



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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Photo source: BC Archives D-07151

Patrick Family Hockey Legacy



On our History Page this month we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the BC Sports Hall of Fame which houses a stellar supply of Victoria home-grown heroes.

The Patrick Arena was built in 1911 to house Victoria's entry into the newly-formed Pacific Coast Hockey Association created by the Patrick family — brothers Lester and Frank and father, Joe. The three-team league included the Victoria Senators, the Vancouver Millionaires and the New Westminster Royals. Lester ran the Victoria franchise out of the Oak Bay arena while Frank managed the Vancouver franchise out of the new Denman Street arena.

Six lots were purchased along Empress Street (now Epworth) at Cadboro Bay Road in 1911 and building commenced on the Patrick Arena in late April of that year. The arena cost \$110,000 to build and could accommodate 4,000 spectators.

The arena officially opened with public skating on Christmas Day, 1911, and the first hockey game was played on January 2, 1912. It was a historic game because it was the first hockey game in Canada played on artificial ice.

And it was in this historic Oak Bay building that Lester Patrick's Victoria Cougars won the Stanley Cup by defeating the Montreal Canadiens in 1925.

The Patrick Arena was destroyed by fire on Remembrance Day, 1929. A permanent memorial now stands across the street from the original site.

After long careers in professional hockey, including the NHL, Lester and Frank Patrick were part of the inaugural class of inductees into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 1966. Read more about the Hall's 50th anniversary on Page 16.

Source: www.webturf.com/oakbay/history/encyclopedia/p/memorabilia/patrick_arena

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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:

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

Or emailed to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com
or ootd@shaw.ca

Editor: Brian Kieran
Layout/Production/Research: Rob Lee

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(The late) **Hugh Curtis**

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

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From the Editor's Desk

In the Winter issue of *Orders* we asked Association members and subscribers to give us feedback about the content of your newsletter.

The response was very encouraging. We received 26 responses, most of them thanks to the social media convenience of SurveyMonkey. This is significantly higher than the response OOTD got when the last survey was sent out. And, by professional polling measures it represents a statistically significant sampling. As well, the consistency of the responses gives Rob and me confidence that your impressions can be extrapolated to the larger group.

You were asked to rate various OOTD features from "enjoy very much" to "waste of space." Here are your responses:

- ❖ News items & photos from former MLAs – 100 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ History page stories & pictures – 95 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ Profiles of former MLAs – 95 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ Humour (QP & Norris) – 95 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ Bipartisan articles by non-members – 82 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ Letters to the Editor – 100 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."
- ❖ Special activities & Leg. milestones - 90 per cent "enjoy very much" or "enjoy somewhat."

Clearly, the current OOTD, based on the teachings of our dearly departed guru Hugh Curtis, is delivering. Ironically, one of the items that got 100 per cent endorsement, Letters to the Editor, is the page most desperately in need of your contributions.

You were generous with your suggestions, support and ideas for us to improve. Here's an edited sampling of things you like and would like to see:

- ❖ I believe there is a good blend of political perspectives, humour, experiences in the trenches and bipartisan camaraderie.
- ❖ This could this be an idea - divide up the province in 10 parts (one per issue) and have a report on issues past and present.
- ❖ Perhaps encourage recently retired media members to contribute content, to add a more modern-day angle.
- ❖ A short feature, "Where are they now?"
- ❖ Reviews on politically inspired books.
- ❖ News from around the commonwealth, opinion on alternative voting systems, analysis of modernizing the Legislature.
- ❖ More about what former MLAs are doing now. I had some wonderful colleagues. We all wanted to make a difference. So what did we all do after we left the legislature?
- ❖ Perhaps a historian (remember Jim Nesbitt?) might write the odd column about the dramatic early days of Amor de Cosmos and other characters.

A final thought: Our readers are busy folks. You preferred to use the online survey way more than going to the trouble of clipping it out of the newsletter, filling it in by hand and mailing back to us. That means Rob and I need more of you to contribute your email addresses to our database. If you did not receive this survey by email, contact us at ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com and we will bring you kicking and screaming into the new age.

BCYP announces fundraising gala

Chris Coulson, Deputy Premier of the British Columbia Youth Parliament, has informed us that BCYP will be hosting an upcoming gala event to raise money for their charitable projects this year: **Obsequium - A Gala to Recognize and Promote Service.**

The gala will be held at UBC Vancouver in the Abdul Ladha building from 7 to 10 p.m. on April 8th, 2016. Tickets are \$40 for early birds, \$45 after March 4.

Ticket sales, beverage sales, and a silent auction will benefit the reinstatement of Camp Phoenix, a subsidized sleep-away camp for underprivileged, First Nations, disabled, and at-risk youth aged 8-12.

For more information and to order tickets, go to bcyp.yapsody.com

2016 Association Dues

It's that time again. Dues for 2016 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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Norm ate the apples, core and all

Born in Birmingham, England, February 25, 1927, Norm Levi was one of three children in the family of Jack and Leah Levi. His father was a tailor with his own shops.

