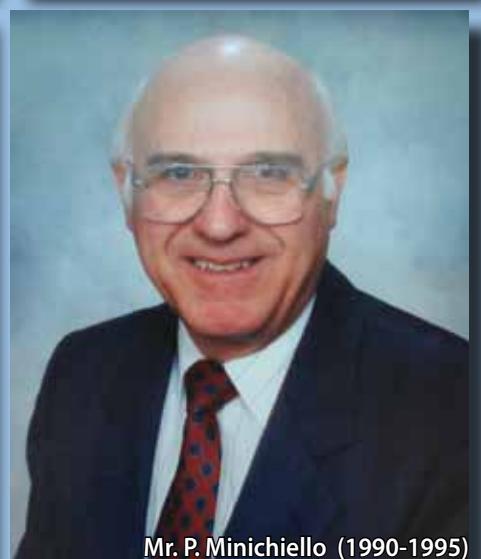
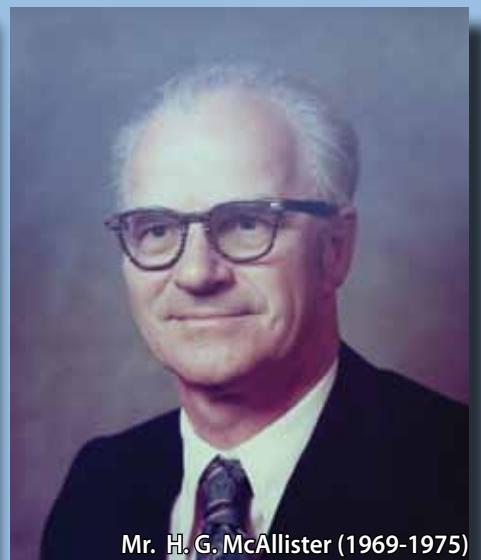
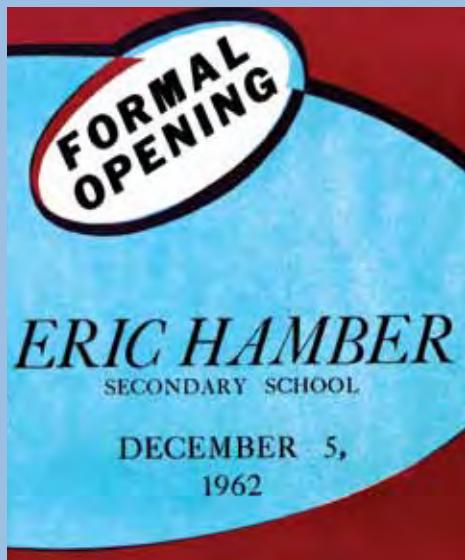


# WELCOME HOME GRIFFINS

Eric Hamber's 50th Anniversary  
Friday, May 17, 2013







## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Eric Hamber Secondary's golden anniversary—a celebration of 50 years of excellence.

I am pleased that so many people have come to share their memories of Eric Hamber and reconnect with current and former staff members and with friends from their time at Eric Hamber.

In 1962, when students were transitioning from King Edward High School to Eric Hamber, the Principal, Mr. Newberry, included these words of advice in the school yearbook to the students:

*It will be your duty to carry some of the traditions of King Edward High School to your new school. You can make it a worthy successor and to you will go the honour of being the first graduating class in this fine new school.*

The many students who have come through the doors of Eric Hamber in the past 50 years have established their own traditions that have

contributed to the wonderful learning environment that distinguishes Eric Hamber Secondary School. They have truly made this school a worthy successor to King Edward High School. Our students are proud to be Griffins and to carry on the traditions that were established by those who preceded them.

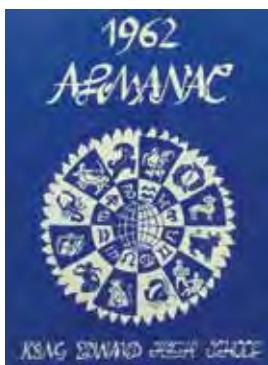
The facilities have changed over time with additions to the school, but the sense of pride, the strong personal connections, and the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors have remained unchanged.

Due to the hard work and commitment of alumni, staff members, and student volunteers, we are happy to provide you with this opportunity to reconnect with your school.

