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Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

Volume 20, Number 5

May 2014

EXPO 86. DON'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!



EXPO 86 The 1986 World Exposition
Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada
May 2 - October 13, 1986

Our Special Edition to Recall Expo86 Vancouver, May 2 - October 13

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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The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

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!

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.



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The 1986 Worlds Fair in Vancouver

Glimpses to remind

May 2

Back in 1978, in the quiet and elegant confines of the Cavalry Club in London, three people sat around over tea and talked about Vancouver. They were Grace McCarthy, the deputy premier and minister of human resources in the B.C. government; (the late) Lawrie Wallace, B.C.'s agent-general in the U.K. and Europe; and Patrick Reid, who had been commissioner general for Canadian participation in several world expositions (San Antonio, Osaka, Spokane) and who was just about to start a term as president of the International Bureau of Expositions (IBE) in Paris. That's the body that has the final say about what cities get world expositions.

In March of 2014, Mrs. McCarthy recalled she asked Reid and Wallace, "Why have we never had an expo?" The short and accurate answer was correct, "You never asked for one!". Grace said that 1986, still eight years ahead, was going to be Vancouver's 100th birthday and it

would be nice to mark that occasion in some special way. Reid responded by saying a world exposition would fill the bill splendidly.

When McCarthy got back to B.C. she sat with Premier Bennett and began to push for support for an exposition in Vancouver to mark the city's centennial.

Some 54 countries participated. Over the six months it ran, Expo 86 drew 22,111,600 people, a huge success.

Press coverage from the 10,000 journalists from 60 countries from the *London Times* to *Entertainment Tonight* and *Newsweek* was largely positive. Americans raved. Ironically, the only consistently sour notes came from eastern Canada. Robert Fulford, writing for *Saturday Night*, found Expo 86 a dream that never came true: "at its core, American . . . unremarkable . . ." while E.J. Kahn Jr. countered in his July 14, 1986 *New Yorker* magazine article 'Letter from Vancouver', "It's not so much Expo 86's substance that accounts for its charm as it is its style. You feel good just walking around."

For many the event that captured the heart and soul of Expo 86 was the July 27 final performance of the World Drum Festival, when 140 percussionists from 17 nations from Inuit with caribou drums to Indonesian gamelan orchestra and American drumset player Steve Gadd played to standing ovations.

Wikipedia has a good site on the exposition, with all sorts of details, including the fate of the world's largest hockey stick. The largest Canadian flag to that time was flown at Expo, now flies above a car dealer near Guildford Shopping Centre in Surrey. Visible from six kilometres away, the flag is 12 by 24 metres (40 feet by 80 feet) and flies 85.9 metres (282.4 feet) above the ground.

October 12

On Expo's last day but one a record 341,806 visitors (120,000 was a daily average) showed up for one last visit.

October 13

Expo 86 closed. Attendance at the exposition, originally projected to reach 14 million, topped 22 million.

Also in 1986

August 6 William N. Vander Zalm became BC premier

BC's population topped three million this year. It had reached one million in 1951, two million in 1968.



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Jerry Woytack's Recollections

Deputy Co-ordinator - Protocol

It's been a long time, but here are some recollections around protocol items from that wonderful event.

My direct involvement started after the bid was won by BC and I was asked to co-ordinate the Royal visits and other dignitaries on behalf of the BC government. At the time I was the Assistant Deputy Provincial Secretary, and also Assistant Deputy Minister for Government Services. The BC Protocol Office came under my wing, so Expo protocol came with that role.

I recall it was exciting right from the start. It was 1981 I believe when the idea first got traction, that BC would bid to host a world exposition called TRANSPO 86 with an obvious transportation theme. A small group of people started working on this and the Provincial Secretary lead the file. In those days government had a wonderful Ministry with strong historical ties who served among many other things as the Secretariat to Cabinet with assignments that focused on the central government's needs rather than line program operations.

The "can do" attitude in the Ministry and it's close relationship with the Legislature, Government House and the central workings of government made this such a natural fit for unique projects and special assignments that just could not occur in line ministries.

The Expo site selection turned into a real drama, as the False Creek land was not entirely in government hands. Land swaps; purchases and other concessions with private owners were necessary. The Government created two crown corporations, BC Place and Expo 86 Corporation. The former was to acquire, develop the land, while the latter was the operator of the exposition.