A city kid, Norm didn't see his first live farm animals until late in childhood when he was introduced to country life near Tenbury Wells, a short train ride from Birmingham in those days. He remembers being shown a closet full of apples and being told "we could help ourselves as long as we ate everything except the stalk. And I still eat apples, core and all."

Educated at the Birmingham Hebrew School he was 12 when the Second World War broke out - and less than four years later he was in the British Army. "I was 15 years and 10 months old and had to fib a bit about my age," he told Jim Hume in a 2007 interview.

He was with the 108 Armoured Division - The King's Own - and in 1945 was driving a Churchill tank across Holland and Europe. He was a few weeks over the age of 18.

Like most old soldiers he never talked much about service. Just "we were in a few battles" said with a grin, and that's it. The grin would vanish when he talked about "reaching a place called Bergen" home of the infamous Nazi Bergen-Belsen death camp. "We didn't get there until two weeks after it was liberated," he said. "They were still burying the dead."

After the war Norm didn't fancy returning to a bland civilian life so joined the Israeli Army. "I was Jewish but not a Zionist," he said. "It was just an opportunity to stay in an active army. I'd have gone to Timbuktu."

In the early 1950s he got his first look at British Columbia via a job on the Vancouver waterfront where he worked for a couple of years before returning to Israel in 1957. He stayed until 1959 "living privately and eating privately but working as part of a Kibbutz collective. I drove a tractor, but we decided it wasn't the life we wanted so we came back to BC."

That was in late 1959. He became involved with the John Howard Society and later became a parole officer. Also involved with the John Howard Society at the time was "a young guy named Dave Barrett and another named Tony Holland. All three of us got involved in politics, two of us fairly successfully." Barrett was the first to taste success being elected in 1960.

Norm, highly active on half-a-dozen social service or trade union fronts, didn't enter the provincial fray until 1968 when, encouraged by young NDP lawyer Tom Berger, he ran in a Vancouver South byelection and won handily. In the 1969 general election he didn't fare as well going down to defeat in the two-seat riding at the hands



of two well known Socreds, Agnes Kripps and Ralph Loffmark.

But politics was now in his blood. When the next general election was called in 1972 he ran and won in Vancouver Burrard, when the NDP won the right to form BC's first NDP government. He was re-elected in 1975 and again in 1979. In 1983 he was defeated by 39 votes by Socred John Parks in the riding of Maillardville-Coquitlam.

Norm remembers the first meeting of the NDP elected caucus after the 1972 victory. "We met in the cabinet room, just the elected MLAs plus John Woods (Dave Barrett's right hand man) and Laurie Wallace (deputy provincial secretary) and somebody said 'what the hell do we do now' and Ernie Hall levered himself up from his chair and said 'we prepare an agenda' - and by God he had one already prepared. We changed a few things on Ernie's agenda, but not many."

Three years later "the agenda" proved too much for the electorate and in 1975 Bill Bennett led the Socreds back to power. Asked what went wrong, Norm said: "Too much, too fast. Some of us had waited a long time to change the world and we wanted it done NOW. We should have been a little more cautious."

As a cabinet minister Levi decentralized power through the creation of Community Resource Boards. He brought in Pharmacare, the Mincome supplement for elderly and people with disabilities, increased welfare rates, expanded community-based juvenile services and day care services. He was the first politician in BC to arrange for settlement and restitution for cut-off Indian lands.

After retiring, he lived in Victoria with partner, Beth Macdonald. He ran a B&B, researched, wrote and travelled widely. Norm was predeceased by his daughter Alisa (Tim Bowman) and is survived by Dani Mate (George), Tamar Levi-Bandel (Gabriel), David Levi (Daphne), Wayne Levi (Judy), 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Norm will be fondly remembered by Beth's family. He will be missed by his coffee buddies: Peter, John and John. Beth and the family would like to thank Dr. Russell Houston, the community nurses and the palliative team for their warm and compassionate care.

A celebration of Norm's life was held, Sunday, February 21st at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria.



Beth and Norm at the 2010 Association Annual Dinner

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“The Crown in the 21st Century: Deference or Drift?”

Canada and the other realms, notably Australia and New Zealand, share with the United Kingdom a constitutional monarchy under constant public scrutiny.

When it comes to the viability of our relationship to the British Crown there are generally more questions than answers.

To what extent does the Crown fulfil its prime role as a politically-neutral institution symbolizing and guaranteeing democratic freedoms?

Are the Crown's powers real or nebulous? Are they dwindling or increasing?

How do the key players – the monarch and vice-regal representatives – function today and how are they perceived?

In short, is there continued deference to the Crown as a historically key component of our system of government, or are we drifting away from it?

The Government House Foundation of British Columbia and the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada tackled some of these questions in January at a BC Government House conference titled: “The Crown in the 21st Century: Deference or Drift?”

