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# Orders of the Day

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

Volume 21, Number 10

December 2015



Photo Credit: John Yaryshyn / Visions West Photography

*The Association and Orders of the Day wish one and all "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."*

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

# Thank You and Miscellany

**Ken Jones on the mend after fall.** Association Secretary and Past-President Ken Jones is on the mend at home after a fall from a ladder in November.

Ken's wife Sharon reports that the former MLA was pruning a plum tree when the ladder twisted. She says he wasn't up very high but he fell onto the ladder breaking one rib and injuring a "transverse process," a small bony projection off the side of a vertebrae at the base of his spine. The back injury caused Ken a lot of pain and he was in Peace Arch Hospital for a week. He came home Nov. 25th.

Sharon says Ken's prognosis for a complete recovery is good and her challenge is keeping him on the ground in the future.

## Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

Catherine McGregor, Cobble Hill

Claude Richmond, Kamloops

*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.

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

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(The late) Hugh Curtis

# From the Editor's Desk

Some years it seems more important than others to cling to special holiday rituals. This year is certainly one of those.

My ritual has been a family reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas.

*"Looking through my bedroom window, out onto the moonlight and the unending smoke-coloured snow I could see the lights in the windows of all the other houses on our hill and hear the music rising from them up the long, steady falling night.*

*"I turned the gas down, I got into bed.*

*"I said some words to the close and holy darkness, and then I slept."*



Thomas's poem romanticized the Christmas holidays through the eyes of a child and was read on radio for the first time more than 60 years ago.

In this issue of OOTD, Life Member Jim Hume takes us back more than 80 years to relive a precious and frugal 1931 Christmas in his English home. Jim's unflinching ability to set the scene is at its best in his recollection of making the most out of life during the Great Depression.

I also want to thank Jim for providing a tribute to former MLA and cabinet minister Bob McClelland. When Denise McClelland phoned to tell me of Bob's passing she specifically asked if it would be possible for Jim to write the OOTD tribute. Of course, Jim said yes.

In this issue we have included some government-focused holiday items, from the dressing up of the Legislature to the BC Youth Parliament to the Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon's New Year's Day Levee. You will also find Christmas greetings from members of the OOTD family.

I wish you all Peace on Earth even though it must ring hollow for many in these troubled times around our terror and war weary globe.

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 produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

# A message from Association President Gillian Trumper

This is the time of year when one looks back and reviews the past months. For the Association of Former MLAs of BC 2015 has been a time of renewal.

For Orders of the Day, we needed an editor and were fortunate to have Brian Kieran take up the challenge, with the great support of Rob Lee.



Orders of the Day is alive and well. It is our connection with our members and creates an opportunity for discussion on the many changes that are taking place on the political scene.

Whatever one's views were of the results of the federal election, it was gratifying to see the numbers of people who came out to vote this time. We are so fortunate to be Canadians where we have the right of freedom of speech and the democratic right to vote. It should never be taken for granted.

Every day we see and hear of people taking desperate measures to leave their homes and countries because of war, to find a better life; and we watch with horror the events that occurred in Paris and that occur in other cities. In Canada, we do have our own problems, but they diminish when you see the anguish and trouble in other parts of the world.

As Canadians we have so much to be thankful for. As a country, we can be generous to help those seeking a new life for their families. As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Christmas, may we remember to say Happy Christmas and Peace to All.

## OOTD published 10 times per year

Do not call the 'Missing OOTD Line' when your newsletter does not arrive in the first week of January.

The newsletter is being published 10 times a year. In 2015, that was March through December as OOTD emerged from its post-Hugh Curtis period of mourning.

This coming year there will be a "Winter" edition covering January and February and a "Summer" edition covering July and August. These are periods when many of you are on holiday.

The newsletter will be published monthly March through June and September through December.

It bears repeating ... we need member and subscriber input. Tells us what's happening in your circle. Send us photos when you travel to far off places. Send us an article if an issue grabs your attention.

