



ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

ASSOCIATION

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



SAVE THE DATE! Save Monday November 17th for the EHS Alumni Association Annual General Meeting starting at 7:00 pm in the school theatre. The agendas are on page 17, and all other meeting materials, such as previous AGM Minutes, will be on the Alumni Association webpage at:

<https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/meetings-minutes/>.

Hope to see you there!

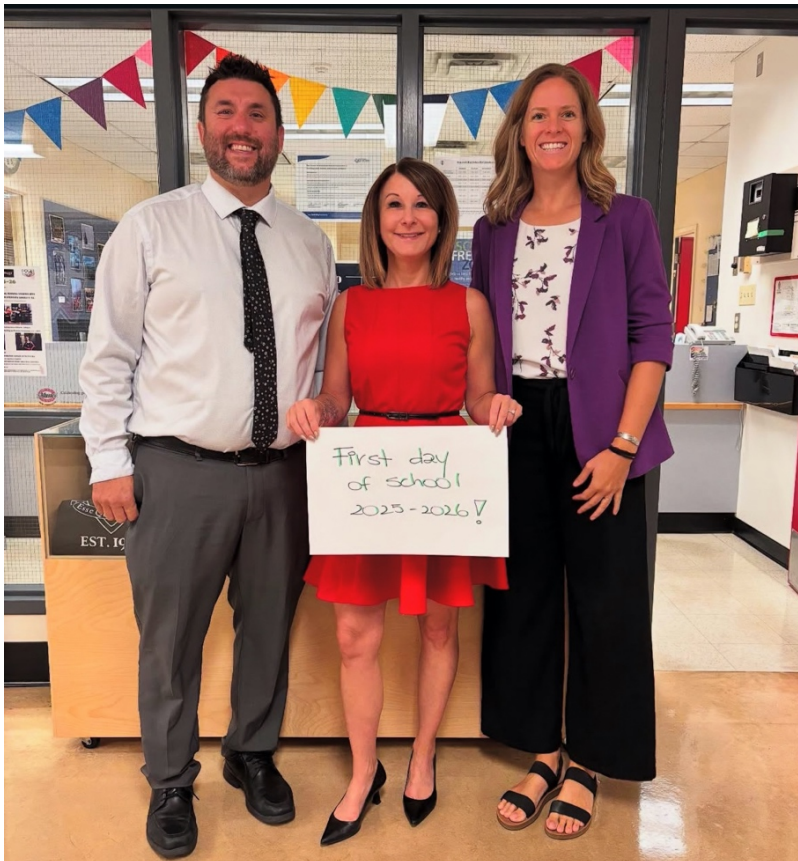
EHS School Update

Hello Esquimalt High Alumni!

It's been an exciting and energetic "back to school" season at Esquimalt High! With more than a thousand students filling our classrooms, hallways, and cafeteria, the school is buzzing with activity and connection like never before.

We've already kicked off the fall with some of our favourite Esquimalt traditions — Kernal Korn Day (featuring delicious, locally grown corn on the cob), Clubs Day where students explore the many extracurricular opportunities that make ESQ such a vibrant place, and our Meet the Teacher & Family BBQ that brought our community together once again.

Beyond the school grounds, students have been making memories through our Grade 9 Community and Connection Day at the Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion and the always popular Grad Surf Trip to Tofino. And looking ahead, our upcoming Spring Break trip to Japan promises to be a once in a lifetime experience for those fortunate enough to take part.



If you've been by the school recently, you may have noticed a striking new mural gracing the exterior of our building.

This beautiful work of art was created in 2022 by Esquimalt High art students, guided by local Indigenous artists Jenna Lancaster (Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish) and Jesse Campbell (Métis), through the *New Extreme Artist Mentorship Program* sponsored by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

After being displayed at the Art Gallery, our art teacher Omdrea Walker led the effort to have it permanently installed here at the school — a vibrant reminder of student creativity and community collaboration.

We're also looking to the future with exciting developments on campus. Construction is well underway for a new Child Care facility, and we remain hopeful about progress toward the new turf field — a partnership with the Township of Esquimalt that will benefit students and the wider community alike.