The conference brought together academics and individuals in the public sector as well as the media from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Key note speakers included Philip Murphy,

Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Professor of British and Commonwealth History at the University of London and co-editor of *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*.

Much of Murphy's published work has focused on the decolonization process in Central Africa, with particular reference to the history of the Central African Federation. It has also explored the British relationship with the Commonwealth, particularly in the areas of defence and intelligence liaison. Professor Murphy has argued that the monarchy's relationship with the Commonwealth has been an impediment to British foreign policy.



Linked to the conference by video, Professor Murphy told delegates: “What you really have now rather than a meltdown of the realms, is a kind of uneasy standoff.

“It is very notable to a historian of imperialism how far our history is coming back onto the political agenda. It's becoming a very live issue. We are having debates about whether Britain and other European countries should pay reparations.

“Local politicians are talking about abuses of colonialism. In that sort of climate you'd have thought that Commonwealth monarchy would be quite vulnerable to a new wave of protest and a new wave of nationalism.

“On the other hand we see a distrust of politicians and with that a certain skepticism about politics and ... about the benefits of major constitutional reform.”

Professor Murphy said when you add impediments to constitutional reform into the mix, you end up with “a boxing match in slow motion.” He referred to the “ringing” announcement last March that Barbados would become a republic and asked “what has happened since ... well very little.”

In fact, monarchists in Barbados have made the point that becoming a republic comes at a huge multi-million dollar cost of erasing all vestiges of the Crown, from flags to banknotes, from ceremonies to uniforms.

“Becoming a republic will neither gain us power nor strength nor will it pay off any of our international debts. It cannot help us build new hospitals, roads or schools,” the Barbados monarchists insist.

Deference or drift? The debate shows no signs of resolution soon.

Footnotes:

• *The Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada is a national research organization dedicated to enhancing understanding of Canada's federal and provincial constitutional arrangements and, in particular, the role of the Crown.*

• *The Government House Foundation was created to foster the preservation of Government House and its grounds; to enhance its decor, character, maintenance, historical and cultural values; and to provide funding for the Lieutenant-Governor's programs and awards that have a positive impact province-wide.*

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At Government House, dignitaries attending the conference on the Crown in the 21st Century were: (left to right) Gary Lenz - Usher of the Black Rod, the Honourable Doug Phillips - Commissioner of Yukon, the Honourable Linda Reid - Speaker of the BC Legislative Assembly and MLA for Richmond East, the Honourable Steven Point, OBC - former Lieutenant-Governor of BC and Provincial Court Judge, the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD - Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, the Honourable George Tuccaro - Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC - Lieutenant-Governor of BC, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, SOM, SVM - Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Frank Fagan, CM, ONL - Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OONT - Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and the Honourable Nellie T. Kusugak - Commissioner of Nunavut.

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A parliamentarian “unafraid to be different”

By Jim Hume

It was 9.30 p.m. In the winter dark the River Thames swirled its ancient way past the Palace of Westminster as Big Ben signaled the passage of time from high in the Elizabeth Tower as it has since 1859.



In the great chamber of the House of Commons on the banks of the Thames some 90 meters below the clock tower a long, often raucous, sometimes bitter debate was grumbling to its close. Before the day ended 620 Members of Parliament would vote on the issue of continuing air strikes against ISIS – the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The House fell silent as Hilary Benn – son of late Labour Party stalwart and sparkling orator Tony Benn – stepped to the Despatch Box to wind up debate. Having been Labour’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and being an accomplished orator in his own right, his closing speech was expected to command attention.

The half hour chimes of Big Ben had barely faded when Hilary signaled where his support would be when the vote was taken. His leader, Jeremy Corbyn, newly elected head of the Labour Party, was already firmly on record as an opponent of any military action in the Iraq-Syria conflict zone. Benn thanked the Speaker for granting him the floor but said before he got to the core of the debate he had a message for Prime Minister David Cameron.

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The Chamber waited as the PM responded with a faint flicker of a smile and a quick word to a colleague. And Hilary Benn in clear, stern voice said: "Although my right honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition and I will walk into different division lobbies tonight, I am proud to speak from the same Despatch Box as him. My right honourable friend is not a terrorist sympathizer, he is an honest, a principled, a decent and a good man and I think the Prime Minister must now regret what he said yesterday and his failure to do what he should have done today – which is simply to say 'I am sorry.'"

Cameron, who had indeed earlier used abusive and condemning language, did not apologize, but he did lose his flickering smile. He knew he had Benn's vote to continue, even expand, military action, but he also knew he was being taught a lesson on how to disagree with someone on grave and important matters without having to resort to insults and derogatory language.

The UK's current Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Philip Hammond, said the speech by Benn would "go down as one of the truly great speeches made in the House of Commons." It is a lesson all elected politicians would do well to learn. In our Canadian parliaments,

MLAs and MPs are taught that party loyalty is more important than sincerity and truth; and party members with the courage or temerity to challenge and reject a tame "follow the leader" role are termed mavericks – or worse – banished from caucus.

