



Annual Dinner 2014



An evening with friends at Government House: (L to R) Pauline Rafferty, her spouse and guest speaker Bob Plecas, Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon, Association President Gillian Trumper.

(Photos by Janice Lee Photography)

“Just another bureaucrat ... without tenure”

At the 2014 Former MLAs' dinner Bob Plecas marshalled his trademark wit and wisdom to take dinner guests on a guided tour of public service in a changing political landscape.

Who better than Plecas to render the complexities and challenges of governance into pithy and entertaining sound bites. Over 20 years, he worked with six premiers and served 25 cabinet ministers.

“It's always nice to be described as a former senior public servant,” Plecas began. “That sounds better than what I really was - just another bureaucrat, but without tenure.”

Deputies are permanent custodians of permanent problems, he said. “Stan Hagen once told me when I was his deputy he gave a little prayer: 'Lord, have my deputy keep his arm around my shoulder and his hand over my mouth.'”

see Plecas page 6

Under the Distinguished Patronage of

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
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A message from the President

Welcome to the first edition of *Orders of the Day* for 2015.

Through the hard work of Anne Edwards and her committee we are pleased to welcome Brian Kieran as the editor of *Orders of the Day*. We look forward to connecting with you all once again.

The Association is very appreciative of the support we have received from the Speaker's Office throughout this time of transition. To our advertisers: Thank you for your patience; your support has been vital to us.



Please give us feedback and send us your news. Brian is very familiar with the Legislature and its history, and I am sure you are all going to enjoy the coming editions.

Gillian Trumper, President

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

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:
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University Heights P.O.
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J3

Or emailed to ootd@shaw.ca

Annual subscription rate is \$40.00 for those who are not Association Members.

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(The late) Hugh Curtis

A message from the Editor

What an honour it is to have been asked by the association to help carry on the good work of our friend and mentor Hugh Curtis.

Over the past decade Hugh would regularly track me down by phone to check in and, I assume, satisfy himself that this ink-stained wretch was still firing on all cylinders and not sliding into disrepair. He was a caring man and his friendship meant a great deal to me. To be part of the team keeping his OOTD legacy alive is a privilege.



My learning curve will be steep and I hope members will help me with story ideas, news of adventures and projects and advice as OOTD evolves in the post-Curtis era. A steady flow of members' stories and story ideas will be critical if we are going to achieve the goal of producing 10 issues a year.

Many of you will remember me as the 1980s to 90s feisty political writer for the Sun and Province newspapers. You will be pleased to know that I have evolved (not a word normally used to describe me). In recent years I have been acting my age, writing seniors' columns for Black Press and editing a Victoria-based, 50-plus seniors' website. I hope this work with my demographic contemporaries will be of value to OOTD.

I look forward to connecting and re-connecting with you as we get OOTD back into print. My email is: kieran.brian@gmail.com. Phone: 250-203-7158 (c), 250-926-9033 (h/o).

Brian Kieran, Editor

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 the Chair, Committee to Re-establish OOTD



Welcome to the new *Orders of the Day*! Hugh Curtis was dedicated to create, write, edit and publish this newsletter for the Association of Former MLAs of BC because he wanted to celebrate the non-partisan camaraderie that exists despite the too-often bare animosity displayed in our chamber before our retirement.

OOTD's spirit has been appreciated, as has its content, for as long as Hugh could do the job.

The Association didn't want to lose OOTD, and so we struck a committee to hire an editor and carry on "following in the general manner of the former editor, Hugh Curtis," as we laid out in the contract. (No jokes about us all being conservative at heart.)

I chaired the committee with Joan Barton and Irwin Henderson as members. What a pair! You may remember Joan as the Legislative Librarian who accepted an honorary membership in our Association when she retired and has been at work on various projects for us ever since. Irwin joined government communications in 1986 in Energy and Mines, moved to Forests and then Finance, Advanced Education and Labour before retiring in 2004 from Health. Like Joan, he has a very busy retirement in process, but agreed to do this project and to serve as an Editorial Advisory committee member as we proceed. They have worked at all hours needed to get to the goal: a March issue of OOTD.

