



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

Volume 22, Number 4

May 2016

Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund helps Youth Parliament



Official Sessional Photo of the 87th BC Youth Parliament

by Joan Barton



The Association of Former MLAs of BC's Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund is just two years old. Even so, six BC Youth Parliament (BCYP) members have already received grants from the fund.

Hugh passed two years ago, but his tireless dedication and hard work keeping the Association and Orders of the Day thriving and his abiding interest in youth and his commitment to the BCYP is well remembered through the generous donations to the fund.

The BCYP is a youth service organization dedicated to fulfilling its motto: "Youth Serving Youth." The organization is almost a century-old and evolved from the Older Boys Parliament which saw a name change when young women were admitted in 1974.

The BCYP is best known for its annual gathering in Victoria each December when 95 individuals, ages 16 to 21, from around the province meet in the Legislative Chamber to debate legislation on the projects they will perform throughout the year and to introduce Private

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"A gentleman."

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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:
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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

Recently, Penny Priddy was "attempting to decrease the amount of political ephemera that has gathered in filing cabinets over the years." She came across the clipping below and kindly sent it to me.

What a funny blast from a quarter century ago that I just had to share. It was a year I'll never forget.

Clearly, the writer thought more highly of me than many of the politicians I haunted on behalf of The Province newspaper from my perch in the Legislative Press Gallery.

The letter refers to my assignment to cover the first Gulf War on behalf of the tabloid and Southam News. I was in the Gulf for six weeks and came home to almost as much political turmoil as I had left behind. Later that year the once mighty Socreds, bravely led by Rita Johnston, would be reduced to seven seats. Mike Harcourt's NDP would form a new government with 51 seats. And, the upstart Liberals behind Gordon Wilson would claim 17 seats.

We need Kieran at home

Where is Brian Kieran when you need him?

A law that has the potential to destroy the very fabric of our health-care system, an expansion of continental free trade, supposed tax freezes and wage restraints, etc., are government initiatives that must be fully under-

stood, questioned and, if necessary, opposed.

A full complement of skilled reporters already exists in the Persian Gulf. Bring Kieran home where his considerable talents can be put to better use.

Robert Priddy
SURREY

VANCOUVER PROVINCE FEB 20 1991

Fund helps BCYP

Members Resolutions which give participants the opportunity to debate issues of their choice.

At the same time the BCYP's focus is on their motto of service and to this end, in December 2015, the 85th BCYP parliament passed a budget of nearly \$25,000 to enable the group to undertake a wide range of endeavours. Much of the budget will benefit Camp Phoenix, their over-night summer camp for under-privileged children, as well as park and beach clean-ups, soup kitchens and soccer programs. In addition, six Regional Youth Parliaments, high school level versions of the BCYP, will continue to receive support from the BCYP.

According to the BCYP many requests for financial assistance are received from members who wish to participate in the sessions in Victoria. Unfortunately, these requests are generally more than the BCYP's scarce resources can meet. That's where the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund comes in. Grants from the fund are a welcome gift.

The BCYP is extremely grateful to the Association for establishing the fund and to the generosity of its contributors. Further donations to the fund will strengthen the BCYP's ability to increase the number of their members from outside the Greater Victoria area by defraying the costs for travel and accommodation.

All contributions are enthusiastically received at the Victoria Foundation, which manages the fund. The charitable tax credit that goes with each donation should encourage donations well into the future. The Victoria Foundation requires a fund to reach \$10,000 before granting can begin. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund now stands at \$13,228.

All the information you need to support the fund can be found on Page 13 in this issue of Orders of the Day. The names of all the recipients are published in the newsletter and in the BCYP's Sessional Journal and are posted on their website, www.bcup.org.

The most recent recipients for 2015 were:

Morgan Weir is a third year member of the BCYP. Originally from Prince Rupert, she now attends university in Edmonton. She serves in the BCYP Cabinet as Deputy Minister of Camp Phoenix and is also acting chair of the Planning Committee for the Northern BC Youth Parliament.

