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# Orders of the Day

*The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia*

Volume 20, Number 3

March 2014

## Profile #51



### Tony Brummet

MLA and Minister 1979-1991



# 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.

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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.

**Moving, or just moved?** As with many mailing lists, we have occasional problems in maintaining complete accuracy in Canada Post and email addresses. Please help us in delivering *Orders of the Day* in a timely manner.

**Our error.** In this publication, February 2014 issue, page 10, we indicated that Andrew Coyne's recent article was referenced in our issue Volume 17, No. 7. The issue was Volume 19, No. 7, page 9.

**Opening ceremony weeks later.** There they were, over-exposed, CBC TV's Peter Mansbridge and Ron MacLean talking to each other to the point of utter viewer boredom. It should not have been the "Peter and Ron Show" it was Olympic opening night.

While watching, we moved often between CBC TV and NBC. The American coverage was far superior: much less of the hosts. From NBC we were treated to an interesting and detailed review of Russian history from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century to present day. And it was far better than the Canadian coverage of that outstanding event.

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**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!**



# Former Duncan mayor Jim Quaife dies

Victoria Times Colonist  
January 19, 2014

Former Duncan mayor Jim Quaife died at Cowichan District Hospital on the morning of Jan. 9 after a battle with cancer.

Predeceased by his brother Tony, he leaves behind his brothers John, Robert, David and sister Betty, his wife of almost 35 years, Marlene, five children and nearly twice that many grandchildren.

"Jim Quaife is, in a very real way, part of the reason I got involved in public life. I was just a kid when he became mayor back in 1967, and he is the very first public official that I can remember meeting," said North Cowichan councillor Al Siebring.

"He was so gracious and down to earth that he made a real impression on me at that time. Not that I was very politically aware, but I sensed that he was someone who was committed to doing good for his community."

Among many other achievements, Quaife is credited with forming Duncan Teen Town, the South Cowichan Recreation Commission and designing the suspension bridge at Bright Angel Park.

In January 1979, Quaife married Marlene and went on to a number of business ventures. In 2008, he took another stab at local politics, but lost to current Mayor Phil Kent

*(Ed. note: Jim Quaife was a popular civic official beyond the borders of Duncan, Vancouver Island. He was a regular participant at UBCM conventions and well-known at many B.C. municipal events.)*

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# The Association says farewell to two Members

## Harry DeJong

March 25, 1932 - February 6, 2014

Harry was born in the Netherlands where he grew up on a dairy farm. In 1947 he immigrated to Canada with his parents and siblings. They settled in the Abbotsford area and established themselves in the local farming industry. In 1950 Harry met his future wife, Ann. They were married in 1954 and started their lives together on a dairy farm in Deroche where Harry successfully built his farming business. While they lived there, Harry and Ann had four children. In the spring of 1962 they moved to Matsqui, continued dairy farming and welcomed their fifth child to the family.

Harry was grateful for all that Canada had done to liberate the Netherlands during WWII and as a result he had a strong desire to contribute to his community and his new country. He served on the church council and the Abbotsford Christian School Board. He also served as a Director for the MSA General Hospital (now the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Center), the Matsqui Pool Association and the Matsqui Police Board. With the encouragement of many in the Matsqui community Harry ran for political office serving as alderman (1971-1975) and Mayor (1975-1987) for the District of Matsqui. In 1987 Harry was elected MLA for the Social Credit Party. He served for several years including as Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture. Following his retirement from politics he continued to contribute to the community in many ways: the Agri-Fair Association being one of his favourite organizations where he served as President.

In 2013 Harry was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his service to the community. In all areas of service, Harry has been lauded for his honesty, integrity and compassion. Harry treasured time spent with family. He enjoyed working, fishing, travelling and socializing with his immediate and extended family.

Harry's life was characterized by his love for the Lord, his love for his wife and family, and his love for the community. He is survived by his wife, Ann, four daughters, and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Donations in memory of Harry may be made to: Food for the Hungry, FH Canada [www.fhcanada.org](http://www.fhcanada.org) or the Abbotsford Christian School Endowment Fund

## William Samuel Ritchie

February 25, 1927 - February 9, 2014

by Laurna Ritchie

Our beloved father, Bill Ritchie, left us on February 9. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, the third of six children. He is predeceased by his parents, four sisters, younger brother, his first wife and mother of his four children. He leaves behind his wife and best friend of 24 years, Nina, his daughter, Laurna. As well as Nina's daughters: Bonnie and her children and Lori (Doug).

