



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

Volume 22, Number 8

October 2016

Thousands jam Legislature lawn to welcome Prince William and Kate



Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, his Duchess, Kate, and their Royal children, George and Charlotte, took Victoria and BC by storm in late September. The Duke said they were here "learning about how Canadians are tackling some of the biggest challenges of the day, including the environment, supporting young families, and the mental health of young people ... subjects about which we are both passionate." Learn they did and they were also reminded of the unquenchable enthusiasm Canadians express when given a chance to welcome the Royals to our shores. In the photo above William and Kate are presented flowers by Victoria Foster, a 14 year old from Ontario with Cystic Fibrosis. Her dream was to meet Their Royal Highnesses, a wish made possible by the Children's Wish Foundation. Stories and photos P4 & 5. (Province of British Columbia photo)

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

From the Editor's Desk

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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Association Membership (former MLAs) dues are \$60.00 per year. Annual subscription rate is \$40.00 for those who are not Association Members.
Payment can be sent to the above address.

Normally, this October issue would be jammed with wonderful photos of the annual Former MLAs' Annual Dinner at Government House. If this year's dinner had gone ahead Oct. 1st as planned, we would have been quite distracted by foreign press, security personnel talking to their wrists and the Royals.

The good news is that the absence of banquet memorabilia has left all sorts of space to celebrate the Royal's visit to BC and the Legislature, and ample space left over to celebrate Women's History Month.



In the spirit of Women's History Month we have individual pieces on Speaker Linda Reid, former MLA and "100 per cent farm girl" Val Roddick (our profile of the month), and a nice letter from former MLA Anne Edwards, whose wordsmithing talents have endured with panache since her early days as a journalist in the East Kootenays.

We don't normally profile a sitting member, but I felt I could make an exception in the case of Madame Speaker who celebrates her 25th anniversary this month. A quarter century in this game is worth a nod and readers of OOTD should know that Reid's office in the Legislature bends over backwards every month in a non-partisan spirit to support your newsletter and keep us informed about Legislature activities with stories and pictures. I know when Reid decides to hang up her staff, she will become an engaged member of the AFMLABC.

Consistent with the Women's History Month celebration, the Legislature education office sent us a good report on the non-partisan campaign school run by the Canadian Women Voters Congress and hosted by Madame Speaker.

Finally, on the History Page, P-16, we offer a little Women's History Month context just in case anyone has forgotten what a battle it was for Canadian women to be recognized as 'real people' back in the 1920s.

Just as we were sending this issue of OOTD to the printer we received sad news from Australia that Don Phillips has died. We will do a fitting tribute to Don in the November issue and will be pleased to include your thoughts and fond memories. Email them to me at ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com.

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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.

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This is to notify all Members of our AFMLABC AGM in Vancouver this year

**Official Notice of 2016 Annual General Meeting
for the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia**

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Place: Telus Garden, 510 West Georgia Street, Vancouver

Time: 1:30 p.m. (sharp) to 4 p.m.

NOTE: Members planning to attend should RSVP to Association Secretary Ken Jones at kenjjones@gmail.com or call him at 604-535-2204. Members planning to join the AGM by teleconference should contact Ken Jones for call-in information. Ken will be pleased to forward minutes from the 2015 AGM.



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A Canadian Welcome ... "to such a special place in the world"

by Esther Rzeplinski
Parliamentary Education Office

"It is a pleasure to be welcomed in such a beautiful setting, here on the traditional Lekwungen territory ... over the next week Catherine and I will see once again what makes Canada such a special place in the world."

With those words Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, launched a Royal family West Coast journey that would see the couple visit Vancouver, Bella Bella, Whitehorse, Kelowna and Haida Gwaii while making Victoria's Government House their temporary home.

The Duke continued: "We are very much looking forward to learning about how Canadians are tackling some of the biggest challenges of the day, including the environment, supporting young families, and the mental health of young people... subjects about which we are both passionate." The Duke finished his address by thanking everyone again en français.

That was Saturday, Sept. 24th when Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, were welcomed to Canada and British Columbia. Thousands of Canadians gathered around the Legislative Precinct to take part in the Official Welcome event.