Ranil Prasad makes his home in Surrey, and is in his first year with the BCYP. He was an enthusiastic participant in last December's parliamentary session in Victoria where he wrote a Private Member's Resolution on compulsory vaccination and was appointed Deputy Minister for the Lower Mainland.



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Memories of Dave Brown

by Dave Laundry

Dave and I first worked together at the James Lovick (later Baker Lovick) agency handling some of the W.A.C. Bennett government accounts, he -- a vice president -- on the advertising side and myself -- new to the office -- on public relations.

I particularly remember travelling around the province in 1971/72 as part of a campaign to promote BC Agriculture products. Cyril Shelford and Waldo Skillings were the Ministers involved, Cyril in Agriculture and Waldo in Economic Development. We put on a series of BC Breakfasts in various cities and towns, with menus composed entirely of "Home Grown BC Quality" products. In some of the more remote places, it was a real challenge finding venues. In one town, Dave and I stayed in an old hotel where the floors were at an angle and we had to share a bathroom down the hall. First time I ever saw him without his three-piece suit! We held the breakfast in the bar, the only room big enough to accommodate the crowd.

Dave's close association with Bill Bennett came as a result of a lunch he and I had a couple of years later. I had assembled a team of volunteer Vancouver PR guys to provide communications advice to the newly-elected leader of Social Credit. Bill soon determined he really needed someone to do that job full time and asked me to see if I could find a good candidate. Quite a challenge because at that time it was by no means certain Social Credit or Bennett would emerge as the key opposition to the NDP government.

I had lunch with Dave to pick his brain about who might be willing to take a chance on this neophyte politician. And much to my surprise, he said it was something he would consider doing. A meeting was arranged with Bill, and Dave signed up, set up shop in downtown Vancouver, and began putting in place the marketing and PR tools that were ready to go when Premier Dave Barrett called a surprise election in December of 1975. After the victory, Dave moved to Victoria to become Premier Bennett's first communications adviser, a position he held for five years. (I later became the third person to have that job, after Doug Heal.)

A necessary activity for confidantes of the Premier in those early days was the morning jog. I'll always remember walking down a hallway in the Empress Hotel one morning and bumping into Dave huffing and puffing back to his room in a red track suit! That was the second time I saw him out of his normal three-piece uniform!

Dave was a gentleman, genuine and unpretentious; a straight shooter who provided the new premier with solid advice and counsel in those formative years of his tenure. After leaving Victoria in 1980, he went on to provide the same quality professionalism to various corporations and associations, and latterly to the Vancouver office of Premier Glen Clark.

It was privilege for me to count Dave Brown as a friend and mentor. I am really going to miss our telephone visits to talk over the political issues of the day, and how they had changed yet remained so familiar!



David Brown passed March 20

David Brown passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 20th at Sechelt Hospital after a brief stay. David, a widower of wife Alicia (née Ruiz Campuzano) was born in London, England Dec. 4th, 1929. David and Alicia were married in 1962 in Vancouver.

After serving as a pilot and navigator in the R.A.F. he began his career in communications as a regional newspaper reporter in Eastbourne, England. David emigrated to Canada in 1950 and his first job was working for the Cowichan Leader.

During this time in the 50s and 60s, David took up auto racing and became involved with the Sports Car Club of BC. He was inducted into the Greater Vancouver Motorsports Pioneers Society in 2005 as a Sports Car Pioneer.

Respected and loved by family, daughter Louise Eto, son-in-law Paul and grandchildren Brandon and Alexis, David was a father and grandfather who will be greatly missed.



Doug Heal, Dave Laundy, Bill Bennett and David Brown at the 2006 launch of Bob Plecas' book "Bill Bennett, A Mandarin's View"

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Madam Speaker celebrates Year 99 of Women's Right to Vote

(This is a text of Speaker Linda Reid's remarks in the Legislature in April.)

Honourable members: Today, April 5, 2016, marks the 99th anniversary of the adoption of legislation by this Legislature providing women the right to vote in British Columbia and to seek provincial office. Our province was actually the fourth to grant women this right, the three prairie provinces having done so just before British Columbia.

It is amazing to think that a century ago women were denied one of our most basic democratic rights.