Dad lived through World War II in a city overwhelmed by enemy bombing. The horrors he witnessed motivated him to lie about his age and join the British Royal Navy.

Dad was never afraid of hard work and was determined to make a better life for himself and his family. His entrepreneurial nature began when he would dismantle wooden boxes and saw the pieces into small pieces. He sold this kindling door-to-door, giving his mother most of his earnings to help with family expenses.

Farming has always been one of Dad's biggest passions. He started farming in Scotland and, having had many wonderful memories as a child visiting his aunt in Ireland, he shipped his loved horses and farm implements to County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. He met our mother when he went to the government office to apply for his visa. Together they bought a fifty-acre farm. It was hard work and they soon had a child (Laurna) to provide for.

Dad always yearned to go to a country where hard work and determination was part of an entrepreneurial culture. With a flip of a coin it was determined that they would immigrate to Canada.

In 1952 Dad, Mom and Laurna settled in Winnipeg where their first son, Gordon, was born. Their life was filled with love and determination. Dad held numerous jobs over the years all in agriculture except for a short time as a real estate agent. His career took him back and forth between Manitoba and B.C.

Their two younger sons, Stewart and Scott, were born in Vancouver while Dad was General Sales Manager of Buckerfields. Dad's many work experiences taught him that people will work hard if they are valued and appreciated. To this end, Dad and Dave Smith formed "Ritchie-Smith Feeds Ltd." and, between them, they gave their all to treating each other, as well as staff and customers alike with respect and dignity. It was in 1968 that for the third time our family would live in Abbotsford and we have ever since.

Dad strongly believed in community service and was a proud member of the Abbotsford Rotary Club where he served as the club president. As the company grew and became successful it was in a position to support many organizations here in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere in the world. A legacy that our family is very proud of.

After selling Ritchie-Smith Feeds Dad entered politics with the same determination and philosophy. He went on to become our MLA for two terms. He was Minister of Municipal Affairs for his last term. In 1986 Dad retired from public life and truly 'retired' in every sense of the word. He met and married, Nina, and between them they explored North America and Mexico in their motor home as well as cruised the waters off Vancouver Island in their motor yacht.

Eventually they settled in Qualicum Beach where they resided until Dad's passing.

A celebration of Dad's life will take place in Abbotsford. A date has yet to be determined.



## C.S. Wing remembered

by King Lee

With Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse still fresh in our memories, a visit back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century brings recollections of Quesnel's first professional photographer, Chow Shong Wing.

C. S. Wing was born in Quesnel in 1889 and became a renowned B.C. photographer before he died in 1952.

The Royal B.C. Museum website recalls that Wing and his cousin started the Wah Lee store in Quesnel in 1907 and operated it until it ended in bankruptcy during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

It was in 1910 that Wing opened a photographic studio above the store in 1910 and his work is credited for recording the images of "multiculturalism" before the word ever existed. RBCM said his portraits of Chinese, First Nations and Caucasians reflected a casual intimacy that existed between the races in the small frontier town.

When the Wah Lee store failed, Wing moved and eventually settled in Vancouver during the Second World War.

The Vancouver 125 "This is Strathcona" website noted that Wing lived at 255 East Hastings St. from 1940 until his death. He operated C. S. Wing Confectionery in the Belmont Block at 239 East Hastings St.

The Quesnel and District Museum and Archives displayed Wing's work in an exhibit from April 10 to Sept. 6, 2008. The exhibit moved to the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria on Sept. 26 of that year and was on display until Jan. 4, 2009.

## Gwen Murray

A long time subscriber to *Orders of the Day*, Gwen is a resident of Sidney, but still with connections to Prince Rupert where her late husband Bill was the MLA 1956-1972. Through most of this time he was Speaker of the House - a true gentleman, well suited for that office.



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# Tony Brummet

*Tony Brummet is a very patient individual. For many reasons this Profile should not have waited until 2014 to appear in Orders of the Day.*

*There were several false starts, accompanied by inexplicable delays, for which we apologize to him.*

As we introduce this feature article on another former MLA and cabinet minister (1979 to 1991) we recall one of his many fine attributes, then and as recently as September 2013.

He has that impressive ability to remain silent while many of his colleagues wander around in occasional conversation, sometimes off the point and confusing, even heated.