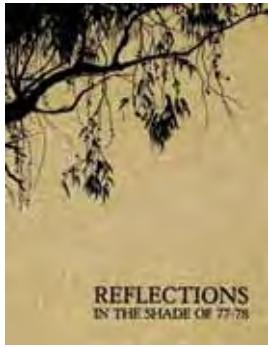
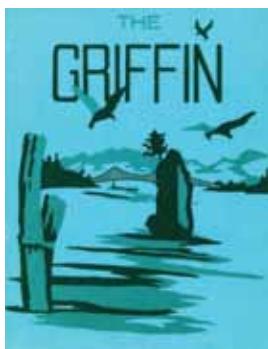
Dianne Good  
Principal, 2008-2013  
Respicē·Aspice·Prospice

# EHSS 50<sup>th</sup> COMMITTEE MESSAGE

## Happy Birthday Hamber!



*The Eric Hamber 50th Anniversary Committee welcomes you all to the Hamber 50th Anniversary Celebration!*



**T**oday we are here to celebrate 50 years of Hamber education, athletics and Hamber community history. Our Hamber 50th Celebration is about honouring our history and remembering those staff and students who have gone before us, as well as those who are here today. Together, we are entrusted with the important task of ensuring that Hamber traditions persist, grow, and are long celebrated.

The world and our community have changed rapidly during the past half century. Looking back through historical records has given the people who worked on event preparations an amazing opportunity to see how the stories of the school have been intertwined with the stories of our neighbourhood, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia, and even the nation itself. You will see and witness many of these connections at the displays and during the events this celebration weekend.

We are particularly excited about our current students' engagement and interest in life as it was "back then" as they worked diligently to assist the organizing committee with the many facets of event preparation. Interestingly, many correlations of the past and present have been mentioned by our student volunteers. All of these are welcomed as strong indicators that life at Hamber really hasn't changed since many of us travelled these halls. The staff, student commitment to education, athletics, honoured traditions, and unique community spirit continue with great respect for a wonderful past, vibrant present, and hopeful future. Truly, our school motto—Respice, Aspice, Prosperc—has life in its words.



We would like to recognize the students, staff, retired staff, alumni, and the current Hamber parent volunteers who have offered endless hours in preparing for this, the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Eric Hamber Secondary School.

We hope this celebration will give you an opportunity to renew friendships and reconnect while traveling down memory lane.

May the community of Hamber students, staff, administrators, parents, and alumni that prepares the Eric Hamber Centennial Celebration in 50 short years feel as connected and engaged as we have.

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*

*—Ralph Waldo Emerson*

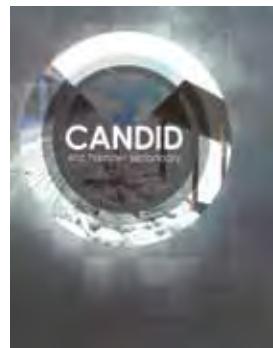
Congratulations on the first 50 years, Eric Hamber Secondary School!

Sincerely,

The Eric Hamber 50th Anniversary  
Celebration Committee



*"Look to the past, Look to the present, Look to the future"*



# Table of Contents

2	Principals' List
3	Principal's Message
4	Committee Message
6	Event Schedule
7	Volunteers
8	Respice · Aspice · Prospice
12	Gym Dedications
14	Map
15	Sponsors

# EVENT SCHEDULE

When it all happens

## Eric Hamber 50th Anniversary Celebration

Time	Description	Location
4:00 pm	Registration	Main Entrance
4:00–10:00pm	Decade Rooms	Main Floor
6:30pm	Official Opening	Cafeteria
7:00–10:00pm	Meet and Greet	Cafeteria

## The History of Hamber's Musical Theatre

Gala event—Casual

Time	Description	Location
3:00–3:45pm	Meet and Greet	Cafeteria
3:45pm	Doors Open	Auditorium
4:00–5:45pm	Showtime	Auditorium

# Project Hamber 50

## Thank you to Administration, Staff, and Students!

Our sincere appreciation to all who worked on our project preparing for this amazing Eric Hamber 50th Anniversary Celebration. The team included current administration, staff, students and parents, retired teachers, administrators, alumni, family, and friends.

