



# Annual Dinner 2015



## We help "because we can"

The Hon. Pat Carney said her job at Government House was to address a puzzle: If politicians are held in such low esteem "why aren't we allowed to retire, wrapped in our shredded dignity?"

"Why is it that people still bring us their problems years after we have retired from public life?"

The Association's honoured guest speaker at the annual Government House dinner came well equipped with anecdotal evidence that former MPs and MLAs are not permitted - nor do most desire - to be put out to pasture.

Carney's speech was underpinned by a sobering reflection that "the decision to devote many of our most productive years to public service ... also exposes us to years of public abuse."

"Politicians, according to many polls, are considered almost the lowest of the low, even lower than journalists.

"These days to be a Senator - as I was for 18 years after nearly nine years as an MP and Cabinet Minister - is to be the lowest of the low."

Carney said her long-time friend and parliamentary colleague, the Hon. Iona Campagnolo, who could not attend the dinner, reminded her that her "characterization of The Job That Never Ends was apt."

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

*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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Payment can be sent to the above address.

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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 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.

# Thank You and Miscellany

We are pleased to report Fortis BC has renewed advertising in *Orders of the Day* for another year. The company has appeared in this publication for many years, and the support is much appreciated.

Another donation from a former MLA on BC's mainland. This is not the first time he has assisted us - unsolicited. As before, he requests that he remain anonymous.  
**Thank you!**

### Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

Ida Chong, Victoria  
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Joan McIntyre, Vancouver  
Val Roddick, Delta  
Patrick Wong, Vancouver (new Member)

# From the Editor's Desk

At the annual Association dinner Sept. 25, the Hon. Pat Carney concluded her speech about "the job that never ends" by turning the floor and even the microphone over to her audience to share some of their special moments during and after political life.

Jim Hume, one of Victoria's most respected journalists and a ring-side veteran of many political contests, humorously remarked that surrendering a microphone to another politician is just about the most risky thing a politician - even a retired one - can do.

But this was Pat Carney, a master on her feet who has no fear of being upstaged. The pithy, heart felt and funny stories that followed reinforced Carney's theme that retired politicians remain engaged because they can and they are, and always will be, Honourable Members.

Darlene Marzari's story about almost strangling a troublesome citizen - a la Jean Chretien - was hilarious.

Former MLA Cliff Serwa presented Carney a painting by Kelowna artist Alice Anderson depicting the John Carney Ranch home just north of Kelowna where Pat's father James grew up. Cliff owns and farms the property today. It was a special concluding moment and Pat said later that the gesture made her evening.

Fans of the former senator should watch for her latest project, a new book due to be published this coming spring by Harbour Publishing. It's titled *On Island*, a fictionalized account of true events that happened to people and places on the coast. Carney tells me: "Many coastal stories are generic - the feuding sisters, the conflict between newcomers and established traditions, the animal stories (the cougar in the kitchen, the bear in the berry patch)."

Carney has also written a memoir, *Trade Secrets*, published by Key Porter in 2000.

Finally, Association President Gillian Trumper passes along special praise for photographer Janice Lee who went above and beyond to chronicle the evening and speedily get the pictures to Rob and me so we could meet our newsletter deadline.

# The Association Executive 2015-16



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*Elected at our Annual General Meeting, September 25, 2015*

## Carney from page 1

Campagnolo told Carney: "It is as if our time in public life never ends. I retired at 75 in 2007 and stopped public speaking in December 2012. But, all my interests continue and there are always requests of many kinds: Letters of support, and introduction, requests for contacts, honorary positions to be served, new generations to be encouraged and much more. The job continues especially if you were seen to be broadly helpful (and not too partisan) while you were 'on the job'".

Carney sought input for her speech and it came from many quarters. Former Premier Dan Miller commented: "One of the issues I had was that my home town of Prince Rupert was a small place and it was going through a downturn in the economy with the closing of the local pulp mill. I decided to leave, not only because I needed a job, but because if I stayed I couldn't walk down the street or go shopping without being constantly approached by the disheartened townspeople."

