

# ALUMNEWS

FALL 1992

PUBLISHED BY THE VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Three Women Making an Environmental Difference

MARY FERGUSON, A GRADUATE of the VCC Volunteer Management Program, was always conscious of environmental issues, yet they seemed distant. One day, her daughter Clara, nine years old at the time, brought home a school project in which the contents of the household's garbage were to be weighed and examined daily. As the family scrutinized the various articles of garbage spread out on the kitchen floor, Mary was shocked not only by the amount, but by the high portion of recyclables in the garbage. Environmental issues no longer seemed so distant, and it was then that Mary realized how one person or family could indeed make a difference. Mary's environmental interest and concern translated into starting to "develop a program to help people make changes—enough people (will) make an impact."

Mary teamed up with two other equally talented women, Brenda Sawada, another VCC Volunteer Management Graduate, and Carol Journeay, to start up The Sage Foundation, a unique environmental awareness group.

Formed in early 1990, the goal of The Sage Foundation is to translate environmental concerns into actions. Prior to the formation of Sage, nothing

existed for the average citizen who was concerned about the environment, yet unsure of what could be done, and perhaps swayed by the notion that individual actions have little impact.

EcoMotion, one of Sage's more recent projects, used the slogan "you can make a difference." EcoMotion was implemented through facts and simple solutions given in informal talks and checklist-style pamphlets (printed on

100% post-consumer recycled paper, of course!). For example, "a group of 20 people refusing two (styrofoam) cups per day amounts to 14,600 cups a year," is thought provoking and indicates the measurable benefit of choosing to bring your own mug.

According to Mary, Director of

Public Relations, the successful response to EcoMotion can be attributed to the "positive delivery and reinforcement to encourage people to take small steps and changes and celebrate the successes, as opposed to using harsh gloom and doom tactics."

"The optimism of the action is better than the pessimism of the thought," is one of Program Development Director Brenda Sawada's cherished quotes reflecting her belief in positive action.

Brenda and Mary met



Founding members of the Sage Foundation (left to right) Brenda Sawada, Carol Journeay & Mary Ferguson.

through a former instructor in the Volunteer Management Program at VCC. Although they took the course at different times, both offer positive comments about the Volunteer Management Program. They speak warmly of instructors Marilyn McClaren and Marie MacDonald as "inspiring," and commend the practicality of the program. The philosophy of volunteering really struck a chord with Brenda and Mary.

The third founding director of The Sage Foundation, Carol Journeay, quickly recognized the effectiveness of volunteers at Mary and Brenda's "Sage school of (very) professional volunteer management." With a commitment to planning, strategy and co-operative support while discovering unusual, even playful ways to get environmental actions underway, Carol provides the strong, creative vision for The Sage Foundation.

To sum up the Sage Foundation, the words of Margaret Mead are fitting. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." ♦

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."**

*Margaret Mead*

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Dear Alumni,

On May 21, 1992, VCC President John Cruikshank announced that due to a College Executive Committee decision, the Alumni program would receive no funding after June 30, 1992. However, due to perseverance and belief in the Alumni Association, the Executive Director and several members of the Alumni Board of Directors wrote up a proposal for a restructured alumni program. The plan was approved, and the new Alumni Association is currently under the auspices of the Educational Foundation, with an Alumni Advisory Committee and one part-time co-ordinator.

The value of an alumni program is not as some think, simply another way to garner funds from former graduates. While financial support for scholarships is always welcome, that is not the sole mission of an Alumni Association. An Alumni Association has several functions which validate the maintenance of alumni records, membership and communication. In the words of former Executive Director, Barbara Alldritt, the alumni are "natural recruiters and mentors for new students for career, technical and vocational programs. The knowledge and contacts they have in the community can assist students and alumni with career placement and development—issues that ranked at the top of student concerns according to a study conducted by Keith Murray, Department Chair of Business Administration programs at Langara Campus."

Through efforts such as the Alumni Benefits Club, Career Day and *ALUMNEWS*, the Alumni Association attempts to offer something back to the graduates of VCC while connecting them with future graduates of VCC. In order to serve the alumni better, we need your input and help. If you have suggestions or comments, or would like to volunteer your time, please call the Alumni Office at 871-7147.