A very special thank you to Mr. Ireland and his team, for endless hours of printing, event program design and a list far too long to include; Josh Siu for his design of our Hamber 50th Block and his never-ending patience with BL and the Alumni Team; Ms Dianne Good, Principal—for her great contribution of time and follow-through on major projects in preparation for our event...to name a few, these include the Hamber 50th command room and soon to be Eric Hamber Archive Club room, the restoration of Grad composites and returning them for display through the school halls, the painting of the cafeteria, organizing the event cakes and food, and so much more. And a very special thank you to the Hamber office staff who has been there every step of the way and are volunteering at our event.

Thank you to the many alumni who contributed personal collections for our event displays and Hamber archives. Most of all, thanks to Andrea Nicholson, Grad of 1980, our "Boss Lady." She was definitely the hub of our wheel.



### Special Thanks To...

#### Mr. Tim Ireland

—your classroom will never be the same!

#### Mr. Ireland's EDP Team

##### Candace Tam

—Printing and Event Program Design

##### Fiona Siu

—Printing and Event Program Design

##### Jacey Cruz

—Event Poster

#### WEB Team

##### Josh Siu

—www.hamber50.ca

##### Wilson Hsu

##### Tiffany Quon

##### Jasper Lam

##### Jeanne Chan

##### Hayley Eng

#### Eric Hamber Archive Club

##### Anika Cheng

##### Christie Chow

##### Jessica Ma

##### Josh Siu

##### Emily Pan

##### Serena Xue

##### Jennifer Yan

##### Ulysses Zhen

#### Mr. Jeff Overgaard Mr. Indy Sehmbi

—Hamber Athletic Alumni Events

#### Eric Hamber Staff

##### Karson Chan

(Class of 1972)

—Retired Hamber Engineer

#### Hamber Service Club Student Volunteers

#### Hamber 50th Banner Painting Team

#### Mark Leiren-Young (Class of 1980)

#### Mark Donnelly (Class of 1978)

#### Ian Ronalds Architect (Class of 1966)

—Hamber 50th Venue Map

#### John Oliver Secondary Alumni —JO100 display donations

#### Lorne Turcott JO100

—Hamber 50th Event ID Tag templates

#### Jane Yip JO100

—Hamber 50th Event Volunteer



Zak Vescera is a Grade 10 student at Eric Hamber who wishes he was half as interesting as the people he interviewed.

# RESPICE · ASPICE · PROSPICE

## The Story of Eric Hamber Secondary by Zak Vescera

The Griffin, the strange mythological creature from the Eric Hamber family coat-of-arms, was intentionally chosen as the school mascot and has been an integral part of Eric Hamber Secondary School life since the school opened in 1962. The Griffin is a creature that has the head, beak and wings of an eagle and the body and legs of a lion. Said to have originated the East, perhaps India, to the Greeks, it symbolized vigilance, swiftness, and strength—attributes particularly desirable in all winners. As hoped at the opening of our school, over this past 50 years, our teams and our students are well known as the "Eric Hamber Griffins." Eric Hamber Secondary has distinguished itself for its endless pursuit of excellence. In athletics, the arts, academics, or as a community, Hamberites have consistently set themselves apart through their passion, determination and talent.

Fifty years ago, Eric Hamber didn't exist. A few years later, it was one of Vancouver's largest schools with twelve hundred students, fifty-six staff members, athletic teams, clubs, and a school spirit that still brought us all together today. So how did that all begin?

Part of it started where a lot of great things begin—a school. To be specific, King Edward High School.

Founded in 1890, Vancouver's first high school, King Edward was almost as old as Vancouver itself. It boasted alumni like Olympian Percy Williams, internationally renowned DJ and rock and roll legend Red Robinson, philanthropist Cecil Green, and teacher Annie B. Jamieson (who became the namesake for a local elementary school). King Ed High School helped shape the identity of British Columbia. A King Ed student helped shape the identity of Eric Hamber. That student was Richard Lott. In 1961, Richard was a Grade 11 student at King Ed. He enjoyed being in a school with so many traditions, and was looking forward to graduating with his friends underneath the name of King Ed.

But King Ed was showing its age and was slated to be converted into an adult education centre. Richard would be transferred into a new school—but which one? None of the existing schools could possibly handle all the students and faculty from King Ed.

