the Alumni Association and the Foundation we hope you are staying well. The COVID-19 restrictions over the last year have had a dramatic impact on our operations. Participation with students at EHS and our members in the community activities of Buccaneer Days and Esquimalt Ribfest have been curtailed. Other fundraising activities, like the planned Art Auction, have been delayed indefinitely. As a result, in our November 2020 newsletter we asked the membership to consider making a donation to the Association. We would like to thank those members, who donated over \$2,000 to school projects since December 2020.

In this newsletter we have included an article by Jack Bates, a 1958 grad of EHS. Hopefully the information about the history of Macaulay Point will bring back some wonderful memories for you. It is our intent to include articles like this in future newsletters. If you have any ideas for articles we could share with the members please let us know at ehsalumni1959@gmail.com. We are also honouring the 3 students who received the \$1,000 Alumni Association Scholarships in this newsletter. We hope this will give our members an idea of the outstanding quality of young people who are graduating from Esquimalt High School. It is the hope of the Association to again award \$1,000 scholarships to 3 more graduating students this year. If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund you can find information at the end of this newsletter.

Please follow the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry to 'be calm, be kind and be safe' as we continue to move through the uncharted waters of the pandemic. We hope you will join us at the AGM, November 15, 2021, possibly in person or via Zoom.

2021 Musical Theatre Production

by Tina Pierik, Principal, & Kaehlen Allison, Music Teacher

Our musical theatre cast and crew have worked incredibly hard to be able to create a meaningful production while following strict safety protocols. Students have rehearsed once a week in small groups, in masks, with proper physical distancing for singing, and while only singing in one space for up to 30 minutes at a time. About once a month they stayed late on Friday evenings to be able to work as a whole group. We have been working with Paper Heart Films, a local videography company (part-owned by an ESQ alum), to record and film the show. It will be available on a virtual streaming platform on May 28, 29 and June 3-5. In order to make the



Spring 2021

production accessible to as many audience members as possible, we are creating additional options to watch the show with Closed Captions and with Descriptive Video.

This year, our students are working on the musical "Theory of Relativity". The show presents a collection of seemingly unrelated songs, scenes, and monologues to discuss the interconnectedness of humanity - a fitting theme for this year! As difficult as this year has been, especially after losing our production last year, this year has given us the unique opportunity to explore musical theatre in a new way. We have had the privilege of incorporating alumni, family, community members, and staff from around the district into the show.

These students are beautiful ambassadors for our school. They are thoughtful, kind and filled with gratitude. This show has gifted them the ability to analyze, discuss and experience connection during this time of social isolation. We are so grateful for your continued support and look forward to sharing this work very soon.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/52826>

Scholarship Winners

by Lorna Reid & Dana Bjornson, Scholarship 12 Teacher (EHS Grad 1990)

The following graduates of 2020 exemplify our school moto, *Esse Quam Videri*. Each student has pursued their passions with vigor, dedication and the highest levels of excellence. On behalf of the students and staff of Esquimalt High, thank you for the continuing support of our students with their post-secondary pursuits!



Shedya Shams (Waterloo Engineering)

Service

- Skating Instructor Volunteer
- VCM Entertainment Volunteer
- Church service pianist and singer
- Step-Up Program Youth Advisor
- Peer Tutor

Academics

- Straight As (Gr 9-12), French Immersion

Extracurricular

- Vocalist in 4 languages
- Pianist (Royal Conservatory Grade 8)
- PACE Musical Theatre
- Competitive ice skater and swimmer

Megan van Campen (Concordia Urban Studies)
Athletics

- Peninsula Soccer Association: 4 years Cup Winners
- EHS Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Rugby
- EHS Excellence Award in Athletics: Gr. 9 & 11

Academics

- Honour Roll 2015-2020, French Immersion

Community

- Interact Club (Rotary Youth), Youth Political Commons
- President of the EHS Outdoors Club
- Leadership student Gr 9 – 12
- Volunteer soccer coach
- South Island Prosperity Project Youth Task Force