To all of our alumni — thank you for staying connected and for continuing to support Esquimalt High. Your pride and involvement help keep our school spirit strong. I'm truly grateful to be part of such a dynamic, caring, and engaged community.

With appreciation,
Sarah Garr
Principal

EHS 2025 Grad Lottie Campbell – A \$100,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship Winner

Esquimalt High School is very proud to announce that EHS 2025 Graduate, Lottie Campbell, won a very prestigious and highly competitive \$100,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship in June.



Lottie Campbell and counsellor Ally Hoffman

EHS counsellor Ally Hoffman, describes Lottie as, “highly intelligent and scientifically curious,” and adds that, “she never shies away from an opportunity to learn.” Lottie is also, “a kind and engaging young person,” says Ally.

We will surely see this accomplished young woman honoured on our list of Outstanding Alumni in the future.

This is the first time an EHS grad has ever won this scholarship, a remarkable achievement for this young woman.

Lottie was nominated by the school’s scholarship committee for her excellent academics and her outstanding extracurricular achievements.

In a Times-Colonist article, Lottie was quoted as saying, “Ever since I was little, I’ve known I loved science, and interning in the research lab at B.C. Cancer Agency’s Deeley Centre proved to me that research is my calling.”

Only 100 of these scholarships are given out each year across Canada to graduating students who plan to study one of the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and math), so this is a huge accomplishment for the EHS student.

Lottie is currently underway at UVic, where she is studying chemistry.

A New Mural is Featured at EHS

A beautiful new mural that is now installed on the front wall of EHS was created in 2022 by Esquimalt High School art students under the mentorship of local indigenous artists Jenna Lancaster (Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish) and Jesse Campbell (Metis Nation) through the New Extreme artist mentorship program sponsored by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.



Jenna Lancaster wrote the following artist statement, which outlines how the students and mentors came up with the ideas for the mural, and explains the concept and the imagery:

“The creation of this mural came together by having discussions about what the land means to the youth and their experiences on the land with their grandparents and places that are meaningful to them. More importantly, we discussed what the land, name place and history of certain locations mean to Indigenous people. After hearing many

stories about being on the land from the youth at Esquimalt High, we decided to create a mural that showed and reminded us how important it is to look after the territories that we live on. This mural is intended to create a message that reminds us that we need to stop developing the land and start restoring it to the way it used to be. Within the mural, you will see that development of the city and the destruction of the natural environment. It reminds us that Indigenous people have been displaced, along with local wildlife due to the destruction of homelands and habitats. It also shows the loss of Indigenous plant life that once used to thrive on the ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEC territories. The Two Eagles are representing a mirror for people to witness what the land would have been like before colonization and resource extraction. In addition, it also shows a long house to represent Coast Salish People, Camas flowers, Salmon berries and Huckleberries. Another important key component to this mural are the Eagle Designs. The Eagles also represent courage, respect and power. The Eagles are important because our ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEC People are very much still tied to these lands which is now known as "Victoria". We need to respect and listen to Indigenous People that truly belong to these lands because they have the knowledge and teachings on how to properly care for these lands.”

Art and English teacher Omdrea Walker, who was the school-based liaison for the project, says that, “Being a work of art designed and created by students of Esquimalt High with the mentorship of local Indigenous artists, this mural represents the people and the land of the Esquimalt region.”

News from the EHS Docker



SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS

Student Readers Around Our School



This month we are featuring student readers around our school, asking what they enjoy reading! A big thank you to Shaiyanna for being the first.

- To see the full interview please go to Esquimalt High Instagram “I’ve read Little Women like a billion times.”

International Student Skate!

The International Students at Esquimalt High had a great time skating this week. Lots of smiles and fun was had by all. **Thank you** to the teachers who planned and assisted with the skating field trip.



Esquimalt Ribfest 2025

The 13th annual Esquimalt Ribfest took place on September 5, 6, and 7 at Bullen Park. It was another very successful event with nearly 40,000 people passing through the gates over the 3 days.