At approximately 5:35 pm, a motorcade arrived at the east side of the precinct, where the Duke and Duchess were greeted by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston and Her Excellency Sharon Johnston; the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and Mrs. Sophie Grégoire Trudeau; the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Judith Guichon; and the Premier of British Columbia, the Honourable Christy Clark.

The official party proceeded to the Cenotaph where Their Royal Highnesses laid a wreath at the unveiling of a new plaque commemorating Canada's participation in the 2001-2014 mission to Afghanistan.

From there, the official party was escorted to meet three Canadian veterans: Corporal Mireille Poulin, Royal Canadian Air Force and multiple medal winner at the Invictus Games; Petty Officer Second Class Wayne Clark, a Royal Canadian Navy member who served in Afghanistan; and Royal Canadian Legion Veteran, Gordon Quon from the Canadian Army in the Second World War.

Along the red carpet the official party was met by thousands of enthusiastic Canadians including other veterans, Scouts and Girl Guides. They were welcomed with dance and song by the Lekwungen Traditional Dancers from the Songhees Nation.

The Official Welcome also featured the Royal Salute by the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy. His



(Province of British Columbia photo)

Royal Highness' personal Canadian Standard was broken followed by a 21 gun salute fired by the 5th Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. Escorted by the Canadian Equerry, His Royal Highness then inspected the Honour Guard composed of sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy.

After remarks from the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier, the Victoria Children's Choir, made up of 40 students aged 11 to 16 years, sang two songs in both official languages.

The highlight, of course, was when Prince William addressed the crowd, recalling previous visits to Canada and thanking everyone for welcoming them so warmly. Following HRH's remarks, the Naden Band and the Victoria Children's Choir sang O Canada for all guests and spectators.

Among the guests were a number of Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly of BC, including the Speaker, the Honourable Linda Reid, local Mayors and First Nations leaders. After signing the Government of Canada Golden Book and the British Columbia Distinguished Visitor's Book, Their Royal Highnesses completed their walkabout and were presented with flowers by Victoria Foster, a 14 year old from Ontario with Cystic Fibrosis. Her dream was to meet Their Royal Highnesses, a wish made possible by the Children's Wish Foundation.

Their Royal Highnesses then departed for Government House and visits to a number of communities in both British Columbia and the Yukon.

The 2016 Royal Tour marks Their Royal Highness's first official tour of the west coast of Canada and the first time their two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, have accompanied them to Canada.

Royally lost in a sea of smiling faces

By Kate Thompson
(Special to OOTD)

I thought I saw a Royal pate and a tousled Prime Minister.

My assignment was to attempt a Royal sighting and report back to Orders of the Day.

The Royals arrived late in Victoria to a cheering crowd many thousands strong strewn across the Inner Harbour and the Legislature front lawn. Most could not see who they were cheering for, but they cheered nonetheless.

Early birds had staked out the best vantage points by noon along the sides of the red carpet. Worker bees, techies and police were everywhere. Bored, been-there-done-that, reporters were walking about killing time and pretending superiority to the masses afflicted with Royal mania.

Late-coming spectators massed across the street opposite the red carpet walkways. These traversed the Legislative lawns from the Cenotaph to the central dais and on the diagonal again to the departure point on the corner of Belleville and Menzies.

Everywhere you looked, there were faces turned to the tiny stage on the Legislature lawn, from the security officers stationed atop the Empress Hotel to the hundreds across the harbour nearest the Tourism kiosk.

For most there was little to see, the lights of the motorcade, a sea of raised arms with waving flags, tiny toddlers aloft on shoulders, and others holding phones and cameras at arm's length in search of a lucky shot ... dare they hope, a selfie capturing Will or Kate.

Hopeful diehard Royal watchers, unwitting tourists, smiling locals and the generally curious lined every square metre of sidewalk, planter, bench or elevation that afforded any kind of a view in the general vicinity of the Legislative lawns.

One female police officer took her own straw poll and reported that many of the younger generation were there to see Justin Trudeau, and possibly record what Kate was wearing.