Former MLA Val Roddick told her: "Yesterday at the bank a woman in the lineup asked me if I am still in a position 'to do anything about anything.' I thought that about sums it up."

Former Penticton MLA Rick Thorpe told Carney: "Although I retired in 2009, some years later I was downtown in Penticton at City Hall and had to cross the road. There was some work going on in the middle of the road. All of a sudden I hear one of the workers yell my

name. 'Mr. Thorpe, just wait a minute; I will stop the traffic so you can cross the road.' He then said loudly: 'We have to look after our elected official as we want to get you back to work in Victoria safely, and keep up your good work!' It was five years after I was no longer an MLA."

Carney also passed on this contribution from former BC Liberal MP Anna Terrana, (Vancouver East): "I must say that I seem to have been indispensable all along. When you belong to a community like the Italian community and devote yourself to its members you never stop being in demand. At the time I ran, the Italians in Vancouver East were about four per cent of the population and many were not Canadian. I never stopped being asked for help and I never denied the help."

Art Lee, former Liberal MP and now a retired lawyer, contributed this story: "One man received back payments for his OAS and CPP. It was a sizable cheque. I spent hours convincing him he could safely deposit the cheque in a bank and the bank wouldn't steal his money."

Carney said the reason former politicians keep helping is "because we can." Retired MP John Fraser told Carney: "They think we can do anything for them."

Her response and her conclusion: "Probably not. But even if it is only a little, it may help somebody, somewhere. At least we try. And that is why we are and always will be Honourable Members."

# Is there a coalition in Canada's future?

By Paul Ramsey

The 2015 federal election is in the home stretch and the possibility of a coalition government has again become a topic of interest for us political junkies. And why wouldn't it?

Everyone wants an election to result in a stable government; one that reflects the wishes of a majority - or at least a strong plurality - of Canadians. But in this lengthy election campaign, the chances of any party attracting even 40 per cent of voter support are remote. And the odds of a party electing even a slim majority of MPs are long.

In most advanced democracies with some sort of parliamentary system a close election would be followed by dickering over formation of a coalition government. Larger parties would lobby smaller ones, and after a fair bit of public and private arm-twisting, the membership and policy program for a government would be hammered out.

The government would have the support of a majority of elected representatives; cabinet would

include ministers from more than one party. And a majority of voters would feel their wishes were - at least partially - reflected in their government.

In countries with some version of proportional representation, coalition governments are simply the norm. And even Britain, with its "first-past the post" electoral system, has recently been governed by a coalition between the Conservative and Liberal-Democratic parties. So, why not Canada?

One reason is that our country has very little experience of coalition governments - or even speculation about them. In Canada's post-confederation history the only coalition federal government was Robert Borden's "Union Government" of 1917 - a cobbling



Sir Robert Laird Borden

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together of Borden's Conservatives and pro-conscription Liberals. The end of the First World War marked the demise of that experiment in coalition.

For almost a century our federal governments have been coalition-free. The short-lived attempt by the Liberals and the New Democrats in 2008 to form



a coalition - with support from the Bloc Quebecois - ended in fractious disarray among the supposed coalition partners. And the whole exercise gave coalitions a bad odour.

Instead of coalitions, Canada has an appetite for minority governments at both federal and provincial levels. If the voters desire a stable government representing the wishes of a majority of voters, minority governments just don't fill the bill. They are inherently unstable and voters may find themselves back at the ballot box at any time.

Therefore, to survive a minority government must take careful account of opposition parties. It must adapt its policy objectives to the demands of the opposition and incorporate them in legislation and budgets - at least to the extent necessary to survive non-confidence votes. To enhance its stability, it may even make a formal agreement with the opposition on policy and budget goals - as Ontario's Liberal government of 1985 did with the New Democratic opposition.

continued on page 6



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continued from page 5

But a true coalition government with elected members of coalition partners holding cabinet positions and wielding government authority is almost unknown in Canada. Voters may grumble about minority governments, but political parties are reluctant to share power in a coalition.

