



OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the 2020 edition of the OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association Newsletter. One of our 2019/20 Executive Board goals for this year: to increase communication with our Alumni colleagues. It is our intent to strengthen our connections with former students who still have an interest in what is happening at OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL. We hope you do too.

If you would like to contribute, announce or post anything of interest in future editions, please connect with the Newsletter Team at oakbayalumni@gmail.com

ALUMNI EXECUTIVE

2019/2020

John Falkins, President, Class of '79

Randi Falls, Principal of Oak Bay High School and school liaison; Archives & Website Co-Chair (80)

Jan Hemming, Vice President, (66)

Walt Hundleby, Treasurer, (68)

Jan Burns, Secretary, School Staff alumni

Heather Benson, Director & Website Co Chair (79)

Joanna Drewry, Director at Large & Writer (62)

Eva Eaton, Director at Large (78)

Brad McLaren, Director at Large and Special Events Chair (82)

Bronwyn Taylor, Director at Large & Writer (68)

Jon Valentine, Director at Large & Archives (96)



UPCOMING SCHOOL AND ALUMNI

EVENTS:

School Play: "Fiddler on the Roof" Feb. 28 to March 7
\$12 Dave Dunnet Theatre
(Tickets for "Fiddler on the Roof" available at the door)

Sinatra and the Count April 18th
\$40 Dave Dunnet Theatre

Francophone Games July 2020
Oak Bay High

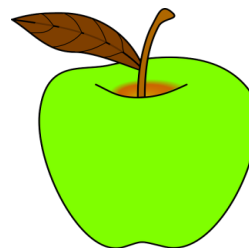


Alumni DATABASE and HOW to REGISTER

You are receiving this newsletter as you have asked to be notified when events are happening at the school; announce what your Alumni Association has been up to; and just to stay connected. If you know of any of your classmates or friends who want to join in, then please email: oakbayalumni@gmail.com and we will add them to the list! Thanks for asking.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

RANDI FALLS CLASS OF 1980



With the 2019-2020 school year half complete, we at Oak Bay High School have much to celebrate. The “new” school is now 4.5 years old and growing pains have eased. We’ve settled in and programmes and opportunities for students continue to grow.

Our choir teacher Tina Horwood was recognized as B.C.’s Outstanding Music Educator in the fall. The music program (Choral and Band) has grown over the years and presently we have 4 teachers instructing in the department. I hope Alumni who have participated in these programmes during their school years consider coming to one or more of our concerts! The Dance and Musical Theatre programmes are in constant motion with current productions including Evening of Dance, and Fiddler on the Roof opens in late February.

Our rugby pitch on the south side of the school has been re-established and hopefully we’ll open in the spring with home games for our Sr. and Jr. Barbs. The artificial turf on the east side of the school was “shedding” some of the surface fibers and will be completely replaced once the weather turns in spring. The Jack Wallace track is an on-going project. Our goal is to resurface the running track as well as add features to the internal oval field. Looking forward we hope to encourage more local groups to use the facility. Of particular note is the use of our school (and track) by the Canadian Francophone games in July 2020. Over 1200 youth competitions from across Canada will be using our school for one week competing in athletic skill events. The project is extensive and expensive. We plan to partner with the Alumni and Francophone games to release a “Go Fund Me” plea in February to raise funds for the Games and the track. Please watch for the launch of the Go Fund Me page or, please consider donating for this project through our school webpage [Make a Donation](#) button Oak Bay High School and the District will ensure you receive a tax receipt.

Athletic programs at Oak Bay continue to thrive and produce amazing results. Our school has by far the most “teacher coaches” in the District, and we rely heavily on our community coaches as well. The hours these coaches dedicate to their sport and our students are admirable and our results continue to benefit from that level of excitement.

Our students continue to excel academically in all areas. Preparation for post secondary is embedded in all our academic classes and with the phasing out of Provincial Exams; students are encouraged to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. Scholarship results are exceptionally strong with over 1.25 million dollars in scholarships and bursaries being offered to our graduating students. We have also strengthened our connections to Camosun College and Uvic by offering a number of “Dual credit” courses to our students. Further work continues with our local businesses and skills and trades opportunities to support students exploring future options.