Some years ago I chatted with the late Garde Gardom about Canada's tame backbenchers, "I'm the boss" party leaders and how we lacked the democratic ability of the mother of parliaments to not just accept internal criticism but actually encourage it. Garde said: "Yes, but you have to understand we've only been at it for a couple of hundred years or so. They have a few thousand under their belt so we have a little way to go."

You can find Benn's speech by simply Googling "Hilary Benn's Syria speech." You'll find his 14 minute oration challenging and discover a parliamentarian not afraid to be different. If you like it, send the link to your MLA or MP with a note suggesting the example wouldn't be a bad one to follow. And, if you lean towards pacifism, you will find, as I did, a strong challenge to long held beliefs.

(To read more of Jim Hume's columns visit The Old Islander at <http://jimhume.ca/>)



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Sewage patience has run its course



By Mike Harcourt

Greater Victoria's daily flush of 130 million litres of raw sewage and 40,000 kilograms of solids into Haro Strait and toward Race Rocks is neither environmentally nor politically sustainable.

Just ask Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, who wrote to Premier Christy Clark on June 10, 2014, noting that: "It is now more than 20 years since your province agreed to implement wastewater treatment in Greater Victoria."

It's clear that our neighbours' patience is running out. And here at home, fatigue is setting in. The issue has dragged on far too long. It's long past time to put a shovel in the ground and start work on a wastewater treatment facility.

Victoria's business and tourism leaders get it. Tourism Victoria and the Chamber of Commerce have long advocated secondary or better treatment at the most affordable cost to local taxpayers.

But some local politicians want to keep talking, taking yet another look at alternative sites to the one that was finally approved two years ago by all three levels of government.

That approach will only lead to further delay and increased costs - a fact confirmed in the latest Capital Regional District consultants' report from December that said the multi-site options being considered will take years more to complete and add big costs to the bottom line.

What's more, further delay will likely diminish or risk entirely the money that Ottawa and Victoria have pledged.

Make no mistake: If civic leaders in Greater Victoria think they can keep procrastinating and keep the money committed to sewage, they're kidding themselves.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimates Canada's municipal infrastructure deficit to be more than \$200 billion for worn-out bridges, roads, airports, unfunded transit systems and, yes, wastewater-treatment systems. If the CRD misses more deadlines/extensions, Canada's 5,000 local governments would love to spend this region's already approved \$500 million wastewater funding on their own unfunded infrastructure projects.

And if that were to happen, people here would be left with the legal obligation to treat sewage with less help to pay for it - a financial disaster that would mean sidelining other regional priorities such as affordable housing, transit and other vital infrastructure.

When I was premier in 1993, I directed the province to put on the table one-third financing for a secondary-treatment plant that cost less than \$400 million. Today, that plant would not only have been built but be almost debt-free. The then-federal government balked. And the core of the capital region didn't proceed (although, to their credit, Sidney, North Saanich and Central Saanich did build a treatment plant, now entirely paid for).

Greater Victoria risks chasing its tail for years longer. This not only risks the project funding from Ottawa and BC, but could bring years of fines for non-compliance with 21st Century laws such as the province's Environmental Management Act and federal Wastewater Systems Effluent regulations.

Sober, considered action is needed now. The approved plan should be viewed alongside a financial and environmental cost-benefit analysis of the latest new options and the right decision made quickly. Otherwise, the actions of local officials can only be seen as highly irresponsible.

In every other part of the world - and as nearby as Blaine and Port Angeles, Washington - folks seem to get on with it and plan, build and implement wastewater treatment to high environmental standards. It's time Victoria got on with it too.

(Mike Harcourt is the former premier of British Columbia and a former student at Willows Elementary, Lansdowne and Oak Bay High School.)

CRD posts caution: It's lumpy out there

Recent heavy rainfalls have taxed the capacity of some CRD storm sewers prompting contamination warnings on area beaches.

In February, cautions were posted on beaches from Finnerty Point near Queenswood to Clover Point on Dallas Road, and from McLoughlin Point west to Saxe Point.

CRD staff are monitoring waters near the sewage outfalls and public health advisories are posted on the area beaches and online until testing determines there is no longer a risk to public health.

Best advice: Avoid swimming and wading. That's easy advice to follow this time of year.

Bill asks Jimmy: “Has BC been good to you?”

by Vaughn Palmer
Vancouver Sun

When a crowd of more than 500 gathered in the ballroom of a Kelowna hotel on a late January Sunday afternoon for what was billed as a celebration of the life of William Richards Bennett, there were of course many stories from his 10 years as premier of BC.

Jimmy Pattison recounted how Bennett recruited him to oversee the Expo 86 world's fair, a supposed part time commitment (“two or three hours on Friday afternoons”) that was only supposed to last two years.

Three years into what was proving to be a full-time distraction, Pattison, looking to get back to his own business empire, took Bennett for a heart-to-heart session on his yacht that precipitated the following exchange.