We experienced this first-hand, in caucus, in cabinet as well as in informal meetings. He was often the last to speak, to coolly and calmly bring us back to the issue and topic. A very welcome quality.

Tony was born (1931) in Mendham, Saskatchewan (the south-east part of the province.) He was one of five children – one brother and three sisters. His father, a blacksmith, died while the family was still young. Later, the family moved to Rutland, B.C.

This turned out to be a key move. Tony would take the balance of his education, then his education career in the province and, as most of us know, became an MLA and cabinet minister.

Post secondary education was at the (then known as) Victoria Normal School.

## A TEACHING CAREER IN ALL SECTIONS OF B.C.

In our interview last October, Tony then listed a remarkably impressive catalogue of posts.

- First teaching assignment at a Falkland School (43 students grades 4, 5, and 6.

- The senior matriculation in Kelowna.

- Kimberly High School (grades 7 to 12) for three years.

- Port Moody for one year.

- Falkland again 6 years as teacher/principal.

Following this Tony furthered his own experience.

This was summer school at U.B.C. and continuing there to receive his Bachelor of Education degree (1965).

- Into the school system once again vice-principal in Fort St. John. Thus his jump from the classroom to a far-reaching supervisory position as an elementary school official with travel to a variety of towns, from a base in Fort St. John.

## MARRIED AND CHILDREN

Tony met his first wife Audrey in Falkland (1951). There are three children.

## SADNESS AND LOSS

Audrey Brummet was eventually a patient at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver. She died in 1984, after thirty-three years of marriage.


During her lengthy illness, Tony became acquainted with Lois, one of the head nurses at the hospital. The friendship grew and they were married in 1985. Lois was mother to three children, so it became a well-blended family.

## POLITICS ATTRACT

As a well-known resident of Fort St. John, Tony found opportunities to become in various activities in the city, including the Chamber of Commerce.


## ELECTED OFFICE

Perhaps it was his background in many B.C. communities and his popularity in the Peace River, that



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our Profile subject made the decision for yet another key part of his life.

On May 10, 1979, voters in that far north B.C. constituency chose their new MLA-elect, Brummet with a resounding 76.02% of the vote. He entered the Executive Council in 1982 and was to run and win in a total of three elections.

Not surprisingly, Minister of Education was his major portfolio a natural choice on the part of Premier Bill Bennett.

However we cannot overlook his outstanding service in three other portfolios.

### **RANDOM QUOTES FROM BRUMMET ABOUT ELECTED OFFICE**

In the course of our long interview last fall we listened carefully to Tony as he offered these views.

- about Bill Bennett: "He let us alone to do our jobs but he certainly held us accountable..."

- education today: "It's quite good (in B.C.)"

- the Teacher's Federation: "I grew concerned about the BCTF. I had been a proud member, but it left me behind."

- "During my time (in the Education portfolio) I was able to introduce computers throughout the system."

**Tony Brummet at Africa conference**



Tony Brummet and his wife Lois meet with Garde Gardom at British Columbia House in London, on Brummet's way to a conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Nairobi, Kenya.



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Initially two in every school a good start.”

- on volunteering: “In every town I've worked in I've been heavily involved in helping out.”

- on differences with a couple of non-elected staff persons: “Two of them in particular felt it necessary to intrude into my office... not helpful, offering advice on directives which I knew did not come from the Premier.”

### **THE (BARRY) SULLIVAN ROYAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION**

To cabinet on July 20, 1988 and released to the public in the following month.

We refer readers to an appendix quoting extensively on the Commission in the magazine of that time. See page 11.

By 1990, and with the challenges of a northern MLA serving out of Victoria/Vancouver.

There were some disappointments a few and differences of opinion. None need be catalogued here. Sufficient to note Tony had handled a myriad of tasks in cabinet with skill, patience and honour. He left politics in 1991.



(The late) Alex Fraser and (the late) Garde Gardom with Tony in his constituency.

### **A LIFETIME OF VOLUNTEERING**

In his retirement years these are activities in which he has assisted.

- joined the Board of the Osoyoos Arts Council and acted as treasurer for six years.
- took on the position of Director of the Osoyoos Art

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Sources: Tony Brummet, Legislative Library of B.C.



One of Tony's constituency projects.