Brilliant foresight by Government on how this was to unfold, once BC got the nod to host the 6-month long fair. The name was changed to EXPO 86 from TRANSPO 86, as world expositions did only "EXPO'S"

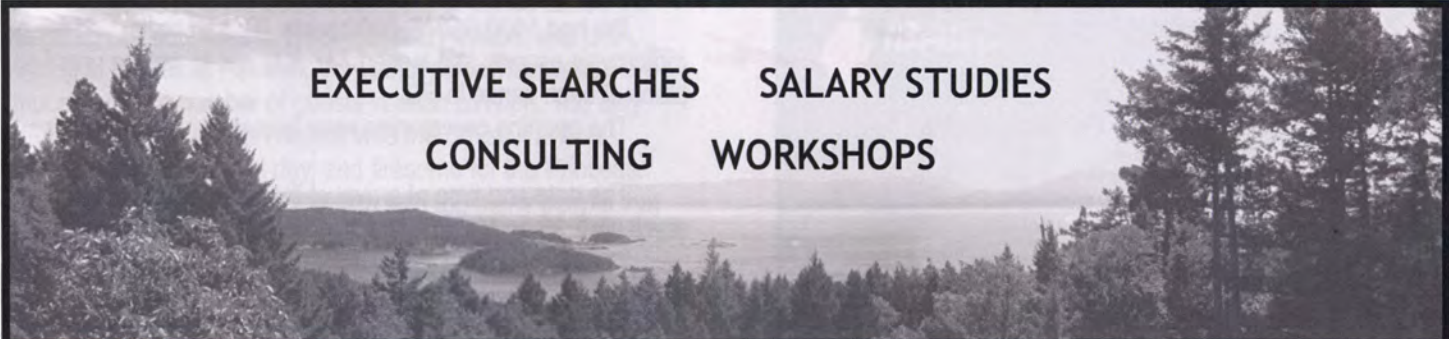
The financial modeling done for the site acquisition and post EXPO development plan was outstanding. 158 acres of water front property in a world-class city, owned by the people of British Columbia. WOW! What a prize.

I recall that the positive cash flow projections over 20 years on development would exceed 2 billion in 1986 dollars. Now how good is that!

For Expo 86 itself, the government had a vision.

Build temporary, demountable pavilions, so the site could easily be restored for development and have the Exposition pay for it self with ticket sales, other revenue, no tax dollars, and no deficit.

Extra funds needed to pay for the exposition would come from BC Lottery funds, which were also controlled by the Provincial Secretary at the time. The net cost of Expo 86 was paid off in 3



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All of the above is background to the actual event when so many details had to be worked out.

I recall some anxious moments around the opening ceremonies, when Expo 86 and BC Place were tasked with the logistics of ticket printing, sales and distribution.

The back of the ticket to Expo Opening Ceremonies, had a slogan "Drink Coca Cola", paid advertising for the ticket production.

I gasped in surprise and arranged with consent to have this reversed and taken over by our group. In a very short time by using our own Queen's Printer resources, we had 52 thousand tickets reprinted privately with the back of the ticket proudly welcoming the world to Vancouver on behalf of the BC Government, not Coca Cola.

A few weeks before opening day, the VIP guest list of several thousand was not responding to the invitations. These were the government's most important guests and they were not replying!!!

Obviously something went wrong. A computer glitch, some where between BC Place and Expo 86 did not track these selected guests from all MLA, Minister and other Government lists; they were lost!!! On top of that fiasco, the seats were resold.

So now there are no seats and no invitations. Total disaster.

Again we took it over in a panic.

I recall meeting with Jimmy Pattison to explain the disaster.

We concluded that the only option for the VIP seating would be on the floor of the stadium. Well there were 7800 performers already choreographed to use all of the floor space, with no seating for VIP's.

I thought the head Choreographer would have a heart attack when told to redo the opening show, a few weeks before the event, as there will be seating for the Prince and Princess of Wales and hundreds of VIP guests on the floor.

Within days through our own Government Postal Branch, a huge telephone-canvassing group with a bank of computers and ticket tracking software was put in place. VIP guests were personally called and invited and tickets sent out with instructions.

All went well!!! No one died of a heart attack and no one was the wiser of this monumental screw up.

The Prince and Princess of Wales seven day visit plans for Expo opening week had moments. We were on the Expo site making detailed plans in 20-minute intervals.

We were focused on the visit routes to pavilions, use of

monorail but the EXPO 86 Corporation was focused on getting the fair grounds ready. So one day we plan a route, the next day there is a fence to block the route. It was not working. Again, a meeting with Pattison saved the day. He assigned his personal assistant Maureen Chant to work with me on the details. She was a godsend, her word was law, and all vice presidents co-operated from then on. Every Sunday, Jimmy Pattison called to see if there were any issues, as in his words, this will succeed and Expo 86 Corporation will not let you down. And succeed it did!!!

Stu Hodgson, Mr. transportation of the day as head of BC Ferries and BC Transit was instrumental to our success.

We needed the Queen of the North removed from its normal northern run. BC Ferries said impossible!

The ship was sequestered for many weeks, refurbished for the visit, all with the personal help of Stu Hodgson.

The Royal visit included a Sky Train run from Burnaby to the Expo site, where the Royal's would step from the Sky Train, onto the Expo platform and onto the monorail in a seamless transfer. (Show case transportation!)

The Sky Train did not run that way, we asked for it to go in the opposite direction. BC Transit's response: Impossible!

After much consternation, the computers were reprogrammed to run in reverse and the Sky Train was taken out of service to meet our needs; it worked beautifully again due to the personal assistance of Stu Hodgson.

