



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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Susan Zirnhelt writes:

This is the Spring turn out cattle drive for Dan Hamblin's herd. He is our neighbour and we share the range with him. Our cattle weren't being driven that day but our family always takes part. The ride is all day as the range is about 15km by road from the ranch. The rider in the white shirt is Dan Hamblin. The other is a friend of his. The cattle drive is often a chance to take along novice riders who enjoy the experience. This photo was on May long weekend last year and the lake is Opheim Lake in Beaver Valley. David was also riding but is not in this particular photo.

(Ed. note: Susan sent us a selection of photos, of which this one was chosen. Former MLA and cabinet minister David Zirnhelt and his family reside on Big Lake Ranch, Big Lake, B.C.)

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations. Distributed throughout BC and into Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

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Or emailed to ootd@shaw.ca

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Expo issue. It has come to our attention that a few Members and subscribers did not receive the May 2014 issue of *Orders of the Day*.

If you are one of those, please contact us at ootd@shaw.ca.

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Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produces in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office.

In appreciation to the Legislative Library

We extend our thanks to the Director and staff for their continuing courtesy and assistance when we seek help in research and information for this publication. It's of major importance!



Hugh's last issue

Hugh and I had planned most of the layout for this issue when he was hospitalized. After a short illness, he passed away on May 27th. Guided by his presence, I completed and you now hold in your hands Hugh's last issue.

His obituary appears on page 15, and a memorial to Hugh accompanies this issue as a special supplement.

The Directors are planning a tribute to Hugh as part of this year's Association Annual Dinner on September 26th at Government House.



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Electoral Reform

by Gordon Gibson

We live in a dynamic society in Canada and most of the western world. The world changes, and has changed, big time over the past hundred years. For me the biggest, most important change is the status of women, but others will cite scientific advances and so on. The thing is, change has been huge.

The one thing that has not changed is our political institutions, here and indeed throughout the western world. Our system has been frozen in amber for all of that time. And it is beginning to show.

Never in my life has the work of governments been more complex, nor the trust in government and politicians at a lower level. This sets up a vicious circle, as so many good people would simply now not touch a political career with a barge pole.

One of the startling failings of governments is this: they can no longer give a license for the private sector to do big things. One needs a "social license" these days, and society is not very good at giving these out. Many large and promising projects that would provide all kinds of jobs and pay a lot of taxes stagnate or never begin as a consequence.

The voting turnout continues to drop. In part this is surely because people just don't see governments as a part of the solution - more like the problem. And in part this is because people think that their vote doesn't matter much, so why bother? Of course this is partly true. In the last federal election, 62 per cent of all votes cast were "wasted" in the sense of not electing a government member, and of course non-government members have no real influence.

So somehow we need to find ways making governments more trusted and relevant. As usual, there is no magic bullet but there are plenty of ideas that are simple enough and would help. Let us look just at those that don't involve changing the Constitution because that is hard to do. My comments will be mostly about Ottawa because that is the bigger problem, but *mutatis mutandis*: the thought pertains equally to the provinces.

The first principle is that of subsidiarity, an academic word for pushing the responsibility for decisions down to the smallest level of government that has the resources and knowledge to do the work. Smaller governments are closer to home and more trusted. If B.C. had been running the fishery and Indian Affairs for the past hundred years, no way would they be in the mess they are in today. And if the provinces would give more fiscal room to municipalities they could devolve a lot of responsibilities and find some pretty creative solutions being developed.

Strangely many *bien pensant* people oppose this idea. They want grand solutions, a one-stop shop, a cure all, a "national strategy". Well, many problems tend to be site specific and are better understood at a local level. We have parking problems all across Canada, but I don't want a National Parking Strategy.

The next big change needed to make politicians trusted and relevant is to make people feel they have a voice in selecting them. That means some kind of electoral reform, so that everyone, or nearly so, can see someone in the legislature that represents them and every vote is made to count. There are plenty of systems that do that. My favourite is Single Transferrable Vote as developed by the B.C. Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, but there are plenty more - Mixed Member Proportional, a preferential ballot, and so on.