Happy New Year from your OOTD crew.

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# The BC Government House Levée ... 2016

On Jan 1, 2016, Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon will welcome the public to BC Government House at 1401 Rockland Avenue, Victoria.

The many visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy light refreshments and the music of the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Scottish Regiment Pipes and Drums.

Join Their Honours on Friday, January 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early to avoid a long line-up. Food contributions or donations to support local food banks are encouraged and accepted at the door upon entrance to the Levée.



establishments, municipalities and other institutions, has an unusual and interesting origin.

The word Levée is derived from the French verb "lever" - to rise (specifically from one's bed) - and has its origins in the Levée du Soleil or Rising of the Sun instituted by King Louis XIV (1643 - 1715) whose custom was to receive his male subjects in the Royal bedchamber just after arising.

The Levée crossed the English Channel in the 18th Century, and in Great Britain and Ireland became a formal court reception given by the sovereign or his/her representative in the forenoon or early afternoon, at which only men were received.

In the New World colonies, the Levée was held by the governor acting on behalf of the monarch. Because settlers were widely scattered, and separated from the seat of government, the annual Levée was a very important event and attendance by village leaders and public dignitaries was compulsory.

It was in Canada that the Levée became associated with New Year's Day. The holding of a Levée by the governor general and lieutenant governors on New Year's Day is not a continuation of the precedent set by the sovereign they represent, but rather perpetuates an ancient custom of this country, dating from the days of the

## The Levée ... an unusual origin

The annual New Year's Day Levée, hosted by the governor general, the lieutenant governor, military

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fur trade. The traders traditionally paid their respects to their representative of government - the Master of the Fort - on New Year's Day.

The first recorded Levée in Canada was held on January 1st, 1646 in the Chateau St. Louis by Charles Huault de Montmagny, Governor of New France (later Québec) from 1636 to 1648.

The Levée tradition was continued by British Colonial governors in Canada, and subsequently by governors general and lieutenant governors, and continues to the present day.

Records suggest that only after British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871 were Levées regularly held by the lieutenant governor of the province. The (Victoria) Colonist of January 3rd, 1872 reported that "His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Joseph J.W. Trutch and family received and entertained many callers at their private residence." Subsequent Levées were held, for the most part, at Government House.

From the rather boisterous celebrations of early times to the somewhat more sedate, if informal, event of today, the Levée has evolved into an occasion to call upon



representatives of the sovereign, military, and municipal governments, to exchange New Year's greetings and best wishes for the coming year, and to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends in a convivial atmosphere. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the events of the past year and to welcome in the challenges and opportunities of the New Year.



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# BC's young parliamentarians get set to soar

Nathan How, Premier of the upcoming 87th BC Youth Parliament, says: "The coming year will see our organization reach new heights as membership surges in experience and engagement."

At the top of that list will be the return of Camp Phoenix in August, 2016.

The outgoing 2015 Premier Darya Ali says: "This year, we decided to bring back Camp Phoenix, an initiative that was cancelled indefinitely in 2011. As a sleepaway camp for youth aged eight to 12 who for social or financial reasons couldn't otherwise attend camp, Camp Phoenix has, in the years it's been hosted, truly allowed us to fulfill our mandate of Youth Serving You.

"Since 2011, our membership has lacked the experience necessary to succeed in running such a large-scale project. However, this is no longer the case. Today, our membership is dedicated to doing all the fundraising, advertising, and staffing necessary to ensure this project succeeds," Outgoing Premier Ali says.

"We realize that we host several projects to promote parliamentary education and to combat empathy, but we also recognize that we do little to help youth outside of the category of high-school aged students. In the last two years, we've hosted Project Phoenix, which has succeeded in being a free, drop-in service that provides activities from organized sports to arts and crafts. Still, we feel that we're capable of more and this project will allow for a more comprehensive approach to youth service."