We had 1500 RCMP, 3000 press, TV and radio, and 60 motorcycle escorts. We leased 737 Jets just to get the press in place at each venue in BC.

The opening ceremonies were televised in 101 countries.

The date and time of arrival at the Expo site was precisely 2:35 on May 2nd. Not 1:35 or 2:45.

The MV Hotei owned by Jack Charles was just built and finished only one week before opening.

The Hotei would sail from the False Creek Ferry Dock to the EXPO East Dock, precisely 10 minutes, with world television.

The agreement was for Jack Charles, to Captain the vessel. Well this was its maiden voyage! While he was qualified, he did not have the Master ticket required for the Royal Family. So at last minute a qualified master had to come on board, and by reluctant agreement supervise Jack Charles as captain.

All went perfectly, the vessel was captained flawlessly by Jack Charles.

The Princess of Wales loved to swim, so we had to find ways to meet this need discreetly. While at the Pan Pacific in Vancouver, she would dress up in plain clothes, with a head scarf, be taken down the service elevator to an awaiting black

smoked window van, and transported to an undisclosed residence in Shaughnessy for a private swim, return to her suite, no one ever found out.

The visit of Princess Margaret was delightful. She was so grateful for the public's response as she was nervous that her visit would not be received as well in the shadow of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

I recall an exciting moment while on the Expo Monorail. The trip was as always meticulously detailed. At the end of our monorail run, Princess Margaret, gleefully proclaimed, how much fun! Can we do it again?

The police, security and everyone were horrified and said no! After a very short pause, the answer was, of course your Highness, and away we went again with many frowns on police faces and big grins on everyone else! She loved it and so did the crowds.

Another fun tidbit is on our way to the Four Seasons Hotel, we heard from Princess Margaret's Principal Secretary, that she prefers a Famous Grouse Scotch with ice on her arrival.

A telephone call to the hotel revealed no Famous Grouse was in stock in the hotel at the time. So, go get it now!! Which the hotel did and all was fine. I'm sure to this day the hotel will always have Famous Grouse in stock.

On May 6, the Prince and Princess of Wales toured the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, USSR, British Pavilion, and USA, ending in California Pavilion. Very strict guidelines were imposed on the number of guests in each pavilion. The only pavilion that abused the request was the British Pavilion.

It was very hot that day, and tiresome for the Princess. The British loaded up their Pavilion with too many people that the Royals had to weave through, it caused concern. Next, the US pavilion, had a dark, highly visual, outer space exhibit showcasing the Space Shuttle that disoriented the Princess. She started to wring her flower bouquet, which was the signal that she needed attention.

The last stop was California, by that time most of the press had left, it was late afternoon, and shortly into the visit, the Princess fainted. I ran out to get the medical box from our trunk and the personal physician rushed in. Pandemonium ensued. The US press were in full form and within minutes images were flooding California the US and the world as the story of the day. Princess faints at EXPO!

Our motorcade weaved through a hastily created exit route with police help to the hotel, the only emergency procedure in the visit.

After word, we heard how delighted the press was with the unfortunate incident, as the news and coverage in California made a difference to visitations to Expo from the USA.

The protocol was very strict for motorcade movement. Once the Prince of Wales is seated in the vehicle, and waves, **THE MOTORCADE MOVES IMMEDIATELY!!**

At a luncheon event at Pan Pacific there were many guests of volunteer organizations and Hon. Grace McCarthy just could not leave without saying goodbye to many people. Being in constant radio contact I knew we were running out of time and might miss the elevator.

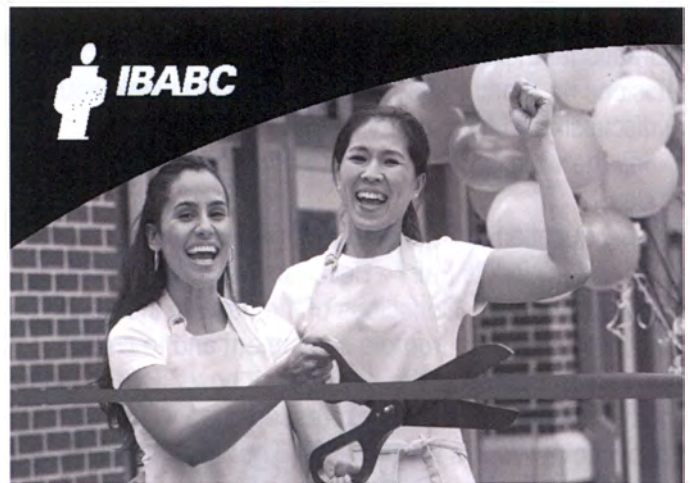
We did, and I heard where are you!! From the motorcade, we have to move!!! Ms. McCarthy and I ran all the way to our car but the Prince was waiting as he had sat down, had waved, but his car did not move!

Oops, we heard about it that night at our daily debrief.

The most recurring last minute negotiations and consternations were of course **THE SEATING PLAN!!!**

Every event, we had to confirm who sits closest to the Royals and how the guests are then fanned out from their seats.