Women's right to vote in our province would not have been possible without the perseverance of many women and men who worked tirelessly for the ability of women to share in the responsibilities and leadership of our democratic system.

We are also approaching the 100th anniversary of the byelection victory of Mary Ellen Smith, the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1918.

Today, we can celebrate how far we have come since 1917.

I am proud to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia which leads the country with 38 per cent of our Members being women. That is also the highest level in Canada's history.

Among our current Members, the Member for Victoria-Beacon Hill has served as the leader of the Official Opposition. And the Member for Westside-Kelowna is the Premier of our province.

In 1949, Nancy Hodges became the the first woman elected to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and also the first in the Commonwealth. It is an honour to follow in her footsteps today as your Speaker.



This commemorative photograph of our current female MLAs was taken April 5. The Speaker's office was able to gather 29 of our 32 female MLAs for this occasion. The BC Legislative Assembly has the highest proportion of women members of any legislature in Canada, and that includes the House of Commons. Here they are in alphabetical order: Suzanne Anton, Donna Barnett, Shirley Bond, Stephanie Cadieux, Katrine Conroy, Kathy Corrigan, Judy Darcy, Mable Elmore, Sue Hammell, Vicki Huntington, Maurine Karagianis, Melanie Mark, Michelle Mungall, Coralee Oakes, Mary Polak, Lana Popham, Linda Reid, Linda Reimer, Jennifer Rice, Selina Robinson, Jane Jae Kyung Shin, Michelle Stilwell, Moira Stilwell, Jackie Tegart, Jane Thornthwaite, Claire Trevena, Teresa Wat, Jodie Wickens and Naomi Yamamoto. Missing were: Christy Clark, Carole James and Linda Larson.

A Rebel – Sometimes Without Cause

By Jim Hume

It may surprise a few readers but we had a Donald Trump in Canada 150 years or so ago. Our guy wasn't a billionaire although he did fairly well over his life span with "business" and land deals, some with suspected shady legal activities.

I mentioned him in the April issue of Orders – "Fighting Joe" Martin who achieved his ambition to organize the dismissal of one provincial premier with himself standing ready in the wings to replace him.



Fighting Joe earned his nickname. He was savage in verbal argument, brilliant in rhetoric and prepared to go bare knuckle with those who didn't accept and agree with his ideas. And he didn't like the idea of "foreigners" flooding into Canada even though his family had been

new fortune seekers when his grandfather Jasper Martin with wife Sarah and two young sons arrived in Upper Canada, the first settlers in what is now known as Milton, Ontario.

When Jasper and his family arrived to settle a 100 acre land grant in 1818 two families, his and Hugh Foster's, comprised the total settlement. Jasper's land grant was on 16 Mile Creek where he built a large pond to harness enough power to operate his first commercial operation – a grist mill.

Fighting Joe's father, Edward, was Jasper and Sarah's third son born in the settlement and was working in the mill when Joe was born in September 1852. When Joe was in his early teens the family moved to Michigan. Joe knew all about immigrants and hardships and the need for those already established to help those in need. Like Donald Trump a 150 years plus later, he wasn't averse to immigrants – as long as they were white, preferably of Anglo descent and able to speak and understand English.



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Joe was a good student. In his teens he qualified as a telegrapher, graduated to become a school teacher, then switched to law and moved to Manitoba where he was called to the bar in 1882. His law practice blossomed as he became more involved in politics as a Liberal. His speeches and his energy brought him many friends. His barely, and rarely, controlled anger, brought him as many, maybe more, enemies.

As the Dictionary of Canadian Biography records: "His blurring of the distinction between his public and private responsibilities brought him into conflict with his legal clients and his cabinet colleagues."

It was when the overlap of those responsibilities became too strong that BC Premier Charles Semlin asked Joe for his resignation as attorney general "because he had neglected department business to work on his own legal practice, had revealed cabinet's private business, and 'while the worse for liquor' had lost his temper when heckled by irate mine owners at a banquet in Rossland." Joe resigned but "vowed vengeance" on Semlin and others who contributed to his down fall.