The way to do this as a national level is to follow our B.C. leadership which was a wonderful success. One hundred sixty delegates studied the matter for a year and



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at the end a huge consensus of 147 of them settled on STV. The public accepted that credible leadership and endorsed it in a referendum garnering almost 58 per cent. That wasn't good enough for the rules set by Victoria (by politicians who had almost never gotten within a country mile of 58 per cent themselves) and the idea died. But it is good enough to be revived by Ottawa.

Forget Senate reform - it is terribly difficult and not really required. The Senate does some good work and costs far less than the Commons. It is in the lower House that the real reform is needed.

The touchstone is empowering MPs. If my MP is a nobody, my vote is worth nothing. But if he/she is a somebody, I am more likely to vote. The basics are few and simple.

* Give MPs power over their leader. Allow them, by a simple majority in a secret ballot, to dismiss him/her; as Margaret Thatcher was tossed out over twenty years ago. It helps to keep leaders in touch.

* Give MPs - not the leader - power over the caucus. Let them select the chair and say who is in or out.

* Give local ridings control over nominations, not to be over-ridden by the leader.

As it happens, all three of the above reforms are proposed in a Private Bill by MP Michael Chong (a Conservative member) that will come to a vote this spring. It will be interesting.

* Give MPs control over committees, by establishing their choice of the chair, by giving permanent membership rather than at the whim of the Whip, with permanent subject matter study mandates and expert staff. The world would change.

* Narrow the scope of "confidence" votes.

Subsidiarity, electoral reform, House reform - those are three things we can do. And moreover, the ultimate ability of governments to govern would be unimpaired. They would just have to work harder at consensus. We need only politicians with the courage and vision to make it happen. We have been waiting a long time.

(Ed. note: Gordon Gibson is a former MLA (Liberal party), an outstanding Member of "the Leg", and Member of this Association.)



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Alex Macdonald made us think - and laugh

When word spread he had died, the stories started flying

By Vaughn Palmer,
Vancouver Sun, March 14, 2014

Toward the end of a long life, Alex Macdonald would sometimes visit the B.C. legislature that he inhabited so memorably for so many years.

Those occasions were not to be missed. With an ever-present and unlit cigar in his mouth, Macdonald would hold forth in the corridor, dispensing anecdotes, pungent observations and the occasional pamphlet.

"Why I am still a socialist," was the title of the last one he handed to me. It came with a winking subtitle: "And it is not because I don't know any better." Typical of Macdonald. Even his tracts came with a punchline.

When word spread that he had died recently age 95, those who recalled his days as one of the wittiest members to serve in the legislature from 1960-86 were soon swapping Alex Macdonald stories:

- Macdonald, on his feet in the legislature, taunting Social Credit's brain researcher cabinet minister Pat McGeer: "He has a fine brain, but why does he keep it in a jar?"

- On the difference between the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, which he joined in the 1940s, and the New Democratic Party, which supplanted it in the 1960s: "CCFers didn't keep their purposes in a hip pocket like a flask of whiskey to have a pull on when no one was watching."

- On being appointed attorney-general in the province's first NDP government, the post that his father Malcolm held in the province's first Liberal government: "It's been a devil of a long time for the office to be out of the family."

- On assuming the title of "Queen's Counsel" that had been denied him for many years under Social Credit: "Somebody on the street asked me: 'What queens do you act for?'"

- Giving first reading to first financial disclosure legislation for B.C. politicians: "We say that we should let the searching eye of heaven dart its light into every guilty hole. I'm not going to name the author of that but I will just remind you that Richard II lost his life shortly after that line was spoken."

Only Alex Macdonald could have told the legislature that the NDP government had eliminated the sales tax on books in hopes of improving the quality of candidates for the rival Socreds. Only he had the wit to discount the Socred practice of putting assets into blind trusts by raising the suspicion that "some of those come with seeing-eye dogs."

Though he served most of his years in the Opposition benches, Macdonald was a key player in the Dave Barrett-led NDP government, handling the energy, industry and trade files as well as justice and attorney general.