The generosity of those attending Ribfest surpassed previous years, with close to \$90,000 being donated to the Esquimalt Fire Fighters' Charitable Foundation this year.

These funds are distributed to local groups, many with a focus on the youth of the community.

A familiar sight at the entrance of Ribfest.

Ribfest once again this year had six professional rib companies preparing hundreds of pounds of ribs, along with a variety of side dishes.

There were also 20 local food vendors, 10 crafters and 12 local craft brewers on site for those attending to enjoy.



The calm before the gates opened.



Line-ups formed as ribbers voted with their feet for their favourites. Which one was your favourite?

Each day, local bands performed along with a headline group each night, comprising a total of 20 musical groups over the three days.



Tight Hair Disco gets the crowd rocking.



Esquimalt High School, James Bay Youth Rugby, Victoria/ Esquimalt Cougars Hockey Team and the Vancouver Island Elite Cheerleaders provided over 300 youth to volunteer around the site to clear and clean tables, recycle the many pop and water containers, pick up the garbage and move it to the large dumpsters, look after the bicycle parking area, assist in the Blue Buffalo Saloon and help in the Kids Zone.

Without the support and hard work of these young people, their coaches and sponsors, it would be very difficult for RibFest to operate.

A huge SHOUT-OUT to all these people who not only received a big lesson on what volunteering is about, but also each of the teams, clubs or community groups received a donation from the Fire Fighters' Foundation.

Volunteer youth hard at work.

Saturday, again, was very much the busiest day of Ribfest and this year almost 18,000 people were in attendance. Those who were there at lunch time were able to witness a couple get married, a Ribfest first! The couple met at an earlier Ribfest and felt it would be a great place to celebrate their special day.

Also on Saturday afternoon, the judging of the ribs and sauces took place in front of the stage.

The ribs and sauces from each Rib Company were consumed and judged by the Mayor of Esquimalt, Barb Desjardins, Captain Kevin Whiteside, Base Commander Esquimalt, Cliff LeQuesne, morning man at Q-Radio, Rob Shaw from CHEK TV, long time Esquimalt resident Sandy Rosen and Victoria Shamrock great Kevin Alexander.



The Judges



Surrey Fire Fighters' Pipes & Drum Corp

During the judging, the Surrey Fire Fighters' Pipes and Drum Corp performed on the dance floor to the delight of the crowd.

At the end of the judging the Jason Buie Music Achievement Award of \$1000 was presented to Martha Pearman, a student who graduated this past June from Esquimalt High School. It was a busy and very enjoyable time for all.

And finally, a fixture at all Ribfests has been the Langos Booth, operated by the Esquimalt High Alumni Association, the Student Leadership class members from Esquimalt High School and volunteers from the Rainbow Kitchen.



Over the weekend, each of the three groups provided 15 to 17 volunteers.

They served close to 1100 langos (beaver tails) along with dozens of cans of pop and bottles of water.

They also sold 47 alumni t-shirts.

This was once again quite profitable for each group as they each received \$2200 to use towards specific projects they are working on.

The EHS Alumni/Rainbow Kitchen/EHS Leadership students Langos Booth



EHS Leadership students and a Rainbow Kitchen volunteer are having fun cooking and selling langos.

For those EHS Leadership students and Rainbow Kitchen volunteers and EHS alumni members who came out to support this activity, a big THANK-YOU.

And another big thank-you to Esquimalt photographer and EHS Alumni Lynda O'Keefe for providing the majority of the photos for this article.

The EHS Alumni Association Directors Need Your Help Now!!

Here's How You Can Help.....



Alumni members sell these t-shirts each year at RibFest.

We need two new directors to join us on the Esquimalt High School Alumni Association executive. There are currently six alumni members on the executive, and we are joined by the current EHS school principal, Sarah Garr. Our positions are:

President: Barry Scott
Vice-President/Reunion Director: Robert Laidler
Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Marilyn McCrimmon
Treasurer: Ryan Richard
Scholarship Director: currently vacant
Director at Large: Cathy Wong
Director at Large/Past president: Dave Allen
Director at Large: currently vacant

We hope you will join us as a director at large on the executive once you know what is expected of you. As a new director at large, you will have a first-hand opportunity to learn about the alumni association and you will be encouraged to help where there is a need.