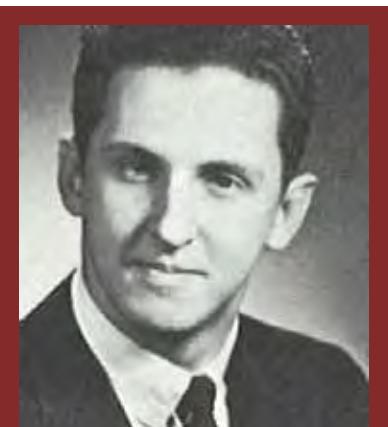
Richard's question was answered a few weeks later in his art classroom. His class was given a project: to design a new crest for what was to be Vancouver's newest high school, Eric Hamber Secondary. "We were just shown other crests, like the one from John Oliver, and were asked to come up with something," said Lott. "It was a class project, not a formal competition."

Everyone in the class sketched out a crest and handed them into the teacher, who would choose the best to become Hamber's new emblem.

Richard later admitted that he didn't particularly like his art teacher—she later refused to write him a reference letter—but he did have a good idea for a design. Richard's art project, recognizable today as the iconic Hamber Griffin, was chosen as a blueprint for the new school's crest. After adding the late Lieutenant Governor Eric Hamber's racing colors (blue and maroon) the crest was complete. To this day, Lott's art class project can be seen throughout the school.

"When you're starting something new you don't know what it's going to become," said Lott. Ironically enough, the same thing could be said about Hamber.

Despite a dashing new crest, when Hamber's doors first opened it was a disaster, a sorry replacement for King Ed. The school was still under construction when it opened its doors, and the track field was a sea of dirt and mud. Most of the



Richard ("Dick") Lott graduated from Hamber in 1963. He went on to study at the Vancouver School of Art (now the Emily Carr University of Art and Design), and has since been involved in multiple art projects throughout the city of Vancouver, including helping design the Vancouver Aquarium, Science World, and the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

*track field was a sea of dirt and mud."*

# The Story of Eric Hamber Secondary Continued...

classrooms didn't even have blackboards, and classes were regularly interrupted—much to the delight of students (and sometimes teachers)—by construction crews.

It was even worse logically. To fill the new school, students were pulled from schools besides King Ed, like Sir Winston Churchill, John Oliver Secondary, and Prince of Wales Secondary. This meant everyone had their schedule, their peer groups, their familiar school lives torn apart by the divide. Hamber wasn't a community when it opened; it was a melting pot.

Even the staff was divided. Many of them were senior teachers from King Ed who felt they had seniority over the teachers from the other schools.

All of the teachers had established po-

sitions at their schools, subjects they taught, subjects that might now be taught by another teacher from a rival school.

"King Ed was the oldest school with huge traditions," said Lott on the transition. "We all felt cheated for not getting to graduate from King Ed. Everything was sort of being established, and therefore it wasn't like something that every year things improved, and like the teachers all got along. It was just new."

Because there were shortages of teachers who taught certain subjects, some educators were forced to teach subjects with which they had almost no experience. Teacher, Evan Joubert was given music classes to teach—despite being a science teacher who admits he "has trouble tuning a radio."

In fact, Joubert's initiation at Hamber was anything but peaceful.

"I was married out east in Montreal and drove a week after the wedding, with my wife, across Canada to Vancouver," said Joubert cheerfully. "When I arrived, I phoned the school board to find out where I was supposed to be working, and they mentioned Eric Hamber Secondary School!"

But Joubert would soon face the challenges of a new school—and by soon, I mean about five minutes later. Joubert



Evan Joubert retired in December 1996, after 35 years of teaching at Eric Hamber, stating that soon, "Kids will come in and say I taught their grandparents." He enjoys running into and talking with his old students regularly.



went to check the phone book for Hamber's address; only to discover it wasn't there! He had to call back to find the address.

The next morning, Joubert drove up to a teacher's nightmare.

"I drove up and discovered ditches all around the half-built school and had to step over planks like going into an old castle to get in!" said Joubert. "And I remember more or less saying, 'Will I ever get out?'"



Nora McDermott retired in 1987, after being the Physical Education, Department Head at Hamber for 25 years. She still fondly remembers trying to get kids away from television and onto the track.

Hamber needed leadership. It needed to become a community—fast.