This is the 51<sup>st</sup> in a series of profiles of former MLA's of B.C. Those featured in earlier Profiles are: (the late) Jay Gould, Jim Rhodes, Russ Fraser, (the late) Frank Snowsell, Barrie Clark, (the late) Karen Sanford, Rita Johnston, (the late) Robert Bonner, Q.C., Darlene Marzari, (the late) Lyle Wicks, Penny Priddy, Allan Williams, Q.C., Jim Lorimer, Les Peterson, Q.C., Chris D'Arcy, Bruce Strachan, (the late) Dennis Cocke, (the late) Ray Perrault, Joan Sawicki, (the late) Frank Calder, Stephen Rogers, Tom Waterland, Bill King, (the late) Alex Fraser, (the late) Eileen Dailly, Norm Levi, Gretchen Brewin, Bill Reid, Paul Ramsey, (the late) Herb Capozzi, Cathy McGregor, Brian Kerr, Judith Reid, Jim Gorst, Jim Hewitt, (the late) Graham Lea, Greg Halsey-Brandt, Susan Brice, Bob McClelland, Ray Parkinson, (the late) Frank Howard, Claude Richmond, (the late) Agnes Kripps, Harvey Schroeder, Anita Hagen, Duane Crandall, David Zirnelt, Don Phillips, Gillian Trumper and John Cashore.

Gallery, a position which he still holds today.

- was elected to the Osoyoos Museum Society Board, and has been a Board member for the past ten years, and re-elected for the next three years.

- received the individual Osoyoos Community Volunteer Service award in 2011.



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## **Bruce Strachan on Tony Brummet**

Tony Brummet a good friend and a principled fellow.

Tony and I were in the class of 1979, elected May 10<sup>th</sup> of that year, and we sweated it out as newbies June 6<sup>th</sup> when the thirty-second parliament convened. This beginning session was not an easy one for government members. The Social Credit Party had dropped a few seats and in the old 57-seat House, we had 31 members while the NDP had increased their seat count from 18 to 26.

NDP leader Dave Barrett was at his fiery best and buoyed by his improvement in the polls he was a hell raiser. For the new group of government MLAs it was truly a baptism by fire.

We weathered the storm of that first session and Tony Brummet like the true hard-hitting competitor he was came out swinging at every opportunity. He didn't let anything get under his skin and his booming stentorian voice continually punctuated the lively debate of the day.

Life wasn't all that easy in that first session particularly for those of us from the Central Interior and

the North. Even phone connections were sketchy and staying in touch could be problematic. In the case of Tony Brummet, he had a long commute from Victoria to Ft. St. John and with our thin numbers in the Assembly there were no day passes. You sat there until the Friday adjournment then faced the long commute home.

Tony was a tireless worker. In spite of the tragic loss of his wife Audrey in the early 1980s he never lost sight of his commitment to public service and at one point served as minister of two portfolios.

All in all Tony Brummet was a great colleague. He represented his constituency in a first-class fashion and never lost sight of his roots or the issues as they impacted on the huge riding of North Peace River. At caucus and in cabinet he had a wonderful way of listening to the debate, analyzing the issues, cutting through the baffle-gab and finding a solution.

Tony Brummet was a solid contributor to the deliberations and direction of the Government from 1979 to 1991. He was tough, he was fair, he was humorous and at all times a tremendous inspiration.

*(Ed. note: Bruce was the Social Credit MLA for Prince George South, serving as Deputy Speaker and Minister. He was in office from 1979 to 1991. In our Association he was President for several terms.)*

*Dues now, please*

## **Members of the Association**

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# School's out for Brummet

*British Columbia Report*  
August 27, 1990 page 37

The cornerstone of Tony Brummet's legacy as B.C.'s minister of education was the Sullivan Royal Commission, which called for a radical departure from the province's traditional teaching methods.

"Probably the greatest satisfaction I got from politics is that we moved on the recommendations of the Sullivan report, rather than leave it on the shelf," the 11-year veteran MLA from North Peace River said of the report that was tabled in August 1988. While there were many critics of the Year 2000 plan that evolved from the report, Mr. Brummet remains positive that the departure from the traditional norm is where the future of education lies.

"You have to expect a lot of flak when there's a major change," he said. "You don't always have all the answers when people ask how you are going to do it, but you've got to expect criticism when you're trying to implement some major changes."