And because neither the politicians nor the electorate has anything but a theoretical understanding of how such a government would be formed or work, the entire idea seems a bit strange. Among the current federal party leaders only Tom Mulcair has explicitly said he and his party would be open to being part of such a government. Justin Trudeau has, at least in this pre-election period, rejected the idea. And Stephen Harper would have an extremely difficult time finding a coalition dancing partner.

Most political leaders would rather stick needles in their eyes than share power as required in coalition governments. The voting public, however, increasingly desires parties to work together rather than simply defend their partisan turf. Elizabeth May has adopted this as the main plank in her 2015

platform. Reforming Canada's "first past the post" electoral system and bringing in some form of proportional representative reflects that goal.

Maybe the October vote will be followed by a serious attempt to form a stable coalition government, one that represents the wishes of a majority of voters. The time seems right to try an arrangement that is accepted as normal in most democracies. But overcoming political inertia is difficult, and minority arrangements offer an easy and familiar option.



(Paul Ramsey is a former Prince George MLA and cabinet member who is currently enjoying retirement on the Saanich Peninsula.)



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# Images From Our September 25, 2015 Annual Dinner At Government House, Victoria

An Evening Made Possible Through The Courtesy Of The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant-Governor  
Guest Speaker - Pat Carney, PC, CM, *Former Senator, Member of Parliament and federal Cabinet Minister*

The images on this and following pages are a sample of the evening enjoyed by those who attended. Note that some of the images have been cropped for space considerations.

Current and former Banquet photos can be viewed online at [www.janiceleephoto.com/FMLABanquet](http://www.janiceleephoto.com/FMLABanquet). Reprints can be ordered from Janice at:

## Janice Lee Photography

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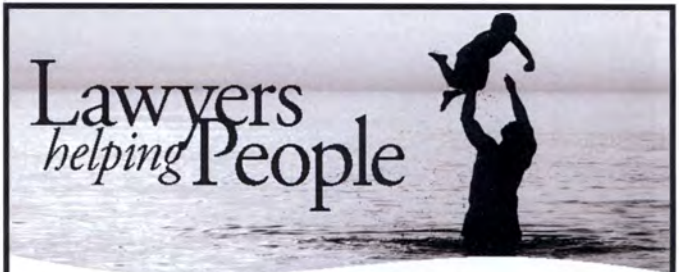
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## A light breakfast for election champions

LONDON, ONTARIO (CP) A London citizen with his sense of political humour in tact has created satirical cereal boxes to poke fun at the NDP's Tom Mulcair, the Conservatives' Stephen Harper and the Liberals' Justin Trudeau.

Jaime Christian has come up with Harper Squares, Trudeau O's and Mulcair's Lucky Charms boxes that are available for purchase online.

"We're just trying to bring some light-hearted fun to the federal election," he told The Canadian Press. "Everyone's laughed when they've seen the boxes; that's all I was really going for."

The 27-year-old - who used about \$5,000 of his savings to fund the project - said he'd been pondering the idea after being inspired by a similar gimmick south of the border during the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign.

In that case, online home rental company Airbnb came up with "Obama O's" and "Cap'n McCain's" which became hot collectors' items.

Over the past few weeks he got graphic designers to create grinning cartoon images on the boxes, employed a composer to come up with jingles that will promote each



box online and got a printing company in Ingersoll, Ont., to produce 1,000 copies of each box.

Christian, a property manager by day, says the Liberal and NDP campaigns have already asked for a few boxes. Green Party Leader Elizabeth May isn't featured on a box yet, but Christian said if sales of the other boxes bring in enough funds, he plans to put "May's Miniwheats" on the market as well.