The Royal entourage was brilliant at this negotiation deferring many times to their established precedent protocol for such matters. Many times they would arbitrate in great style. I still believe it was all made up to assist us with meeting the needs of our local special guests.



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Grace McCarthy's recollections of Expo86

I remember walking through the crowds at Expo '86, experiencing the smiles and the happy atmosphere created by people from all over the world who came to visit. It was as if the world had stopped for those few months and we all enjoyed goodwill and peace. Peace and hospitality were in the examples of young and old, mixing with all languages and in our British Columbians who adopted the role of hosts with unbridled enthusiasm. They laughed with strangers, who became our friends. They offered to direct the visitors and to help them understand our exceptional Province, our Country and our City of Vancouver.

My memories of Expo began in London. Social Credit was elected in 1975 and my responsibilities included Ministry of Tourism and Provincial Secretary as well as overseeing B.C. House in London which I visited in 1978. I met for lunch with then Agent General of B.C. House, Laurie Wallace, and Patrick Reid who was serving Canadians in Canada House, London. In our lively conversation at lunch, Patrick told us he would be in Paris on the following day to meet with the I.B.E. of which he was the Canadian representative. The Bureau of International Expositions was the body that made decisions on World Fairs and in that coming week would be discussing which country would be successful in getting the winning bid to host a world's fair seven years hence.

My question to Patrick was why has British Columbia never had a World's Fair? "Because you never asked for one" was the reply. Conscious of the need to increase tourism, the need to promote investment and to create jobs, I said, "Patrick, we're asking for it now." By the time lunch ended, all three of us expressed support for this prospect of a World's Fair for B.C. The following Monday morning, I walked into Bill Bennett's office in Victoria to get his approval to invite the I.B.E. to British Columbia and Canada.

My timing was not great - we had been elected for two years and in that time we were met with many challenges. Our leader was facing what seemed to be a towering mountain of problems brought on by a severe recession. His first reaction was that we just wouldn't be able to afford a World's Fair.

I remember looking out the window onto the beautiful lawn and surroundings of the Parliament Buildings and saying to Bill the opportunity to apply is

now, and look at it this way: If we cannot turn this Province around by 1986, we won't deserve to be government.

Bill's smile and countenance I will never forget: You're right Grace! Go ahead and apply for a World's Fair in British Columbia for 1986.

Setting up the administration for this massive event was not easy. In fact the first team to be appointed failed to satisfy the financial and operational accountability of the project. To add to this was the concern that the project had the possibility of unrest which could stop the Fair in its tracks. Of course, there were the usual naysayers who, for their own reasons felt compelled to delay and stop the project.

Later, Bennett called on Jimmy Pattison, who has distinguished himself as a brilliant entrepreneur, who had already become one of the top business successes in Canada. Approached by the Premier, his first response was No, he couldn't assume the job of bringing in the fair, seeing it to completion and all within a time frame of only ten months. The Premier realized that he was asking a lot of Jimmy to give up running his own business for almost a year - "Jimmy" he said, "This has to be a success for British Columbia and Canada - if not you - who?" From then on Jimmy agreed, and it was one of the brilliant decisions made on the way to getting the Fair built. Jimmy knew and understood people - the success of his own business was proof of that and the management and leadership style of the man was among what made Expo '86 an outstanding success.

Jimmy left his business for one year and devoted all his time to presenting a World's Fair which is still discussed by countries for its' creativity and accountability. It was not only a class act - it was operationally perfect.

One has to understand that Expo '86 followed a deep recession, and like a miracle the mood of our Province was uplifted. We began to *believe* in ourselves and in the opportunities that were emerging. Expo '86 spawned an explosion of exciting ventures in tourism and business, in entertainment and technology, in transportation and communication. Expo '86 brought British Columbians together; they now had an understanding that surpassed boundaries and different cultures and we began to appreciate a deeper meaning of the phrase, "brotherhood of man".

Lawrie Wallace

We've already read that Grace McCarthy was in London to meet with Patrick Reid, then with the Canadian Commission there and with L.G. (Lawrie) Wallace.

To put the meeting in context, we quote from a *Victoria Times* article of June 15, 1977, reporting that Wallace was to be the new Agent General for B.C. in the U.K. and Europe a key position to lead efforts for Expo86, nine years later.

He was settled in this post when Grace first spoke about "a Vancouver world's fair" in 1986.

Posting in U.K. for Lawrie Wallace

B.C.'s favourite civil servant, deputy provincial secretary Lawrie J. Wallace, was appointed Tuesday as B.C.'s new agent general in London, England.

The appointment of the 64-year-old Wallace was greeted by applause and cheers from all sides of the B.C. legislature.

Wallace, deputy provincial secretary since Jan. 1, 1959, replaces former NDP leader Bob Strachan whose two-year term expires in October.

Wallace will take up his position in B.C. House, London within the next couple of months.

The announcement of his appointment brought high praise from all opposition party leaders and from Bennett himself.

"The appointment will cap a career of dedicated service to the people of the province, dating back to his school teaching days."