What was missing in Semlin's recitation of Joe's failures was a big one which saw Ottawa order his amendments to the Alien Exclusion Act withdrawn. Martin wanted tougher laws governing mining licences in the Atlin Lake area. His amendments touched off a storm of protest from Americans flocking to Atlin to seek their fortunes in gold. Joe Martin wanted access to metal rights reserved for Canadian citizen's only – no aliens allowed. The many Americans already in the area protested to their president who relayed his displeasure to Ottawa over US citizens being declared aliens. Ottawa responded to its biggest trading partner. Laws dealing with aliens were a federal matter. Joe Martin's amendments were quashed.

Fighting Joe was a one man wrecking crew but built an amazing and slightly bizarre record during his political life. He was a member of the Manitoba Legislature and a cabinet minister; he was a Member of Parliament in Ottawa; he was a member of the BC legislature, a cabinet minister and, very briefly Premier. And he was an elected Member of Parliament in England.



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Joe went to England shortly after his defeat in the BC provincial election of 1903. Within a few months he got himself nominated as a Liberal candidate in a byelection for Stratford-upon-Avon. He lost but created a great impression with British Liberals who nominated him a candidate for the London riding of St. Pancras East in their general election of 1910. Joe won the seat handily and launched into his favourite role as a maverick in the House of Commons.

Then began a weird period with WW1 side-lining normal parliamentary proceedings in England for the duration of the war. In the spring of 1914 Joe had returned to Vancouver for a visit. In August war was declared but Joe, wisely, didn't hasten back to his MP duties. He did bravely find his way back across the Atlantic in 1916 – and quietly resumed his seat as though he had never been away.

During his "visit" to Vancouver he stayed in political training by running twice for mayor – while still being an MP in the Palace of Westminster. He lost both times. He then wandered back and forth between BC and London a few times with each visit declared his final move.

He was in Vancouver on March 2, 1923 when he died a victim of influenza and diabetes. In a strange epitaph, the Victoria Daily Times wrote: "The fact that during the last few years of his life he played no very active part in politics was due to no fault of his own but rather to his sinister record as a disruptive force, which made all parties fear his support as much as his opposition."

And, S.W. Jackman wrote in Portraits of the Premiers of the decline of "his mental powers and intellectual brilliance ... his rather stout figure shriveled and he became small and pathetic – a little gnome ... believed and trusted by nobody ... His chimerical nature, his cynicism, his devious character and his lack of political morality baffled and infuriated his contemporaries....but he always survived."

I wonder if they'll be writing the same about Donald Trump in 2166? Or, if anybody will care.



(You can follow Jim Hume's wordsmithing adventures at www.jimhume.ca.)



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Social Media @ the BC Legislature

By Kate Ryan-Lloyd
Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees

The work of a parliamentary institution is not always associated with brevity, but when you are restricted to 140 characters for a tweet, this becomes a necessity. Social media is a quickly-expanding area of organizational communications for many public institutions, including the Legislative Assembly of BC.

Have you explored the Assembly's online resources lately? With the launch of our website (www.leg.bc.ca) in late 2015, our online presence now incorporates a new design, improved site navigation, new integrated content, improved search tools, and a layout optimized for mobile devices including iPads, smartphones and everything in between.