We couldn't have done it without Rob Lee who had been Hugh's right hand for many years. He did all sorts of jobs from typing Hugh's copy, to seeing to the arrangements for our AGM and annual dinners. He has always been there for us with information when we needed it and will continue to work with OOTD as allowed following a health interruption in his work.

President Gillian Trumper has also been a trooper. She has kept in touch, offered ideas and generally worked right along with us.

Which brings us to our editor. Of our two excellent applicants, we chose Brian Kieran, who rallied to the recall of the political arena. He knew Hugh quite well. And certainly, many of you knew Brian during your time in the Big House. With your help, he will certainly give us a worthy successor to Hugh's OOTD.

And that brings me to repeat a plea that came often from Hugh and will surely come from Brian: PLEASE WRITE TO THE NEWSLETTER! That's what the newsletter is for: Letters home from away, descriptions of your summer/fall/winter/spring vacation, reports of seeing one of the rest of us, favorite memories and revelations that you couldn't make in the old days, but now . . . !

With your help and the continuing help of the Speaker's Office through the Legislative Library - to whom I also offer our sincere thanks - we've got another winner here.

*Anne Edwards, Chair, Committee to Re-establish
Orders of the Day.*

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Curtis Memorial Fund to benefit BC's young parliamentarians

The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia has established a Memorial Fund to honour the late Hugh Curtis.

The former Minister of Finance and active Association member is well remembered for his outstanding contributions to the people of British Columbia at the municipal and provincial levels of government. Members of the Association have experienced Hugh's dedication and hard work in keeping the Association alive and thriving.

Grants from the Memorial Fund will acknowledge Hugh's interest in youth and his commitment to the British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP). The Fund will provide opportunities for wider participation in the Youth Parliament's annual sessions in the Parliament Buildings in Victoria by helping to defray travel and accommodation expenses for two youth who live outside the Greater Victoria area.

The selection will be done by the Youth Parliament's Committee on Elections which will pass on the information to the Association each year, in time for an announcement to the Association's members at their

AGM. Every effort will be made to give the award full publicity by publishing the names of the recipients of the grant in *Orders of the Day*. The Youth Parliament has also agreed to publish the information on its webpage and in its Sessional Journal.

The Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund is hosted by The Victoria Foundation. Victoria's nearly 80 year old philanthropic organization granted more than \$11.8 million to registered charities in 2014. Guided by its motto "Connecting people who care with causes that matter®" the Foundation has deep roots in the community and through its donors and grantees has touched the lives of thousands of British Columbians for the better.

Foundation CEO Sandra Richardson says: "The Victoria Foundation is privileged to be a partner with the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia in the establishment of this fund in memory of Hugh Curtis. This fund joins many others formed through the vision of leaders in our community serving the public interest in making this region a better place to live, work and play. The tremendous contributions of Hugh Curtis will be remembered and honoured each year through the grant supporting youth participating in the Youth Parliament who aspire to follow his example."

The Foundation was established through an act of the BC Legislature in 1936. Its founder, Captain Burges Gadsden, had his vision of a permanent community foundation realized during the Great Depression with the first donation of \$20 from his mother Fannie. In April 1937 Fannie wrote: "I have been talking with my son Burges about the Victoria Foundation and feel it will give me pleasure to subscribe, 'The Widow's Mite' and enclose the sum of twenty dollars with the wish that I could afford one hundred dollars to so fine an undertaking."

The "Mite" was the smallest of the bronze coins in Biblical times.

It is in the spirit of Fannie's donation that in 2014 the Association of Former MLAs of BC donated seed money of \$4,000 to get the fund started at the Foundation. Now it will be up to the members of the Association to help the small fund grow in the way that Fannie Gadsden would have wished. The fund must reach a minimum of \$10,000 before grants can be awarded.

BCYP is a youth service organization dedicated to fulfilling its motto, "Youth Serving Youth." Each year, 95 individuals, ages 16 to 21, from around the province meet in the Legislative Buildings and debate legislation that outlines projects that will then be run throughout the year. In addition, Private Members Resolutions are introduced giving members the ability to debate any issue they choose to, while still participating in a practical lesson on the parliamentary process.



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Here's how to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

The Victoria Foundation looks forward to receiving donations to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund from all of Hugh's well wishers and friends.

By phone: Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly via the Victoria Foundation.