All of our “Pillars of Excellence” build our learning community and support all our students in our community. We have much to be proud of at Oak Bay High School. If you haven’t yet come to see the “new” school, please consider this an invitation. Our future is built on a strong history with our Alumni.

Randi Falls, Principal and “Class of 1980”

50-Year Reunion

May 30, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
(Tour of new School)

6:00 p.m. at Uplands Golf Club
3300 Cadboro Bay Rd.
Food Stations for Meal Service
No Host Bar

Early Bird Price \$85 per person if paid by April 1,
After April 1, \$100

Email oakbay1970.50reunion@gmail.com
to register. Include your name, guest name and
complete e-transfer to the above email address.
Payment will be auto deposited to the
Reunion email account.

PLANNING A REUNION?

Let us know

<mailto:oakbayalumni@gmail.com>



MEET ONE OF YOUR ALUMNI

WHO: Janice Hemming (Hall)

- In addition to academics, I enjoyed both the sports and the arts programs
- My teachers/mentors guidance during those formative years was extremely beneficial in my life. I have fond memories of those times
- I still have wonderful lifelong friends from those years
- After attending UVIC, I worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Province of B.C.
- I retired after 29 years of Public Service and then became a certified Master Gardener
- I then started Green Apple Consulting, leading garden tours in Canada and the U.S.
- I have led, served and volunteered on several non-profit community boards
- Fundraising has always been of keen interest. From a very young age, my parents always instilled in me and my brother, the need to give back to the community

BOARD ROLE:

- Governance and Policy direction for the Alumni
- Compliance and transparency with the B.C. Society Act
- Chair of the Alumni Sub-Committee with senior school management and community members that raised \$127K for “Keys to our Success” - a campaign to purchase a Steinway piano for the School Fine Arts program in the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre
- Working with a graduating student to develop our Alumni Logo and developing Alumni Branding Material

**Jan Hemming,
Alumni Vice President
Class of '66**



INTERESTS:

- Interior and garden design; golfing, world politics; foodie and traveling experiences with my husband, family and friends; reading and playing the piano

FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BEING ON THE ALUMNI BOARD:

- Reconnecting with the school; Principal Falls and senior management
- Working with like-minded and fun colleagues to make a difference

RECENT READS:

- Becoming, Michelle Obama; and No Man's Land, David Baldacci

FAVOURITE DRINK:

- Caesar in a spicy rimmed tall glass, with lots of ice

FUN FACT: “Laugh often” is the best medicine

If you wish to profile a fellow alumnus,
<mailto:oakbayalumni@gmail.com>
 Attention: Newsletter Team

YOUR ALUMNI AT WORK



Goals for 2019/20:

- To continue to raise awareness about the OBHSAA and the work we do for the betterment of the school and to grow our data base of Alumni members
- Give back to the school through the “Keys to Our Success” campaign; Student Scholarships and school department grants.
- Develop our own Website
- Publish the first newsletter in a number of years

Alumni Achievements:

- We grew and have vetted our data base which currently includes 2,100 Alumnus

- Through the leadership of Jan Hemming the “Keys To Our Success” campaign raised over \$125,000 to purchase and provide ongoing support for a concert piano for the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre

We are very proud to report that the OBHSAA has to date contributed back to the school \$61,000 which includes a \$30,000 donation to the “Keys To Our Success” campaign and the balance going to grants for both the Fine Arts and Athletic Departments and to student scholarships.

- Our biggest success of the year was to go live with our very own website that was developed in house by an Oak Bay student over the course of her grade 11 and 12 years. Visit us at oakbayalumni.ca and let us know what you think.

- Another example of giving back to the school was to commission the design of a logo to be created by an Oak Bay student. We could not be happier with our “Brand”.

- This was not listed in our original goals but thank you to Heather Benson, Alumni Executive member. The OBHSAA now has copyright ownership of our logo and our web site name.

- See next page for Alumni Achievements honouring 2019 scholarship winners.