There are four directors' meetings a year, plus we all attend the AGM, and meetings are always on a Monday evening at 7 pm at the high school. Meetings are held the third Monday in January, April, August and October, and usually run for one hour to an hour and a half. The AGM is in November. At the meetings, we discuss what is going on at EHS, fund-raising, archives, celebrating outstanding alumni members, progress of the turf field and more. The high school often invites us to attend school events and assemblies. Once you join, we would hope that you would get involved in our ongoing fund-raising and/or in our two ongoing projects: the archives and the celebration of outstanding alumni.

If you decide you would like to help, but are still reluctant to join the executive, we would welcome your help with fund-raising and/or with any of our ongoing projects. And don't forget, there are some significant school-wide reunions coming up – 125 years for Esquimalt High School and 75 years for the building on Colville Road.

Do we have your attention yet?

Here are some more details:

We fund-raise for the three Alumni Scholarships and for the turf field being planned for the EHS field, as well as for any EHS projects that need our help. In the past, we have assisted with the cost of repairing musical instruments and the cost of replacing volleyball net support poles. We assist the Robotics Team with expenses as they prepare for competition. Ten years ago, we fund-raised to buy a new school bus, a very important asset for the school. Currently the aging school van is sidelined due to a lack of parts. Replacing the van will be a future fund-raising project.



Donations from alumni members are encouraged year-round, but the main source of fund-raising is our booth at the annual Esquimalt Ribfest, which runs over three days on the second weekend of September. Alumni members can sign up for as many shifts as you like.

Your job will be to sell langos and pop and water and t-shirts and perhaps to help cook the langos.

Our proceeds are split three ways: Rainbow Kitchen, EHSAA and the EHS Leadership program.

Rainbow Kitchen volunteers and EHS Leadership students also help out in the booth.

EHS Alumni Directors Barry Scott and Cathy Wong invite you to join them in the Ribfest booth next year

Organizing the EHS archives is an ongoing project, and your help would be more than welcome. Work parties at the school are held three or four times a year.

The celebration of outstanding alumni members is a new initiative, and we expect the ceremonies to be held every three years, starting in the spring of 2026. As an EHSAA Executive member, you would help choose the alumni to be celebrated, but if you just want to help, we would welcome the extra hands when it comes time to organize the ceremony.

We would love to have any of you who are interested to join us.

The time commitment is not huge and your involvement directly impacts positively on the students of EHS.

If you are interested in any of the above, please email us at:
ehsalumni1959@gmail.com



Treasurer Ryan Richard hard at work at RibFest

EHS T-Shirts

For some 7 plus years, your alumni has produced the *I Love ESQ* t-shirt, which was designed to illustrate and convey the affection felt by both the current and past alumni members for this great school.

To date, 300 of these shirts have been purchased and proudly worn throughout Esquimalt and many other locations in Canada.

The shirts are manufactured by Gildan, using high quality heavy cotton fabric and they come in all sizes. The logo screening is done by students and a school staff member.

Our prime sales outlets are at the annual Esquimalt Buccaneers Days and Ribfest celebrations, as well as at school reunions. They sell for a reasonable \$15.00.

Due to the popularity of these shirts, we plan soon to explore an online sale program through EHS.



EHS Alumni President and t-shirt seller, Barry Scott, at work at this year's Ribfest.

Remembering Brenda O'Connor

Brenda O'Connor graduated from Esquimalt High School in 1990 and she joined the Esquimalt High School Alumni Association executive in 2015, where she quickly became a valued member. She not only took on the Scholarship Director position, but she also gave hours of her time cooking langos in our EHS/Rainbow Kitchen booth at RibFest every year.

And she represented the Alumni Association several times at the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Esquimalt Cenotaph.



Brenda very sadly passed away this past June. She was one of the younger members on the executive, not yet retired, but willing to give her time to the EHS Alumni Association.