Nathaniel Hope Tucker (University of Ottawa, Environment Economics)



Service

- Youth Political Commons president
- ESCAPE (Esq. Students Caring About Peace & Environment)
- Interact Rotary Youth member
- Organized & ran the weekly, free “Bagel Fridays” for ESQ
- GV Public Library Advisory Council member
- City of Victoria Youth Council

Academics

- Straight As (Gr 9-12), French Immersion
- Page for the House of Commons

Extracurricular

- Vic High Rhythm & Blues Band

A Tribute to Judith Kirchner - the "Queen of Esquimalt"

This tribute to Judith Kirchner was a collaborative effort from friends and EHS colleagues: Trish Best, Pat Bohaker, Sheena Brierley, Debbie Higgins, Marilyn McCrimmon and Lorna Reid.

Judith Kirchner was a much-loved teacher who taught at Esquimalt High School from 1984 until her retirement in 2004. Her recent death elicited an outpouring of memories and tributes on social media from countless colleagues and students who saw Judith as a good friend and a valued mentor. Judith's enduring legacy is the commercial teaching kitchen that opened in 1989 thanks to her efforts to procure federal funding and then oversee its installation, as well as the Chef Training Career Preparation Program that she spearheaded and taught until her retirement. Many alumni members reading this newsletter will remember the wonderful food that came out of the cafeteria daily - and still does - thanks to those early efforts of Judith and her students.



Judith has been described as a wonderful friend with a marvelous sense of humour, an inspirational teacher with a wicked sense of humour and a zest for life, an exceptional educator, a down to earth teacher who oozed common sense, a genuinely caring teacher who always had time for students and a kind and generous woman. One student recalled that Judith was her teacher during an especially difficult period of her life, and felt that without Judith, she would not be who she is today. Judith has also been referred to as the heart of the school, as she knew how to nourish people, and not just with the food being produced from the teaching kitchen.



Judith jokingly referred to herself as the *Queen of Esquimalt*. Her fellow teachers and her students would agree, such was her dedication to the community of Esquimalt High School.

She was a tireless advocate for her students. The Chef Training program attracted a wide range of students, and they all thrived in the teaching kitchen, thanks to the warm nurturing environment that Judith established. In this hands-on program, students learned experientially, and through Judith's caring mentorship, their confidence grew as they discovered their own talents and worked to develop those abilities.

Watching Judith take a group of inexperienced grade elevens each year and turn them into capable confident young cooks who stood tall and proud in their "whites" two years later, was a real joy.

Judith was a member of prestigious chef's associations, and her close contacts in the industry led to her students obtaining work experience placements in some of Victoria's top restaurants, including the Empress. She also coordinated closely with Camosun College, facilitating those students who wanted to carry on with post-secondary chef training.



Judith had some keen interests outside of school, including Highland dancing and rowing. She travelled to Scotland to represent Canada as a highland dancer in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo when she was a young newlywed. Early in her teaching career, she requested a leave of absence so she could return to Scotland to participate in an international Highland Dancing Games. When she was turned down, she resigned so she could compete. Thankfully for all who have been influenced by this multi-talented woman, she returned to the school district.

As a keen rower, Judith shared her love of rowing by coaching the Esquimalt Crew for many years, and also assuming leadership of the staff corporate rowing team. Clearly a fan of the water, Judith participated in eight of the staff canoe trips to Barkley Sound, loving the beauty and tranquility of the area. One colleague recalls Judith entertaining everyone by highland dancing on the dock. And then she inspired them by swimming in the freezing cold water, indifferent to the weather.

Never one to say no, Judith planned and catered many of the staff social events, and she attended school plays and fine arts nights and award ceremonies. If an event needed a volunteer, all you had to do was ask Judith, and she would be there. True to form, she

organized the catering for the staff reunion that was held alongside the Esquimalt 100th Anniversary celebration in 2015. The nickname *Queen of Esquimalt* was well deserved.