The boxes will be available for sale on crowdfunding site Kickstarter and on Christian's website - [www.polishtick.com](http://www.polishtick.com) - with part of the sales going to charity.



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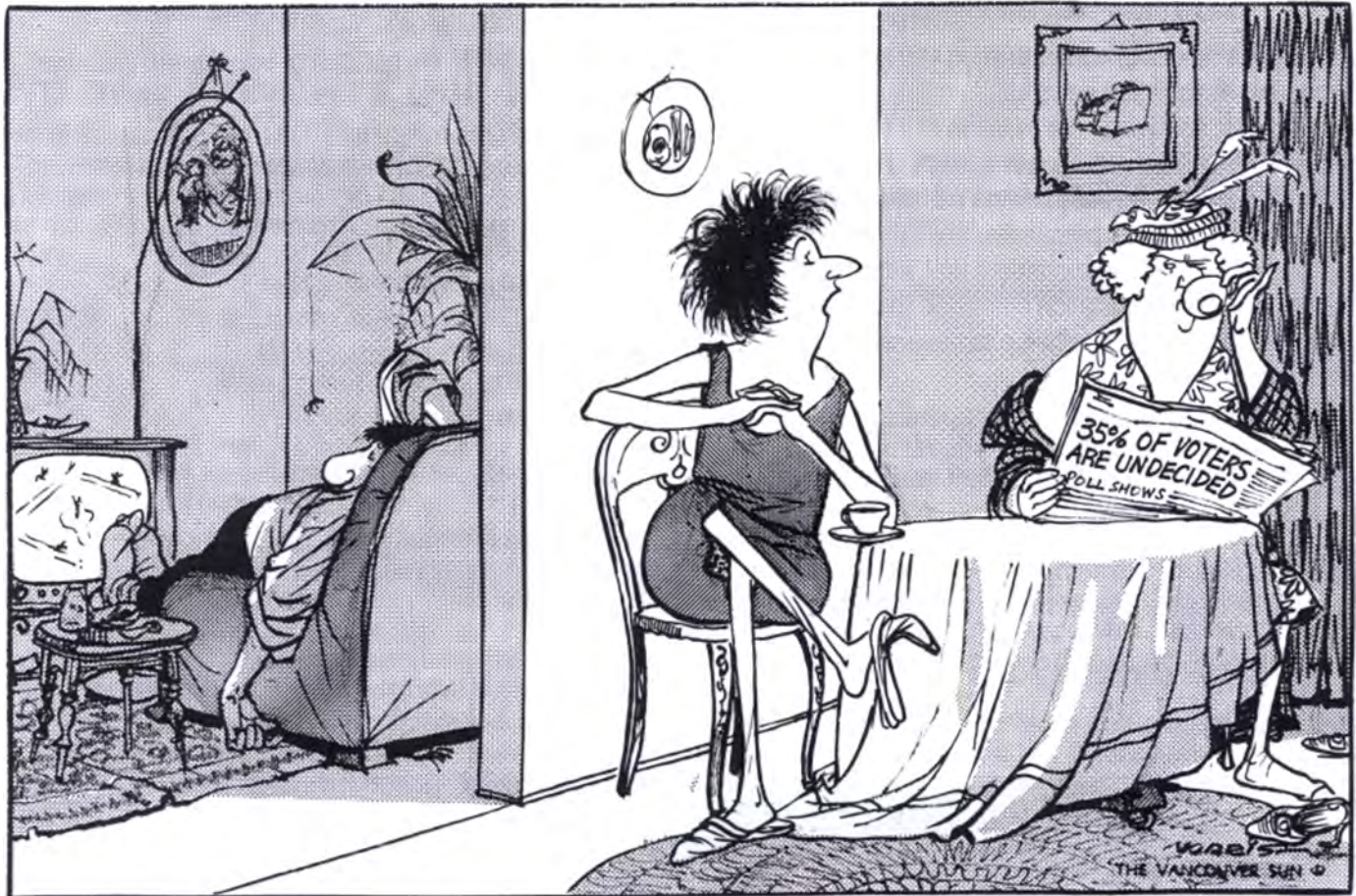
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# Len Norris



October 9, 1965

*"Henry is still weighing the pros and cons of being a voter, much less an undecided voter ..."*

## An invitation 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.

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

- Go to [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://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.
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- 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](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

# Letters

Brian:

I have been remiss in congratulating you sooner on becoming our Association newsletter's editor and also thanking you for continuing the tradition of informative and interesting articles.