Bennett: “Has BC been good to you?” Yes, of course, replied the billionaire.

“Well if I can't ask people like you to come and help me,” returned Bennett, “who can I turn to?” Pattison was hooked, for what turned out to be pretty much a full-time, five-year gig as boss of the fair.

Then there was the time that BC set up its own stand-alone Crown corporation to oversee lotteries and other gambling. After careful study, provincial bureaucrats determined that the headquarters should be built around the existing lottery offices in Richmond.

Bennett listened to the presentation, then announced the BC Lottery Corporation would in fact be headquartered in Kamloops, the interior community badly battered by the recession in the resource industries

The deputy minister of the day (Bob Plecas, who also served as master of ceremonies at the celebration) made the pitch a second time, mustering facts and arguments in support of Richmond as the obvious choice.

Bennett listened a second time, then fixed him a look over his half glasses and spoke a single word that announced the discussion was over: “Kamloops.”

Three decades on, Thompson Rivers University produced a report that credited the decision to locate BCLC headquarters in Kamloops with the creation of 600 permanent jobs and a cumulative economic impact of \$1.1 billion over 30 years.

Batting cleanup among the speakers highlighting the public side of Bennett's life was Premier Christy Clark, who lately represents Kelowna in the Legislature, as Bennett (and his father W.A.C. before him) did in their years as premier.

Though Clark has worked closely with Bennett's son Brad, the current chair of BC Hydro, she had just turned



10 years old when Bill was elected premier in late 1975 and was approaching her 21st birthday when he stepped down in summer 1986.

She characterized him as “my premier” for the first decade of a somewhat precocious state of political awareness.

Still Clark did not exactly grow up in a Bennett-supporting household. Her father, a Burnaby school teacher, lost three bids for provincial office as a Liberal at a time when Social Credit was the governing party of the Bennetts.

Jim Clark's daughter handled that footnote of her own history with a laugh line, recalling her father railing about the Bill Bennett-authored public sector wage guidelines of eight per cent in the first year and - “wait for it” - 14 per cent in the second. Such was what passed for “restraint” in the early 1980s.

Friends and neighbours spoke of Bill Bennett the lifelong Kelowna boy, the fierce competitor on and off the tennis court, the family man — four sons, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild — whose wife of 60 years, Audrey, presented a study in quiet dignity in the front row.

Speaking for the family was grandson Michael Bennett, 31, son of Brad. He recalled a “poppa” who loved board games and James Bond films, who could make a kid laugh by wiggling his ears, and who, during a brief turn as a sheep farmer, discovered that the flock was less inclined to obey directions than a cabinet or caucus.

(Vaughn Palmer has been the Vancouver Sun's provincial affairs political columnist in Victoria since 1984. You can read a full version of this column by Googling “Vaughn Palmer Vancouver Sun”.)

Lake Superior State University's 41st Annual List of Banished Words

So, if the wordsmiths at Lake Superior State University get their way, this is the last time a story lead like this will ever make it into print or broadcast.

Answering a question by beginning with the word "so" is just one of a dozen forms of wordplay that made it onto LSSU's 41st annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-use, Over-use and General Uselessness. The tradition created by the late W. T. Rabe, former public relations director at Lake Superior State University, is now in its fifth decade. Compilers hope this year's list will be so popular that it will break the Internet.

"Overused words and phrases are 'problematic' for thousands of Queen's English 'stakeholders,'" said an LSSU spokesperson during a 'presser.' "Once something is banished, there's no 'walking it back' and there's no 'price point' for that."

Rabe and fellow LSSU faculty and staff came up with the first list of words and phrases that people love to hate at a New Year's Eve party in 1975, publishing it on Jan. 1, 1976. Though he and his friends created the first list from their own pet peeves about language, Rabe said he knew from the volume of mail he received in the following weeks that the group would have no shortage of words and phrases from which to choose for 1977. Since then, the list has consisted entirely of nominations received from around the world throughout the year.

Through the years, LSSU has received tens of thousands of nominations for the list, which now includes more than 800 entries. This year's list is culled from nominations received mostly through the university's website, issu.edu/banished. Word-watchers target pet peeves from everyday speech, as well as from the news, fields of education, technology, advertising, politics and more. A committee makes a final cut in late December.

And now, a sampling from the 2016 list:

SO

So the word that received the most nominations this year was already banished, but today it is being used differently than it was in 1999, when nominators were saying, "I am SO down with this list!" Nominations came from across the country.

"Tune in to any news channel and you'll hear it. The word serves no purpose in the sentence and to me is like fingernails on a chalkboard. So, I submit the extra, meaningless, and overused word 'so.'" – Scott Shackleton, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

CONVERSATION

Online publications invite us to "join the conversation," which is usually more of a scream-fest.

Gayle from Cedarville, Mich. wonders if "debate has become too harsh for our delicate sensibilities. Now we are all encouraged to have a 'conversation,' and everything will somewhat be magically resolved."