Katja Pantzar  
Alumni Relations Co-ordinator

*ALUMNEWS* is published by the VCC Alumni Association for all former students of Langara, City Centre (VVI) and King Edward. The Association serves the common interests of VCC alumni, current students and the College.

Your comments are welcome! Write the editor with any comments, suggestions or grad gossip for *ALUMNEWS*.

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### LANGARA

**Jeff Bumstead**, International Business, 1992, is off to Japan for two years to study international business skills. While in Japan, Jeff plans to assist in developing VCC's International Co-op Placement Program.

**Barbara Ing**, Accounting Cooperative, 1992, is currently working for the North American Land Corporation as an Accounts Receivable Clerk, while attending the Certified General Accountants Association of B.C. for the C.G.A. designation.

**Hai V. Le**, Arts and Sciences, 1992, is currently attending Simon Fraser University and completing a political science degree. He plans to write the foreign service exam. Hai is writing a novel in his spare time.

**Leanne Leduc**, Professional Photography Program, 1992, has set up a photography studio with her husband. Their business offers a unique service—clients can have portraits created in the location of their choice, in colour, black and white, or hand coloured.

**Lorne M. Martinuik**, Realty Appraisal Program, 1991, is working as a real estate agent and enjoying doing just that!

### KING EDWARD

**Patricia M. Jones**, Teaching E.S.L. Adults, 1992, spent the summer in Montaigne-Le-Blanc, France, practicing French at the Summer Centre of the Arts.

**Heather Kean**, Volunteer Management Course 1992, was hired for a position with the Richmond Hospice Association, while still enrolled in the VCC Program.

### CITY CENTRE

**Anita Moore**, Legal Assistant Program, 1992, is working as a legal assistant in Fort St. John and reportedly survived her first winter there!

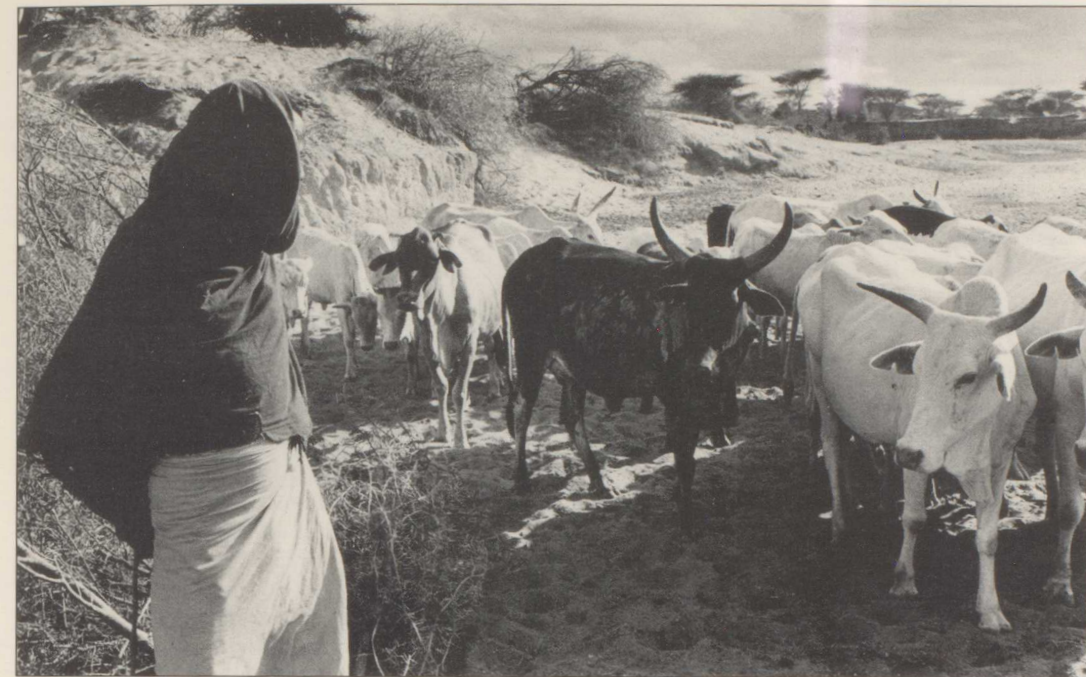
**Mary Arts**, Telecommunications Management, 1992, is currently working as a Telecommunications Co-ordinator for I.C.B.C. in North Vancouver.