It's hard to believe a year plus has passed since Hugh left us. I can still hear his persuasive and affirmative voice along with his gentle reminders that we must all do our part to keep the Association going. To that end, enclosed are my dues and a little extra to ensure the publications continue.

Sincerely,  
Ida Chong,  
Saanich

We welcome your letters - you can email them to:  
[ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com)

To Editor Brian Kieran:

Thanks for all the good work you are doing for the Association.

Enclosed are my current dues and some extra to help in newsletter production and distribution.

Alf Nunweiler,  
Former MLA (Fort George)

Hi Brian!

Jessie and I have spent most of our winter in Palm Desert, so I'm sorry this took so long to mail to you.

Thanks for all your great work - I very much enjoy reading the OOTD.

Moe Sihota,  
Victoria



# Member News

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

## Two new Members join the Association

The Association of Former MLAs of BC is pleased to welcome two new Members: **Patrick Wong** who represented the riding of Vancouver - Kensington from 2001 to 2005 and **Randy Hawes** who was first elected in Maple Ridge - Mission in 2001, re-elected in 2005, and served a third term representing the new riding of Abbotsford - Mission.



Patrick served as a member of the Legislative Select Standing Committees on Crown Corporations and Public Accounts, and the Government Caucus Committee on Education.

He has also served as a member of the Government Caucus' Multicultural Committee and chaired the Asia Pacific Business Development Committee.

Patrick is a chartered accountant (now called chartered professional accountant – CPA) and, since 1983, has been a partner of an accounting firm specializing in tax and business consulting services. In 1999, after three years as commissioner, he was the Fraser River Port Authority chair until he became an MLA.

Patrick's professional activities have included serving as vice-chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade's Economic Development Committee and council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC.

His community activities included: Canadian Liver Foundation's Asian Development Committee senior advisor; Canadian Chinese Business Development Association founding advisor (1984-2001); Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association advisor (1983-2001); Celebrating the Year of Older Persons Committee chair (1999-2000); Vancouver-Kensington Chinese Seniors Club advisor; Victoria Drive Business Association president.

Presently, he serves as a board member and chairs the Finance and Administrative Committee of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC and has reassumed the senior partner position of the CPA firm in Vancouver.

While living in Hong Kong from 1965 to 1974, Patrick worked in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation's export and international trade department, with the Hong Kong Housing Authority and as assistant manager of a stock brokerage firm.

Born in Hong Kong, Patrick and his wife Jenny have four children and three grandchildren.



Randy was appointed the Minister of State for Mining in 2009 and was named Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resource Operations Review to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in 2011.

Premier Gordon Campbell appointed Randy Chief Government Whip and he chaired the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Service. He also served on Treasury Board and the Environmental Land Use Committee, was chair of the Government Committee on Health, and was a member of the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Health.

In addition, he served on the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Special Committee to Select a Merit Commissioner and chaired the Burrard Thermal Options Committee. Formerly, Randy was chair of the Special Committee to Appoint a Chief Electoral Officer, and served on the Government Caucus Committee on Communities and Safety and the Small-Scale Salvage Review Committee.

Before becoming an MLA, Randy was in his third term as mayor of the District of Mission. Randy was also chair of the Fraser Valley Regional District, a member of the Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee for four years, a four-year member of the James Sewer Treatment Plant Board, and a seven-year member (four as chair) of the Fraser Valley Water Commission.