By cheque: Send cheques to the Victoria Foundation at #109 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G2. Please ensure they are made out to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

Online: The Victoria Foundation's mechanism for online donations is [CanadaHelps](#) and the steps are:

- Go to www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca
- Click on the Make a Donation button and then on the "Online" link and then the "CanadaHelps" link which will take you to the Foundation's page on the CanadaHelps web site.
- Click to indicate whether you want to donate now or monthly and you will be taken through the steps to make your donation.
- In the section for designation of your gift, click on the drop down menu to select the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.
- You may pay with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Interac or through a PayPal account.
- After you pay for your gift, CanadaHelps.org will send you an online receipt.
- There are several privacy permissions available. If you choose to include your name and address in the information which is sent to the Victoria Foundation, the Association will be pleased to acknowledge your gift.

If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca



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"Irrespective of the party coming to power the problems of governing remain the same," Plecas said. "They include: The demographic pattern of an aging population where in 30 years time more people in Canada will be over 65 than under 25; the finance conundrum of more money for programs, demands of health, no increase in taxes, and balanced budgets; issues of fairness and sharing resource revenues with First Nations."

In this context a deputy minister functions as "a translator of political direction into administrative action. And it works well when politicians do politics and deputies run the joint."

It doesn't work well, he added "when ministers become bureaucrats, when deputies forget they are administrators and try and give political advice; and, when the few deputies who are not partisan, but political, give advice that is not taken."

"First and foremost a deputy's job is to speak truth to power," Plecas told the gathering. "Because whomever is in power, or is your minister, or is the cabinet you serve, to be a good deputy minister you must be unafraid to

speaking truth to power. My style was not ever considered politically correct, but always considered brutally honest."

Plecas served as a deputy minister in these portfolios: Premier's office, Forests, Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, Economic Development, Regional Development (a "super ministry" responsible for Aboriginal Relations, Environment, Lands, Parks and Economic Development), Provincial Secretary, Government Services, Public Service Commission and Children and Families.

The former super bureaucrat said he found all governments, no matter their stripe, are made up of those chosen few who are committed to solving issues of the day, and that is different from many people who are simply involved in issues in their community.

"You are the committed elite," he told the former MLAs and their guests. "You know the difference between commitment and involvement."

Plecas talked at length about some of the reasons why politics has changed over the period of his career.

President Nixon's Watergate crisis resulted in the evolution of market research, focus groups and message boxes, he recalled.

"Oscar Wilde remarked: 'In the old days man had the rack. Now we have the press.'"

There are no rewards for speaking out, only penalties. The media push you to say something interesting, then hammer you when you do. A good media event is when the minister is told he stayed in the message box, Plecas said.

Adlai Stevenson once said: "An editor is one who separates the wheat from the chaff, and prints the chaff." Plecas lamented that 24 to 48 hour news cycles and new media technology mean the media beast must be fed with new chaff all the time.

Plecas added that special interest groups have become so powerful it makes it hard to create good public policy with them "in your face." He called it "the squeaky wheel imbalance, the rich and organized versus the poor and unorganized."

Regardless of the challenges, Plecas said: "We all have fond memories of helping people, of accomplishing meaningful things, of the camaraderie of the caucus, and most of all, the feeling that you made a contribution to this great province. I have great respect for all of you who served, as it enabled me through you to also serve the people of British Columbia."



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Images From Our September 26, 2014 Annual Dinner At Government House, Victoria

An Evening Made Possible Through The Courtesy Of The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant-Governor
Guest Speaker - Bob Plecas, author and deputy minister for 25 ministers in 10 portfolios

The images on this and following pages are a sample of the evening enjoyed by those who attended.

Noted guests at our Annual Dinner. We welcomed a number of well-known individuals among those who attended at Government House. This list - as always - cannot be complete.

Legislative Speaker Linda Reid and her guests; Association Honourary Life Members Jim Hume and Ian Izzard; and Senator Richard Neufeld.

Among those who went to some effort to be with us were: Chris D'Arcy (from Castlegar), Anne Edwards (Moyie), and Jim and Eileen Rabbitt (Merritt).