Others were adding footnotes to generations of royal watcher sightings. Still others were caught up in the crowd like the American tourist who wondered if waiting to see what Kate was wearing was a British vs Canadian fashion kind-of-a-thing.

Hearing greetings and speeches was spotty on the lawns while the remaining masses further afield could only guess at who might be speaking. By consensus, it seems the PM and the Duke received the most enthusiastic applause. Restless spectators amused themselves speculating on what was being said by whom and what they were wearing.

The generally good mood of the spectators stopped short when the Canadian Armed Forces 21-Gun Salute brought an immediate gasp and murmuring in a crowd hypersensitive to daily news stories of shootings and



(Province of British Columbia photo)

terrorism. By the third volley, nerves were calmed and kids and adults alike had joined the counting – 19, 20, 21!

The more experienced Royal watchers were bemused at the 20-somethings who were happily confusing the National Anthem with God Save the Queen.

The motorcade pulled up for the departure further blocking much of the view of the red carpet where the Premier Christy Clark and son Hamish were stationed to bid farewell to the Royals and the PM, further blocking the view for some spectators.

One enterprising woman called the Premier's name, getting her attention, a smile and a wave. Premier Clark only hesitated for a second when the woman politely but firmly shouted for her to move, and move again. The crowd cheered. The Premier, always in tune with the public mood, quickly observed the sightline protocol and moved.

The Royals and PM did finally make it to the roadway. They stood, posed and waved into a sea of mini-Canadian flags, cranky toddlers and raised cameras. The Royals came and went, the crowds enjoyed their day and a few in the throng even managed a close and personal lifetime moment with the famous Will and Kate.



(Province of British Columbia photo)



“Public service is the rent we pay ...”

Madame Speaker, Linda Reid, is celebrating 25 years of public service as an MLA for Richmond East, cabinet minister and Speaker. To mark this quarter century milestone, during Women’s History Month, we asked her to reflect on a career of public service that includes constant efforts to encourage other women to enter public life. Here, in brief, is her story:

I am a parliamentarian at heart. I was elected Premier of the British Columbia Youth Parliament in 1980. Many of you will know the organization had been previously known as the Older Boys Parliament of BC. To this day the organization continues to combine service with public speaking and debating skills.

I sought public office while still a teacher and school administrator. I wanted to be closer to the decisions affecting education. My passion for education continues to this day. I served 10 years in Opposition, eight years at the cabinet table, four years as Deputy Speaker, and currently I am Speaker for the 40th Parliament. “I believe public service is the rent we pay for our time on this earth.”



My time as Speaker has warmed my heart. With the Speaker’s Office as host for visiting delegations, ambassadors, consul generals and distinguished guests from across the globe - including Prince William and Kate in September - there is always vibrancy and great dialogue. I wanted the Assembly to be the “peoples’ building” in British Columbia and I have done my best to balance public access with public safety.



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It is the members who make the position and I am honoured to be Speaker. For my first three years as Speaker I was the only woman Speaker in Canada. This past July I was pleased to welcome women Speakers from Manitoba and Yukon. I have enormous regard for those who put their names forward for public office. It is never easy. I believe in supporting women to seek public office and we have just completed a permanent display in the Hall of Honour on the first floor to recognize 100 Years of Women and the Vote 1917-2017. We cut the ribbon October 3rd to kick off Women's History Month.

I was single when I won my first election in 1991. My future husband worked on my 1996 campaign. I thought he will love it or not! We were married in 1997 and he has participated in every election since. Our babies were born while I was elected. Our daughter Olivia in 2000 and our son Will in 2004. Those were challenging days as both my babes spent their early years in Victoria. I stored my breast milk in our caucus fridge and it would sometimes find its way into a coffee cup – the thieves shall remain nameless.

When our daughter was asked about her house at preschool she said we had “a rose garden and parking for 400” and I knew it was time to head back to the riding. Public life is best done with a team. I am grateful for mine. My family and my Mom have been there every day.

I spend hours each week talking to women who aspire to public life. I believe we have extraordinary contributions to make. I also tell them “the world belongs to those who show up.”