Outside of school, Judith was also an active volunteer, giving her time to the Salvation Army, Mothers' March, Georgia Strait Alliance, Peninsula Streams, Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and Saanich Volunteers.

Judith was married to David Kirchner, who sadly passed away before her. She is survived by her son Matthew and her daughter Lise, as well as four grandchildren. Friends in her walking group heard all about Judith's grandchildren – she absolutely adored them. She also loved to spend time with her clan at a family home on Gambier Island.

Judith is deeply missed by all of her friends, colleagues, students, and of course, her family, but there is much comfort in knowing what a fine legacy of memories and accomplishments this remarkable woman left behind.



History of Macaulay Point and Fort Macaulay

by Jack Bates, Class of 1958

Macaulay Point is located in the Township of Esquimalt and is named after Donald Macaulay, a Hudson's Bay Company employee who lived on and worked this portion of the original Viewfield Farm. He accidentally drowned in Esquimalt Harbour in 1868.



Left Gun Emplacement

Within Macaulay Point Park lies FORT MACAULAY, a 19th and 20th Century Coast Defence designed Artillery fortification. This Historic Fort Zone contains concrete gun and range-finding emplacements, brick and concrete accessory buildings, an entrance gate, and an internal ring



Command Post

roadway with an access tunnel leading to a "KEEP" and Command Post at the highest elevation, including segments of the fortress perimeter defensive trench, all of it dating back to 1895. This permanent fortress, designed by the Royal Artillery and built by the Royal Engineers, replaced a temporary three-gun battery built earlier on Macaulay Point.

In 1878, prior to construction of these structures that exist today, three temporary, seven-inch muzzle loading gun emplacements were built on 2.97 acres at the Point of Macaulay. The land was purchased by the Dominion of Canada Militia Department from the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. Three other similar gun sites in the Victoria - Esquimalt Coast Defence system were built at the same time, all intending to protect Victoria and Esquimalt harbours at that time, including the naval base, from a possible



Accessory Buildings



seaborne attack by the Russian navy. They were Brother's Island, Victoria Point and Finlayson Point, each manned by the local volunteer Militia. These four original gun sites had either been abandoned or demolished by 1894 coinciding with the building of FORT MACAULAY and FORT RODD HILL gun batteries, which mounted modern 6-inch breech loading guns.

FORT MACAULAY remained the only Victoria - Esquimalt artillery component that functioned continuously from 1878 until 1956 when it was eventually abandoned. Prior to and during World War One and World War Two, it was manned by the 5th Regiment of Artillery from Victoria, and served as a training centre for coastal and anti - aircraft defence between the two wars and post-World War Two.

Prominent military persons associated with FORT MACAULAY were General Sir Arthur Currie, Major- General George R. Pearkes VC, General A. McNaughton and Colonel J.A. Hall. Numerous Militia and Regular Force units were also associated with Work Point Barracks and Macaulay Plains over the years.



Macaulay Point Battery - 1878

After the fortress was abandoned as a coast defence and anti - aircraft artillery battery, it continued to be used for training by Work Point Barracks garrison units until 1985 when the Township of Esquimalt tenured a 99 - year lease from the Department of National Defence, for "recreational use and historic interest." The park includes Buxton Green built in 1983, the Esquimalt Anglers Association being a driving entity in the development of the Green, the Park, Fleming Beach access and the many pathways.

In 2017, for CANADA 150, three interpretive sign boards were placed on the site to provide information and photographs portraying the history of the fortress. FRIENDS of FORT MACAULAY groups and the Township of Esquimalt Parks and Public Works departments, continue to maintain the fortress and park areas in co-operation with the DND. In conjunction with the Esquimalt Archives, the Victoria - Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association, the Work Point Barracks PPCLI Cadet Corps, the Greater Victoria Military Museums Group, and the Esquimalt Lions Club, historical interpretive events have been held on the fortress grounds annually in May since 2014. FORT MACAULAY is also included in the Township of Esquimalt's walking tours.