All of the images taken at the Dinner are available for viewing online at www.janiceleephoto.com/FMLABanquets. If you wish to order prints, contact the photographer, Janice Lee, at janiceleephoto@shaw.ca. Prices are: 4x6 - \$5, 5x7 - \$10, and 8x10 - \$20; please include tax and \$2 for shipping. Cheques can be mailed to: Janice Lee, 5321 Pat Bay Highway, Victoria BC, V8Y 1S2.









The Executive announced at the Annual Dinner the creation of a memorial fund in the name of (the late) Hugh Curtis. The fund would be used to give a bursary to the BC Young Parliamentarians, each year, to enable a participant to attend the Parliamentary session who without some assistance might not be able to attend. Ambrose Yung, Angus Lockhart and Rhonda Vanderfluit from BCYP, and Hugh's children and grandchildren were in attendance. See pages 4 and 5 of this issue for information on the fund and how to contribute.



2015 Association Dues

It's that time again. Dues for 2015 are due.

Annual membership in the Association is \$60 and that includes the subscription fee for *Orders of the Day* (OOTD).


Fans of OOTD who are not Association members should send in a cheque for \$40 to remain on the newsletter subscription list.

Cheques should be made out to:

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Overly tight cheap underpants force Canada MP out of his seat

February 19, 2015

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canadian legislator Pat Martin on Thursday offered up one of the most original excuses ever heard for hurriedly running out of the House of Commons during a vote, his new cheap pair of underpants was too tight.



Martin, who belongs to the official opposition New Democrats, bolted as members of Parliament began to rise one by one to vote. He later blamed his departure on an unwise purchase at a local store.

"They had men's underwear on for half price and I bought a bunch that was clearly too small for me. I find it difficult to sit for any length of time," he told the chamber to guffaws and applause from fellow legislators.

Martin, one of the more colourful Canadian members of Parliament, did return in time to cast his vote.

Romania says sorry for embassy invitation gaffe

February 6, 2015

(Reuters) - Romania's foreign ministry apologized on Friday after its embassy in Paris sent out invitations for a reception and accidentally attached a spreadsheet with unflattering descriptions of some of the guests.

The embassy had emailed invitations to representatives of the Romanian diaspora for a reception to mark a Feb. 10 visit by incoming President Klaus Iohannis to France.

The spreadsheet described some guests as "undesirable" and one of them as "ghastly", according to a letter of complaint sent to the Romanian ambassador by one of the invitees, which was published in Romanian daily Cotidianul.

"Annotations on the document for internal use do not reflect the opinion or assessment of the Romanian embassy in Paris and they are purely personal, so the responsible person was sanctioned," the ministry said in a statement.



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Len Norris



February 11, 1958

"At this point, ladies and gentlemen, this tour becomes unguided ... seein' as 'ow I 'aven't been provided for in the estimates."

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Obituary:

Maurice Chazottes was dedicated to serving the public

For most people, retirement is a time to wind down, kick back and take things a bit slower.



But Maurice Chazottes was just getting started when, in 1985, he stepped back from a long and varied career as a journalist, civil servant and BC's first chief of Hansard.

Chazottes, who died from kidney disease on Jan. 2 at the age of 89, had immediately moved into municipal politics, sitting on North Saanich council and serving one three-year term as mayor.

"He was always a gentleman, which people might think is a normal thing to say," said former Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard. "But, actually, it's not so true in politics.

"He wasn't really a politician; he was an effective leader and mayor, but he wasn't getting his elbows up trying to get his way."

Linda Michaluk, who was mayor of North Saanich when Chazottes served as a councillor, remembered him as someone committed to the community.

"He felt it was important to be involved ... and get something done," she said.

"He was one who was quite happy to sit and chat and contemplate, but he felt that needed to be followed up with action."

After Chazottes moved to Saanich, the municipality recruited him to serve on the police board and the BC Association of Police Boards.

He also sat on the Greater Victoria Public Library Board and chaired the Capital Regional District's parks public advisory group.

His work on that committee was considered instrumental in obtaining support for a regional parks land-acquisition fund that led to the protection of thousands of hectares.

For that, Chazottes received an EcoStar Community Environmental Award, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for "outstanding contributions to the region through public service, most notably his work related to the protection of natural areas."

Daphne, his wife of 67 years, said his passion for the natural environment began in his native England, where he was a boy scout in his youth.