His central role in that administration did not prevent him uttering what became one of the most widely quoted lines about the Barrett style of governing, delivered on the floor of

the legislature yet: "We have a very democratic leader. The premier puts a motion to the cabinet and he says, 'All opposed to this motion signify by saying 'I resign.'"

Barrett returned the riposte with a riff on the way Macdonald lived in a waterfront home on Vancouver's west side while representing Vancouver East in the legislature: "Every few years, Alex puts on his old clothes and takes the bus over to the east side of town to get himself re-elected."

Still, within the class-sensitive confines of the NDP, Macdonald was sometimes under threat for renomination by those who styled themselves as "true" east siders.

His toughest challenge, beaten back in 1981, came from NDP rival Bob Williams. The experience may have shaped Macdonald's observation about the distinction between opponents and enemies. "Your opponents are on the other side of the house. Your enemies are all around."

When he finally did announce his intention to retire, he quoted Shakespeare's King Lear: "Get thee glass eyes and, like a scurvy politician, seem to see the things thou dost not." Did the plan to leave make him a lame duck? "Oh, I'll still quack."

After surrendering his share of what was still a two-member seat to a young upstart named Glen Clark, Macdonald enjoyed a second life as an instructor and seminar leader in the political science department at Simon Fraser University.

I attended his classes as a guest several times. Once, with his abiding sense of mischief, he'd arranged that the previous week's speaker had been former Premier Bill Vander Zalm. Not surprisingly, the students demanded to know why the press gallery had been so mean to such a charming man.

The thing that really stood out to me in the Macdonald approach to teaching was the breadth of the discussion and his encouragement of the students. Secure in his own views, he insisted that others parade theirs.

But still time for one more story. With his father and his brother both serving as judges, Macdonald maintained a well-stocked cabinet of stories about the bar and the bench. The following is taken from his 1985 book, *My Dear Legs*, a series of open letters addressed to his squash partner, Hugh Legg.

Seems there was this judge of the high court who, before passing sentence, asked the accused if he had anything to say.

"Nothing you old bastard!" came the reply.

Whereupon the judge, being hard of hearing, asked the clerk: "What did he say?"

" 'Nothing, you old bastard,' " replied the clerk, reading from the stenographic record.

"That's funny," said the judge. "I thought I saw his lips move."

Alex Macdonald, 1918-2014. Politician, cabinet minister, teacher, socialist, storyteller. He wanted very much to get people thinking. He also left them laughing.

July 1st celebration 107 years ago



Photo source: BC Archives B-00650

"1st July Celebrations, Moyie, BC"; hose reel race as part of the Dominion Day celebrations in 1907.

An advertisement for Canfor featuring a large warehouse filled with stacks of lumber. The lumber is wrapped in white plastic and has the Canfor logo printed on it. In the foreground, a red banner displays the Canfor logo and the slogan "There is no substitute for Canfor". The banner also includes the website "CANFOR.COM" and "PRODUCT OF CANADA". At the bottom left, the Canfor logo is shown again, followed by the text "CANFOR IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 14 COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC" and the website "WWW.CANFOR.COM".

Return from "Aus"

(In the March 2014 issue, we reported that Dennis Mackay, [former Liberal MLA for Bulkley Valley - Stikine, 2001-2009] and his wife were travelling in Australia. Following is his account of their two month adventure "Down Under")

Well, the holiday in Australia is over.

In February we travelled on a direct flight from Vancouver to Sydney, around 4.5 Million people, where we spent two days getting over jet lag. Beautiful city and I met a relative of mine who was identified through D.N.A. Quite remarkable.

We picked up our camper Van and left Sydney and spent two long days driving to Melbourne, and then left early in the morning to catch a ferry to Tasmania. We spent a week driving around Tasmania and saw the sights and wildlife. The weather was cool and the country was beautiful. It was too cold for me to swim, a decision which I later regretted.

On our return to Melbourne we flew north to Alice Springs and then drove to Uluru Rock. (Ayers rock), the big red rock that we all see when we are looking at brochures of Australia. Driving from Alice Springs to the "Rock" was exciting, as the posted speed limit was 135 km/ph. After 3 days there we flew back to Melbourne and then started our adventure of driving around the continent.