I am chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) for Canada and Vice Chair for CWP International. I am seeking the position of International Chair of CWP this November. The joys and the trials of women seeking public office are different across the globe.

Running for public office in Canada is very likely the easiest place to advance citizenry and democracy.

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Even the mightiest of nations can stumble and fall

By Jim Hume

Lunched last week with a group of friends up to date on world affairs and thoughtful in analysis. We eventually got around to the USA presidential election and the difficulty American voters face having to choose between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

We agreed both carry heavy baggage from past activities and lack the basic qualities of character an electorate likes to see in leadership candidates. We debated which of the two would be best in the White House as the United States continues to strive to be chief moderator in crises large and small around the globe.

A retired bureaucrat in the group and a retired diplomat agreed that while neither candidate promised immediate joy for the USA or the world, Clinton would be a safer bet for national economic growth and continued, if sometimes shaky, international peace.

I, always the contrarian, suggested a win by Clinton could touch off an explosion of the gun-culture violence which seems to be always simmering in the land where



packing a gun is an essential right. A second civil war, I posited, was not beyond possibility as another great empire shudders on its foundations.

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My knowledgeable friends kindly suggested my thinking might make a good plot for a novel but could never happen in the USA. The military, disciplined to obey the President, its commanding officer, would quickly respond to command and suppress any challenge to authority.

I hope they are right but a few days after our conversation Donald Trump published a list of former high ranking military men from army, navy and air force all openly supporting his cause. No longer in command, it is true, but an indication of the military mind-set. And one of the warning signs that even the greatest empires do not last for ever.

Greece was never an "empire" in the true sense of the word, but was once the greatest power in the known world. There were many reasons for its fall from domination but social reasons were prominent. Historian Annika Spafford wrote in *The Decline of the Ancient Greek and Roman Empires*: "There was increasing tension and conflict between the ruling aristocracy and the poorer classes ... people became more interested in living the good life ... there was a lack of discipline which led to the military interfering in politics...."

The Romans gave the final kick to topple Greece from power and a few hundred years later followed the same path from mighty force to 21st century tourist attraction.

Just ancient history? Yes, indeed, and we all know what happens to nations and people who don't learn from it. It is not so long ago that Great Britain was just that, great until the arrogance of its so called upper classes and its often shameful treatment of the natives of its colonies created chasms of distrust that could never be repaired.

It can be justly claimed that in its years of greatness Britain changed much of the world and still sets admirable standards in democratic government. But the Empire, once the greatest, vanished.

Let's not forget 1991, the year we watched unbelieving as Russia, the mighty Soviet Union, disintegrated in what seemed almost overnight into 15 independent countries. Once again the reasons for the collapse were many and complex – but among the causes were the old faults: The government had lost touch with the people, especially those in outposts of the empire; and, the gap between the

rich and the poor was as wide in Russia as it had ever been in other empires before their collapse.

One other thread in the collapse of empires story: Excessive nationalism was always one of the fomenting ingredients stirring in the pot. At the height of power Greece, Rome, Russia, Great Britain and now the United States thought they were the greatest and would be forever. Today, in the States there is a restless, ever widening gap between government and the people who feel they are losing that greatness. Thousands, maybe millions, rejoice at Trump's promise to "make America great again."

It is a fear of mine that there are enough of them to provide a dreadful militant challenge to a vote democratically taken. And I hope those fears are as unfounded as my friends suggested.

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

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U.S. election does not bode well for BC softwood trade

This analysis published by the Fraser Institute states: "The two presidential contenders, Hillary Clinton and (especially) Donald Trump, have staked out positions that favour the protection of U.S. domestic producers, so it's likely that the (U.S. Lumber) Coalition will find the new administration favourably disposed to its complaint that provincial governments subsidize Canadian lumber exports."

by Steven Globerman

When Prime Minister Trudeau and President Obama met in Ottawa at the end of June, they apparently reached no agreement about how to handle a file that has been an ongoing source of conflict since 1982 - softwood lumber exports from Canada to the U.S.