Later, he became a scout leader in Ontario, where he and Daphne immigrated with their young family in 1957.

"We'd go out as a family and hike along the Bruce Trail and Niagara Escarpment," daughter Louise recalled. "He always seemed to enjoy doing those things outside, even when we moved out here [to Victoria], we'd go out to different beaches and hike and that kind of thing."

Born in Harrogate, England, to French-speaking parents, Chazottes worked as a journalist for newspapers and magazines before coming to Canada.

He was a senior editor at Maclean Hunter Ltd. and helped launch the Medical Post, a professional medical journal.

After coming to Victoria in 1971, he became the first chief of Hansard, the official report of debates in the BC Legislature, before moving on to other senior positions within government, including executive director of Government Information Services.

Chazottes told the Times Colonist in 1998 that he and Daphne moved to Victoria after falling in love with the city while on vacation.

"The best thing we ever did was emigrate from England in 1957," he said. "The second best thing was to move to Victoria."

Chazottes is survived by Daphne, his children, Delphine, Julian Paul and Louise, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Elected at our Annual General Meeting, September 26, 2014

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Nomination: Darlene Marzari

“In the name of God, Amen”

By Jim Hume

I doubt if you have ever heard of him. He was 38 when he died while sailing the Bering Sea off the coast of Kamchatka, ravaged by tuberculosis, reduced, according to his shipmates diaries, “to almost an absolute skeleton” of the man who had sailed them from the far side of the world.



Source: commons.wikimedia.org/

His last will and testament, written August 17, 1779, five days before he died when he must have been feeling a million miles from home, give a measure of the man.

“In the name of God, Amen, I Charles Clerke (Captain) of His Majesty's Sloop Resolution, having been

long in a state of straighten (cct) and not knowing how soon it may please God to remove me from this life, I hereby make this my last will and testament”

One bequest is testimony to Capt. Clerke's character. He left “to my dear brother and friend Sir John Clerke, Captain in His Majesties (cct) Navy, 10 Guineas.” A generous gesture considering he'd once done hard time for brother John. When Charles Clerke was posted to Captaincy of Resolution he was in debtors prison serving time for John who had failed to pay back a loan. Charles had been his guarantor.

Timely intervention by friends who paid the debt gained the release for Charles in time for him to race to the coast and take command of HMS Discovery. Unfortunately he carried with him the early seeds of tuberculosis picked up during his grim incarceration in the notorious Fleet Prison. But that wasn't known when he finally sailed with Capt. James Cook who was in command of HMS Resolution and overall commander of the expedition.

After Cook was killed in Hawaii, Clerke, who had succeeded Cook in command, was urged by his officers to set sail for home. Clerke insisted Cook's intention to make a final search for a northern passage from the Pacific to the north Atlantic be carried out. His officers argued he was too ill to again battle arctic ice and gales.

Cook's remains were committed to the deep; Clerke sailed north to die and be buried, as requested, on land.

His grave was originally near the village of Paratunka on the Kamashatka Peninsula. In 1918 his remains were moved to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. A Royal Navy memorial stone and a Russian tribute remind the world “this officer made several trips to the opening of new lands.” In his short life span Clerke had circumnavigated the globe three times and came close to completing a fourth.

The home of his birth, Brook Farm, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, Essex, England, still exists today as a bed and breakfast establishment of high repute but with only modest reference to its most famous resident who had joined the Royal Navy age 13 and 10 years later sailed on HMS Dolphin on his first circumnavigation an unsuccessful search for Terra Australis Incognita (Australia).

In Wethersfield there's a wall plate in St. Mary's Church listing Clerke family accomplishments and almost in passing the contributions of Charles. In New Zealand's Government House there hangs a portrait painting of Clerke with a Maori chief. But that's about all we have by way of memorial tributes.

In the meantime Capt. Cook continues to command centre stage for Northwest and Pacific discoveries and no one can deny the wonders of his perseverance, his discoveries, charts, diaries, maps, and descriptions of worlds once unknown.

I just thought that we might spare a few thoughts for Captain Charles Clerke and his lonely Russian grave. He, too, was a man who can teach today's leaders much about loyalty in leadership and courage in adversity.

**(Want to read more of Jim Hume's columns?
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