**Kimberlee Rose**, Telecommunications Management, 1991, is working as an Information Systems Administrator, while attending Simon Fraser University and working towards a degree in Business Administration.

**Tracey M. Gibbons**, Jewelry Art and Design, 1991, is attending North Island College in Campbell River and working towards a Fine Arts major in Sculpture, minor in Jewelry. Tracey spent the summer months building a new jewelry studio.

### WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR LIFE?

Stay in touch and help us keep our records up to date. Tell us the latest and the greatest! Tell us about paid or volunteer work, hobbies, marriage, children, and any other special achievements. **New Address? Please let us know!**



Left, Eastern Africa, an Orma tribesman herds his stock through a dry river bed in search of water.

Below, Southern Ethiopia, Andrew Bennett zooms in on the world for an amazed young Ethiopian girl.

## Langara Grad Experiences Ethiopia

WHEN SHOOTING PICTURES, Andrew Bennett, a graduate of the VCC Professional Photography Program, looks for the contrasts, the "good shots" as he fondly refers to them.

Andrew Bennett's interest and ability in photography have led him to far away places such as Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic and parts of India and Africa.

Andrew recalls his first eye-opening trip to Ethiopia in 1985, where he was taken by his guide in the middle of the night for

some sightseeing—with a guerilla convoy. Perched between assault rifles and other guerilla paraphernalia, food for the two week stay consisted of "tea, biscuits, tomatoes and the smallest bit of meat." There were no roads to speak of, the truck made its own path through the dark night. It was on these excursions that

Andrew saw first hand the brutality of war, of people who had no clean drinking water and little food.

Prior to embarking on these excursions, Andrew managed a photo finishing lab in Grand Prairie. Despite opportunities for advancement and financial security, he longed for a change. A conversation with a church pastor, David Mackenzie, who worked with the development agency Hope International, offered a prospect.

Hope International shone through and Andrew ended up taking two trips to Africa as a result. Through Hope International, Andrew was able to earn pocket money while attending the Photography Program at VCC (the pastor had encouraged him to enter the program), and travel to faraway places as a photographer and aid

worker. While other students did their second year practicums at photography studios around the city, Andrew was off to Ethiopia again.

Andrew enjoyed the Photography Program, mentioning Lyle Larrigan and his classmates. Of his classmates, Andrew says, "our class gets together for dim sum, and keeps in touch."

Upon graduation from the Photography Program, Andrew started working fulltime for Hope International.

Andrew's face lights up as he tells dozens of stories about his experiences in Ethiopia, a visually stunning country he has visited several times. On many of the trips, the Hope crew travelled by LandCruiser. Often when they stopped at villages, a mass of children swarmed around the side mirrors of the Toyota to gaze at their reflections, fascinated by this never before seen novelty.

In another story, one that is less lighthearted, yet has a happy ending, Andrew tells of the incredibly long journeys people in parts of Ethiopia would make to reach dry river

beds. Travelling by night due to the extreme heat, the excursion would often take six hours of walking in each direction. Waiting in lines for several hours and having to dig down six or eight feet for dirty water was not uncommon. Ironically, the liquid that took so much energy to retrieve was often the cause of disease and subsequent death.

One of the projects which Andrew worked with was a water handpump project. The pumps were installed over bore holes that drilled into the dry earth, extracting the natural streams of water located far beneath the surface. With several dozen pumps installed, crystal-clear drinking water, free of impurities, was available and walking distances reduced.

Although Andrew no longer works for Hope on a fulltime basis, he does take pictures for them on a freelance basis. Andrew recently completed a two year stint working in the microfilm lab of ICBC, where he met his fiancée. They plan to wed in the new year. ♦





## You're Invited to the Dental Assisting & Reception Homecoming!

The Dental Assisting & Reception Alumni is proud to announce the first ever Dental Assisting & Reception Homecoming Reunion on March 4, 1992 to celebrate 30 years of Dental Assisting at VCC!

Dental Assisting & Reception Programs at VCC have gone through several name and location changes due to growing and changing programs. Former Dental Assisting instructor and Department Head, Shendra Collin, remembers the early years of the Dental Assisting program. "I remember the energy of the students. At one point there

was a double load of students, so students had to be divided into two shifts, (but) we were too busy to worry about not having enough space or equipment."