A press release characterized their discussions as "challenging but productive." However, it went on to note that significant differences existed between the two governments on the relevant issues and that negotiations would continue.

In fact, there's a very short fuse on this potentially explosive bilateral issue. The last softwood lumber agreement (SLA) - signed in 2006 and extended in 2012 - expired in October 2015. The agreement provided for a one-year "standstill" period during which the U.S. government was not allowed to launch trade actions. The standstill expires on Oct. 13th. If no new agreement has been reached by that date, the coalition of U.S. lumber producers, that has repeatedly filed petitions with the U.S. Trade Representative's Office against "unfairly traded" Canadian softwood lumber, will likely file new petitions against imports of softwood lumber.

And the U.S. Lumber Coalition will likely demand the reinstatement of countervailing and anti-dumping duties on Canadian softwood lumber that were terminated as part of the 2006 SLA. The imposition of such duties would impose a harsh financial burden on Canadian lumber producers and would likely significantly curtail Canadian exports to the U.S.

It would appear that provincial governments in Canada, as well as Canadian softwood lumber exporters, strongly favour a renewal of the SLA, primarily because it allowed Canadian producers the option of paying export taxes to the Canadian government instead of having hard quotas limiting the volume of Canadian exports to the U.S. This time around, the Coalition will likely demand the imposition of a hard quota that applies to all Canadian softwood lumber exports. The quota would cap Canadian exports at or below a given share of the U.S. market for softwood lumber regardless of market conditions or lumber prices in the U.S.

Current political conditions in the U.S. are far from conducive to a mutually agreeable renewal of the SLA. The lame duck Obama Administration arguably has little



leverage with a Republican-controlled Congress to push for new trade legislation before a new administration takes office. If anything, the current administration would use what little remaining leverage it has to seek congressional approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an unlikely development itself. The two presidential contenders, Hillary Clinton and (especially) Donald Trump, have staked out positions that favour the protection of U.S. domestic producers, so it's likely that the Coalition will find the new administration favourably disposed to its complaint that provincial governments subsidize Canadian lumber exports.

If new U.S. tariffs are imposed on imports of softwood lumber, Canadian producers will likely have to endure another round of prolonged dispute-resolution procedures under the auspices of the WTO and/or NAFTA. Avoiding costly, time-consuming and uncertain dispute resolution proceedings was a major reason provincial governments and Canadian producers supported the SLA. The Canadian government will argue that softwood lumber exports are not subsidized. The U.S. government will likely argue that the auction system implemented by the governments of BC and Quebec does not produce "market pricing" of timber sold from Crown-owned land to privately-owned sawmills. Nor is it likely that any fine-tuning of current auction procedures will placate the Coalition.

The re-emergence of softwood lumber as a trade dispute adds to the growing list of bilateral trade irritants. As in the case of the Keystone Pipeline, U.S. actions against Canadian softwood lumber will have Canadian businesses thinking even more seriously about increasing exports to Asia. In particular, China represents a growing market for BC wood products. A failure to renew the SLA to Canada's satisfaction will also add some momentum to Canadian interest in negotiating new free trade deals with Asian trading partners, especially China.

As a consequence, the decline in the relative importance of the U.S. as a trading partner for Canada, underway since 2000, might well continue into the future.

Aspiring women leaders gather at Legislature

By Elena Trenholm
Director-at-Large,
Canadian Women Voters Congress

This summer 52 women entered the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to participate in a non-partisan Campaign School, run by the Canadian Women Voters Congress and kindly hosted by Madame Speaker, the Honourable Linda Reid.

The weekend long event, attended by women hailing from Newfoundland to the North West Territories, acted not only as an opportunity to learn from women in politics, but to engage in a supportive community of aspiring female leaders.

A substantial amount of material was covered by phenomenal elected officials who generously gave their time to contribute to the event. Speaker Reid spoke regarding connecting with your riding and took additional time to answer personal questions regarding how to balance politics and personal life. Municipal and provincial representatives were present including Victoria City Counsellor Marianne Alto who encouraged participants to act outside of the rubric if elected to office, and to utilize their position to enact change.