Indeed, the revised approach to education under Mr. Brummet's stewardship is a sweeping departure from the former conservative approach to educating B.C. students. Year 2000, a ten-year, \$1.5 billion plan, focuses on the individual student, emphasizing what the child can accomplish instead of what should be learned, and stresses constant progress through the course material at whatever rate the pupil finds comfortable. The plan does away with the traditional year-by-year grading evaluation. Under Year 2000, "failing" a child or requiring him or her to repeat a year becomes a thing of the past, as programs are individualized to meet a student's needs.

Year 2000 also calls for graduating students to spend 10% of their school time, or 100 credit hours, in work experience. Another major change is the ministry's dual entry for kindergarten. Revisions to the School Act prevent a child who turns five in November or December from entering school in September, as they now entitled to do.

The new primary program (kindergarten to Grade 3) will begin in the fall; an intermediate program (Grades 4-10) is to be phased in between 1991 and 1993, and the graduation program (Grades 11-12) will be in place by 1993.

In 1989, Mr. Brummet scored high marks when he managed to pry \$2.28 million from provincial coffers for teacher training universities. The funds went to train 337 students in teacher-education programs.

But the minister came under intense criticism for the province's new approach to school funding. Last spring, school districts began holding referendums if they sought to spend more than the amount allocated to them by the provincial government. That moved outraged the British Columbia Teachers Federation (BCTF) and the B.C. School Trustees Association. Critics in both organizations said such referendums would only create inequities between school districts and widen the gaps between the have and have-not regions.

Overall, Mr. Brummet's extensive revamping of B.C.'s educational system has received poor grades from many of the province's educators. "I think it's naïve to think schooling can be coupled closely with the economy," says Charles Ungerleider, an education professor at the University of B.C.

As for the future of B.C.'s school system under Year 2000, Dr. Ungerleider is not convinced it will work. "I'm taking a wait-and-see attitude," he says.

No group challenged Mr. Brummet more often or more vigorously than the BCTF. The feeling is mutual. "There was so much negativity coming from them." As for his reasons for leaving politics, the Fort St. John resident, who is 59 and has three grown children, complains that representing both a northern riding and the interests of B.C.'s 30,000 educators takes its toll.

## Tony Brummet's electoral record

### North Peace River

1979	Breti, Joseph	NDP	2,091
	Brummet, Tony	SC	6,598
1983	Brummet, Tony	SC	8,528
	Kabush, Elmer	NDP	2,349
	Parkinson, David	LIB	240
1986	Brummet, Tony	SC	6,359
	MacKenzie, Ian	PC	511
	Moore, Jill	LIB	277
	Platz, Ken	NDP	2,314



## Small town civil(?) government in New Mexico

Los Angeles Times  
February 12, 2014

(Ed. note: the Association's good friend and supporter, Jim Craven, sent this in February. Jim enjoyed a successful and varied career in B.C. civic government.)

Each morning, embattled Mayor Nicole Lawson performs a private ritual in this tiny U.S.-Mexico border village of 1,600 isolated souls, a forgotten place with mostly unpaved roads and not a single stoplight.

After brushing her teeth, she pads over to a white note board bearing only an oversize number scrawled in black. On this mid-January morning, she wipes away the "58," replacing it with "57."

With a sigh of satisfaction, Lawson, 39, counts down yet another difficult day until the end of her term running a hamlet that may be one of America's most dysfunctional communities.

In a predawn 2011 raid that made national news, federal helicopters swooped in to round up Mayor Eddie Espinoza and 11 others, including the police chief and a town trustee. Ten of them later went to prison for smuggling guns into Mexico and into the hands of the country's drug cartels, leaving behind shocked residents here and a government in chaos.

Lawson, an emergency medical technician and former village clerk, was soon appointed mayor and faced an immediate crisis: a helter-skelter bookkeeping system that had been neglected for years.

"I remember walking into the records office and seeing papers and folders scattered across the floor," she said. "I just sat down and cried."

Although no funds appeared to have been stolen, \$400,000 in grant money had been siphoned off to pay other village bills, leaving state and federal taxes deep in arrears. Many financial reports had been falsified, others not completed. If Lawson didn't act fast to sort out the mess, New Mexico officials warned, Columbus was in danger of bankruptcy.

The job has exacted a physical and emotional toll. Lawson, a bashful bespectacled woman with shoulder-length hair, said she had gained 50 pounds from the stress of dealing with critics, including a website run by the son of a former mayor that analyzes her every move.