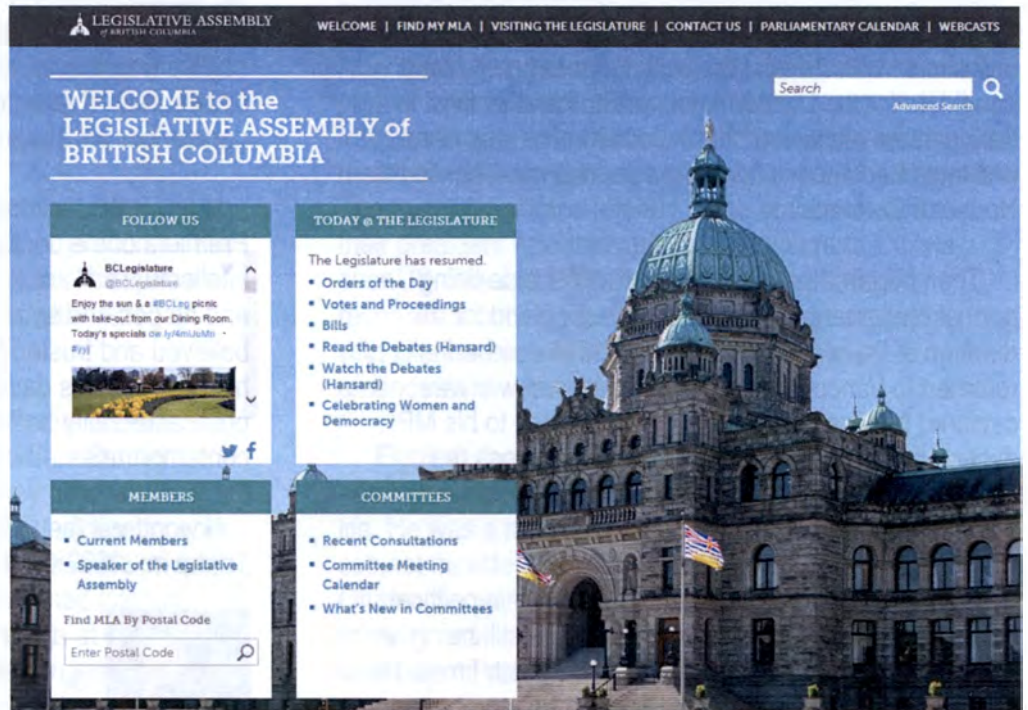
First launched in 1994, the Assembly's website was last refreshed in 1999 – and 16 years is a very long time in the technological world. In addition to the new mix of static and dynamic content about the work of the Assembly, the website also includes two social media feeds.

The new Assembly Facebook and Twitter accounts provide us with opportunities to connect with British Columbians on the work of the Assembly, including current parliamentary committee consultations.

We aim to use these social media accounts to support the following educational and engagement objectives:

* Sharing news, information and products with respect to the operational work, roles and activities of the Assembly, its 85 Members (typically not individual MLAs) and parliamentary committees;

* Promoting the appreciation and understanding of the Parliament Buildings, its historic setting, and precinct grounds; and,



* Providing information to enhance British Columbians' understanding of and access to online parliamentary resources and publications.

We are also aiming to use social media to quickly convey information to Members, staff and the public in case of an emergency or building closure.

So far, it appears that there is significant interest in Legislative Assembly news. Since the launch of our social media presence in October, the number of followers has grown considerably to more than 500 Twitter followers and to more than 700 who follow the Legislative Assembly on Facebook.

We would particularly welcome interest from members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC. If you are interested in updates from the Legislative Assembly follow us Twitter: @BCLegislature or <https://twitter.com/BCLegislature> or on Facebook: Legislative-Assembly-of-British-Columbia.

We look forward to connecting with you and welcome your feedback and your retweets!

2016 Association Dues

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:

The Association of Former MLAs of BC

and mailed to:

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The Legislature Library wants your photographs

By Peter Gourlay
Director, Legislative Library

The Legislative Library is looking to expand its photograph collection. We are looking for donations of photographs related to BC provincial politics and politicians.

If you have any such photographs and you would be willing to transfer the rights to the library, please get in touch with us. Your donations will help us preserve the political history of the province and make it available to future generations.

Your photos are a unique record of the political life of this province. We take a broad view of what kind of photographs we collect, as long as they have some relation to provincial politics.

Last year, the Legislative Library celebrated 100 years of service to British Columbia. The early librarians' ideal of creating a library that could serve the whole province had a hand in forming library and archives services all over BC.

From almost the beginning, the library curated a separate, smaller collection to focus on the history of British Columbia. Materials were painstakingly selected from all over the province for decades. These items became the bedrock of the Provincial Archives.

Today, the library collection includes some 500,000 items, including rare historical volumes and the latest ebooks.



The library has the largest collection of BC government documents available anywhere. It provides a fast, confidential and non-partisan research service to present and former MLAs, as well as to staff working in the building and constituency assistants across the province.