Incoming Premier How says: "There is a mountain of work left to do to get there, but a lot of time and effort has already been invested with a contract already signed. With camp comes a hefty cost that will necessitate a major

fundraiser. Other funds will come from grants that we have already started to apply for."

Ahead of the parliamentary session during the Christmas holidays, How says: "The session will get a facelift from new evening activities and a renewed mentorship program. Our legislative agenda includes new ministries, securing funding for those who can't afford to participate in our projects, and proposed changes to our decades-old mission statement that will change the way we lead our 95 parliamentarians and direct the organization's efforts."

In 2016, the Association of Former MLAs of BC Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund will begin awarding bursaries to help defray travel and accommodation expenses for two young parliamentarians who live outside the Greater Victoria area. Grants from the memorial fund will acknowledge Hugh's interest in youth and his commitment to the youth parliament. The bursaries will provide opportunities for wider participation in the parliamentary sessions.

Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services at the Victoria Foundation which manages the fund, tells us the fund balance currently exceeds \$12,200. The Association donated seed money of \$3,000 to get the fund started. In order to help this year a motion was adopted at the 2015 Association AGM to award two bursaries of \$500 each to two BCYP members. The funds came from the Association budget.

If you would like to make a donation to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund give Sara Neely a call at 250-381-5532.

To learn more about the history of the BCYP go to: [www.bcyp.org/history](http://www.bcyp.org/history).



# It's a Legislature Christmas tree for book worms



Peter Gourlay, the BC Legislative Librarian, tells us his staff has started a new annual tradition, the "Bookmas Tree."

"We have done it two years now, and we are planning on doing it again this year. Last year we had a contest to guess how many books were in the tree, and Legislature Press Gallery member Les Leyne won."



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Elderberry wine. The neighbours were invited in for a tasting during which dad graciously accepted their approval of HIS wine and mother just smiled.

With seasonable toasts completed mother would usher the neighbours out and the genuinely happy task of “dressing” the kitchen for Christmas commenced. In short order it was transformed from a poky place to a cave worthy of Aladdin.

With the gaslight turned low the coal fire in the kitchen grate burned with a warmer glow; the holly berries were brighter. A few Christmas baubles glittered on the mantelpiece, our paper chains and streamers hung from the kitchen clock and every nail in every wall. It was three days to Christmas Eve – and we were ready. Poor, but ready.

Christmas morning always began with the opening, however cold the dawn, of the window to the bedroom – and bed – I shared with my brother: Our clear voiced singing of “Christians Awake, salute the happy morn...” preceded a seemingly interminable wait until we heard the kettle boiling downstairs. It was the signal that tea could now be made to settle the nerves of parents as the children scrambled through a hasty porridge breakfast and then the small – very small – piles of presents on the scrubbed-white kitchen table.

Waiting for the kettle was a ritual maintained in my own family until the youngest left the nest. And, silly though it may sound, in my 90s, I still half listen for the kettle to whistle on Christmas morning before opening a Christmas gift. It’s a time for me to remember when no one in the family had to worry about the safe or sensible features of toys, because there were no toys. When, to a little boy’s dismay, there were only hand knitted “pullovers” (sweaters) which I was assured I would “grow into,” along with hand knitted gloves and socks, a book or two and always from my wonderful Aunt Emily (Pem) a small “variety box” of Cadbury’s chocolates. Aunt Pem’s husband owned a corner grocery store, hence the touch of luxury.

We regarded ourselves a fortunate family even in the depths of the depression with dad on poverty level dole. Mother’s father had a small holding on the edge of town where he raised a few chickens, had a cow, grew vegetables. Christmas dinner, courtesy of granddad, was always chicken – but not roasted. Granddad’s gift chickens needed an extra hour on the slow boil to be made edible. But it was “chicken” and with a few vegetables and light-as-feather dumplings, followed by homemade Christmas pudding smothered with hot custard, a feast of royal proportions – enjoyed with a touch of guilt because our neighbours, lacking granddads in the country, sat at tables close to bare.