As we drove across southern Australia the vastness of the country became apparent and one stretch of road was 147 km. without a curve. There were numerous dead kangaroos and other creatures that had been hit by vehicles. We avoided driving at night when the animals were on the roads for that very reason. The weather got warmer and warmer.

There were kilometres of vineyards and wineries all throughout south western Australia. The roads were paved with reasonable speed limits. It was not unusual to see "Road Trains" as we continued our trip. Road trains consisted of 3 or 4 trailers pulled by one tractor, and they do drive the speed limit. It takes a long straight piece of road to pass one of these "trains". It was a long drive between gas stations in Western Australia and at times we paid \$2.29 per litre for fuel.

We did stop at 80 Mile beach, and the temperature was 45 degrees Celsius. The water temperature was 30 degrees Celsius. We encountered locals fishing for Northern Salmon and they were catching sharks. We could not swim in the water because of the sharks and "Stingers". The stingers were interesting as they are about the size of your thumb nail. They have long tentacles and, according to what I read about them, they



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can kill a young child if the child is unfortunate enough to get "stung" by a tentacle. We carried vinegar with us as we had been told the vinegar would take the sting away if we encountered one in the water. I spoke briefly to a local about the use of vinegar, and he replied, "right mate, you might get 12 minutes of relief before you die". So much for swimming in Australia!

There was lots of evidence of mining activity (iron ore) as we drove through Western Australia. We carried on and visited Darwin, where it was very hot and humid. Did some sightseeing there and enjoyed the city except at night, as the humidity and warmth made sleeping very difficult.

We then reached the east coast of Australia and went north of Cairns to a place called Port Douglas. We visited the Great Barrier Reef out of Port Douglas and swam with the fish in "Lycra" suits that literally covered your whole body (to prevent encounters with "stingers") When I saw a white tipped shark swimming close by I decided I had seen enough of the reef. This part of Australia also had warning signs up to watch for crocodiles. We returned to Port Douglas in very rough water and spent one more night there and left the following morning. The scenery and people were wonderful.

As we drove down the east coast where we had hoped to spend our time at a more leisure pace and when we were about 30 kms north of Townsville driving on a four lane highway on the left side of the road, I saw a red vehicle approaching very fast from a side road and said to Edith, "that car is not going to stop" and the vehicle hit our vehicle on the left front and the impact drove us from the curb lane into the oncoming traffic. All the oncoming traffic managed to stop before hitting us head on. Edith had back injury (soft tissue) from the impact, I was fine, and shortly after the accident the ambulance arrived and took Edith to Townsville Hospital where she remained for the next 3 days. On the 16th of April our health insurance flew us from Townsville to Sydney and we then flew home on the 17th of April.

Our rental van was totalled and now the fun has started with Insurance companies, which has been complicated because of both countries being on opposite sides of the planet earth and the time changes make it difficult to speak to anyone.

We are both home now, raising funds for BC Children's Hospital and then our trip up Mt. Kilimanjaro in early October.

~ Dennis MacKay

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Twisted English

This literary item is dedicated to all MLAs and Hansard staffers who between them wrestle with millions of words in one of the most complicated languages on earth. We should be thankful we can handle it without a second thought. Most of the time.

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes.
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet
And give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose.
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.

Maurice Chazottes

(Ed. note: Maurice was formerly the Chief of Hansard.)

Filling the need for high-quality Canadian illustrated books

By Marsha Lederman

The Globe and Mail, April 24 2014

When Douglas & McIntyre Publishers filed for bankruptcy protection in October, 2012, three senior managers began talking about forming their own company. Figure 1 Publishing launched a few months later, with a focus on high-end illustrated books. It's tiny compared to D&M, and one of the three original partners left to focus on his design career, but the company has made a few strategic hires, and expects to move into an office space in June.

It is also out with its first spring list, and has just published the trade edition of Emily Carr's long-lost journal *Sister and I in Alaska*, which they published last year as a limited edition reproduction of the diary from the artist's 1907 trip to Alaska with her sister Alice.

The *Globe and Mail* met with the remaining principals: publisher and president Chris Labonte and associate publisher and vice-president, sales and marketing Richard Nadeau.