Bennett listed Wallace's accomplishments and said he brings to the position of agent general a wealth of knowledge and experience of life and activities in B.C. and Canada.

The job of the agent general is to act as B.C.'s official representative in the United Kingdom and Europe and to promote the province abroad.

NDP leader Dave Barrett said Wallace is the epitome of what every civil servant should be in "terms of non-partisan dedication to all citizens of this province."

Liberal leader Gordon Gibson said Wallace would be sorely missed and suggested a supplementary budget would be necessary to pay the people necessary to replace Wallace.

Tory leader Scott Wallace said he is always pleased to see another Wallace get ahead and said the vigor, enthusiasm and intensity of Wallace's dedication would be missed.

Wallace is perhaps best known to the people of B.C. for his work as chairman of B.C.'s centennial committees in both 1958 and 1967.

Wallace said Tuesday he plans to carry on the tradition of B.C. House and do what he can to promote B.C.

Thus, Lawrie was well-positioned in London to work further "on the spot" and help bring about the world's fair in Vancouver, 1986.

Lawrie died in 2006. He is survived by his wife of many years, Lois.



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Some funny things happened on the way to, and at, Expo86

by Hugh Curtis

Following Grace's 1978 visit to London and her meeting with Patrick Reid and Lawrie Wallace concerning a Vancouver World's Fair, decisions followed rapidly.

The Executive Council came on board upon hearing Bill Bennett's approval of seeking the major event for some six years away.

Not much later I was in Paris on two separate visits to liaise with the International Bureau of Expositions (I.B.E.). My travel companions were Reid, Wallace, and a few key B.C. government staff members who would be directly involved with the Fair until it closed in October 1986.

During the first meeting, I was among those from B.C. who were politely told, "We don't do 'Transpos', we do 'Expos'." That name change was probably the easiest task any of us faced during those very early years.

Fast forward now to the actual staging of Expo86, in that incredible summer.

All cabinet ministers had official duties involving our special visitors. With luck and arrangements by someone in government I drew escort duties with three of these guests.

U.S. Vice-President George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara

The very pleasant and, yes, exciting day saw Sheila and I to accompany the Bush visit on board a special sailing of a B.C. ferry from Swartz Bay terminal to Canada Place, Vancouver Harbour.

The vessel's forward lounge had been stripped of all usual seats and other furnishings, to be fitted out with a single table for four. Enroute brunch was unveiled.

We found the V.P. and Barbara to be pleasant guests, conversation came easily and I recall Mr. Bush returned to the serving table for "seconds."

The genuine delight, however, was the charming and instantly friendly Barbara. We four had private and easy access from the lounge to the open starboard deck.

On our way through Active Pass Mrs. Bush ("call me Barbara") was often on deck alone. Looking over Mayne Island she spotted eagles soaring over land.

Thus, Barbara quickly returned to the lounge, summoning the three of us to see the magnificent birds and calling out, "George, come out - eagles!"

Now, with the four of us on deck, we engaged in light-hearted argument as to whether the eagles were American or Canadian (after all, the eagles were in Canadian airspace.)

Following another few minutes on deck, Barbara returned to the lounge and said to us, "If Nancy (Reagan) were here, she'd tell me again to 'stay out of the sun!'"

With her good humour and easy manner, Barbara impressed her two hosts in a way not usually experienced when interacting with some "V.I.P.s." I fondly recall to this day the 2 ½ hour journey.

H.R.H. Princess Margaret

My second special guest was my good fortune to accompany the Princess on her trip on board the monorail. H.R.H. and I were alone in the first car, and it was observed this delightful Royal truly enjoyed seeing much of the fair from that vantage point.

As Jerry Woytack observed in his notes, for this issue, the famous lady created surprise and consternation among the various officials waiting at our starting point.

The question from Princess Margaret was simply: "Can we go around again?" Yes, we could and yes, we did!

This B.C. guy had somehow learned a Royal question is really a Royal command. The second ride around was even better than the first.





WE WELCOME WORLD

Royal Couple Open Expo '86

UPI - May 2, 1986

A big hand, for our Expo Bash

Victoria Times Colonist - May 2, 1986



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MAY 2, 1986

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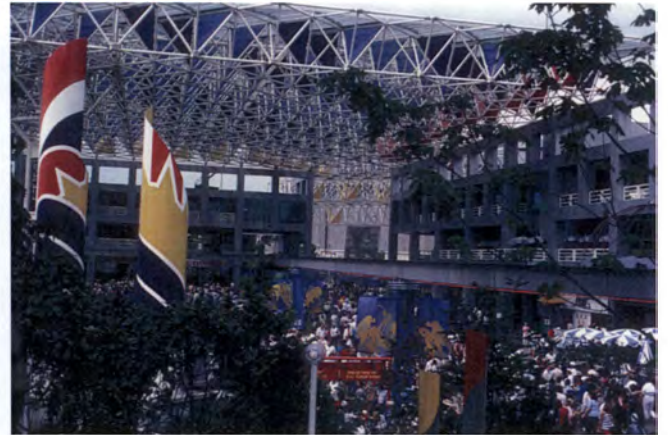
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Second printing to remove Coca Cola on back of ticket.