To mark this significant anniversary, the Dental Assisting & Reception Department at VCC is putting on a Homecoming Reunion dinner, with a no host bar. All Dental Assisting & Reception graduates are cordially invited. **Fabulous doorprizes and raffles include a colour television set, a microwave and much, much more!** We're hoping you can join us for the Dental Assisting & Reception

Homecoming on Thursday, March 4, 1993 at VCC City Center Campus! Doors open at 6:30 pm.

- If you would like to help out with this event, call the Alumni Office at 871-7147.

- To order tickets, just fill out the form and join us! Tickets are \$30 if purchased by January 30, 1993, after January 30th tickets are \$40.

- During the past year, the Dental Assisting & Reception Endowment Fund has been established with the VCC Educational Founda-

tion. Over \$5,000 has been raised and the interest earned will provide financial support to deserving students in the program.

- This is your chance to participate!

- Please consider contributing an additional \$30 (or more towards the Endowment Fund) in celebration of the reunion. And why not challenge your employer to do the same. Remember, every dollar raised will be matched by the Provincial Government.

JOIN THE  
CLASS OF 72'

MARCH 4, 1993

FOR THE 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
REUNION!



### REGISTRATION FOR THE DENTAL ASSISTING AND RECEPTION HOMECOMING

☐ I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$30 each (after January 30, 1993 tickets will be \$40)

☐ I would like to make a donation to the VCC Educational Foundation and receive a tax deductible receipt for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

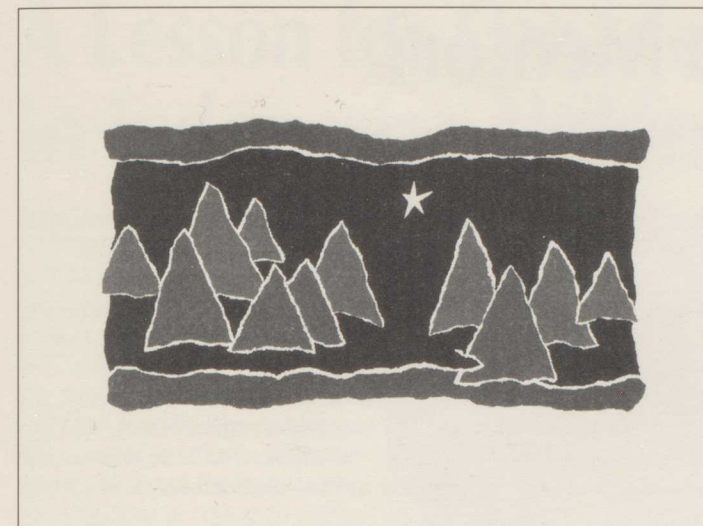
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (office) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduating Year \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque enclosed      Please charge my ☐ Visa      ☐ Mastercard

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alumni Relations, 1155 East Broadway, Box 24700, Station F, Vancouver, BC V5N 5V1 Or call: (604) 871-7147



# SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The Educational Foundation is getting into the greeting card business. VCC's friends can now raise funds for students each time they buy a package of our non-denominational "Christmas" cards. Actually, "Christmas" isn't exactly the right word. Keeping in mind the different cultures of the VCC community, the foundation's card is suitable for people of many faiths who extend season's greetings.

If your household or business is sending Hanukkah, Christmas or greeting cards this winter, we'll make it easier by eliminating the selection and shopping steps. And, although we can imprint a corporate logo, don't ask us to sign and address them for you!

Profits, along with a dollar-for-dollar match from the provincial government, go directly into the student aid endowment fund at Vancouver Community College.

You can help provide scholarships and bursaries for VCC students by wishing your family and friends season's greetings with the Educational Foundation's cards. A box of 12 cards is \$11.95. Imprinting is approximately \$60 per 250 cards. To order, call the foundation office at 871-7173/7174. Cards are also available through all three campus bookstores. The card design features medium green trees on a blue background with purple borders at top and bottom. ♦

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION!

Thursday, November 19, 1992

4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

British Columbia Club, 2nd Floor, 750 Pacific Blvd S  
in the Plaza of Nations

Tickets: \$20.00 per person.

Includes hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and cash bar.  
Avoid disappointment, purchase tickets early by calling 324-5489!

### CAREER FAIR

March 11, 1992

11 am to 5 pm, VCC Langara Campus

Looking for a new career?