How did the company rise from the ashes of D&M?

CL: When Douglas & McIntyre was going to be broken up and sold in pieces, the three of us, Richard, me and Peter Cocking, who is no longer with Figure 1, decided, "Well, what are we doing next?"

Douglas & McIntyre had been in the process of developing a distinct imprint that would work directly with galleries and restaurants to produce books for them and also bring them to market.

I was in the process of developing that imprint when all of that happened, so we thought, "Well, why don't we just take this model that I've already been working on and we know so well and why don't we just do that?"

There's certainly going to be a need in the market. There aren't a lot of Canadian publishers publishing high, high-quality illustrated books. When Douglas & McIntyre disappeared in that form, that kind of went away.

What was that time like for you?

RN: It was quite devastating. We all really loved our jobs within the company, so it was really tough to deal with.

What is the vision for Figure 1?

CL: The bottom line is really about high-quality publishing. Which means well-written, well-edited, beautifully designed, with a focus on illustrated books: art books, design, architecture, illustrated history.

As publishing moves toward the e-book model, is this one area that works for print?

RN: That's one of the reasons we're doing it; it doesn't seem to have the erosion from e-books that other genres have. People still want that object.

CL: In an age where a link or a digital something is highly disposable, it doesn't have the same sort of weight as something that's tangible. Somebody asked me earlier today how is it that cookbooks are still doing really well when you can get any recipe online? It's really about the fact that it's a beautiful artifact.

How did you get involved in the Emily Carr project?

CL: [Former Sotheby's Canada president] David Silcox had been talking to [publisher] Scott McIntyre prior to Douglas & McIntyre folding about this lost journal. Once Scott knew we were going to start our own firm, he sent David our way, and we started talking about how to do a beautiful reproduction of this journal that's over 100 years old. He came to town and showed it to us; it was wrapped in this delicate paper and looked like it would turn to powder. He'd already taken beautiful photography of it. The reproduction is quite amazing for something that old.

The limited edition reproduction was selling for \$350 and it did okay.

CL: It sold out in a day-and-a-half, and I still get requests every now and then.

Voters kill off license to hunt drones

By Matt Pearce

Los Angeles Times, April 2, 2014

The drone-hunting ordinance is dead.

Residents of the small community of Deer Trail, Colo., on Tuesday voted down a proposal that would have allowed the town to sell hunting licenses to shoot down drones inside city limits.

But the ordinance's author, who, with the support of the mayor, had pre-emptively sold hundreds of \$25 souvenir licenses to buyers across the U.S., responded Wednesday by saying that he would try to introduce the measure in other small communities.

"I was a very good boy giving Deer Trail a chance, so I fully intend to take this to other towns," a defiant Phil Steel told the Los Angeles Times in a phone interview.

The Times had previously profiled Steel and chronicled the waves created by his rambling, 2,800-word drone-hunting ordinance. The proposal shoved dozy Deer Trail, about an hour east of Denver, into national headlines after the town's board deadlocked 3-3 in August on enacting the measure, kicking the decision to voters.

Many residents ridiculed Steel as a troublemaker; ridiculed the town's mayor, Frank Fields, for supporting the measure as a moneymaker.

Others supported Steel for making an anti-government, anti-surveillance statement at a time when the Federal Aviation Administration is working on plans to safely integrate drones into civilian airspace. (The FAA responded to Steel's proposal by saying it would be illegal to shoot down drones.)

On Tuesday, the vote came down decisively against Steel, with 73% of voters opposed, according to the Associated Press. Fields also lost the mayor's seat.

"Do you know how many drone-hunting licenses I've actually sold in Deer Trail? I've sold three in Deer Trail," Steel told The Times. "I've sold 800 to 900 drone-hunting licenses all over the country, plus a few outside the country."

Those licenses, which he sold online, are not valid documents.

As "payback" against town board members who had opposed the measure, Steel said he planned to distract them by filing a citizen's initiative on Thursday that would turn Deer Trail into a marijuana distributor as a way to boost town coffers.