Opening ceremonies





THE VISIT
of
THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS
OF WALES

1986

LA VISITE
de
LEURS ALTESSES ROYALES
LE PRINCE ET LA PRINCESSE
DE GALLES





U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher





The City of Nanaimo were hosts to HRH The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana on May 1st, the day before the opening of Expo. Here they are shown unveiling the plaque officially declaring Nanaimo as "The Harbour City".

Shown in the photo' including myself (in gown!) as Mayor, are Jim Hewitt and his wife Dorothy (seated) representing the Provincial Government, and Bob Plecas standing behind.

~ Graeme Roberts

Charles and Diana arrive at Vancouver following their trip from Nanaimo.



Closing ceremonies



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

**5 Months and 22 Million Visitors Later -
Expo 86 Ends in Style**

Associated Press, October 14, 1986

Party's Over

Orlando Sentinel, October 15, 1986

Claude Richmond - thoughts from Expo86

It was called; "The biggest single catalyst for dramatic change in Vancouver," and was attended by 22 million people.

I'm delighted to be asked to write about my experiences around Expo 86. I would like to focus on the four years leading up to the opening of the exhibition - you all know the rest.

I distinctly remember the day in the fall of 1982 that Premier Bill Bennett asked me to take on the role of Minister Responsible for Expo 86. I had been made the Minister of Tourism just a couple of months earlier and could hardly believe that I was to be the Government person in charge of such an undertaking - what a privilege and challenge!

During those 4 years leading up to the opening of Expo there was much work to do and we would face many problems which all had to be overcome, this fair had to open on May 2nd, 1986 and there was no forgiveness.

Of course, we could not have had a better CEO than Jimmy Pattison, a very successful businessman who gave most of his time to the project for a salary of one dollar a year.

One thing was that Expo be a Fair for all British Columbians, not just Vancouver. I agreed with this whole heartedly and so did Jimmy. The other thing that I insisted on was that it had to look brand new every day. The 14 millionth visitor should see exactly what the first visitor saw, and from the feedback we received, I believe we did manage to do that.

There were so many talented people involved that it would be unfair to single anyone out lest I miss someone. What's more, all of these people knew that as of October of 1986, they would be out of work. Of course, those who had begun the work on Expo before me had also done excellent work, and their contribution was invaluable.

There were many wonderful moments during construction and some not so great. There were so many decisions that had to be made on a daily basis, not the least of which was staying within our budget. The demands of some of the international pavilions were never ending. Patrick Reid bore the brunt of most of these and did a stellar job of keeping them all happy.... most of the time.

One does not like to dwell on negatives, but there are some that should be touched on. One of our major hurdles from the beginning was solving our labour problems. The trade unions wanted a strictly union site, but we wanted to include all workers, union and non-union. This led to some very stressful negotiations, including all-night sessions. At one point some of the senior members of the Board of Directors appeared in front of Cabinet advising the Ministers to cancel Expo if we couldn't make a deal with the unions. After they left the Cabinet room the Premier looked at me and said; "Claude, can we build this without union labour?" I knew we had done our homework, so I said firmly; "Yes we can." And he responded "Then let's go."

The fair was built with about 72% union and 28% non-union trades. Getting there was not easy, but it was done and it worked.

One of the saddest moments came when the disaster at Chernobyl happened just before we were to open. It was a disaster of immeasurable proportion and I can't say enough about the heroism of many people who literally gave their lives in the rescue effort. The people in the Russian pavilion rose to the occasion and pulled through. Their pavilion opened on time and it was great.

There were countless decisions to be made such as should we have a mono-rail, what kind of theatre should we have (I-max or Omin-max), green spaces, concessions, and so forth and, always, could we afford all of these things. Many of these decisions were not easy to make and there were many disagreements as people felt very strongly about some of them.

At four years out from the Fair, it seemed that there was a crisis every month. As the opening drew nearer there was a crisis every week, then every day and the last couple of months there was a crisis every hour then every ten minutes. There was no putting anything off; Expo was going to open on time, period!

We had a tough time convincing some pavilions that they must all open on time. Some of them (who shall remain anonymous) said it wouldn't matter if they were late by a couple of weeks. Through various means we managed to convince them otherwise.

Expo did open on time and on budget on and the immediate response from the public was tremendous, even though the weather did not cooperate at first. After the first short while the weather was nearly perfect for the remainder of the fair. People who had bought 3 day passes were exchanging them for complete fair passes and many people came to the grounds almost every day. They enjoyed meeting people from all over the world and would walk up and down the waiting lines talking to everyone.

Travelling to many countries promoting Expo was also very interesting; negotiating with and signing countries from around the world. Almost all lived up to their promises.

When I think back to my experiences, the highlight of the exhibition for me has to be the people I met. How else would a kid from Kamloops meet such people as Prince Charles & Princess Diana, George Bush Senior, Margaret Thatcher, Thor Heyerdahl, the famous Norwegian explorer and many more.