The task fell to Eric Hamber's first Principal, Mr. Ken McKenzie.

The former vice-principal at John Oliver, McKenzie was no stranger to running a school. He made sure that students treated Hamber as an independent community, not a collection of different schools.

He never mentioned King Ed in his addresses, focusing on giving Hamber its own identity. McKenzie also became a huge advocate for the formation of athletic programs. Once the coach for John Oliver's basketball team, McKenzie knew the importance of athletics in creating school spirit and image.

And considering the school was named after the late Lieutenant Governor Eric Hamber, a renowned sportsman, he knew athletics should be at the centre of school traditions. He appointed Nora McDermott, one of his former students as the Physical Education, Department Head.

McDermott was instrumental in establishing Hamber's position as one of the new athletic beacons in BC. Besides managing Hamber athletics, she coached basketball, volleyball, field hockey, soccer, and track and field. "It took a long time to get Hamber kids going. But they were good athletes." McDermott recalled. "I think it may have been television that made them hard to get going!" she mused.

Whatever it was, McDermott fixed it fast. Athletics soon tied Eric Hamber together as students put aside their differences to root for their new home team. "When track meets started, the whole stadium was filled with people cheering."

"He [McKenzie] tried to start the tradition of academic excellence at Hamber, of athletic excellence, and of community," said Joubert. "And he succeeded!"

Soon more sports teams were formed, as well as clubs and arts programs. Theatre soon became a tradition at Hamber, with an annual musical produced every year.

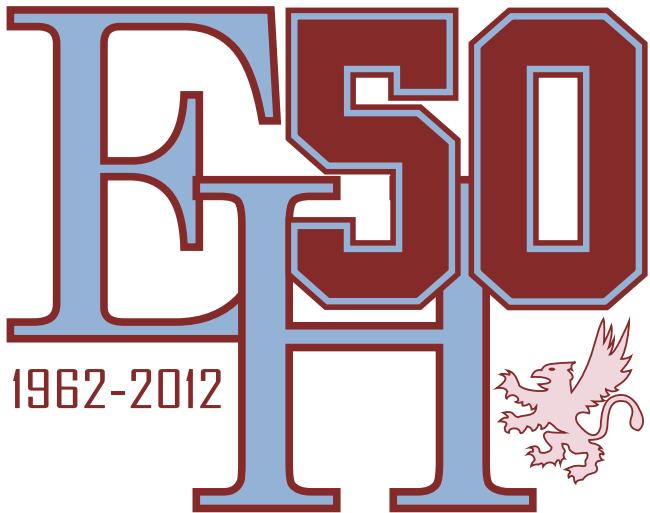
"When you go from an established school with traditions to a new one with none," said Lott, "you have to make your own."

McDermott said, "The kids got involved in things and it was so much fun for them! I can't believe that kids go to school, and then after classes have ended they just go back home!"

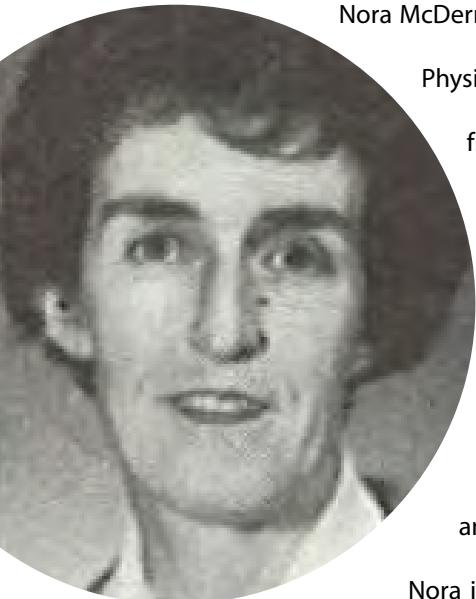
Many of them don't. Walk around the school on any given evening and you'll hear heavy drilling in the basketball court, see teams training endlessly on the pitch, and find drama students tirelessly running lines or rehearsing scenes for Hamber's next theatrical production.

Since Hamber was founded world superpowers have collapsed, your cell phone became more powerful than early NASA space shuttles, and 24 James Bond films were released.