On the provincial program MLA Carole James (Victoria-Beacon Hill) spoke first regarding making the decision to run for office. MLA Linda Larson (Boundary-Similkameen) spoke to the unique attributes of representing a rural riding. And, MLA Jane Thornthwaite (North Vancouver-Seymour) closed the elected speaker's portion of the event with a humble reminder to remain true to your values.

The program also included a number of female experts in the fields of campaign management, digital strategy and public affairs. Digital strategist and founder of the Victory Collective, Whitney Brown, engaged participants in an exceptional presentation regarding digital campaign communication. Present and future elected officials alike were taking note.

Seasoned campaign manager Sonia Theroux complimented Brown's presentation by offering its counterpart, in-community engagement - knocking on doors, and how to do it most effectively using voter ID and a concise plan Get Out the Vote (GOTV).

Finally, Ascent Public Affairs specialist, Margaret Paige, spoke to the art of cultivating relationships and trust within your riding. Page also engaged participants in a crash course in public speaking and image before participants were given their final task, to put these skills to the test in the CWVC Mock Campaign.

Randomly assigned, the women broke into their mock campaign teams, challenged to develop and later present a creative campaign plan.

As the weekend concluded the new graduates of the Women's Campaign School went away not only with new expertise, but as a part of a supportive community which transcends party lines.

The Canadian Women Voters Congress would like to thank Madame Speaker, and all who have volunteered their time to make this event an exceptional resource, year after year, for women interested in running for elected office.



The Emperor has no clothes

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – A life-sized nude statue of U.S. Republican presidential contender Donald Trump is going up for auction, with profits from the sale going to an immigrant support group.

Julien's Auctions said the statue is expected to fetch \$10,000 to \$20,000 at the Oct. 22 auction in Los Angeles.

The statue is one of a series that appeared unannounced in public spaces in New York and four other U.S. cities earlier in August. The orange-tinted likeness showed Trump with a massive belly, small fingers and some missing genitals.

Most were confiscated or destroyed by local authorities and the Los Angeles statue is the only one remaining, Julien's said.

The statues were created by an anonymous artists' collective called INDECLINE. A portion of the auction profits will go to the National Immigration Forum, which campaigns for the rights of immigrants.



Russian poli-bot gets nabbed

MOSCOW (UPI) -- A robot with a history of going rogue was detained by police at a political rally in Russia.

A video shared to Facebook showed police confronting and attempting to handcuff the robot known as Promobot. Apparently, the robot was conducting a survey of voters' opinions at a rally for Russian parliament candidate Valery Kalachev.

Promobot also caused trouble in June after it escaped from its laboratory in the city of Perm and wandered into the street causing a traffic jam.



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Len Norris



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"It's just Arthur's way of preparing the little ones to cope with the philosophies and trends of our governments ..."

An invitation to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

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

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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.



This month we welcome Val Roddick who represented the riding of Delta South for the Liberals from 1999 to 2009. She was first elected in a byelection to succeed Fred Gingell, before being re-elected in 2001 and 2005. As chair of the Select Standing Committee on Health from 2001 to 2003 and again in 2004/05, Roddick produced

reports on health care that included restructuring of health authorities in 2001. As Parliamentary Secretary of Agriculture Planning [2005-2009] she helped develop a new provincial agriculture plan.

1. What prompted you to seek public office?

From my perspective in 1999, BC was facing numerous challenges. My husband Noel and I had built a successful farm-orientated agri-business. Although I had never been 'in' any sort of political position previously, when the opportunity presented itself, I felt it was time to work for my province. As Noel said - with tongue in cheek - the step from selling fertilizer to that of politics was a relatively small one.