PROBLEMATIC

"A corporate-academic weasel word," according to the Urban Dictionary.

"Anything that the speaker finds vaguely inconvenient or undesirable, such as an opposing political belief or bad traffic. Contrast things that are self-evidently taken to be problematic with, say, actual problems like a hole in the ozone layer or a job loss." – Adam Rosen, Asheville, N.C.

STAKEHOLDER

A word that has expanded from describing someone who may actually have a stake in a situation or problem, now being over-used in business to describe customers and others.

Harley Carter of Calgary, Alberta, says he has heard it with another word popular in business-speak, "socialize," which means to spread an idea around to see what others think of it. "We need to socialize this concept with our 'stakeholders.'"

PRICE POINT

Another example of using two words when one will do.

"It has no 'point.' It is just a 'price.'" – Guy Michael, Cherry Hill, N.J.

BREAK THE INTERNET

A phrase that is annoying online word-watchers around the world.

"Meaning a post or video or whatever will have so much Internet traffic that it will 'break the internet.' It's being used for every headline and video. Ridiculous." – Matthew Squires, Auburn, Mich.

WALK IT BACK

A slower back-pedal?

"It seems as if every politician who makes a statement has to 'walk it back,' meaning retract the statement, or explain it in laborious detail to the extent that the statement no longer has any validity or meaning once it has been 'walked back.'" – Max Hill, Killeen, Tex.

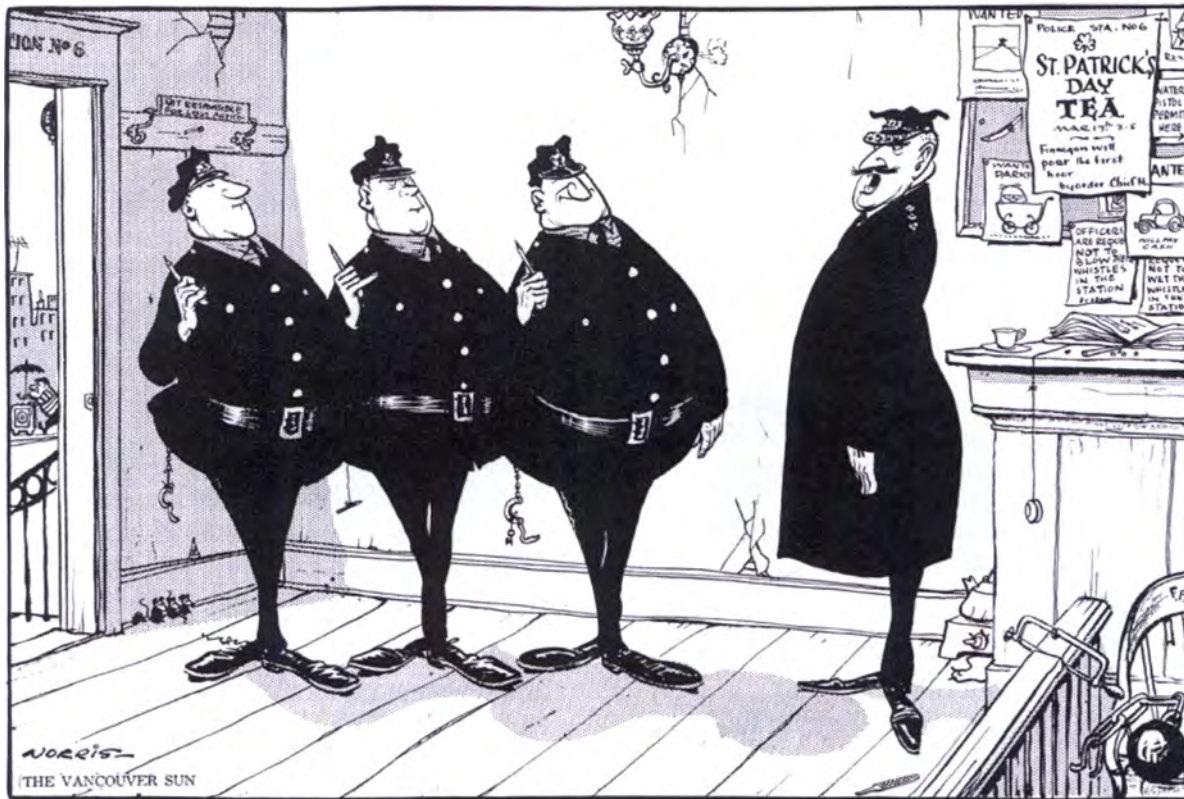
PRESSER

This shortened form of "press release" and "press conference" is not so impressive.

"Not only is there no intelligent connection between the word "presser" and its supposed meaning, this word already has a definition: a person or device that removes wrinkles. Let's either say 'press conference' or 'press release' or come up with something more original, intelligent and interesting!" – Constance Kelly, West Bloomfield, Mich.