Randy started as a loans officer with the Toronto Dominion Bank in 1972 and worked as manager in a variety of locations throughout BC and the Yukon. Because he wanted to stay in Mission, Randy left the TD bank in 1986 to pursue a career in real estate and property development. Randy was elected to a one-year term as a District of Mission councillor in 1987 and became mayor in 1993.

Randy has been an active participant in many aspects of his constituency, including serving for two years on the Mission Community Health Council, five years on the District of Mission Justice Council, and three years on the Ferndale Penitentiary Citizens' Advisory Committee. He also served as director of the Fraser House, a drug and alcohol treatment facility, was an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 57, and is a member of the Mission Rotary Club. He also coached minor hockey for 15 years and minor baseball for 10 years in Mission.

Born in Edmonton, Randy and Alma married in 1969 and moved to Mission in 1979; they have three children and nine grandchildren. Randy's passions are playing golf, reading, and spending time with his grandchildren.

## Been there, done that – and once is enough

By Jim Hume

The air raid siren had sounded its welcome “all clear” wail when it started to rain. Not a violent downpour. Just a steady rain that should have made a pleasant thrumming on slate roofs of row houses in our small English midlands town.

But on this night the roof-slates that steered rain water into gutters and downpipes were not in place. They had been lifted roughly from their anchored spots by a near-miss bomb blast to shatter on the streets and yards below. The shuddering, slithering of slate tiles mingled with the sounds of hundreds of windows shattering at the same time is one to be long remembered.

In the aftermath of silence the rain fell and the humble houses stood in the feeble light of dawn, bare roof timbers hunched against the unkindness of nature. And I remember, as clearly as I remember the sounds of scudding roof-slates and shattering glass, escorting my mother “home” from the garden air raid shelter where she and my sister and neighbours had spent the night.

My father had been on night security duty at a factory. I, aged 16, had been on “go-fer” duty with a fire warden. Mother was so delighted I was okay she chattered happily – with few rebukes about “not running wild about the streets.”

I warned her that her always sparkling kitchen was a bit of a mess. “It won’t take long to clean up,” she said. Then she walked in and wept as steadily as the rain.

Down the staircase was a cascading waterfall, flooding across the always freshly scrubbed kitchen floor to form a giant sludge of soot shaken from the chimney by the blast.

This wasn’t our first air raid. Our first was August 25, 1940; the last July 28, 1942. It was a popgun raid with a single bomb dropping on the outskirts of town, a calling card reminder that my home town, Nuneaton, had been noticed. Siren free nights became rare as nervous pilots or poor navigators unloaded their deadly cargoes without discrimination.



*Coventry after the Blitz, 1940*

It was a nervous time living nine miles from Coventry, 20 from Birmingham, expecting the Big One every night. It came close on November 14-15, 1940, when Germany launched Operation Moonlight Sonata and coined the word “Coventrifide” to describe the destruction. In Nuneaton we watched Coventry burn on the horizon. An estimated 30,000 incendiary bombs were dropped with 64 flare bombs to light the way for 449 bombers unloading around 1,500 high explosive bombs along with 50 parachute bombs. The dead totaled 568, seriously injured 862, and wounded 393.

Five days later Germany launched its first major attack on Birmingham. Again 440 bombers dropped 400 tonnes of explosives plus 18 parachute mines killing 450 and badly injuring close to 600. The following night the Luftwaffe returned with 118 tonnes of explosives and 9,500 incendiaries to create massive damage, death and injury.

In Nuneaton, the Big Raid came May 17, 1941, the night the tiles flew off the roof and soot crashed down the chimney to mingle with unblest rain from heaven.

The soot and the rain, harmless in a way, were shocking only because they were totally unexpected. This has me wondering today what surprises my next Big One will bring – if I live long enough to see a nature-created one and survive. My emergency bag is packed and well supplied. I expect some miserable unexpecteds but hope a vile mix of chimney soot and rain isn’t among them.

Been there, done that – and once is enough.