If you have any questions about how your photographs would be used, or you would like to make a donation, please get in touch with me at Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, or at peter.gourlay@leg.bc.ca or call 250-387-6510.

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Venezuela retreats a half hour

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela has reversed a half-hour time change that was one of the signature measures of former president Hugo Chavez's idiosyncratic 14-year rule.

Chavez turned Venezuela's clocks back 30 minutes in 2007 so that children could wake up for school in daylight.

But his successor Nicolas Maduro has decided to return to the previous system, four hours behind GMT, to ensure more daylight in the evening when energy consumption peaks.



A severe drought is affecting the Guri reservoir that provides two-thirds of Venezuela's power needs, and water and electricity outages are frequent.

"This extra half hour of sunlight will allow a better electricity savings because it is at night when people return from work and schools that they turn on lights and air-conditioning," Science Minister Jorge Arreaza said.

Arreaza, who married Chavez's daughter, said the end of Venezuela's unique time zone would come into effect on May 1. "It's as simple as waking up and putting your watch forward half an hour," he explained on state TV.

President Maduro's government, in power since 2013 following Chavez's death from cancer, has been cautious in rolling back any of the revered socialist leader's measures.

Trump flag gets flagged

NEW JERSEY (Reuters) - Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has a passionate supporter in Joseph Hornick, a New Jersey man who faces a \$2,000 fine or 90 days in jail for flying a flag emblazoned with the billionaire candidate's name over his home.

Local officials said the flag violates an ordinance prohibiting the display of political signs more than 30 days ahead of an election and issued him a summons. New Jersey's primary is on June 7.

For weeks, Hornick has displayed the blue flag with Trump's "Make America Great Again!" campaign slogan on a pole outside his two-story house.

"The fine can be in the millions of dollars! That flag will never come down!" Hornick wrote in a defiant Facebook post.

UK spies guarded against Harry Potter leak

UNITED KINGDOM (Reuters) - Usually concerned with top secret matters affecting national security, Britain's eavesdropping spy agency GCHQ was also on the lookout for leaks of a yet-to-be-published Harry Potter book, its publisher has revealed.

Shortly before the publication of one of the volumes in J.K. Rowling's seven-part wizarding saga, with millions of fans worldwide at a fever pitch of anticipation, publisher Nigel Newton received an unexpected phone call.

"I remember the British spy eavesdropping station GCHQ rang me up and said 'we've detected an early copy of this book on the Internet'," Newton told Australia's ABC Radio in an interview last week that gained attention in Britain.

"I got him to read a page to our editor and she said 'no, that's a fake'," said Newton, founder and chief executive of Potter publishing house Bloomsbury, describing the spies as "good guys."

A spokesman for GCHQ said: "We do not comment on our defense against the dark arts."

Slap happy minister is sacked in Portugal

LISBON (Reuters) - Portuguese Culture Minister Joao Soares has resigned after threatening to slap critics who had called him incompetent and rude.

A post on his Facebook page saying he wanted to slap two newspaper columnists, followed by what was seen as a half-hearted apology, provoked a flurry of calls for him to be sacked.

Soares, a Socialist and the son of former president and prime minister Mario Soares, is the first minister to leave the new left-leaning government of Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa, which took over in November.

Costa issued a public apology on behalf of his cabinet, saying that the episode "does not reflect how the government wants to relate to people" and that he told his ministers "to be reserved and ... never forget that they are government members."

He said he accepted Soares' resignation. "I respect his decision and I thank him for his efforts and dedication in his job," Costa told reporters.

After being called "incompetent" and promoting a "work style of cronyism, domineering and rudeness", Soares said it was time to slap two columnists at influential daily newspaper Publico.

Len Norris



"You'll see ... now that the crowded summer season has started they'll find some silly excuse for tearing up the roads..."

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 his former colleagues 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

Member News

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

Where Are They Now?

Each issue we 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



Mines and Petroleum Resources and Attorney General.