There never was a Christmas in my growing up that mother, who scrubbed floors and took in laundry to make ends meet, didn’t ask us to remember how blessed we were. It’s why decades later I can still call up the warm vision of that old Christmas kitchen and appreciate how blessed I was, and still am now a few days from 92.

(Jim Hume, writing as poignantly as ever, celebrates his 92nd birthday on December 27th. You can follow his “nonagenarian” wordsmithing adventures at [www.jimhume.ca](http://www.jimhume.ca).)

## “Touch Hands”

**Jim Hume tells us: “It is a time to again remind myself and old and new readers of ‘Adirondack’ Murray’s great thoughts about Christmas and the passage of time:**

*“Ah, friends, dear friends,  
as years go on and heads  
get gray, how fast the  
guests do go!*

*“Touch hands, touch hands  
with those that stay.  
Strong hands to weak, old  
hands to young, around the  
Christmas board, touch  
hands.*

*“The false forget, the foe  
forgive, for every guest will  
go and every fire burn low  
and cabin empty stand.*

*“Forget, forgive, for who  
may say that Christmas day  
may ever come to host or  
guest again.*

*“Touch hands.”*

# HOLIDAY DIVERSIONS

by Rob Lee

## Holiday Movie Quiz

These lines are from popular Christmas movies through the years - can you name them? As a hint, the year of release is shown after each clue.

1. Good morning; Merry Christmas. I hope I'm in time to see you flip the flapjacks. (1945)

2. Merry Christmas, movie house! Merry Christmas, Emporium! Merry Christmas, you wonderful old Building and Loan! (1946)

3. Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind... and that's what's been changing. That's why I'm glad I'm here, maybe I can do something about it. (1947)

4. I don't know anything, I never did know anything, but now I know that I don't know, all on a Christmas morning. (1951)

5. You're going to disappoint the children. They expect a fat Santa. (1964)

6. If I can't \*find\* a reindeer, I'll \*make\* one instead. (1966)

7. Next to me in the blackness lay my oiled blue steel beauty. The greatest Christmas gift I had ever received, or would ever receive. Gradually, I drifted off to sleep, prancing ducks on the wing and getting off spectacular hip shots. (1983)

8. It's not too late on Christmas Eve to have fun, you can call an old college roommate, call, you know an old army buddy, call your personal banker. (1988)

9. Hey, Kids, I heard on the news that an airline pilot spotted Santa's sleigh on its way in from New York City. (1989)

10. Will you please tell Santa that instead of presents this year, I just want my family back. (1990)

11. If something should happen to me, put on my suit; the reindeer will know what to do. (1994)

12. SANTA! OH MY GOD! SANTA'S COMING! I KNOW HIM! I KNOW HIM! (2003)

Answers on page 12

## Christmas Scramble

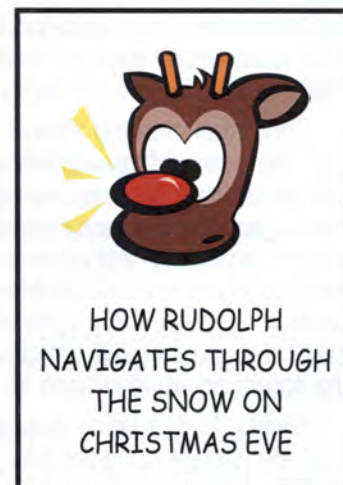
Unscramble these four words one letter to each square, to form four holiday words

GONS  
○ ○ ○ ○

WYSON  
○ ○ ○ ○

OOKICE  
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

THREWA  
○ ○ ○ ○ ○



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

○ ○ ○ ○    ○ ○ ○ ○ ○    ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Answers on page 12

## Christmas Quotes

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.  
~ Pope Francis

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.  
~ Winston Churchill

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.  
~ Norman Vincent Peale

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.  
~ Andy Rooney

Source: brainyquote.com

# A Festive Season at the Parliament Buildings

by Jennifer Ives  
Parliamentary Education Officer

During the holiday season, a festive spirit abounds at the Parliament Buildings. From the cheerful decorations that adorn the interior and the colourful outdoor lights, to annual charitable campaigns for worthy causes and festive public events and children's parties, all is merry and bright.