At her celebration of life, we heard stories about her younger years, and learned that giving back to her community was a lifelong passion for Brenda. For instance, when she worked at a pizza restaurant in her youth, she would take the evening's leftover pizza with her after work, and give it to those who were obviously living on the streets.

After graduation, Brenda attended Camosun College and UVic, finishing with a degree in accounting.

She worked as a professional accountant, and true to form, she was part of the community income tax program, offering free income tax preparation to low-income community members.

Brenda also volunteered at the Rainbow Kitchen.

Brenda's good humour and her willingness to help, in spite of challenging health issues at times, were most impressive.

Brenda is very much missed by her fellow EHSAA directors.

EHS Reunion News



Request for Grad Reunion Contacts

Hello Esquimalt High School alumni:

The EHS Alumni Committee is hoping to compile an extensive list of grad reunion contact people for their respective grad years. To date we have no contact information for the following grad years: 1960-1964, 1977-1979, 1981-1983, 1985 and beyond. If you know of anyone who helps organize reunions for their particular grad year we would like, with their permission, to add their names to our list.

Also, was a graduation class photo taken at your graduation? If so we would dearly love to have a copy for our school archives. If you can, please scan and send your grad year class photo and/or your grad year reunion organizer email to:

Robert Laidler, EHS Alumni Committee Reunion Director at:

bobtheman50@gmail.com

Are you Planning a Grad Class Reunion?

Are you planning a grad class reunion? We can help you organize and promote it. We can also provide school archival material for display during the big event. If you need assistance in any stage of your reunion planning, contact:

Robert Laidler, EHS Alumni Committee Reunion Director at:

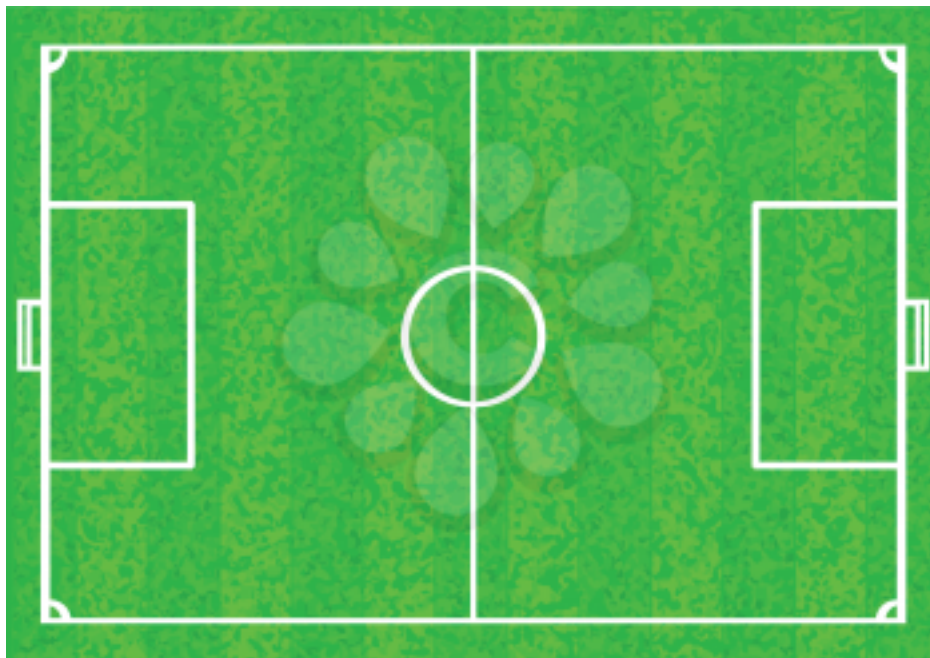
bobtheman50@gmail.com

Turf Field Update – Fall 2025

The Turf Field project at Esquimalt High School continues to move towards a reality. This is a joint venture of the Esquimalt Municipality, the Greater Victoria School District, the Gorge Soccer Association, the Local First Nations, James Bay Rugby Association and the Esquimalt Ribfest Society. It will result in an all-weather field to be used year-round by the students of Esquimalt High School during school days and by the community in the evenings and on the weekends. This will replace the present field which, unfortunately, gets closed down for 3-4 months of the year as it becomes unplayable due to flooding.