In this issue Brian Smith is in the spotlight. Smith was mayor of Oak Bay from 1974 to 1979 and was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1979, representing Oak Bay-Gordon Head. He was re-elected in 1983 and 1986. He served as Minister of Education, Minister of Energy,

1. What prompted you to seek public office?

Fighting development proposals in my neighbourhood led me to run successfully for local council. I was a slow growth guy.

2. Which political figure most influenced you?

John F Kennedy whom I talked to in 1956 at a theatre opening night in New York. In Canadian politics, I was strongly motivated by John Diefenbaker and by Davie Fulton, both of whom I worked for.

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

My transition was gradual. When elected provincially in May, 1979, I kept practicing law after the session, and remained as mayor until November elections at request of the council. This wouldn't happen today I am sure. You would have to quit most things when you got elected provincially. I finally became a full time politician when I entered cabinet as Minister of Education in November, 1979. However, I still lectured in criminal law at the law school regularly for a few years. Being a Victoria area MLA made personal living much easier.

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

Suddenly no longer being a minister after nine years with all the resources of office vanishing can be devastating as many have found. My transition was

gradual. I resigned as Attorney General in 1988, and sat as a government back bencher for 18 months, during which I resumed my litigation practice. Then I resigned my seat and took an interesting job with CN Rail.

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

Serving in a legislature or parliament is a unique privilege that you must never take for granted. It is wise not to stay too long at the party and it is wise to know when it is time to retire. After you leave elected office, you should try to stay connected with public affairs and give back to your community. You can raise funds for charity. You can donate time and money to important causes. Or, you can volunteer in your community. Or, you could edit a publication for former MLAs!

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

I still work part time for the national law firm Gowlings out of their Vancouver office. I also serve part time as chief federal treaty negotiator for the Kootenays (KKTC) and the North Shore (TWN). I served for a number of years on Toronto business boards, but now only participate in conferences in the energy field. Recently, I was appointed to the Victoria Police Board.

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

Barbara and I travel a bit including March in California for tennis and golf and in summer at our cottage on Hornby Island with some grandchildren visitations. We try to visit England (Wimbledon) and Europe every other year. My tennis playing days are now mixed doubles and golf is becoming enjoyable.

There is good value in participating in the Association of Former MLAs to keep in touch with former colleagues and with those who continued to serve after their time in office. Maintaining these associations helps us realize that even in a more brutal age of instant communication you find that good people still seek public office for good reasons! These associations also underline the revelation that you can find friends on both sides of the House. Partisanship has its place around election time, but collegiality can go a long way in politics and in life.

Letters

Levy was special indeed

Brian and Rob:

Thank you for your piece last month entitled, "Celebrating Levi - A very special colleague is gone."

Indeed, he was very special. The article brought back many delightful memories for me, as I had the good fortune of staying at Norm's B&B for 10 years when the Legislature was in session. Norm's place was a delightful old home near the Victoria Art Gallery on Moss Street. The bed and the breakfast were okay, but the big attraction for me was the fascinating gentleman who owned the place.

I would often arrive home late, after a long day in the trenches, tired and wanting to go to bed. However, I preferred to engage in intense conversation with this incredible man 'til the wee hours of the morning.

Norm was a scholar, raconteur, mentor, and researcher, who loved life and loved politics. He had a great sense of fun and humour, and called me his star boarder. When I retired from politics, he came to my retirement party to give me a certificate for completing 10 years residency at his "Institute for Political Science."

He was a delight to know and I am sure he will be missed by all who knew him.

Barry Jones MLA, Burnaby North
1986 - 1996.

Yvonne remembered

Dear readers:

Family, friends and political colleagues came together on Sunday, April 24th to say goodbye to Yvonne Cocke. A full house at New Westminster's Centennial Lodge mingled for several hours exchanging stories and fond memories of their times and experiences with Yvonne.

Community activist Val MacDonald, former MP and MLA Dawn Black and I shared our memories. Yvonne was a powerful political force who played a dominant role in the BC NDP in the 70s and 80s. She was president of the party in the early 1970s and its provincial secretary later in the decade. Former provincial office staff recalled working with Yvonne, not for her. She was a feminist who supported and encouraged women to become active in public life.