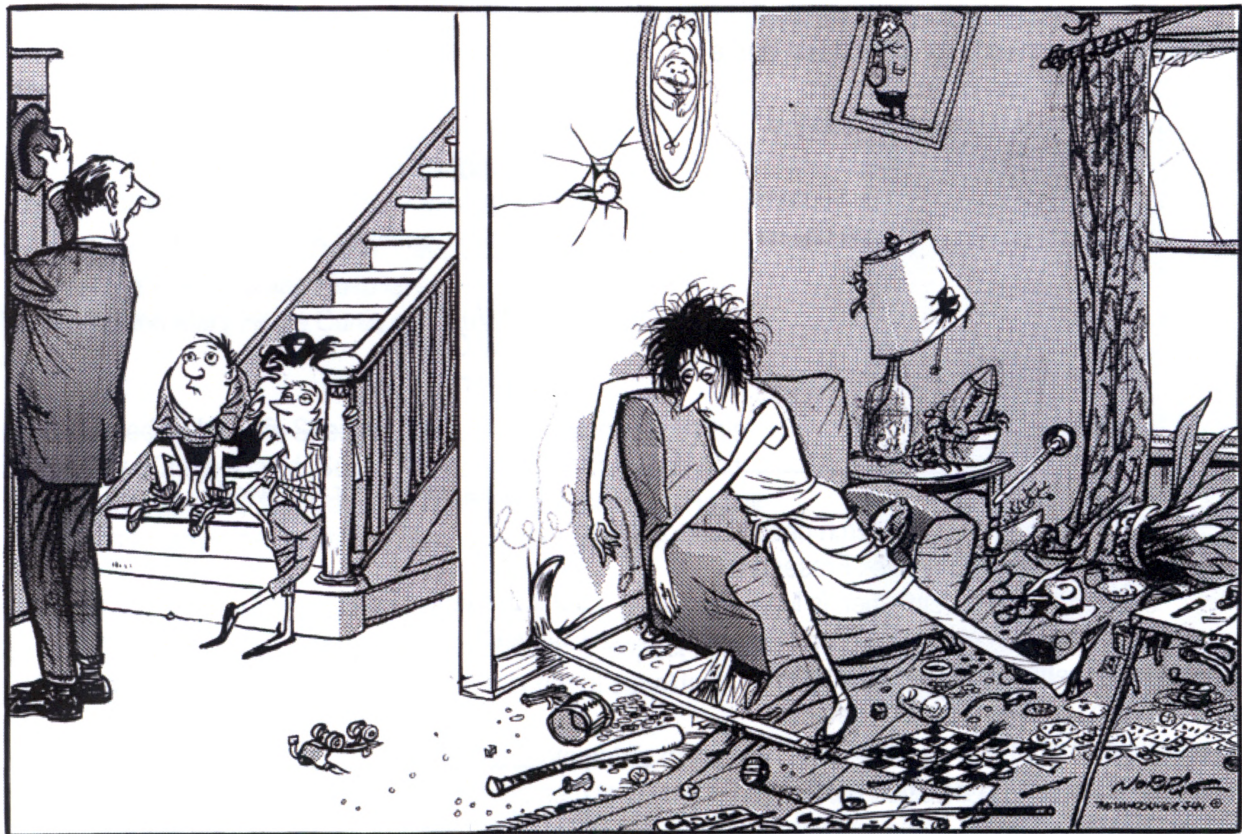
Paraprosdokians

Paraprosdokians (*Winston Churchill loved them*) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
3. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
4. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
5. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
6. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit . . . Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
7. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
8. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
9. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'A DOCTOR'.
10. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
11. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
12. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
13. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
14. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
15. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.
16. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
17. Do not argue with an idiot: he will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

And finally, one from Winston Churchill:

18. "You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing - after they have tried everything else."



July 3, 1964

"Usual complaint after one week's holiday, I suppose - can't find anything to do ..."

Advance notice of 2014 Annual Dinner

*Our Annual Dinner is scheduled for the evening of **Friday, September 26**, at Government House.*

Cost is to remain as before at \$95.00 all inclusive per person. More details to follow.

We would welcome your confirmation at your convenience.

Letters

Enclosed please find a cheque for Jim's dues, and a little more to help cover the cost of postage, etc.