Source: <http://www.issu.edu/banished>

Len Norris



March 17, 1954

"Finnegan, O'Hara, Callaghan ... today, as any other day, the nationality of the impaired will have no bearing on the charge ..."

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craven@telus.net

Member News

Please send news about your activities to oold.afmlabc@gmail.com for the next newsletter.

Where Are They Now?

Each issue we will ask a former Member of the Legislative Assembly a series of questions. What drew them to public service; what lessons have they taken away; and, most important, what are they doing now.



This issue we put former Liberal MLA Ken Jones (Liberal, Surrey-Cloverdale, 1991-1996) in the hot seat. Here is his story.

1. What prompted you to seek public office?

As Federal Liberal Riding President, I was asked to a meeting of the Provincial Liberal Association to help them to find some candidates. Nobody could think of a name for the Surrey-Cloverdale Riding. They turned to me and said: "How about you?" I agreed only on condition that I would just be a name on the ballot.

I had no money for a campaign. The riding association had no money, no president, no organization. After getting a president and holding a nomination meeting (on the day Premier Rita Johnston dropped the writ), I went and knocked on 10 doors in west Cloverdale. Six people said they were voting Liberal and the other four said they were thinking about voting Liberal, but wanted to meet the candidate. I said: "Here I am."

That was followed by the least expensive, fully computerized successful campaign ever. I became the MLA for Surrey-Cloverdale and a member of the Official Opposition. What a month and a half!!

2. Which political figure most influenced you?

Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Winston Churchill

3. Was it hard making the transition from private life to public life?

Yes, I had to prepare to become an MLA; create, setup and staff a Constituency Office; learn Caucus and Legislative duties and procedures; administer a budget; learn to work with 17 near strangers and a green leadership; as well as spend the first four months finishing off a large engineering project with my employer, BC Tel.

4. What was your biggest challenge returning to the private sector?

Since I had taken an early retirement from BC Tel while I was in my last year as MLA, we had that and the severance package to live on. With this modest income we had enough to get by for the first while. It was hard going from 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for five years, to not having anything to do except to catch up with all the home jobs that never got done, and to spend some quality time with my family.

I retired from the Legislature in July of 1996. In October, 1997 I volunteered to be Director of Protocol for the 1998 Surrey Games for Athletes with a Disability. The next month, Barbara Steele asked me to take over her job as Vice Co-Chair of the Games. This became a full-time volunteer job for almost a year.

5. What was the biggest lesson that has stuck with you since being an MLA?

Being open to listening carefully to the needs of others; assisting them to the best of my abilities when they ask for help; standing by my principles regardless of the pressures; being willing to admit when I was wrong and carry on; having a positive outlook on life as it is a gift from God.

My Mother's message to me as an eight year old was: "Remember this: You are no better than anyone else; you are no less than anyone else; you are an equal to all."

6. Tell us a bit about your active or part-time professional interests?

QuakeKoso Canada Ltd. and Kira Computer Systems are part-time businesses interests, and I have an active volunteer role with SmartRail.

Kira is a computer systems integration company that analyses people's computer needs, then puts together turnkey packages of software, hardware, and training to meet the customers' requirements. My role is President, chief cook and bottle washer.

QuakeKoso is the Canadian Distributor of the No.1 earthquake-actuated automatic gas shutoff valve, representing 95 per cent of the installed earthquake valves in Canada. I am VP Operations and a partner in the company. We take an activist role in Emergency Preparedness as well as we overseeing larger turnkey projects like: Air Canada, Metrotown Mall, the University of Victoria, Royal Roads; Victoria, Saanich, Surrey and

other schools districts; provincial, federal and municipal buildings including all Lower Mainland and Victoria hospitals.

SmartRail is a rail safety advocacy non-profit for the Lower Mainland and north-western Washington State. As President, I am involved in relocation design, advocacy, research, education and promotion.

In addition to rail safety issues, our current focus is on relocating the BNSF rail line from the shoreline of Blaine, White Rock, Crescent Beach, and Mud Bay to a new route along the west side of the Campbell Heights Industrial Park in eastern Surrey. The approximate cost is \$200 - 250 million. High Speed Passenger Rail of 300 kph is being considered in the design, as well as an International Station at the Pacific Border Crossing.

All levels of government in Canada and the U.S., as well as Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak railways are involved.

7. Finally ... pet projects? Hobbies? And, the value of remaining involved in the Association and OOTD.

You might call me an Expert Generalist. My time is divided among many interests: family, church, the Liberal Party (provincially and federally), sports (playing

pickleball and cheering on the BC Lions, Whitecaps and Canucks). And, I monitor White Rock Council.

Other interests and activities include: Secretary of the AFMLABC, Rail Relocation and Safety, the Seniors Planning Table, Seniors Health Network, Seniors Computer Club, White Rock Chamber Music, White Rock Concerts.

And, then there's stamp collecting, electronics, woodworking, family genealogy research, Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK), Tinnitus advocacy and counselling, and occasionally walks on the White Rock Beach and Pier.