In early December, staff from several departments get to work decorating the front entrance, Lower Rotunda, Reception Hall and Members' Lobby. A real tree, locally donated, is then installed beneath the central dome. Often reaching over 30 feet tall, this tree is a delight to the many Members, staff and visitors who pass through the buildings each day. Last year, once the House had risen, even the Legislative Chamber received a festive flourish with the addition of its own Christmas tree.

Much preparation precedes the annual Christmas Lights Across Canada event. Hosted by the Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, this lively celebration unites BC citizens with Canadians across the country as each legislature is illuminated with thousands of lights. In Victoria, this popular event features performances by local student and adult choirs, a rousing carol band, a visit from important characters in BC's early history (as portrayed by the Parliamentary Players) and hot cocoa, apple cider and seasonal treats for all.

The annual Speaker's Family Christmas Party – a longstanding tradition – is a highlight for staff and their families during the holiday season. Young children get a chance to enjoy the big Christmas tree, make special holiday crafts and



visit with Santa himself – often good-naturedly portrayed by a Member of the Legislative Assembly!

Now is a wonderful time of year to return to the Parliament Buildings for a visit and get caught up in the merriment of it all.



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## Santa Claus elected to North Pole City Council, no sign of reindeer

JUNEAU, ALASKA

(Reuters) - A man with a soft white beard who prides himself on being an advocate for young children has been elected as a city councilman in North Pole, Alaska.

The rosy-cheeked 68-year-old candidate, who happens to be named Santa Claus, won a three-year term in the community of about 2,200 residents southeast of Fairbanks, according to election results.

"My thanks to everyone who voted for me ... and all who supported my campaign," Claus wrote on Facebook. "I'll do my best for all!"

Claus, who legally changed his name from Thomas Patrick O'Connor about a decade ago while living in Nevada, said he has been an advocate for legislation and services that benefit at-risk children.

He could be seen in recent days wearing his trademark red velvet outfit and holding a campaign sign in North Pole, the namesake of the home of the legendary Christmas gift-giver.

Claus was one of two write-in candidates for two vacant seats in the Oct. 6 election. He took office on October 26, North Pole City Clerk Kathy Weber said.

In an interview with Reuters, Claus said that calling state lawmakers and saying: "This is Santa Claus from North Pole," either got their attention or a quick, though temporary, rejection. "It's been a valuable tool for developing legislation to protect children."

### Holiday Movie Quiz answers - from page 10

1. *Christmas in Connecticut* (1945)
2. *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)
3. *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)
4. *A Christmas Carol* (1951)
5. *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* (1964)
6. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966)
7. *A Christmas Story* (1983)
8. *Scrooged* (1988)
9. *Christmas Vacation* (1989)
10. *Home Alone* (1990)
11. *The Santa Clause* (1994)
12. *Elf* (2003)

### Christmas Scramble answers - from page 10

SONG

SNOWY

COOKIE

WREATH

Ans. THE NOSE KNOWS

## Mansbridge is "Moosebridge" for Disney's Zootopia

Canadians watching Disney's upcoming animated movie *Zootopia* might find a certain news anchor character's smooth baritone somewhat familiar.

Peter Moosebridge, a moose and co-anchor of the film's ZTV News, is being voiced by Peter Mansbridge, chief correspondent of CBC News and longtime anchor of *The National*, the public broadcaster's flagship evening TV newscast.

Comedy-adventure tale *Zootopia* revolves around a modern metropolis filled with a variety of animals and features the voice talents of Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba, J.K. Simmons, Octavia Spencer, Alan Tudyk and Tommy Chong.