2. Which political figure most influenced you?

Two men [and their wives] were firmly ensconced in moulding my earlier years: Lt. Col. Cecil Merritt, VC (Progressive Conservative MP, Vancouver-Burrard, 1945-49) and BC Justice John Groves (Jay) Gould (Liberal MLA, Vancouver-Burrard, 1949-1952). But, locally it was without a doubt Fred Gingell who wanted people from all areas and walks of life to get 'involved.' It was his passion and his legacy. Due to his untimely death in 1999 three men and three women were on the candidate selection ballot and they were getting involved. There wasn't a venue in Delta South that was big enough to hold such an exciting event. A huge tent had to be attached to the South Delta Rec. Centre. Interestingly enough the final vote came down to two women. Fred would have loved that. He was a mentor to and for people in every sense of the word. That's a quality that is required more than ever today - both publicly and privately.

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

The constituency of Delta-South was a riding everyone 'roared' through to get somewhere else. Because of its

geographical position it was faced with an incredible amount of important, pressing issues. Luckily for me, my upbringing and schooling gave me the ability to keep standing and to engage as many people as possible to become even more locally involved. It was because of everyone's hard and heartfelt work that Delta-South remains the wonderful, thriving community that it is today. My home phone number was 'out there' and I can honestly say that while it was well utilized - it was never abused.

4. What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

I did not find retiring a challenge. We have a 23-acre small holding on Westham Island and I was never able to devote the time to it that I wanted. Noel and I jumped into the deep end and are loving it ... even having to remove and replant some of our lovely trees damaged by our newest residents ... the beavers. We also raise Hereford and Angus for grass-fed beef.

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

Our society, as we know it, depends on the strength and dedication of thousands of volunteers. As our population ages and people's time is less and less available we are faced with having to deal with this enormous issue. As some of our 'tried and true' groups are losing membership, businesses are starting to step up to the plate. It is an ongoing challenge that will be met because we still value our neighbourhoods and our communities.

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

I basically entered politics because of agriculture. While there have been terrific strides with growing interest in local farmers, maintaining farmland for food is still an uphill battle. I remain committed and involved. We still have to eat to live. Delta South has a rich heritage that is embodied in our newly expanding Delta Museum where I am a board member.

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

Most of my generation have been fortunate enough to live far longer than our parents and are living with the new and newer generations. It is a simply marvellous experience, one that requires reasonable health, time, energy and above all ... an open mind. Orders of the Day and the Association of Former MLAs is an excellent eclectic group that keeps its members and associates thinking.

Letters

Let's grow and stay connected

Dear Association Members:



Each time Orders of the Day arrives I appreciate more and more the input of former members and other contributors to the publication. It keeps us connected and keeps us informed.

I particularly enjoy the articles giving the background and historical context to past provincial political events. Orders of the Day would not be possible without the support of the Speaker and the Legislative Library and the great work done by our editor Brian Kieran and Rob Lee.

We also need to keep building membership. With an election coming up next year, some MLAs will inevitably be retiring. I ask you to encourage any soon-to-be former MLAs to join the Association. The publication relies on memberships and our loyal advertisers.

Circumstances beyond our control caused the cancellation of our annual dinner and the postponement of the annual meeting. The annual dinner has always been an opportunity to reconnect and to enjoy our guest speakers. Plans for the 2017 dinner will start as soon as possible. The Annual General Meeting will be held in November with the election of the executive.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Association, the Victoria Foundation has informed us that we cannot disperse Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund grants this year to the Youth Parliament of BC. We hope the YPBC will be in a position to accept grants from us in 2017.

I thank the Executive for their work and support over the past year, and we look forward to a successful 2017.

Gillian Trumper
President, AFMLABC

Brian:

Gerry Furney is a great man and a wonderful human being. I am very glad you wrote of him as you did in the Summer 2016 issue.

Thank you for carrying on with OOTD.

Regards,
Gordon Gibson,
Vancouver

A chin wag with Wacky ... but still no story

Dear Brian:

Reading of your experience as a reporter at the Penticton Herald in the early '70s, that you had interviewed W.A.C. Bennett, Premier, I was dazzled by the fact you managed an interview and reminded of an experience I had in Cranbrook in 1973.

I began my reporting career in Saskatoon working for CFQC in the early 50s when Tommy Douglas was Premier of Saskatchewan. When we had, or wanted, a story involving the provincial government, we phoned the appropriate minister or the Premier for an interview. He - I don't believe there were any she's at the time - would call back and give you the interview. There was no difficulty getting it, and no hurry to end it.