The value I get from being involved in the Association is working and sharing experiences with intellectually stimulating friends across the political spectrum. We share a common desire to make British Columbia and Canada an even better place than it already is. Being able to, through our contributions and those of our supporters, produce a quality publication, "Orders of the Day", that gives greater insight into the lives of former members of the BC Legislature, historical vignettes of life and politics in BC, Norris's political cartoons, and keeping in touch with former MLAs and those who served in the Legislative Precinct.

Letters

Brian and Robert:

Once more please accept my appreciation for your joint efforts in producing the newsletter.

Also enclosed please find my membership fees.

Respectfully,
Charlie Wyse,
Williams Lake

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find dues owing for 2016, plus a little extra to help ensure you maintain a balanced budget!

Also enclosed please find my response to the OOTD Survey.

Thanks for keeping OOTD moving forward. It's always a pleasure to read.

John Les
Chilliwack

OOTD:

Please find enclosed my 2016 dues. Keep up the good work on the newsletter.

FYI I just completed, as Executive Producer, a 50 minute documentary entitled "THE DROP: Why Young People Don't Vote," which was shown before the last federal election on national TV through CPAC and in Ontario through TVO as well as at UVic, UBC and Carleton University.

Elections Canada tells me during the last election many more young people voted than in 2011. I hope we had a role in that.

The film has just been selected to be shown by the Beverly Hills Film Festival, so I'm off to Hollywood!

Ian Waddell,
Vancouver

(Ed. note: you can view the film on the TVOntario site - <http://tvo.org/video/documentaries/the-drop-why-young-people-dont-vote>)

Our sports heroes' club house turns 50

By Brian Kieran

The BC Sports Hall of Fame is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, but the golden moments in BC sports that give it life go back a century.

The parade of BC stars stretches back more than 100 years to 1915 when the Vancouver Millionaires won the Stanley Cup championship at Vancouver's Denman Arena. They swept the Ottawa Senators in three straight games, out-scoring the easterners 26-8. The Millionaires are still considered one of the greatest teams of all time. Seven players are in the Hockey Hall of Fame including hockey's first superstar Frederick 'Cyclone' Taylor.

My encounter with a BC sports legend is much more current. In the run up to the 2015 BC Winter Games in Prince George I had the honour to hang out ever so briefly with Fort St. John's Denny Morrison who won the 1000m speed skating silver medal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Pacific Western Brewing - one of OOTD's advertisers - had awarded Denny a "Hometown Heroes" bursary and I was helping manage media.

Denny embodied a signature "team" moment in recent Olympic history. At the 2013 Canadian trials Denny had tripped just metres from the 1000m finish line and lost his chance at an Olympic spot in that distance despite being one of the world's best 1000m skaters.



In Sochi, his teammate Gilmore Junio, who had qualified for the 1000m, selflessly offered Morrison his spot. The gesture made international headlines, particularly when Denny powered to a silver finish just four hundredths of a second from gold.

I was struck by Denny's humility and his quiet pride. It was so Canada.

BC has a wealth of sports icons of Denny's calibre – Rick Hansen, Nancy Greene, Percy Williams, Lui Passaglia, Scott Niedermayer, Larry Walker, Trevor Linden, Charmaine Crooks, Steve Nash, Karen Magnussen and more. And, this year we get to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their club house ... the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame has provided a home to recognize BC's champions and sports builders since 1966 when its



Statue of Percy Williams at the entrance to the BC Sports Hall of Fame

first home was established at the PNE by its founder, the late Eric Whitehead (1915-1993). In July 1990, construction began on a new Hall of Fame and Museum located at Gate "A" of BC Place.

For 50 years, the Hall has honoured BC's teams, builders, athletes, pioneers, and media through the annual induction ceremony, the Banquet of Champions. To date 363 individuals and 58 teams have been inducted. Its museum includes more than 27,000 artifacts and 50,000 archival documents representing 100 years of sporting accomplishments in British Columbia.

Along the way there have been some special moments like May 1981 when an award honouring former Premier W.A.C. Bennett was established. Known as the "W.A.C. Bennett Award" it recognizes outstanding individuals who have made a significant contribution to sport in BC, but who would not otherwise qualify for induction into the Hall of Fame. The late Terry Fox was the inaugural winner of this prestigious honour.

To celebrate 50 years of sporting excellence and leadership the Hall has launched a "50 Golden Moments in BC Sports History" campaign. The top four moments will be revealed at the Banquet of Champions on June 9th when another group of exceptional athletes will become BC Sports Hall of Famers.

The 2016 birthday bash will also include 50 community outreach events around the province, the opening of a temporary exhibit on March 7th called "Ruck 'n Roll: the Smashing Rugby Exhibit" in conjunction with the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series – Canada Sevens Tournament, a signature 50th Anniversary Exhibit to open in August and a BC Sports History Timeline that will be opening in the fall.