Working for little more than \$1 an hour, she has had less time for taking care of her 16-year-old autistic son and endured a revolving door of workers with no knowledge of bookkeeping all she could get, she said, in a place this isolated.

Lawson says she won't run in the March 10 election and will celebrate leaving office with a "Thank God I'm not mayor" party.

Critics welcome the departure of a woman they see as an aloof micromanager who became part of the problem, refusing advice and alienating local and state officials. The Luna County sheriff refuses to speak to Lawson, and the county manager in 2012 wrote to state officials warning that village management was so confused that "a crisis is inevitable."

Intervention was necessary, the letter said, "to avert an embarrassment" with more unwanted national news out of Columbus.

"Many of us prayed that, warts and all, Eddie Espinoza would come back from prison and take his old job back," said Martha Skinner, 77, a former mayor who now runs a bed-and-breakfast.

State officials attribute the tension to small-town politics in an isolated area where it's difficult to attract qualified municipal workers.

Said Wayne Sowell, director of the local government division in the state Department of Finance and Administration: "One city clerk there called to say, 'I just got the job. Now can you tell me how to turn on the computer?'"

Lawson says she won't miss being mayor. "I'm just a paper pusher, not a politician," she said. "I look forward to going back to being a nobody again."

Lawson was working overnight as the village's emergency medical technician when federal agents arrested a dozen people on suspicion of selling scores of assault rifles to Mexican cartels. Locals joked it was the first successful assault here since Mexican marauder Pancho Villa's forces raided the enclave in 1916.

Robert Gutierrez, the father of the trustee nabbed in the sting and a former trustee himself, replaced Espinoza for a few months. None of the three trustees left, including Gutierrez, wanted to be mayor, but the village had no money for a special election, so the village board decided to appoint someone.

But who? The village is 85% Latino, mostly blue-collar folks with family over the border in the sister town of Palomas. Residents mind their own business and keep their doors closed.

The trustees passed over Skinner for Lawson, who had worked as a clerk for Espinoza. Reaction was swift, with Skinner's supporters alleging Lawson was part of Espinoza's corrupt cabal. "Gossip flies fast in this place," Lawson said. "It hurt me but I tried to ignore it."

Inside a home with walls painted green, orange and purple, she explained why she agreed to be mayor, beginning with how she quit her job with Espinoza in 2010 after four years of watching him shift funds between city accounts to cover shortages. She reported the activity to state officials but heard nothing, she said, although Sowell said he had no record of her complaints.

"I felt responsible for what happened," said Lawson, who relocated here from Virginia in 2002.

Her husband, Don, had doubts: "I figured she was going to be up to her eyeballs in alligators."

And soon, she was. Lawson said she was forced to take drastic measures to get control of village finances, with hundreds of thousands of dollars in arrears: She fired the four-member police force, and code enforcement and animal control officers.

Critics roll their eyes. "She's a drama queen," said Phillip Skinner, Martha's brother and a bus driver now running for mayor. "And her attitude has everybody against us the county, the state, everybody."

The mayor's most vocal critic is Martha Skinner's son, Addison Bachman, who has gleefully chronicled her exploits on his website, ColumBuzz. The self-regarded Matt Drudge of Columbus began his site after the federal arrest, calling it "ColumBUST," but soon changed it to suit the continuing gossip about Lawson. "It's a three-ring circus," he said.

He also has criticized how the religious mayor conducts village business via her personal email, with the user name "lovehisword."

Lawson has her supporters, though. "She's doing the best she can with what she has to work with," says Art Miller, a mechanic who wonders aloud why people go into local politics in the first place.