Hamber is so much more than a school. It's our home. A place where students make friends, learn lessons in and outside the classroom, and become the people they will be in adulthood. This school has thrived for a half century and will continue to do so for years to come.



# ERIC H GYMNA DEDIC



Nora McDermott was a Physical Education Teacher, Coach, and the

Physical Education Department Head at Eric Hamber

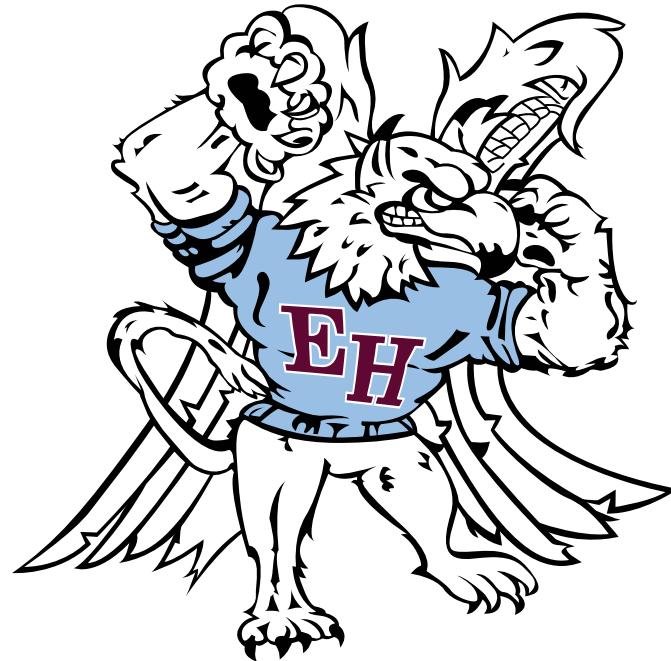
from its opening in 1962 until her retirement in  
1987. She was highly respected by both  
staff and students for her capacity for  
hard work, her expertise, and her  
very effective teaching style. Nora's  
teams were always very competitive  
and won numerous championships.

Nora is an inductee to the BC Sports Hall of  
Fame, Canadian Basketball Sports Hall of Fame, and  
the UBC Sports Hall of Fame.

## THE NORA McDERMOTT GYMNASIUM



# AMBER GYMNASIUM ATION



Bruce Ashdown was a true Hamber original. He was a Physical Education Teacher and Coach at Eric Hamber from its opening in 1962 until his retirement in 1993. A great athlete himself, Bruce shared his love of sports with his students and the athletes he coached during 100 seasons of Secondary School Athletics at Hamber and its predecessor King Edward High School. Bruce was a great encourager with an endless supply of good-humoured praise. Colleagues remember him as a lively source of expertise and information. His energy and enthusiasm were wonderfully contagious.