Panoramic View Southernly from the Command Post

Following up with associated family history, all of which is a source of motivation, my maternal grandfather and great uncle were members of the Royal Engineers who came to Esquimalt in 1894 to demolish the temporary gun sites and build the permanent ones you see today at FORT MACAULAY. My father was stationed at Work Point Barracks for 18 years prior to World War two and we lived just outside the barracks while attending Lampson Street and Esquimalt High Schools, engaging with many military families, some still to this day. Personally, I spent time in the Army Cadets and Reserves at Work Point Barracks and then enlisted in the Regular Force.

My sister Marilyn and I “adopted” FORT MACAULAY and for the past ten years have devoted ourselves to enhancing the presentation and promoting its historical aspects by hosting the annual event and offering guided tours of the fortress. This has been very successful with the involvement of other Esquimalt High School graduates, particularly my classmate Ellis Meads, residents of Esquimalt and our cousin Mike Phillips. Our group is aptly named “The FORT MACAULAY FIELD FORCE.” See www.workpoint.opcmh.ca for more on local military history.

FORT MACAULAY is located within your Esquimalt neighborhood. Enjoy fresh air, sea breezes, stunning views towards Victoria and Esquimalt harbours and across the Strait at the Olympic Mountains, while experiencing a focus on our local military history. Parking is available in the Esquimalt Anglers lot at the foot of Lampson Street... Enjoy!

78 Years of Active Service

In 1878 the original Victoria - Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System was made up of four batteries that protected the entrance to Victoria and Esquimalt. They included Fort Macaulay, Finlayson Point, Victoria Point, and Brother's Island.

The Coastal Defence Fortification System evolved locally by adding numerous artillery batteries and searchlight sites from Church Hill (near Sooke) to Gonzales Hill (on Oak Bay), including Fort Rodd Hill and eventually right up the west coast. Coastal defences protected the west coast until after the second world war.

Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria - Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System, being continuously manned from 1878 until being declared obsolete in 1956. This photo below shows the BC Brigade of the Garrison Artillery circa 1886.

A three-gun temporary earthworks and wooden platform battery was erected at this location in 1878 in response to the British - Russian crisis in the Balkans. The original 1878 battery was constructed on the shoreline of Macaulay Point to protect Victoria and Esquimalt harbours and was manned by local militia units and "C" Battery - Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

Fort Macaulay was in active use from 1878 through 1956. It was a coastal defence battery also used for military training. The soldiers from the 5th BC Regiment Canadian Artillery at right are training on the Maxim Machine gun in 1895.

Fort Macaulay is unique in that it retained its original character within Work Point Barracks until it became an integral part of Esquimalt's Macaulay Point Park. The Township has leased the land for the park from the Department of National Defence since 1985. In 2013 Fort Macaulay was placed on the Township of Esquimalt's Heritage List.

Remnants of some of the old buildings are located around Macaulay Point Park. Use the map in this brochure to guide your walk back in time.

Welcome to Historic Fort Macaulay

1878 to 1956

Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria-Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System.

Take a step back in time as you explore the history and beauty of Fort Macaulay

For more information about Historic Fort Macaulay visit the Esquimalt Municipal Archives located at 1149A Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C., or visit us online at esquimalt.ca/archives

For more information on Esquimalt Parks, visit esquimalt.ca/parks

Also visit workpoint.opcmh.ca for historic information on Fort Macaulay.

This brochure produced by the Township of Esquimalt. Funded by the Government of Canada. Financé par le gouvernement du Canada.

Canada ESQUIMALT

May 2017

Graphics by Edley Signs, Esquimalt BC

ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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. The Esquimalt High School Alumni Association has not had access to our usual fund-raising 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. Your donations help us continue with offering 3 - \$1,000 scholarships or assisting with the new Turf Field Fund. Any donations of \$20 or more will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Donations received before December 7, 2021 will be issued receipts for 2021 and donations after this date will be receipts issued for 2022.

- 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" or "Support Both"**.

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"/>
Turf Field Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support Both	<input type="checkbox"/>

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association
847 Colville Rd
Victoria, BC V9A 4N9
ehsalumni1959@gmail.com