My wife Pat and I spent just over 3 days with Prince Charles and Princess Diana, escorting them around the Fair. We even took them to Kamloops where we had a wonderful event in Riverside Park. Mayor Jim Walsh presented them with a fishing rod & reel and the crowd loved it. I'm sure Kamloops was the highlight of their trip!

This is just a very brief glimpse of what my part of Expo 86 was like; I could write a book about Expo -- and maybe someday I should! I would like once more to thank all of the very talented people who worked with us to put this very successful exposition together. I would also like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who gave so much to make it all work.

~ Claude Richmond

Remembering Expo86 - Shirley Stocker

28 years later and it seems like only yesterday.

The crowds, the concrete highway sculpture, the "scream machine," broadcasting the Opening Ceremonies province-wide as Prince Charles and his new bride, Princess Diana joined Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Expo86 Commissioner-General Patrick Reid on May 2nd, 1986. The first explosion of the nightly fireworks ... and the forever-memorable theme song "Something's Happening Here."

I remember, too the incredible guests and personalities from around the globe who crossed our threshold at Expo86 that magical year.

CKNW Radio had been on the Expo site a year before the Fair opened its gates to the public. Ted Smith, the station's manager at that time, had made a deal with David Podmore, who was in charge of the B.C. Pavilion, to allow CKNW to locate its open-line broadcasting studios on the Expo Site. In order to get that approval, CKNW had agreed to lease space on the site after Expo86 had run its course. The rest of the media were "mad as hell" but it was a huge coup for CKNW, whose main studios were located in New Westminster but which required a presence in downtown Vancouver for its daily talk-shows. We became the only radio station in the world allowed to broadcast from the site every day during Expo but, as such, were able to offer our facilities to visiting broadcasters who wanted to originate programming for their far-flung audiences from the Expo86 site.

So it was that, on May 2nd, 1986, Expo86 roared to life on the shores of False Creek in Vancouver and for the next five and a half months played host to the world. And we were right in the middle of it.

Kingdoms, nations, provinces, states and corporation brought to British Columbia their finest cultural expressions and latest technologies in the field of transportation and communications, the theme for this 1986 World's Fair. Performers came from near and far to entertain in theaters, cabarets, on open stages and throughout the length and breadth of the Expo site. Princes, presidents, prime ministers, premiers and potentates visited, along with over 22 million members of the public who clicked through the turnstiles before the curtain came down on October 13th.

CKNW's main talk show hosts - Gary Bannerman, Barrie Clark and Rafe Mair - interviewed many guests before and during Expo's 1986 run from the on-site studio complex. The guest list includes Premier Bill Bennett, Vancouver mayor Mike Harcourt, federal and provincial cabinet ministers, Expo 86 Chair Jimmy Pattison ... almost

anyone who had anything to do with Expo86. We tracked the 'Man in Motion,' Rick Hansen as he wheeled his way around the world and spent time with some of the biggest names in entertainment, sports and commerce who had found their way to Vancouver.

I was Executive Director of Public Affairs programming for CKNW, charged with booking the guests. One of my biggest 'catches' was Bob Hope. Among my personal treasures is a delightful picture of both of us; Bob eating vanilla ice cream at 9:00 in the morning as he waited to go on the air ... and me just gazing at him in awe. (I had asked his staff what I could get for him, offering the usual fare of tea, coffee and so on. They replied, without hesitation, "vanilla ice cream.!!!") Some of the other showbiz luminaries who 'dropped in' and whose names I have no shame in dropping were stars like Bryan Adams, Ray Charles, Rolf Harris, Mitzi Gaynor (what a delightful lady; she thought it wonderful that Expo had risen from what she called 'swamp land').

As for my personal highlights from 1986, I particularly remember the opening of the U.S.A. Pavilion. "USA Day" at Expo86 was spectacular! We linked up with New York and Loretta Lynn singing the "Star Spangled Banner." We marveled at the accomplishment of three super-powers - The United States, Soviet Union and China - jointly participating for a first time in a World's Fair.

Our reporters on site covered everything that moved, working unbelievably long hours to get the best stories. Among them, John Ashbridge, Mike Killeen, Ruth Adams, Belle Puri, Cathy Hunt and George Garrett. Not only were they reporting on the day-to-day excitement of what was happening at Expo86, but they took time to relate some of the history of the site. Eight years earlier, in 1978, the north shore of False Creek had been a grimy industrial wasteland filled with old railway yards, crumbling lumber mills and aging factories; 173 acres that were about to be turned into the site of a World's Fair, changing the landscape of False Creek - and Vancouver - forever.

Many people wondered why the Fair had to end, but, under the rules governing every International Exposition, when your time is up, it's up. On October 13th, we said goodbye to the crowds and watched as Expo86 closed its gates to the public. CKNW remained on site for a few more years amid a dwindling number of publicly-operated and privately-owned occupants at the B.C. Pavilion location ... but many of our neighbours from 1986 had begun to move away. Today, the former Expo 86 location continues to be reborn as a growing, high-end, hi-rise housing site.