Also enclosed is a cheque for four tickets to the Annual Dinner in September.

We are looking forward to seeing you in September. Keep up the good work. We really enjoy the *Orders of the Day*.

Yours truly,
Eileen Rabbitt,
Merritt

Great article on Tony Brummet in the March newsletter. On page 8 you have a picture of Tony, Alex Fraser and Garde Gardom. One of other two gentlemen is Marl Brown with the beard, long-time resident of Fort Nelson. He was responsible for getting our great Historical Society up and running, and our museum. He has volunteered a huge amount of time to this project. The other fellow in the suit beside Tony is me. I was the Mayor of Fort Nelson at that time.

All the best and keep up the good work.

Senator Richard Neufeld,
Ottawa

Congratulations! The Expo Special Edition is first class. We enjoyed re-visiting that very special year of 1986 through the pages of "*Orders of the Day*".

In appreciation Hugh for your work on behalf of former MLA's, please extend our best wishes to Rob Lee, your very professional and able assistant.

Sincerely,
Grace McCarthy,
Vancouver

Thanks for all your hard work!

Cheers,
John Jansen,
Chilliwack

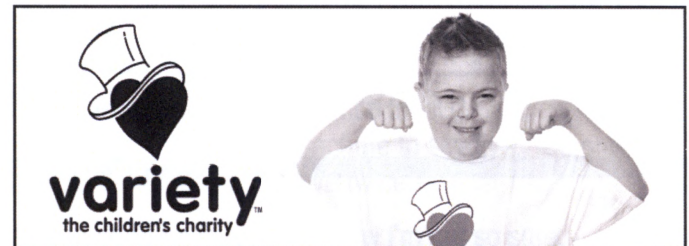
Where are you?

How are you?

What are you doing?

If you have moved, changed jobs, or have any news you would like to share - let us know!

Reach us by mail or email - see page 2 for contact information.



Thank You!

Variety - The Children's Charity thanks the members of the Association of Former MLA's and subscribers of *Orders of the Day* for their support of children in BC who have special needs.

Since 1965, Variety has raised over \$155 million to help support children, families and organizations in BC. The funds we raise stay in the province to build strong communities. We could not do this without your support.

Variety - The Children's Charity: 310-KIDS (5437) · variety.bc.ca

The Association is pleased to provide space for selected not-for-profit children's organizations at no cost.

Member News

Please send news about your activities to ootd@shaw.ca for the next newsletter.

Hugh Austin Curtis

Hugh Austin Curtis of Victoria B.C. passed away peacefully on May 27, 2014, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital at 81 years of age. He was born to Austin Ivor and Mary Helen Curtis on October 3, 1932, in Victoria, B.C.

Predeceased by his wife Sheila in 2009, Hugh is survived by his three children Gary (Kathy), David, Susan, his daughter-in-law Toni, and his five grandchildren Ashten, Jay, Danielle, Taylor, and Alexandra. He will be dearly missed by many other relatives, friends, and colleagues.

After graduating from Victoria High School, Hugh became a radio announcer for CJVI then CFAX, capturing the attention and respect of his listeners with his rich baritone voice and eloquent manner of speaking.

In 1961, Hugh embarked upon a new journey into public office, serving first as an alderman on Saanich Council, then Reeve/Mayor of Saanich. Hugh's lifelong commitment to Saanich inspired the acquisition of parkland and the building of recreation facilities, a seniors' center, and the Cedar Hill Golf Course. Hugh was named Freeman of the Municipality of Saanich in 2002.

In 1972, Hugh set his sights on provincial politics, elected as a Progressive Conservative MLA for Saanich and the Islands, and switching to the Social Credit party in 1974. During his time in provincial politics, he held three different cabinet portfolios: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary, and Minister of Finance. Hugh enjoyed his many responsibilities, and bore them with strength and class. His leadership was truly inspiring.

After retirement, Hugh pursued many volunteer activities including the Variety Club of British Columbia and was a founding director and past president of the David Foster Foundation. He also devoted his time, energy, and experience to the Association of Ex-MLAs, editing and publishing the Association's newsletter, "Orders of the Day".