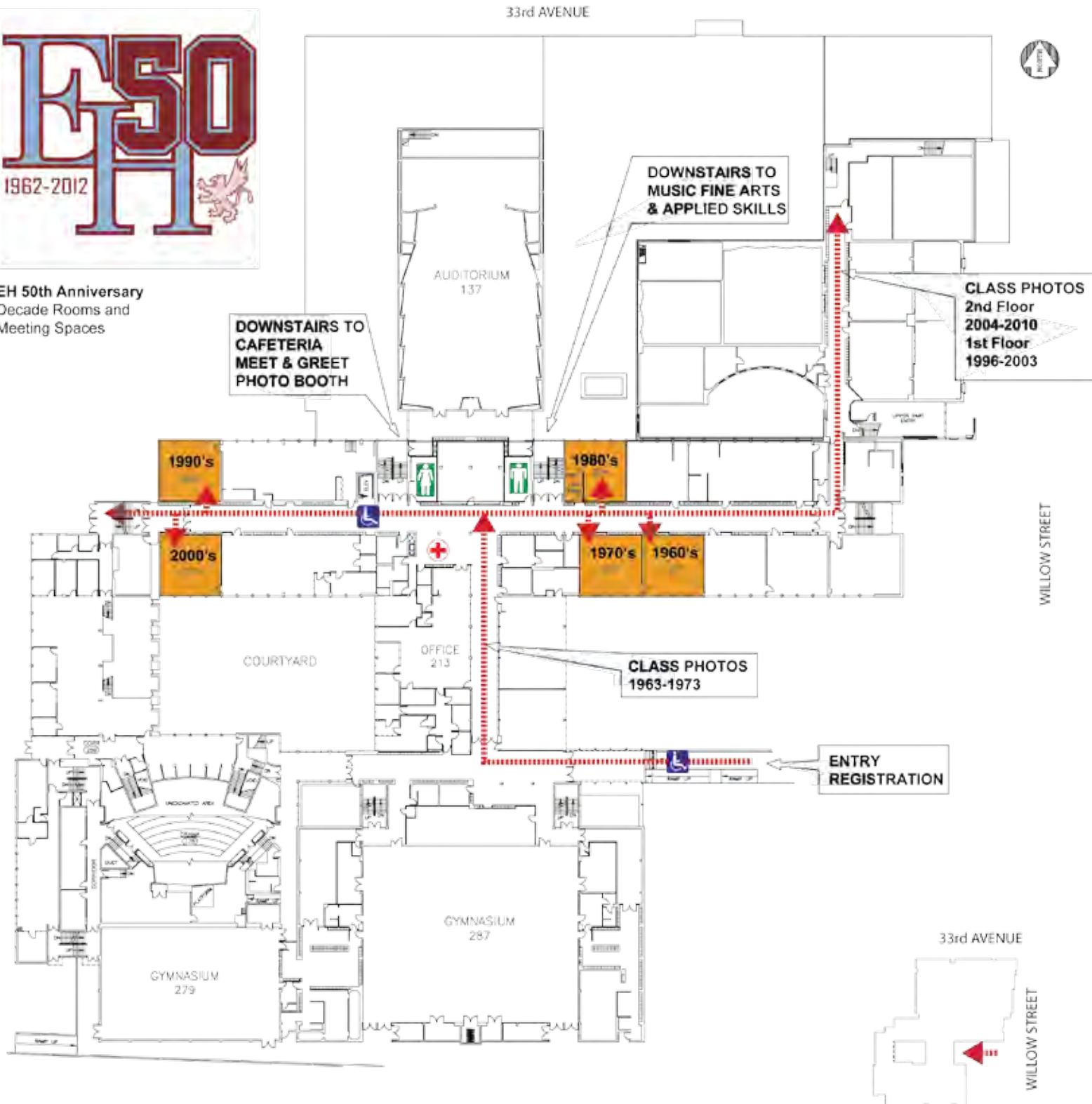
THE  
**BRUCE ASHDOWN  
GYMNASIUM**

# MAP

Just in case you forgot your way around. (The pool is still on the fourth floor.)



## EH 50th Anniversary Decade Rooms and Meeting Spaces



ERIC HAMBER  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# SPONSORS

## Thank you for your support!

We appreciate the following businesses and organizations who have sponsored the Eric Hamber 50th Anniversary Event.

**ARTRYAN**



Photo Booth Sponsors – These alumni made the booth possible

Dr. Frank Chiu, MD, EH'78  
Dr. Vincent Tai, DMD, EH'78  
Anonymous, EH'78  
Mr. Richard Loo, B.Sc, MBA, EH'78  
Mr. Henry Cheung, B. Pharm, EH'78  
Mr. Kin Tam, BBA, CGA, EH'78  
Mr. Raymond Yue, B.Sc, EH'77  
Mr. Edward Li, P. Eng, MBA, EH'77

Raymond Chow Artist – King Ed High Alumni

Linda Lum (Class of 1976)

Uprising Breads

Bela Construction – Joe Cheng (Class of 1973)

**cambie flowers**

[sales@cambieflowers.com](mailto:sales@cambieflowers.com) | [www.cambieflowers.com](http://www.cambieflowers.com)

**Pamela Young**  
Cell: 604-880-8810



5570 Cambie Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Canada V5Z 3A2

Tel: 604.321.8366  
1.800.680.8680

Cambie Flowers – Donated the flowers for the event



Hot Wax Photo Booth - Ozzie Kipnes (Class of 1984)



Stephen Kaplan (Class of 1979) Magician - Dr. Strange



Sign-A-Rama Event Banners

Lianne Cohen Photography (Class of 1983)

50

# HAMBER

Those happy golden years.

WEST WING AND OFFICE  
TAKING SHAPE

Printed in Canada at Premium Printing Ltd.