Not so in BC. When I resumed my news career in Cranbrook in 1970, I found it not just difficult, but usually impossible to get any response from BC government members, particularly Premier W.A.C. Bennett. Try as you might, you could not get an interview.

However, in 1973, when I was the Editor of the Cranbrook Townsman, I returned to my desk after lunch to find a note on my desk. "Sorry to miss you. Maybe you'll be in later this afternoon." Signed "W.A.C. Bennett."

Later in the afternoon, the former Premier himself, smile and all, appeared in my tiny office. He squeezed into the chair beside my desk, covered with the usual litter of an editor, and proceeded to pass the time of day, ask me questions about Cranbrook, and deflect any of my questions with, "Well I can't comment on things like that anymore."

So I didn't get a story, even then.

As Premier he had visited many parts of the province often, but I don't remember him ever coming to Cranbrook before that time. Cranbrook's exclusion probably arose from the fact that Leo Nimsick, long-time CCF/NDP MLA was the representative. W.A.C. later left the campaigning to son Bill Bennett and Social Credit Party president Grace McCarthy, and retired to Kelowna.

Yours,
Anne Edwards.

THE LEGISLATIVE FORECAST: SPOOKY

Britain's Privy Council steps up: Canadian women are "persons"

In the 1920s, Section 24 of the British North America Act (at that time, Canada's constitution, the source of its highest laws) said that only "qualified persons" could be appointed to the Canadian Senate. The Canadian government had consistently interpreted this phrase as meaning men only.

Naturally, suffragists like Emily Murphy were outraged. This interpretation suggested women were not "qualified persons". Emily discovered a little known provision in the Supreme Court of Canada Act that said any five persons acting as a unit could petition the Supreme Court for an interpretation of any part of the constitution. So on a fine summer's day on August 27, 1927, she invited four of the brightest and most determined women activists she knew to her Edmonton home.



On Emily's veranda, the "Famous Five" – including Nellie McClung, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney and Irene Parlby - signed a letter petitioning the Supreme Court to look into the matter. It quickly became known as the "Persons" Case. It was debated on March 14, 1928, with the Supreme Court eventually ruling that women were not "qualified persons" as it related to Section 24 of the BNA act.

BC's Mary Ellen Smith reacted thus: "The iron dropped into the souls of women in Canada when we heard that it took a man to decree that his mother was not a person."

Undaunted, the Famous Five petitioned the Privy Council in England. On October 18, 1929, Lord Sankey arrived to a packed courtroom in London to read the Privy Council's judgement: Women were indeed persons and could become senators.

Sankey took things one step further, saying, "The exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours." This had reverberations throughout the British Empire (later the Commonwealth), for it clearly asserted that anti-suffragists could no longer suppress women's rights through clever legal arguments and prejudiced traditions.

This historic Persons Case created a precedent for women in gaining access to sectors of society previously reserved only for men. With women now eligible to sit in the Senate, the country's highest male-dominated institution, they could no longer be denied access to other institutions and establishments reserved just for men.

Women's History Month represents an opportunity to highlight the past and present contributions of women to Canadian society and to recognize the achievements of women from all walks of life as a vital part of our Canadian heritage.

It also provides an opportunity to highlight how we all benefit today from the achievements of the original Famous Five and other women activists in the quest for women's equality. And, foremost, it represents an ideal opportunity to instill a sense of pride in our historic origins as well as to provide role models for all Canadian women - young and less young.

The Famous Five achieved not only the right for women to serve in the Senate, but they and their many contributions paved the way for women to participate in other aspects of public life.



Every October since 1992, Canada celebrates Women's History Month, with the highlight being Person's Day on October 18.

The assertion of women's rights is now honoured by the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

Recipients of these awards continue the tradition of courage, integrity, and hard work which the Famous Five of the Persons Case inspired. Their effectiveness and courage has advanced the cause of equality for girls and women in significant and substantial ways that have enriched their communities.

(Source: The Famous Five Foundation and Status of Women Canada)