The latest steps towards seeing the project become a reality include a Joint Use Agreement with the School District, a major grant application by the Esquimalt Municipality and another donation from the Esquimalt Ribfest Society. The agreement between the School District and Esquimalt Municipality lays out the details on how the field will be built, operated and maintained. With the Agreement in place, the municipality was able to make a strong application for an infrastructure grant sponsored by the Federal and Provincial Governments. News about this application should be known in the next few months. At the same time, the Esquimalt Ribfest Society made another contribution, this time adding \$55,000 to the Turf Field Fund. These funds are held in trust at the school. This donation was a result of another very successful Esquimalt Ribfest event held September 5, 6 and 7 at Bullen Park.

The Fund now stands just shy of \$600,000 and will hit that total by the end of December with donations and interest collected. If any alumni members wish to assist with this project there is a donation form at the end of the newsletter. To those people who donated in the past, a big thank you is sent to you as we move closer to the goal of having an all-weather field at Esquimalt High.



Esquimalt High School Alumni Association AGM

Monday Nov. 17, 2025

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

EHS Theatre, 847 Colville Road

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|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm | Emcee – Robert Laidler |
| 2. Welcome from the school | Sarah Garr, Principal |
| 3. Introduction of 2025 Scholarship winners | Robert Laidler/Dana Bjornson |
| 4. Approval of the Agenda | Robert Laidler |
| 5. Approval of Minutes from 2024 AGM | Marilyn McCrimmon |
| 6. President's Report | Barry Scott |
| 7. Treasurer's Report | Ryan Richard |
| a. 2024/2025 Financial Statement & Review of Books | |
| b. 2025/2026 Signing Officers & Person to do Review | |
| c. Report on Scholarships | |
| 8. Director's Reports | |
| a. Outstanding Alumni Recognition Committee | Dave Allen |
| 9. Elections of Officers | Marilyn McCrimmon |
| a. Dave Allen, Ryan Richard, Barry Scott and Cathy Wong are all up for re-election. | |
| b. There are several vacant director positions. | |
| 10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment | Robert Laidler |
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Esquimalt High School Alumni Foundation AGM

Monday Nov. 17, 2025

(Immediately following Alumni Association AGM)

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Robert Laidler |
| 2. Approval of the Agenda | Robert Laidler |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes from 2024 AGM | Cathy Wong |
| 4. President's Report | Dave Allen |
| 5. Treasurer's Report | Ryan Richard |
| a. 2024/2025 Financial Statement & Review of Books | |
| b. 2025/2026 Signing Officers & Person to do Review | |
| 6. Fundraising Activities for 2025/26 | Dave Allen |
| 7. Elections of Officers | Marilyn McCrimmon |
| 8. Adjournment | Robert Laidler |

****Next AGM is on November 16, 2026.**

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association

FUNDRAISING DRIVE



The Alumni Association wishes to focus on raising money for the Scholarship Fund and the installment of the turf field. We are asking members to donate to one or both of these projects. The EHS Alumni Association presently awards three \$1000 Scholarships to EHS students every year. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Donations received before **December 5, 2025**, will be issued receipts for 2025, and those received after that date, will be issued receipts for 2026.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. Send us an Interac E-Transfer via your bank by emailing your donation to:

ehsalumniassociation.payments@gmail.com.

Please also email us your mailing address so that we can mail you your income tax receipt.

OR

2. Send a cheque payable to: **Greater Victoria School Board**. Please include a notation on the memo line of the cheque for "EHS Scholarship Fund" or "Turf Field" or "Both."

For Income Tax purposes, please complete and mail or email this form with your donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____ Donation amount: _____

Donation for: Turf Field or EHS Scholarship Fund or Both: _____

Mail to: Esquimalt High School Alumni Association
c/o Esquimalt High School
847 Colville Road
Victoria, B.C. V9A 4N9

<https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/>

Thank you for assisting the students at Esquimalt High School.