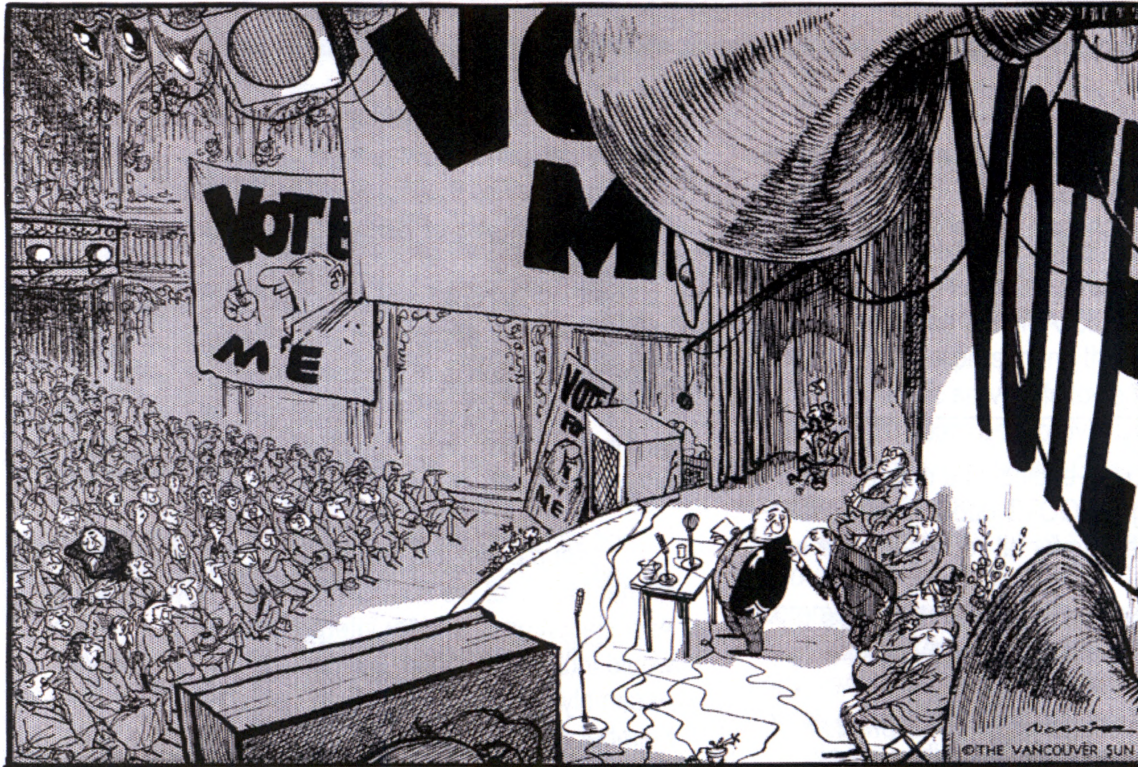
He turns to Lawson. "You'll be free pretty soon."

"Fifty-seven days," she says.

Miller offers a bit of consolation to the village's accidental mayor: "It'll be like you're out of jail."



# Len Norris



March 21, 1958

Each issue of *Orders of the Day* is brightened by Len's brilliant work as it appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*.

Thanks to his son Stephen for permission to reprint here.

A large selection of Len's cartoons can be viewed in the Simon Fraser University online archives.

"There's a gentleman in the third row we're not getting through to..."



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# Letters

Hugh:

Thanks for calling recently. We were away. Happy new year to you and all the Members.

Enclosed please find a cheque for my 2014 membership dues.

Kindest regards,  
Neil Vant, 150 Mile House

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Dear Hugh:

It's due paying time so am enclosing a cheque to make sure I keep receiving the OOTD publication. I look forward to each issue, so thanks for all your hard work in keeping it going.

Thank you so much for putting Mike and Emilie's fabulous story in last month's issue. It's an incredible chain of events.

Your picture of the November '55 snowfall brings to mind our story. Dan had joined the Canadian Scottish auxiliary regiment in Courtenay and this was the year they received their new uniforms, kilts and all. Being the brave Scottish soldiers they were, decided to go on parade to the cenotaph dressed "properly!" By the time they returned home, I'll tell you, there were many kilts lifted and backsides turned to the little airtight heater. It certainly WAS a memorable November!

Jean Campbell, Mansons Landing

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To OOTD:

Thanks for all the effort you put into the *Orders of the Day*.

Bill Goodacre, Smithers

We welcome your letters - you can mail them to:

P.O. Box 31009  
University Heights P.O.  
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J3

Or email to: ootd@shaw.ca

Please find enclosed my cheque for dues for 2014, and my completed survey form.

I read online in Section of **Bill 55 1998 Association for Former MLA's of British Columbia Act**

That:

5 (1) All former M.L.A.'s are eligible to be members of the association and may become members of the association in accordance with its bylaws.

(2) Other persons may be made honorary members or associate members of the association in accordance with its bylaws.