AGM HIGHLIGHTS

2019

Since 2005 the Oak Bay High School Alumni Association takes great pride in continuing to be relevant to the school we grew up at. Collectively the executive is truly passionate about helping the school achieve all the success it deserves

Top pic: John Falkins, President leads the 2019 AGM

Bottom pic: Mayor of Oak Bay Kevin Murdoch (Class of 88) with Molly Peters-Ivanova, (Class of 2019), OBHSAA Web Designer

ALUMNI GIVING BACK - SCHOLARSHIPS

For eleven years the Oak Bay High School Alumni Association has been distributing monies from interest earned in our endowment fund to worthy Oak Bay students. The first 2 scholarships are The Oak Bay High School Legacy Scholarship and the Oak Bay High School Alumni De Humanitate Scholarship. The recipients are selected by the Alumni Association Scholarship Committee based largely on students who most exemplify Oak Bay High Schools' "Four Pillars of Excellence" - Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts and Community Leadership & Philanthropy. The "Legacy Scholarship" also recognizes a student who is a direct descendant of an Oak Bay Alumnus.

In addition, for the last 3 years the Alumni Association, in partnership with Scotia Bank and the Rotary Foundation, has also contributed \$500 to the Sno'yuyuth Legacy Scholarship. This \$1,500 scholarship is given to an indigenous student graduating from Oak Bay each year.

Winner, 2019 Oak Bay High School Alumni Legacy Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 was Leah Taylor Wallace Smith. Leah is enrolled at the University of Ottawa and is studying International Development and Globalization. In her spare time Leah works at the Canadian House of Commons as a Page.

Winner 2019 Oak Bay High School Alumni De Humanitate Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 was Emmett Hodgins. Emmett is enrolled at Humber College in an Undergraduate Degree program studying Jazz piano. His goal is to become a professional musician.



NEW BURSARY FOR GRADE 12 STUDENTS

THE RICK SENKLER LEGACY FUND has been established by the Oak Bay High School Alumni Association in honour of Rick Senkler ('62) to provide a Grade 12 student who needs financial assistance with the many expenses of their graduating year. A committee of Oak Bay High School teachers will select the recipient of this bursary. It will be awarded annually through funds advanced in October and February. In this academic year the full amount will be given in February. Criteria for the bursary are: financial need, a Grade 12 student in good standing and able to graduate, one who had regular attendance in Grade 11, and has passing grades in all subjects.

Rick Senkler died in 2016. He attended Oak Bay Junior and Senior High and made his career in Victoria as a chartered accountant. He was active in many volunteer organizations in Victoria and North Saanich and the legacy fund honours his memory.

Anyone wishing to donate to this fund should make cheques payable to School District 61, Oak Bay Alumni Association Endowment Fund – Rick Senkler Bursary. All donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt.



Jack Wallace Memorial Track Resurfacing Project

The track is now 25 years old and needs to be resurfaced. It was originally done as a project for the 1994 Commonwealth Games.



There are two ways to contribute:

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| <p>1. The 2020 Francophone Games are coming to Oak Bay in July 2020. The Francophone Games organizing committee has set up a GO FUND ME (GMF) page to contribute towards the resurfacing of the track with the goal of reaching \$20,000. Link below:</p> | <p>2. The Alumni Association is supporting this fundraising effort and will match the GOFUNDME funds up to \$20,000. If you would like to contribute, make cheque payable to the Alumni Association with the J.W. Track Resurfacing in the memo line. Charitable Tax Receipts will be provided for this donation.</p> |
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[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=homepage_norma/search&term=Jack Wallace track](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=homepage_norma/search&term=Jack+Wallace+track)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2020 INDUCTEES

<p>Murray Allen Heather Benson Connor Braid Keith Butler Yeta DiLalla</p>	<p>Nick Gilbert Mitch Gudgeon Andreas Hestler Tom Holmes James Kirkpatrick</p>	<p>Maddie Secco Adam Straith Josh Howatson Kathleen Leahy Mike Sheffer</p>	<p>Jack Showers Graham Taylor Chris Trumpy Jr. Dave Thomson Sean White</p>
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