The Moosebridge character "was specifically written with Canada in mind and to be voiced by a Canadian," a first for a Disney animated film, according to a statement from the studio.

"[We] couldn't be more thrilled that, in the ultimate casting coup, we were able to convince the preeminent voice in Canadian news to accept this assignment," said Greg Mason, vice-president of marketing for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Canada.

"Not surprisingly, Peter was a natural and we think audiences will delight in seeing Canada represented in Peter Moosebridge."

Mansbridge, who will also appear in CBC-TV's upcoming *Murdoch Mysteries* holiday special, noted that he is a long-time fan of TV's *The Wonderful World of Disney* and of the studio's animated movies.

"I was immediately intrigued when I received the proposal for this cameo role, of a newscaster no less. These films were part of my childhood and now I see my kids and grandkids watching them," he said.

*Zootopia* will open in Canadian theatres on March 4, 2016.



# Len Norris



"I assure you ma'am, I am definitely not the gentleman who solicited your vote at the last election..."

## The ink long dried, the legend lives on



Legendary Vancouver Sun cartoonist Len Norris was born 102 years ago this December and during his 83 years with us produced an estimated 8,000 cartoons.

Many of his best works have appeared on the pages of 'Orders of the Day' thanks to the kind reprint permissions extended to us by his son Stephen.

OOTD's production guru Rob Lee says that in his last conversation with Stephen "we agreed that Len had an almost startling ability to portray issues and situations which are as timely today as when they first appeared decades ago. The price of gasoline and food, election campaigns, polling of the public on issues, back to school time, family disagreements, and backyard neighbourhood news and gossip, to say nothing of politicians and their foibles."

Norris joined The Sun in 1950 and picked up a National Newspaper Award for Top Canadian Cartoonist two years later. He officially retired in 1979, but kept producing two cartoons a week until he finally hung up his pen in 1988, at the age of 75. He died in 1997 at 83.

After Norris died, long-time Sun columnist Trevor Lautens wrote: "Len limned not the pompous event but the pompous event's effect on ordinary people. He seemed a small-c conservative, but look and you will find that his drawings were blandly subversive. The bureaucrats were black-suited, pince-nez satraps. Pietistic Social Crediters wore haloes and walked on fluffy clouds.

"The Victoria Conservative Club was populated by dozing look-alike pear-shaped gents with walrus moustaches. The lazy husband, the rail-thin drudge of a wife and the yowling infant with a single tooth in the cavernous mouth came perilously near truth."

Many of his cartoons were set in Tiddlycove and Ambleside in West Vancouver, where Norris lived. His cartoons often featured a recurring set of characters like Filbert, who Sun columnist Denny Boyd described as "the hellish little school-aged monster who terrorizes house cats and school principals."

*(With thanks to writer John Mackie and the Vancouver Sun Len Norris image courtesy of Stephen Norris.)*

# Letters

## Christmas Greetings

In sending warmest wishes of the 2015 Christmas and Holiday Season to Law-makers and hardworking Staff Members on both sides of the Legislature: I remember welcoming many of them with the public to Government House for New Year's Levees. A bounty of BC daffodils decorated the Ceremonial Home to greet all visitors and signal the New Year with its many challenges and opportunities

Iona Campagnolo

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As the MLA who had the Legislature in their riding, I always enjoyed the lighting ceremony on the front steps of the Legislature buildings. It was one of the events that started the holiday season for me. I wish all current and former MLAs and their families all the best this holiday season.

Jeff Bray

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Hi Brian and all members of our Association:

Christmas greetings from the North Okanagan where the ski hills are thriving, the sun is shining, the wine is being bottled and all is well.

We moved here this spring and so far I've been in touch with Rita Johnston and Lyall Hanson as well as Eric Foster; a member in waiting.