Bob Plecas, in his biography of Bill Bennett, described her as "an organizational genius." She and Dennis were mentors to many younger women and men and role models to many more.

Yvonne was a month shy of 92 when she died in January. She will be long and fondly remembered.

Former MLA
Colin Gabelmann

A large number of notes accompanied dues and subscription payments this month. Below is a sampling.

I am enclosing my payment for Orders of the Day.

I look forward to this wonderful paper and have enjoyed it for years, thanks to Hugh Curtis who felt there should be something created to keep the former MLAs and the public up to date on the special people who help shape this wonderful province.

Yours truly,
Agnes Peterson (wife of Leslie R. Peterson),
West Vancouver

March 2016 was one of the best issues of OOTD, including: a Jewish MLA, 'life after' story, great speech, and history lesson.

Moira Stilwell,
MLA, Vancouver – Langara

Please find enclosed a cheque for my dues and a little extra for the OOTD and keeping it interesting!

Cheers,
Allan Warnke,
Richmond

Please find enclosed a cheque for dues plus a little extra.

Keep up the outstanding effort.

Good thoughts,
Lois Serwa,
Kelowna

Please find enclosed a cheque for OOTD and a little extra to help the cause. Keep up the good work – I enjoy your publication very much.

Thank you,
Marion Reid,
White Rock

Enclosed is payment for my membership dues. Please use the extra for the good work of the Association.

Yours truly,
Harry Bloy,
Burnaby

The Connaught Tunnel is 100 this year

When the Last Spike was driven in Canadian Pacific's main line on Nov. 7th, 1885 at Craigellachie, the tracks climbed over the Selkirk Mountains through Rogers Pass. Snow conditions were so bad that the first winter there were no trains moving over that portion of the line.

CPR solved the problem by constructing 31 snowsheds in the area of the pass over the next two years. Then on March 4th, 1910 a huge avalanche came roaring down Mount Avalanche in Rogers Pass near Shed 17 and killed 58 men who were in the process of clearing a previous avalanche from Mount Cheops. In February 1913 they announced the construction of a tunnel beneath the pass.

Such a tunnel would eliminate the need for maintenance of all those snowsheds, reduce the grade over the pass, and shorten the length of the main line. Construction of this tunnel commenced on April 2nd, 1914 by the firm of Foley Brothers, Welch, and Stewart. It went operational ahead of schedule on Dec. 16th, 1916. The name chosen for this tunnel was Connaught, after the Governor General of Canada at the time, Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught.

The newly built tunnel was plagued with falling rock, wet rails causing locomotive slippage, and insufficient ventilation. A concrete lining solved the loose rock problem and controlled water seepage. To solve the ventilation problem a large fan building was constructed at the western portal of the tunnel.

Just as the Rogers Pass route with its snowsheds and looping track was a bottleneck for the railway in the early years, over time the Connaught Tunnel became a bottleneck too. Operation westbound through the tunnel required pusher locomotives to assist heavy tonnage up the hill to the eastern portal on a grade of 2.2 per cent. It was an operational nightmare. So to solve the problem once more CP turned to tunneling. In 1988 a second route with two tunnels and a viaduct were put into operation.



A CPR eastbound locomotive blasts out of the East Portal of the Connaught Tunnel on double track which dates this photo prior to 1959 as that was when the double track was replaced by single track.

Currently, loaded and heavy west bound trains use the lesser grade of the Mount MacDonald Tunnel route while the lighter east bounds use the Connaught.

The explanation that the 1910 avalanche was the last straw for CP and led to the decision to construct the Connaught Tunnel has been refuted by Gary Backler in his 1981 graduate thesis at the University of British Columbia.

Backler's research demonstrated that the avalanche was in fact not directly responsible for CP's subsequent decision to build the Connaught Tunnel. CP correspondence and files made it clear that the 1910 avalanche was considered a freak event at the time. What changed CP's mind was the need to increase capacity of the line, and specifically the 1912 decision to double track the main line between Calgary and Vancouver.

(Source: The "OKthePK" blog which is updated regularly with any Canadian Pacific Railway news or articles being archived on the Canadian Pacific Railway Set-off Siding web site.)