I assume that it is implied that a former MLA means a former M.L.A. of the B.C. Legislature? However, if the Association uses a wider interpretation of MLA, which would include 'all former Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia', then I would qualify to be a Member rather than an Associate Member. (*Ed. note: an interesting idea.*)

Of interest to me is the difference in abbreviations for "Member of the Legislative Assembly." In Nova Scotia "MLA" is written without any periods between the letters, but I noticed in the B.C. Act the abbreviation "M.L.A." does use periods between the letters.

On a personal note, Deborah and I are heading out next week as we are both taken on contracts for seven months at Keyano College in Fort McMurray. Deborah will be the acting director of finance during that time, and I am going to help with the strategic plan for the college. One can relate to the extent of the economic activity in that the municipality of Wood Buffalo, which has only 125,000 people (80,000 in town, and another 45,000 or so in the outlying areas, including the camps), has a budget of over \$1 billion. If money will solve a problem, the problem is solved.

All the best in 2014. I really enjoy the newsletter.

Regards,  
Patrick Hunt, Victoria



# Member News

Please send news about your activities to [ootd@shaw.ca](mailto:ootd@shaw.ca) for the next newsletter.

## Mike Harcourt

On January 20 of this year, a long overdue and lengthy conversation with this former Vancouver mayor (1980-86), Premier (Nov. 1991-Feb 1996), and we add a political friend for over thirty-five years. The exchange of past contacts and current events picked up where we left off, as if we had talked regularly over the years. As indicated above such had not been the case.

As before, Mike spoke with feeling about his time as Vancouver's mayor. "After all, it's a world-class city and there were so many challenges and (fascinating) things to tackle."

Did we discuss past and present politicians, from B.C.'s earliest days to Premier Christy Clark? A resounding "yes", but those thoughts will remain undisclosed, of course.

Mike holds a commanding place in B.C.'s recent past, and we're happy to consider him a good friend.

## Dennis MacKay of Smithers

By the time these notes are published, the MacKays expect to be in Australia. "It's been on our bucket list."

Dennis was the MLA for Bulkley Valley-Stikine from 2001 to 2009, representing the Liberal party.

This public service followed 20 years in the RCMP and then 10 years as a provincial coroner (where he had contact with our President Gillian Trumper who had the same coroner duties.)

Obviously, Dennis is a man who speaks frankly about his years in the Gordon Campbell legislature (a comment heard far too often, we suggest.)

*"As backbenchers we had very little input into government. There was no really opportunity to be a part of the decision-making process." (see below)*

In his earlier time Dennis was president of his Social Credit constituency association, during the time of (the late) Jack Kempf.

Dennis has an open invitation to write us about the travel to and through Australia.

*\* (Ed.: as noted above, premiers in the Canadian context ignore caucus at their ultimate peril. Perhaps the very recent instance of Newfoundland/Labrador Premier Kathy Dunderdale resigning is a case in point.*

*A leader of government who attends caucus on a regular basis as possible can should detect problems while they are minor and possibly manageable.*

*Bulkley Valley-Stikine is now known as Stikine. The constituency has elected some notable MLA's over past decades to 2009. The current MLA is not so well known beyond his elections boundaries.*

*Frank Arthur Calder, CCF/NDP (1949/1975);  
Social Credit (1975/1979)*

*Al Passarell, NDP (1979/1986)*

*Larry Guno, NDP (1986/1991)*

*Jackie Pement, NDP (1991/1996)*

*Bill Goodacre, NDP (1996/2001)*

*Dennis MacKay, Liberal (2001/2009)*

## A Special Message for Recently Retired MLA's

We offer this suggestion for those who have left legislative office after the General Election in May.

For twenty years this Association has proven to be a useful and friendly way in which to maintain contact with former colleagues, and to follow progress in the new parliament.

**Association of Former MLA's of BC**  
P.O. Box 31009  
University Heights P.O.  
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J3

Fax: 250-477-2532  
Email: [ootd@shaw.ca](mailto:ootd@shaw.ca)



# **Expo 86 Vancouver**

**This publication is planning a special commemorative edition in May, marking the 28th year since B.C. hosted the world at this six month celebration.**

**Two participants, among thousands who were involved in this exposition, were fortunate to be 'close' to the inner workings of Expo, the challenges to secure the event and prepare for it.**

**They have set down a fascinating summary of their experience - never before in print, some confidential at the time.**

**This will give readers a new perspective on the celebrations, and the complexities along the way.**

**If you wish to participate, send us your own memories of 1986, emailed to [ootd@shaw.ca](mailto:ootd@shaw.ca) no later than April 15th.**