During the Christmas season it's good to remember the many blessings we have as British Columbians and Canadians. As former politicians, consider that we've just been through a federal election where no one died, the campaign was quite civilized, five parties with significantly differing objectives elected members to the federal parliament and in the world's second largest country we had the vote in, counted and confirmed within a few hours of the polls closing on the West Coast. That says volumes about our Canadian democracy.

From our house to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and all the best for the coming year.

Cheers,  
Bruce Strachan

Dear Brian:

I do not report this event to evoke envy: I am going to Toronto for December, culminating in what will no doubt be a grey-green-dark Christmas.

Toronto has embraced me a number of times over the years. Once I went in January and stayed near downtown with a friend. The wind whooping through the downtown skyscraper tunnels shook my Saskatchewan-born bones. So I tried different times.

Fall proved a fine time to go to Toronto and side-trip to Stratford for the end of the season. Spring involved some lovely trees, flowers, and year-end events. Summer was stifling. I should have known. The first time I went to Ontario, I arrived in September and moved in semi-animation until the end of October, when a few cool breezes finally came to cool the world.

This time, even knowing better, I agreed to dog-sit for my daughter for a week in early December. Being there, I will use that opportunity to visit my son, whose family I haven't visited for 18 months, as he was in Taiwan.

And those, my friends, are compelling reasons for me to brave the cold and damp of Toronto for nearly a month.

I wish you a merry Christmas and solicit your sympathetic thoughts of my distressing days away. All the best to you. I wish you a sunny, snowy, white Christmas - even you coastal dwellers - and, as with me, happy family times.

Cheerfully,  
Anne Edwards.

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Always enjoy getting my copy of 'Orders of the Day'.  
Thanks for the good work.

Rozlynn Mitchell

We welcome your letters - you can mail them to:

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Or email to: [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com)

# Member News

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

## Bob McClelland - he left us a little bit better

By Jim Hume

Time, Shakespeare said, travels at different speeds for different people. For some it ambles, for others it trots and yet for others it gallops ... and for all of us, eventually, time stands still, as it did for former Social Credit cabinet minister Bob McClelland on September 29th when he died at Nanaimo General Hospital of cancer.

Bob was born on Nov. 2, 1933 in Calgary, Alberta. He spent several years in radio broadcasting and newspaper publishing before embarking on a long and productive career in politics.

He was first elected to Langley City Council in 1969 and in 1972 moved to provincial politics as the opposition health critic until 1975. Named Minister of Health in the next Social Credit government, he was involved in the planning and development of the new BC Children's Hospital and the introduction of the province's first comprehensive long term health care plan. He subsequently served as Minister of Energy, Minister of Labour and Minister of Industry.

On Bob's retirement he and his wife Denise moved to Gabriola Island.

Back in the autumn of 1994 Jean Chretien was the Prime Minister of Canada, Boris Yeltsin was top dog in Russia, USA President Bill Clinton was considering launching a bombing campaign in Bosnia, Nelson Mandela was the new President in South Africa and Mike Harcourt was Premier of British Columbia.

Up on quiet Gabriola Island, Bob McClelland was making history as well, albeit on a somewhat more humble scale. He decided the Association of Former MLAs of the BC, an organization he and other former MLAs had formed a few years earlier, needed more than an annual meeting and dinner to hold the group together.

He approached Association President Jim Rhodes (former NDP MLA) with a suggestion that a newsletter might be a good idea. Jim agreed and Orders of the Day was born as a single sheet publication with just brief membership news and general information on both sides.

It was simply dated "Fall 1994", an unpretentious fanfare for a modest "publication" for which even its founding editor would not have predicted a long life. Publishing and the work required to keep a publication fresh and attractive to read wasn't new to Bob. As noted by the late Hugh Curtis in a September 2009, OOTD profile – "Bob McClelland – A Key and Influential Cabinet



Minister" - Bob had been a radio reporter and hotliner and joint owner of a weekly newspaper the Fraser Valley News Herald."