Our Annual Career Fair is the place to find one!

### DENTAL ASSISTING AND RECEPTION REUNION

March 4, 1992

at VCC City Centre Campus

Planning and registration are still underway,  
to register or help out call the Alumni Office at 871-7147.

### THE NOTABLE EVENT

April 2, 1992

is a gala evening of music and fun

to raise scholarship funds for VCC music students.

Call the VCC Educational Foundation for details at 871-7175.

### WATCH THIS SPACE....

for a fabulous, exciting, entertaining, yet affordable Alumni Spring  
Social event to be announced in the next issue of ALUMNEWS!

## STUDIO 58

100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6G 3B7

For showtimes and further information call: 324-5227

For the 1992-1993 Season, there is a superb line up of quality  
Studio 58 productions.

### THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO

by Christopher Durang

November 1992

Directed by Pamela Hawthorn

Set Design by Alison Greene • Lighting Design by Ross Nichol

### THE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

by Moliere

February 1993

Directed by Lloy Coutts

Set Design by Richard Cook • Costume Design by Kate King

### CYRANO DE BERGERAC

by Edmund Rostand

April/May 1993

In co-production with the Gateway Theatre and  
the New Bastion Theatre

Directed by Kathryn Shaw

Set Design by Pam Johnson • Costume Design by Nancy Tait  
Sound Design by Greg Ruddell



# How to be a Local Hero



## Feel Good

Give your time or money to a cause you believe in and see how good it makes you feel. The nice thing about being a Local Hero is that you always get back more than you give. Be a Local Hero.



A new spirit of giving

A national program to encourage giving and volunteering

## Are You a Mentor?

When you were a student did someone act as a role model or counselor? Or would you have benefitted from someone doing so?

**WHAT:** The VCC Alumni Association is planning to start a Mentoring Project and we need you! The program would match interested students with suitable alumni mentors.

**WHO:** We are looking for VCC alumni who would feel comfortable talking with a current VCC student about career/job related issues, for example, the pros and cons of one's occupation, dealing with occupational stress, suggestions for finding a job, etc....

Our objective is to match an appropriate alumni mentor with a student. Ideally, the mentor will have graduated from the same program the student is registered in, and has spent a minimum of two to five years working in the field. The student and the mentor will meet in person or by phone, and discuss the mentor's time at VCC, their subsequent career, and other concerns.

**WHY:** Our goal is to benefit students with the experience and wisdom of our alumni while getting students and alumni to work together.

For further information, or to sign up as a volunteer alumni mentor, please contact the Alumni Office at 871-7147.

*Mentor, in Greek legend, was the faithful friend of Odysseus, King of Ithaca. During Odysseus' absence in the Trojan War, he entrusted the care of his household to Mentor, who served as the guardian and teacher of Telemachus, the son of Odysseus and Penelope.*

*Over time, the meaning of the word "mentor" has become a synonym for a wise person, trusted adviser or teacher.*

## THE BOB NEIGHBORS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The late chairman of the Art and Merchandising Program at Langara, Bob Neighbors, was described as "fatherly" and a "kindred spirit." "He was very approachable and went out of his way to help us," said Catherine Black, a student of Neighbors. Neighbors began teaching in the Art in Merchandising program in 1974 and in 1988 became its chairperson.

The Art in Merchandising Department of VCC Langara Campus invites



donations to endow a scholarship fund in the memory of its late Department Chair and Graphics instructor, Mr. Bob Neighbors. The funds raised will promote Graphic Design Education through offering an annual scholarship to an Arts in Merchandising student for outstanding achievement in the field of Graphic Design.

Donations should be clearly marked "The Bob Neighbors Memorial Scholarship Fund," and sent to:

VCC Educational Foundation  
1155 East Broadway  
Box 24700, Station 'F'  
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5V1

## A Lesson for Canada In Indonesian Wilderness

THE LAST THING KEC GRADUATE TREVOR SAWKINS expected to find in one of the most remote regions of the world was a new perspective on Canadian politics.

Sawkins, winner of the 1991-92 Pacific Rim Scholarship for VCC students, recently returned from Indonesia, a country that is trying to unify its people amid internal complexities that make a Canadian accord look as daunting as a two piece jig-saw puzzle.

Sawkins's final six weeks abroad were spent in the easternmost province of Irian Jaya (the province forms the western half of the island of New Guinea).