But, 28 years later, the memories remain. And it seems like only yesterday.

Some Expo Memories from Dave Laundry

During the lead up to Expo 86, I was the head of Government Information Services, and part of my job, reporting to the Premier, was to keep tabs on communications issues relating to the world fair.

One project I was very close to was production of the two films the province contracted for the BC Pavilion. Both were done in Los Angeles because of their use of new, state of the art technology. One, which was essentially a travelogue on BC, was produced in giant screen Imax. The other, filmed with a huge, heavy camera and projected onto three screens, featured one day in the working life of British Columbia from the mines and orchards to the offices in downtown Vancouver and including the changing of the light bulbs on the Parliament building dome.

So, for a brief period, I flew down once a month to two production studios to view the out takes -- the raw film as it was being assembled into a storyline.

My most memorable moment came one day toward the end of shooting on the industrial film. The director had done a wonderful job of capturing the great variety of geography and working life in B.C. He was particularly proud of footage of two BC Ferries passing in Active Pass. It had taken a lot of expense, time and effort to mount the large, heavy camera on the bow of one ferry to capture the close passage of the second ship. He was anxious to show it to me.

On it came, dramatic in its three screen action as the ferry rounded the point and blew its whistle. And there in full view was the sister ship sailing straight at the camera.

I was duly impressed. But then my heart sank.

To my disbelieving eyes the ship looming large was painted in the wrong colours! They had managed to shoot the only ship that hadn't yet been converted to the new red, white and blue livery with Expo 86 on the funnel.

I had to explain to these incredulous Americans that the whole ferry segment had to be shot again!

Another occasion when the news was difficult to relay involved an Expo site model.

As part of his marketing plan, American-born Expo President Mike Bartlett had commissioned a few of these models to put on display in prime markets in the US. But the government wanted use of one of them for a mall show to tour the province. We needed to excite our own citizens about the benefits of the world fair.



Deputy Tourism Minister Mike Horsey and I went to see the formidable Mr. Bartlett in his Georgia Street office to convince him to let us use one of the models.

He was not co-operative. He said he didn't give a fig (the polite way of putting it) about the BC market as the US was what counted most. That's (the BC public) not on my agenda, he said.

Tempers flared and we ended up debating whose agenda took priority, his or the governments.

The meeting ended in a stalemate.

In the end we went over his head to Chairman Pattison who made sure we got our model which subsequently went all over the province.

Not sure if it was a co-incidence, but Mr. Bartlett departed Expo shortly thereafter.

We were set on having Princess Di -- then the Number One celebrity in the world -- open Expo 86.

Protocol had been followed with the invitation to Prince Charles routed through Ottawa to Buckingham Palace. But, as the clock ticked, there was still no word back. What to do to speed the process.

The answer came in the form of Stuart Hodgson, then chairman of BC Ferries but formerly Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

While in the North, Stu had squired the then teenage Prince around the territory and had in the process become a friend. He had Charles personal phone number.

One call from Stu and the wheels began to turn and the couple's attendance was assured.

Letters

Hugh:

Keep up the good work. I continue to enjoy *Orders of the Day* and happily enclose my cheque for another year.

Valerie Green,
Victoria

Sorry for the delay in payment and thanks for the reminder.

As you know - George passed away October 1st and I have been trying to get things organized.

I have been in California since shortly after his passing to get some property we have there settled.

Cheers,
Rita Johnston,
Coldstream

I like everything about the newsletter. First, it is newsy, as a newsletter should be. Second, it is a magazine and as such should carry a variety of articles whether its a 19th century story or a comment on a current event.

All in all, I'd say keep it coming. *Orders of the Day* is informative, interesting and best of all a great way for us "Formers" to stay in touch.

Cheers,
Bruce Strachan,
Prince George

We welcome your letters - you can mail them to:

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

Or fax to: 250-477-2532

Or email to: ootd@shaw.ca

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 phone, fax, mail or email - see page 2 for contact information.



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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.

Gary Lauk, Q.C.

A brief note from Gary and then a good conversation with this former MLA, resident of Vancouver.

He was first elected, representing Vancouver Centre, in 1972, and re-elected in '75, '79 and '83.

He told us that he's now fully retired from law, but remains active with his church and a variety of volunteer pursuits.

In the Legislature, as we observed, he was frequently on his feet giving his own and the NDP's views on government legislation and what the government should or should not be undertaking - all as an Opposition Member is expected to do.

Brenda Locke

Surrey Now
April 21, 2014

Former Surrey Liberal MLA Brenda Locke plans to run for a Surrey council seat in the November civic election. She will run as an independent.

The Guildford resident currently serves as the executive director of the B.C. Massage Therapist Association.

Locke was Liberal MLA for Surrey-Green Timbers from 2001 to 2005. Among other duties, she served as Minister of State for Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Locke defeated NDP MLA Sue Hammell for the seat in 2001, but Hammell then returned the favour in 2005.



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EXPO
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Expo86 postcard



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