He was well aware of the energy and time required to keep the news sheet alive and after a few years he turned this major chore of finding, editing and writing material over to his colleague Hugh Curtis and the modest news sheet became, under the productions skills of Rob Lee, the neatly packaged Orders of the Day we enjoy today.

An old philosopher once said "there's a time for some things, a time for all things, a time for great things and a time for small things that can grow into better things." Bob McClelland found the time in the 81 years he lived and worked amongst us, with more than a quarter of those years serving the public. He left us a little better than he found us and that's a good measure for anyone.

Bob is survived by his wife Denise of 35 years, his son Lloyd, grandsons and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Paula and Brian and niece Kelley, brothers-in-law Peter and Rodney and his family in Australia.

THE LEGISLATIVE FORECAST: NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING

## Courtenay celebrates 100 resilient years

By Judy Hagen

The City of Courtenay was incorporated on Jan. 1st 1915. Over the past century, in a province of resource communities that flourished and died as their resources petered out, Courtenay has enjoyed steady growth.

The Comox Valley was one of the settlements encouraged by Governor James Douglas when Fort Victoria was overrun by men who arrived in BC too late to find gold on the Fraser River. In October 1852, the land along the Courtenay River estuary and the Tsolum and Puntledge rivers was rapidly settled. Coastal steamers, arriving at "the Landing" in Comox, brought supplies and took farm produce to markets in Nanaimo and Victoria.

Over the next two decades, businesses that supplied the needs of the valley farmers established along the Courtenay River. The first bridge over the river was built in 1874, but it would be 20 years before Comox merchant Joseph McPhee expanded to the west side of the river. He planted 1,000 fruit trees and subdivided the land into residential lots that became known as the Orchard. His foresight earned him the title "Father of Courtenay."

When the coal fields of Cumberland were developed in the 1880s, the farmers had a ready market for their produce. Courtenay became the crossroads of the valley since the bridge allowed farmers access south to the coal port at Union Bay and west to Cumberland. Businessmen from Cumberland and Comox began to establish second retail shops in the new up and coming commercial centre of the valley.

In August 1914, the long awaited E&N rail connection to Victoria was completed, but two days later war was declared. Until the men returned from "the Front" after 1919, the boom in commerce and house construction was halted.

In the years between the two world wars, Courtenay River became a bustling transportation route for supplies coming into the valley. Five wharves were built near the bridge to accommodate goods that were brought in by barges and large coastal ships. Skirting around the larger vessels were tug boats, small craft and fishing vessels. Enterprises along the river banks included boat building, a cannery and lumber mills.

The Great Depression had a profound effect on everyone, but in 1936 the newly formed Rotary Club was able to send a boxcar of fruit and vegetables to relieve struggling prairie farmers.



Courtenay's Fifth St. circa 1915

Photo credit: Courtenay & District Museum & Archives

During the Second World War, the army trained at the Sandwick Camp on Headquarters Road and, on the Courtenay River, the navy trained men to manoeuvre the small craft that would be part of the D-Day invasion. Many of the men who trained in this area would return after the war to settle in the valley and raise their families.

In the post war years the increasing population brought a building boom with new homes and new schools.

From 1961 to 1965, the city hosted the BC Lions training camp. In 1967, the Vancouver Symphony brought young musicians for a summer camp which continues today as the Courtenay Youth Music Camp.

Over the past 100 years, the city boundaries have grown to accommodate a population of more than 25,000 including a broad spectrum of artisans, musicians and actors who add to the life of the valley.

**(Judy Hagen is well known for her Comox Valley Echo newspaper column "Hunt for History." She is one of four authors of "Watershed Moments," a pictorial history by the Courtenay & District Museum & Archives celebrating Courtenay's 100th. Her late husband, the Hon. Stan Hagen, was MLA for Comox for 13 years and held 10 cabinet posts.)**