The rugged geography and sparse population of Irian Jaya creates a huge cultural diversity: communication between tribal groups in different valleys has been so minimal that over 700 languages have come to exist.

"Soon after arriving, we flew into the Baliem Valley, deep in the interior," said Sawkins. "It was as if we had stepped out of a time capsule into a land of tens of thousands of years before."

"Many men (of the Dani people) wore only a penis gourd; many women only a grass skirt. The market was an incredible confusion of native Dani and immigrants from other parts of Indonesia selling a colourful display of tobacco, housewares, fruit, vegetables...one man even tried to sell us a fruit bat, stressing its deliciousness. We politely declined."

While in the valley, he trekked to several smaller villages. Trekking is the predominant mode of transportation in



the interior of Irian Jaya because there are few roads. Dani people will often walk for days to reach a market or go to a ceremony.

One ceremony honoured a returning missionary who had previously provided 20 years service to the villagers.

Said Sawkins: "About 3,000 people attended. The highlights were several acts from the bible. It was fascinating to watch; Jesus was crucified as ten or twenty

near-naked, body-painted warriors armed with shields and spears or bows and arrows danced and chanted around him. It was remarkable!"

Sawkins said that throughout his journey, the most overriding impression that he received was of the cultural diversity.

"... communication between tribal groups in different valleys has been so minimal that over 700 languages have come to exist."

"Cultures varied island to island, province to province, sometimes village to village. Last November, national troops opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in Dili, East Timor. Hopefully, as the country increases its prosperity and the remote areas receive more assistance, all of these problems will be peacefully resolved. In addition to all I learned in Indonesia, I realized that Canada's problems of a multicultural society pale

in comparison, and should be much easier to solve."

Travelling is just part of the family. Three members of the Sawkins family who are associated with VCC have recently returned from a scholarship or teaching opportunity abroad.

Maureen Sawkins, a VCC ESL instructor who has worked for the college for almost 20 years, spent six weeks earlier this year in Czechoslovakia through the Canada-Czechoslovakia Institute for Teachers of English. Her daughter Tanis, also an ESL instructor at VCC, recently travelled as a recipient of the BC-Asia Pacific Award for Scholars. ♦

Left to right above: Maureen, Trevor and Tanis Sawkins.



# ALUMNI BENEFITS AVAILABLE

## ACT NOW! AVOID THE RUSH!

Do you need to upgrade your career skills? Do you take continuing education classes? Do you want to save money? If the answer is yes, then you can help yourself and the Alumni Association by purchasing an **ALUMNI BENEFITS CARD**.

As a VCC graduate you will gain access to discounts on College services that make it easy to be a lifelong learner. **20% off Continuing Education courses—and now including Certificate Programs; 10% off bookstore purchases; and a library card for FREE!**

The Alumni Benefits Card, is valid for one year from the date of purchase. To get your Benefits Card, choose the options you want, and mail a completed application form

along with your cheque or credit card number to the VCC Alumni Association.

### DISCOUNT CLUB

#### \$25.00 annual fee\*

- 20% discounts on hundreds of VCC Continuing Education courses\*\*
- borrowing privileges at all three campus libraries
- 10% discounts on non-instructional items at all three campus book stores

### PRESIDENTS' CLUB

#### \$100.00 annual fee\*

- all Discount Club benefits plus:
- an invitation to the annual Presidents' luncheon
- updates from the President's office on College concerns
- a VCC T-shirt

### LIFETIME LEADERS

#### \$500.00 one time fee

- all Discount Club benefits for life
- a VCC T-shirt

More benefits to come! Watch ALUMNEWS for details.

- Valid for one calendar year. No GST.

\* Some exceptions apply—call the Alumni office or Continuing Education for details.

Just mail the completed application form with your chequed or credit card number to:

VCC Alumni Association  
1155 East Broadway  
Box 24700, Station F  
Vancouver, BC V5N 5V1

**OR CALL 871-7147**  
**OR FAX 871-7200**

Return  
Requested  
Address  
Correction  
Requested

## APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS CARD — CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ \$25 Discount Club

☐ \$100 President's Club

☐ \$500 Lifetime Leaders

☐ Please send my 1992 Benefits Card to:

☐ Please note my new address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (office) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque enclosed

Please charge my ☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