Hugh also loved spending time with his grandchildren, gardening (especially his rhododendrons), travelling, and reading Canadian history. Those close to him enjoyed his quick-witted, dry sense of humor. We will all miss the regular telephone calls and the spirited Saturday morning political debates at J.J. Morgans.

A celebration of Hugh's life was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at the Gordon Head Recreation Center in Saanich B.C.

Those wishing to make donations in Hugh's memory may do so to the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria, the David Foster Foundation, or the Variety Club of British Columbia. Thank you to the nurses and volunteers at Victoria Hospice.

A tribute to Hugh will be published as a special supplement to *Orders of the Day*.



Former MLA and MP MacInnis dies

Grace MacInnis, British Columbia's first female MP, died in Sechelt on July 10, 1991. She was 85.

As the eldest of six children born to the founder of Canada's first socialist party, MacInnis earned the nickname "yeller baby" because of her skill at seizing attention. She believed that persistent lobbying, letter-writing and speaking up ultimately pays off.

History shows MacInnis was often ahead of the times on the social issues of the day. In the 1930s, she campaigned for birth control at a time when it was illegal to provide contraception, and was an advocate for abortion rights in the 1960s. She spoke out against the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War, and along with her husband authored the book "Oriental Canadians, Outcasts or Citizens?"

Born in Winnipeg, her father was J. S. Woodsworth, the founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and she became a charter member of the party. She married Vancouver CCF MP Angus MacInnis in 1932 and settled in British Columbia, where she served as the B.C. president of the CCF. Years later she would blaze the trail for the New Democratic Party.

Her years in elected office began when she was the MLA for Vancouver-Burrard from 1941 to 1945.

Former premier Mike Harcourt called her the "Amazing Grace of British Columbia." Another former premier, Dave Barrett, said she was a "feisty, dynamite human being."

MacInnis was first elected federally in 1965, representing the riding of Vancouver Kingsway, a seat previously held by her husband. She became the first wife of a former Canadian Member of Parliament to be elected to the House of Commons in her own right, rather than by directly succeeding her husband in a by-election following his death. She was re-elected in 1968 (the only female MP elected that year) and in 1972.

In the House of Commons, she campaigned for the interests of the poor and the reproductive rights of women, even when her speeches were muffled by the heckling of male colleagues.

A well-known anecdote occurred when she rose to speak on abortion. She waited for the cacophony to

subside before addressing her fellow MPs, whom she referred to as "MCPs." When later asked if MCPs meant Male Chauvinist Pigs, Ms. MacInnis smiled and replied: "MCP? . . . that's Member of the Canadian Parliament."

MacInnis knew that raising issues such as family planning and abortion was difficult and unnerving, especially to men.

"They were embarrassed when I got on to these topics and wished the old girl would be quiet," she said.

During her first term as MP, MacInnis introduced the abortion reform bill, initiating Canada's first parliamentary debate on abortion.

According to MacInnis's biographer, Sunny Lewis, abortion had been mentioned only twice before in Parliament. MacInnis recounted that NDP leader David Lewis chose to avoid the abortion issue.

"We never brought it up in caucus," Ms. MacInnis said. "I don't think David Lewis had any use for abortion; he didn't look for any chance to discuss it. I used to watch for times when he'd be out of town on meetings when I'd have a chance to get up and air it. I didn't pull any punches on the thing at all, and I'm rather glad because I think it all helped."

In 1968, she introduced another bill that would make abortion a medical decision. Then Liberal prime minister Pierre Trudeau later amended the Criminal Code, decriminalizing abortion.

Although she relentlessly campaigned for women's causes, MacInnis did not refer to herself as a feminist, preferring to be considered as someone "coming up from the middle." Being branded a feminist would make it easier for people to dismiss her causes, she said, and she thought it was politically astute to keep the ear of men in power.

Her dedication to women's issues and civil rights were recognized in her later years. In 1974, MacInnis was made an Officer of the Order of Canada "in recognition of a lifetime of service to Canada as teacher, author and parliamentarian". In 1990, she was awarded the Order of British Columbia.

Sources: *Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun*