



# Orders of the Day

*The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia*

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*Former Vancouver-Little Mountain MLA Grace McCarthy, Chair of the CH.I.L.D Foundation, teamed up with the world-renowned Canadian Snowbirds in August in Nanaimo to support children with CHrones disease. Turn to P-4 for the full story.*

## **BREAKING NEWS: Government House Dinner cancelled**

This year's Association Annual Dinner on October 1st has been cancelled. The Annual General Meeting, also slated for October 1st, will be rescheduled.

See Page 3 for details.

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*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 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 August 1972 I was 28, between journalism engagements, yet politically intrigued by the stormy change that swept BC.

A few years earlier I had interviewed Social Credit Premier W.A.C. Bennett in Penticton where I worked as a reporter for the Penticton Herald. I was also fascinated by Dave Barrett's ability to lock into the mood of unrest, so fascinated that I crashed the NDP's election night victory party on August 30th.

In 2009, Della Roussin, a student in UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies, prepared a thesis on the stunning victory of the Barrett led NDP. It began with this chilling scene setter that, 44 years later, reminds me we lived in volatile times:

"On June 7, 1972, 500 angry protesters descended on the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster. They had gathered to greet Social Credit Premier W.A.C. Bennett and his cabinet ministers on the final stop of a province-wide, pre-election tour.

"The premier was whisked into the building under police guard before the protesters were able to respond. The infuriated crowd chanted "Seig Heil," "Chabot must go" (that would be Jim Chabot) and "Kill Him." As tensions mounted the scene became increasingly threatening; ministers and their police escorts were shoved, punched and spit on.

"As the last three ministers attempted to thread their way through the human blockade, a club-wielding protester swung at the head of Isabel Dawson. When her cabinet colleague Cyril Shelford attempted to block the attack, he suffered fractures to his arm and collarbone. Seven other ministers sustained minor injuries, mostly bumps and bruises.

"This violent protest in New Westminster, during a period of labour unrest across the province, foreshadowed an election campaign punctuated by anger."

In this issue, on our History Page, P-16, former MLA and historian David Mitchell looks back on the historic election that gave the NDP its first majority government and reduced the Socreds to just 10 seats.

## ***Government House dinner cancelled; bumped by the Royals***

**This year's AFMLABC dinner at Government House has been cancelled.**

The dinner had been scheduled for October 1st but the Association's booking was bumped because of a conflict with the visit of Prince William and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. It was the second booking date cancelled this year by Government House because of scheduling conflicts.

Association President Gillian Trumper said: "Regrettably, following a great deal of discussion it has been decided to cancel the annual dinner on October 1st. Moving the dinner to another venue, such as the Union Club, was considered. However, the added cost and protocol challenges caused the executive to make the decision to cancel."

Gillian said the option of a spring dinner was considered but that is too near the provincial election. So, early in 2017 the Association will book the annual dinner in September or October.

The Annual General Meeting will also be rescheduled and may be held in Vancouver to make it easier for members to attend.

Those who have already sent in their payment for the dinner will have a refund issued or their uncashed cheques returned.



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# An “Amazing” day for kids' charity in Nanaimo

When the world-renowned aerobatic Canadian Snowbirds team performed in August in Nanaimo they weren't the only amazing story being reported.

“Amazing Grace” was there as well.

Former MLA for Vancouver-Little Mountain, Grace McCarthy's CH.I.L.D Foundation sponsored the event as it is the only charity in Canada supported in such fashion by the Snowbird pilots.

“Amazing Grace” is the founding and current chair of the outstanding non-profit Canadian CHrone's Inflammatory Liver Disease (CH.I.L.D.) Foundation that has raised more than \$26 million to help find a cure for the ailment that impacts the lives of thousands of children throughout Canada.

Grace told the Nanaimo crowd: “We are thrilled and honoured that the Canadian Forces Snowbirds are ambassadors for the CH.I.L.D. Foundation, bringing awareness for the need for research for pediatric CHrohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and liver disorders.

“You inspire all Canadians with your skill and determination and particularly inspire the children we serve. These children must endure great obstacles in their young lives . . . you inspire them to always reach for the sky, reach for the stars and be everything they can

be. How wonderful of you to be able to give them incentive, courage and the will to succeed.”

Canada's famous jetting squadron touched down in three separate formations and were escorted by Nanaimo's airport crash truck as they taxied from the runway to line up in front of the Nanaimo Flying Club. The roar and hiss of jet engines and kerosene-scented exhaust revved up the excitement for children awaiting the team's arrival.

The team has supported the foundation since 2003 and chooses one city each year to perform and have children the foundation helps meet the pilots and support crew.

Jamie Hunt, the foundation project manager, said while the full Snowbird airshow was free, the foundation raised money through donations, souvenir clothing sales, as well as through a raffle draw for a trip for two anywhere that WestJet flies.

Maj. Indira Thackorie, Canadian Armed Forces public affairs officer, said: “Every year we come out and meet the kids and then the next day we usually perform. We've got 36 shows in our schedule; 11 of them are in the U.S., and this is the only one that supports the CH.I.L.D. Foundation. We do one a year and this year it's in Nanaimo.”



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About a dozen children attending the Nanaimo event got autographs and a chance to sit in the cockpits of the jet trainers where they enjoyed some hands-on experience with cockpit instrumentation and flight controls.

Several members of this year's team are from Vancouver Island, including Capt. Avert Pyne of Victoria, who did some of his early glider training in Nanaimo, and Capt. Matthew Hart of Parksville.

"It is an honour to represent your country and your military, and to be able to get out of the jet and then make kids smile," Thackorie said. "If they're having a bad day and then all of a sudden they're by a jet, they don't care anymore. They forget that they're sick. That's the best part."

For more information about the foundation visit: <http://www.child.ca>.



Photo credit: Linda C. Photography

In front row left to right are Snowbirds Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Brad Wintrop; Honourary Colonel Les Gould; CH.I.L.D. Foundation Chair Grace McCarthy; her daughter Mary Parsons, the CEO of the Foundation. Sitting is Lew Madley who once worked for Attorney General Bob Bonner and who was a WW2 fighter pilot.



Above: Mary, Grace & Nanaimo Mayor Bill McKay

Above right: Grace and CF-18 pilot Capt. Ryan Kean

Right: Snowbirds in formation (Photo Credit: Chris Bush - Nanaimo News Bulletin)



# A glimpse into the political machinations of Great Britain

By Jess Ketchum  
(Former Leg. staffer, Tourist & Friend of OOTD)

Driving 3,200 kms through Ireland and England is certainly one way of gaining an appreciation for the beauty, cultures and attractions of those countries, their people and provides an outsider at least a glimpse into their thinking.

June and July provided my wife, Ramona, and me that pleasure as we circumnavigated the Republic of Ireland and then explored the English countryside and villages of the Cotswolds with side trips to Oxford, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Stonehenge.

And, just to add some additional interest to our trip we were treated to: Ireland's celebration of the 100th Anniversary of "The Rising"; Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England all making it to the Round of 16 in the Euro Cup; the F1 Race at the heralded Silverstone race track; and, of course, the BREXIT vote.

To say that the Irish are political is to say that the Four Leaf Clover is green. They celebrate the Republic's independence from England like it happened yesterday and 100 year old grudges are never far from the surface.

Our pre-trip research did not prepare us for how BREXIT consumed the media and virtually every conversation. We made the ultimate sacrifice extending our research to several Dublin pubs and, sure enough, BREXIT and the Euro Cup were on the lips of all unless those lips were wrapped around a pint.

Our anecdotal research did not jive with an earlier Ipsos poll that had the "REMAIN" vote at 65 per cent. Our education continued with three days with John Furlong in the run up to the vote including voting night glued to his TV. A poll two days before the vote had the REMAIN still winning handily with a 54 - 46 margin. The media predicted a REMAIN victory.

Great Britain leaving the EU was just unthinkable for the establishment. And there is the rub ... the establishment was not in control and didn't seem to recognize it. As an observer it appeared to me that many elected officials of all stripes, business and labour leaders lost to "non-politician" politicians and a few experts because of the over-use of outright mistruths, half-truths and by taking rhetoric and sensationalism to new heights.



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The complex block is a white rectangular area with a black border. At the top, there is a logo for 'Lawyers helping People' where 'Lawyers' and 'People' are in a bold, serif font, and 'helping' is in a smaller, italicized serif font. To the right of the text is a black silhouette of a person standing in water, holding a child up in the air. Below the logo is the heading 'Current Campaigns' in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath is a list of three bullet points. Further down is the text 'For more info visit' followed by the website 'www.tlabc.org'. At the bottom left is the logo for the 'TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION of BC' in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right is contact information including the address, phone number, toll-free number, and email address.

There were a lot of “oh my God, what have we done” moments after the votes were counted and to add fuel to the flames of confusion Prime Minister David Cameron resigned. The Conservative Party leadership process was triggered and several votes by Conservative MPs were to whittle the cast of would-be PMs to two allowing party members to vote for the next leader.

Straightforward, right? Not! Popular former London Mayor Boris Johnson announced he would not enter the fight. His likely reason was that fellow MP, Michael Gove, who was to support him flipped and announced his own candidacy.

MPs picked Theresa May a convincing first, Andrea Leadsom second, Michael Gove third, Stephen Crabb fourth, and eliminated Liam Fox. Crabb voluntarily dropped out. A second MP ballot sent the back stabber, Gove, to the political graveyard as Johnson supporters took their revenge. Leadsom attempted a Hail Mary saying she had more invested in the future as a mother while May had no children. There was no recovering from the backlash and she resigned. May was sworn in as PM upsetting many in her party who felt robbed of a vote. From Cameron’s resignation to May being sworn in ... 17 days!



Jess and Ramona Ketchum seek enlightenment at Stonehenge.

Step back up to 30,000 feet. Britain voted to leave the EU while Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain. This outcome could lead to a vote by Scotland to leave the Great Britain Union and it could initiate reunion discussions in Ireland.

Back home, it is not hard to see similarities between the BREXIT vote and what BC experienced with HST and BC Transit referenda and what we now see in the U.S. presidential election.

But, that is for another day and maybe another trip.

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# A premier's unmarked graves bury a bestseller

By Jim Hume

The graves are unmarked in Ross Bay Cemetery. Mother and daughter lie side by side under turf made tough by winds and rain sweeping across from the nearby ocean. An ancient Yew stands guard.

If marker stones had ever recorded the names of Blanche Davie and her daughter Eliza when they were buried a few months apart in the 1800s, they disappeared long ago. The daughter died on November 20, 1875. She was 10-months-old. Her mother was 16 when she followed on April 17, 1876.

Neither rate much attention in provincial history. S.W. Jackman in his *Portraits of the Premiers of British Columbia* devotes little more than a paragraph to what he calls a "love laughs at the locksmith" romance between a lawyer in his early 20s and the 14-year-old girl the lawyer married "after a certain amount of opposition."

He doesn't identify the source of the opposition. He just notes the couple "set up housekeeping in James Bay (but) the domestic establishment hardly lasted ... for

some twenty months after the marriage the young bride died ... and was buried near her father ... (and) Theodore Davie was a widower at twenty four."

Jackman goes on to write about a grief stricken Davie taking his wife's death stoically and burying himself in work to overcome "the loss obviously felt deeply." He says Davie "remained loyal to the memory of 'dear Blanche' until he remarried in 1884."

Again he quotes no source, nor does he mention that the 14-year-old gave birth to her daughter seven months after her wedding day. In the context of the times marrying a 14-year-old would not have been as shocking as it would be today.

It must have been a frightening time for Blanche's mother, Louisa Celia Baker, a widow whose husband Thomas Joseph Baker died at 42, three years before his daughter. His grave, as barren of signage as his daughter's and granddaughter's, lies maybe 50 yards away from theirs.



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One can only imagine the anguish and the fear a low income widow like Louisa would suffer as she hoped for some support from Theodore of the well-respected Davie family of lawyers and doctors with money and societal rank. What a relief, tinged with shame, she must have felt when Theodore, to his credit, agreed to marry her daughter and she, perhaps, began to dream of better times.

When Theodore married Blanche he was already making a name for himself in legal circles and his courtroom successes helped steer him to political victories from MLA to various cabinet posts and eventually into the Premier's Office from 1892 to 1895. He was following his brother Alexander who had been Premier for two years, 1887 to 1889.

Theodore's older brother John was a medical doctor. He had an office on Langley Street at Fort Street as did Theodore with "residence in James Bay." It was John who signed baby Eliza's death certificate. It was a terse document stating name, date of death, sex, age, rank or profession – "Infant" and with "cause of death" left blank. The space left for "signature, description and residence of informant" is signed "Theodore Davie, 20 December, 1875. Father and occupant of house," but no address.

The young mother's "cause of death – Bright's disease" (kidney disease) – is also signed by Theodore's brother Dr. J.C. Davie, but with the added authority of renowned Victoria medical man Dr. Helmcken.

There are other curious notes on official documents – enough to give an enterprising writer with time for research and ambition to write the great Canadian novel; all the material he wants for a blockbuster with movie rights to follow.

On the marriage certificate of Blanche and Theodore the first letter – or number – of the age of the groom is scratched out or written over. Instead of a simple "21" it



Ross Bay Cemetery

Photo Credit: Wendy Cox

reads "full" as though trying to avoid the charring comparison between the ages of "bridegroom 21, bride 14".

The names of the bride's parents were listed as Thomas Joseph Baker and Louisa Celia Baker, although Thomas was dead and buried by that time.

And, there's a touch of religious mystery. In answer to "By whom married" there is an indecipherable name followed by clearly written "rector of St. Paul's, Esquimalt" with the ceremony held at "south Saanich church."

I'm not a conspiracy theorist, just curious.

I confess to some disenchantment with the old Davie family that built permanent memorials for their "famous" kin in Ross Bay Cemetery, but left two children in unmarked graves. As I wrote a few paragraphs back, it's a story readymade for a grand and mysterious historic bestseller.

And, I'm available to help with the script.

**(You can follow Jim Hume's wordsmithing adventures at [www.jimhume.ca](http://www.jimhume.ca).)**

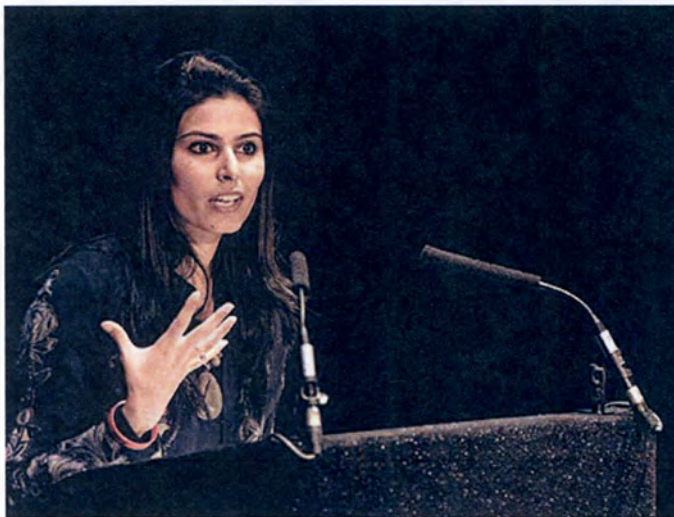
## Pakistan Speaker snubs Youth Parliament champion

Pakistan's National Assembly passed a controversial Prevention of Electronics Crimes Bill in mid-August. The bill will permit the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to manage, remove or block content on the internet.

In doing so, the Speaker snubbed an outspoken defender of free expression in a tight lipped nation.

Many critics say the bill is too overarching and punishments too severe. It also leaves children as young as 10 liable for punishment.

Farieha Aziz, director of a Pakistani non-profit fighting for internet freedom, had been campaigning against the bill for over a year. Last month, Aziz said: "It's part of a regressive trend we are seeing the world over. There is shrinking space for openness, a lot of privacy intrusion and limits to free speech."



In August, Aziz was selected by the Young Parliamentarians Forum – a bi-partisan forum with representation from all political parties – as one of the 10 Youth Champions of Pakistan. The day before the bill passed each recipient was given three minutes to speak to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and other parliamentarians.

Aziz used her three minutes to criticise the bill based on a letter to members of YPF. She emailed a similar letter to Ayaz Sadiq, who left the National Assembly before she gave her speech.

The letter states in part: "The future of the youth of Pakistan stands threatened. What is that threat? The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill, which is on the orders of the day of the National Assembly and is set to receive the approval of parliament and become law.

"For over a year, not just I, but many citizens and professionals fought long and hard to fix this bill. We engaged with the government and opposition. Provided input to make the law better. We never said there shouldn't be a law but that the law needed to respect fundamental rights and due process. On one occasion, the doors of parliament house were shut upon us. Loads of written input was disregarded and we were told we were just noise-makers.

"The youth of this country is losing hope. The message that will go out to the youth of Pakistan is that there is no room or tolerance for thinking minds and dissenting voices. Should the youth inquire and raise questions, a harsh fine and long jail term awaits them. Is this the future you want to give the youth of Pakistan?"

## Napping Aussie senator still fan of press freedom

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — An Australian senator has fallen victim to the press freedom he champions when he was photographed snoozing on his first day in Parliament.

Former veteran journalist Derryn Hinch was caught napping as a senator beside him nudged his arm during Governor-General Peter Cosgrove's 40-minute speech that opened Australia's 45th Parliament.

Usually the extraordinary restrictions on press photographers working in the Senate ban such candid and unflattering pictures. Senators can be snapped only when they stand to speak.

But the rules were relaxed because of the special circumstances of Parliament's first meeting since a national election in July.

Hinch conceded he had fallen asleep, but being caught out did not change his belief that photographers should not be censored in the Senate.

"I dozed off for a couple of seconds. I knew I'd been got," the 72-year-old told Melbourne Radio 3AW, where he had recently hosted the late afternoon slot.

Hinch said he had heard everything in the speech before and an afternoon nap had been his daily routine before broadcasting his radio program.

"It must be a habit I have to break," the independent senator said.

## Ujjal's journey ... Punjab to parliament

by Jim Bennett

What a fascinating life story from Ujjal Dosanjh, the man who became the 33rd Premier of British Columbia.

I picked it up recently at my local bookstore expecting to learn even more about the inside workings of the "West Wing" of our Parliament Buildings. I found what I was looking for and was pleasantly surprised by the fascinating inside story of this politician and social activist.

I wish every would-be politician could take time to read about the quest for social justice that burns inside most of our elected members.

This particular MLA was first elected in Vancouver South (with slightly different boundaries today – but still basically the same turf). His third attempt to get elected was successful when he ran with Mike Harcourt and the NDP in 1991. He tried twice before in 1983 in Vancouver-Kensington and in 1979 also in Vancouver South.

I'll get to the politics in a moment, but let us first consider the opening 188 pages that provide a most detailed, personal account of what life was like for a young person growing up in the recently partitioned state of the Punjab in the north of India in the early 1950s.

"Midnight" in the book's title is a reference by the author to the "partitioning" birth of his homeland. He was born in 1947, 10 months before this event and saw himself as a child of "midnight."

Ujjal got his early lessons in social activism in India before his 18th birthday. He recounts witnessing an attack on a farmer and a boy riding a cart pulled by oxen on the dirt roads near his home village in the Punjab. Local police "planted" a bottle of hooch in the back of the cart and then attempted to extract cash.

He writes: "The faces of the crying son and his scared father haunted me. The father probably feared that all of his proceeds from the family's produce sales would go to the pockets of (these) scheming policemen causing his children to go without shoes or schoolbooks. All the way home from (the event) I thought about Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a free and just India. Some of my hope for my country died that day, and I have remained alive to that feeling, a fear that sustains me in my daily pursuit of social justice."

Another major portion of this book, that I find most illuminating, deals with his personal fight (at some cost to his own safety) against extremism from rivalries in his Indo-Canadian community.

One gains great insight into the British Columbia history of the treatment of the Sikh community by others in our society. The reader also gains insight into what I



Ujjal Dosanjh's passport photo, November 1964 as he was leaving India for England.



Above left: Ujjal's passport photo, November 1964 as he was leaving India for England.

Above right: A year later in 1965 in Derby, England. Ujjal's turban and beard are gone and, with permission of his father, he has acclimatized himself to the Western World.

Lower right: Friends of Ujjal's are photographed with him (middle of photo) in front of London's most famous address, No.10 Downing Street in 1967 just three years after he has left his homeland.

call "temple disputes," factions that battle during party nomination meetings and seek power at the ballot box through "mass-signups" of new memberships.

Being a sometimes campaign warrior myself over the years, it is the comments Ujjal makes about the mass-signups that particularly interested me. He first noticed the activity when he sought office in 1979 and faced competition for his party nomination.

He writes: "I hated the thought of a sign-up. Mass sign-ups have happened everywhere in Canada throughout the country's political history. In the not-too-distant past, Greeks, Italians and others had been targeted in some contested races. Now there were enough Indians in British Columbia to trigger sign-up campaigns in the Indian community. I detested the thought that a mass sign-up would be interpreted as a self-serving process of Indians joining the party merely to support other Indians."

This reader found that most refreshing ... specially when the author reminds us of the impact of mass sign-ups on the leadership aspirations of Gordon Campbell in 1993 and Gordon Wilson in the 2000 NDP leadership contest.

The book also dwells on the accomplishments of the short-lived Dosanjh Government from January 2000 to October 2001, but I leave those gems to future readers.

Ujjal's "Journey" through both public and private life is worth the read.

## Coquitlam mayor challenges former MLAs to join in 55+ Games

Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart, who served as MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville from 2001-05, has challenged his former colleagues to join thousands of other 55+ British Columbians in Coquitlam later this month for the annual 55+ BC Games.

Stewart says: "On September 20th approximately 4,000 athletes and their families, coaches, 1,500 volunteers and fans will converge in Coquitlam for one of the largest community celebrations sport has seen in many years.

"I'll be competing myself and I'd love to see some of my former colleagues out there giving it their all, or as volunteers and spectators."

Staying fit and bouncing back is something Stewart knows about after being hit by a car while campaigning during the 2011 municipal election. During a recent Healthy Community Challenge the mayor said: "When you have a bad back you really feel five extra pounds. I know I can be in better shape."

The 55+ BC Games event showcases the outstanding athleticism of BC competitors 55+ and promotes the benefits of leading an active, healthy lifestyle.



The Torch lighting Ceremony for the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games in June launched the run up to the event and the building of community spirit. Coquitlam Games President Gayle Statton says: "We had fabulous support from dignitaries including Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink.

"Our team has been busy managing information booths at various events throughout the community providing Games info and signing up volunteers. Tim Hortons hosted three such events. We are grateful to Lois Swanson who runs all three Tim Hortons in the community for hosting, providing coffee to the team, and for giving a Tim card to everyone who signed up to volunteer."

The BC Seniors Games Society is the parent organization that is responsible for the overall governance of the games, the sport specific rules and the liaison with the seniors participants. Participants range in age from 55 to 90+.

More than 20 sports and activities have been selected for the Coquitlam Games. These include: Badminton, darts, five pin bowling, ice curling, ice hockey, pickle ball, slo-pitch, soccer, table tennis, tennis, track and field, a 10 k road run, a 10 k road walk and a weight pentathlon.

On the heels of the games, seniors with energy to spare can start celebrating Active Aging Week Sept. 25

The weeklong campaign calls attention to and wholeheartedly celebrates the positivity of aging. It showcases the capabilities of



Photo Credit: Peace Arch News

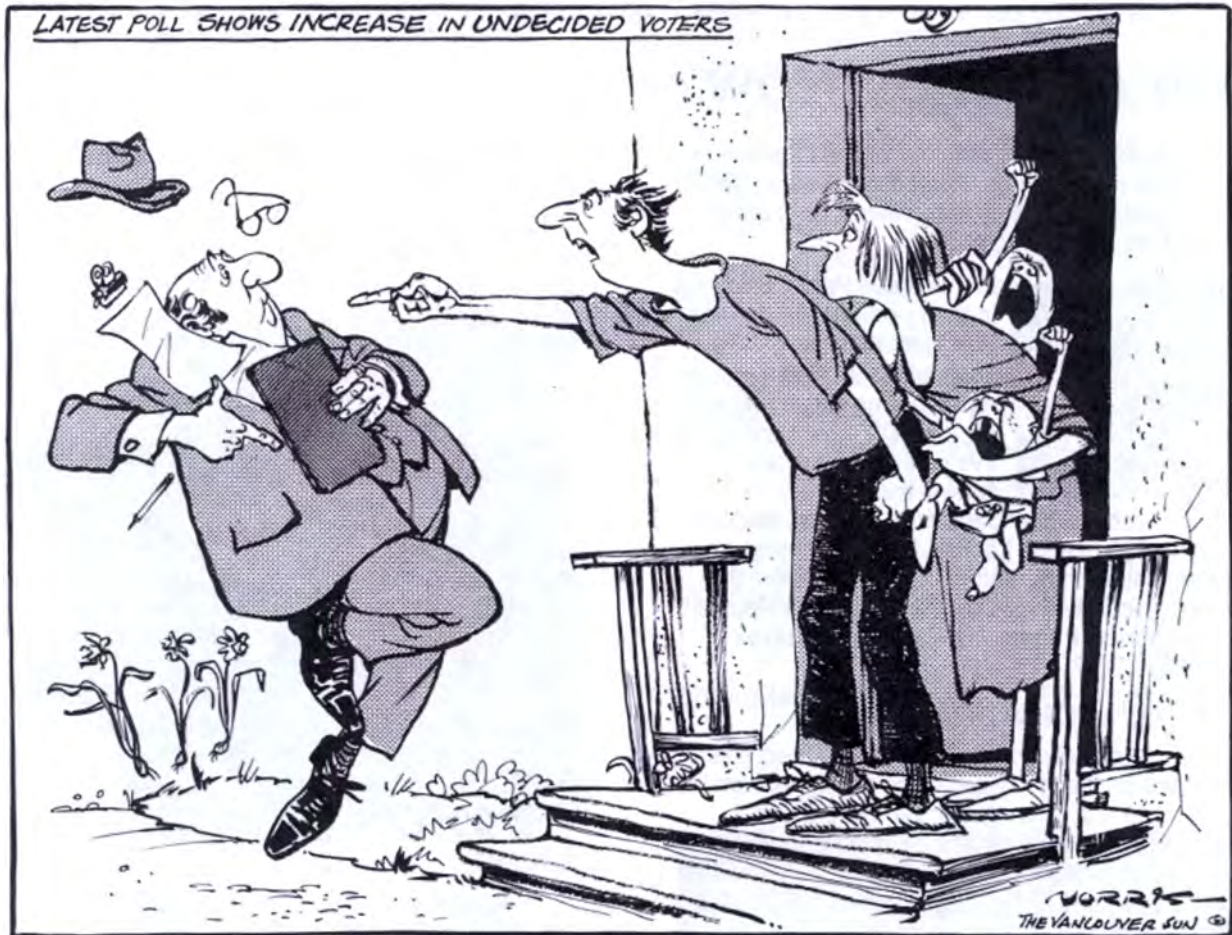
older adults as fully participating members of society and spotlights the role models that lead the way.

Active Aging Week challenges society's diminished expectations of aging by showing that, regardless of age or health conditions, adults over 50 can live as fully as possible in all areas of life - physical, social, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, vocational and environmental.

The objective of the annual health-promotion event is to give as many older adults as possible the means to experience wellness activities and exercise in a safe, supportive environment. It also promotes the benefits of healthier, more active lifestyles across the life span. The observance will be held Sept. 25 to Oct. 1.

Vancouver-based Council on Active Aging CEO Colin Milner has energized thousands of business and government leaders, industry professionals and older adults worldwide. In Canada, he hosts the Age-friendly BC Community video series released by the British Columbia Ministry of Health.

# Len Norris



April 6, 1978

"Not only that ... looking at the choices ... firmly undecided."

## An invitation to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

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

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

**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](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca)
- Click on the [Make a Donation](#) button and then on the "Online" link and then the [CanadaHelps](#) link which will take you to the Foundation's page on the CanadaHelps web site.
- Click to indicate whether you want to donate now or monthly and you will be taken through the steps to make your donation.
- In the section for designation of your gift, click on the drop down menu to select the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.
- 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](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

# Member News

Please send news about your activities to [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto: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.



In this issue Penny Priddy is in the spotlight. Penny was first elected to the Legislature in 1991 representing Surrey-Newton for the NDP after serving for five years as a Surrey school trustee.

She held several cabinet portfolios over the next decade including Women's Equality, Labour, Small Business, Children & Families, Health, Seniors and Education. She did not seek re-election in 2001. In 2002, she was elected to Surrey City Council. Penny was also MP for Surrey North from 2006 to 2008.

### 1. What prompted you to seek public office?

Most of my professional and volunteer life had been spent working with others to change systems and structures from the outside. This worked with some things some of the time. I reached a point where I decided that it might be time to try and make change from the inside. I must say that from the inside it still only worked with some of the things some of the time but it was an exciting and challenging way to work.

### 2. Which political figure most influenced you?

I am sure that I should say Agnes McInnes or Mary Ellen Smith or one of the Famous Five but I offer the name of Alexa McDonough. I have known Alexa since the late 70s when our family lived in Nova Scotia. In 1980 she became the first woman in Canada to lead a recognized political party. In her time in the NS Legislature (1981-1994) she was sometimes the only member of her party elected and there were never more than three members. During this time she carried her values forward with passion and determination. It seemed to me that to carry the torch high, to stay positive and upbeat and to advance her party's values for that long in those circumstances showed courage and commitment. Qualities needed in a politician.

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

It did not seem hard to make the transition to public life. I had chaired the Surrey School Board during some very tumultuous times. The issues generated significant print and media coverage. People often approached me when I was out in the community and being an MLA just meant that more people approached and wanted to chat. Since I believe that politicians enjoy talking with people I certainly never saw this as an intrusion. Only twice in two terms did I ever feel that boundaries were crossed into my personal life.

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

It took me awhile to return to the private sector. I love politics. It gets under our skin and in our blood. After some downtime I went on to serve as a Municipal Councillor and a Member of Parliament before I went on to work in other people's campaigns rather than my own. Returning to private life for me has been both challenging and rewarding, just like most things in life that are worthwhile.

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

The lesson reinforced for me is the need for all of us to use plain language to talk with citizens about our work. To do this I believe that we need to be good story tellers. Institutions learn by study but people learn by stories. The language of press releases, editorial content and political analysis does not necessarily translate to the lives of individual citizens. People I know are interested in knowing what their MLA is doing to make a difference in their lives and that of their families and their community. Stories about people affected are the best way to communicate.

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

I suppose, that similar to many other former MLAs, my days are as full or as empty as I choose to make them. I serve on the Board of Port Vancouver as an appointment of the Lower Mainland Municipalities. An interesting, busy and challenging opportunity. I continue to support women to become involved in politics. After all, as our prime minister tells us "it is 2016". BC as usual leads the way in the number of qualified women elected to office. As always I continue to be intrigued by all things heritage. I am working with a committee to produce a book on Surrey's history for the 2017 celebrations.

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

I am blessed with good health and I work out with a trainer twice a week. I walk and exercise the other days. My husband and I celebrated 50 years of marriage this year. I would consider this to be one of my most important ongoing pet projects. We have three wonderful grandchildren who ensure that we are up to date on changing language and changing trends. Remember when Twitter was something that the birds did in your garden?

Being involved in the Association and in OOTD is important because it comes from shared experiences that no one else can understand in quite the same way as a former MLA. It is an automatic network that you can reach out to and, I dare say, that anyone of them would reply. It is a special connectivity between people of very disparate views and backgrounds that really can only exist in this context. It works. We should feed and nurture and celebrate the organization and OOTD.

# In Sooke, aging at home has been revolutionized

In Sooke, an eclectic group of engaged seniors has revolutionized the art of aging gracefully in place.

Margaret Critchlow, a founding director and driving force behind Sooke's Harbourside co-housing development for seniors, describes her community as "a livelier way of growing old together" that does not place the emphasis on aging.



Sooke co-housing unit

Margaret says there is a definite benefit for senior cohousing participants and for society at large. "Anecdotal data suggests that the co-care and built-in supports of senior co-housing allow people to stay eight to 10 years longer in their own homes, saving the health care system \$50,000 a year per person."

Today, there are more than 40 senior souls in residence at Sooke's Harbourside including a school bus driver, a mountain guide, a teacher, an old DJ, several nurses and an anthropologist. Five years ago they were strangers. Now, they are becoming co-dependant neighbours and with no plans to ever move again.

Harbourside's 31 units were sold before construction began. The costs of the units ranged from about \$313,000 to \$466,000 including GST. The average cost was about \$375,000 plus GST and the average unit size is about 845 sq ft. As well, everyone has access to more than 4,000 sq ft of common space, gardens and wharf. The concept of co-housing originated in Denmark. Now it's big on the west coast of North America and is gaining ground across Canada as people search for new forms of community, support and caring. Co-housing is not subsidized in Canada. Participants are people who can

afford to buy their own home. Savings that arise from the members being their own not-for-profit developer are offset by sharing the cost of a large common house. Each homeowner will have an equity share of the common house.

Margaret says: "Social isolation is more likely to kill you than smoking. Social connection is the key to flourishing in old age."

Senior cohousing residents proactively design and manage their own neighbourhoods. They create physical and social environments in which they can flourish to the end of their days. Seniors own their private dwelling units, share a large common house and common meals and take care of each other.

To find out more about co-housing go to:  
<http://www.harbourside.ca/whatis.html>

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**T**he people who've gone to our clubs says it saved their life. And kids just think they're here for a little basketball after school.

Boys and Girls Clubs make a difference for kids – not just after school, and not just through sports. Kids learn self-respect, anger management, leadership skills – what they need to be successful adults. Maybe that's why 69% of people who've attended a club say it literally "saved their life."

Boys & Girls Clubs of British Columbia  
[www.bgcbc.ca](http://www.bgcbc.ca)

*The Association is pleased to provide space for selected not-for-profit children's organizations at no cost.*

THE LEGISLATIVE FORECAST: NEVER WAS A CLOUDY DAY

## Dave Barrett's Political Legacy: "Legislation by thunderbolt"

By David Mitchell

A boisterous leader and passionate orator, Dave Barrett had one of the most extraordinary political careers in the history of British Columbia.



A social worker who entered public life at age 30, he was first elected as MLA for Dewdney in 1960. Over the next quarter century, Barrett would serve as an NDP MLA in three different constituencies and lead his party for 15 years, as both Leader of the Opposition and Premier.

Later, in 1988, he was elected as an MP for the new federal riding of Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca. He ran for the leadership of the federal NDP, narrowly losing to Audrey McLaughlin on the fourth ballot at the 1989 convention in Winnipeg.

His most significant and enduring mark was made during his dramatic and brief tenure as British Columbia's 26th premier. He became leader of the NDP following the 1969 election, when party leader Tom Berger suffered a crushing defeat to long time Social Credit Premier W.A.C. Bennett. In 1972, when "Wacky" Bennett called another "snap" election, Dave Barrett surprised most observers, becoming the province's first socialist premier.

The NDP had long been a vociferous critic of the Social Credit government. Now, as premier, Barrett was determined to lead a different kind of regime. And he epitomized his party's fervent desire to reform the status quo, believing it had prevailed for far too long.

The activist Barrett administration engaged in a process that was referred to as "legislation by thunderbolt." The legislature sat more than twice as many days as was the custom, and the NDP introduced more than 400 bills in its first year in government, most of them representing substantial policy changes.

Barrett's government created the Agricultural Land Reserve; established the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia; and regulated the province's resource industries, imposing new taxes and royalties. It brought several struggling firms under provincial ownership, and granted government employees full bargaining rights.

These continuing ambitious changes had a dizzying effect. BC was the wealthiest jurisdiction in North America

to have ever elected a socialist government; as a result, the local, national and international media were intensely curious -- and also very critical. Under Barrett's leadership, however, the NDP seemed too busy to devote much time or energy to the important task of public relations.

And yet, in spite of all the energetic policy initiatives, the style of governing the province wasn't significantly altered. As premier, Dave Barrett was a folksy, populist leader who sought to connect with people and protect citizens from large corporate interests and the federal government in Ottawa. This kind of approach was already well entrenched in the province; in fact, W.A.C. Bennett had triumphed during the previous generation by representing the "little guy."

Barrett also continued a highly centralized and personalized form of government in Victoria that had sustained the Socreds, even emulating W.A.C. Bennett's practice of serving as his own finance minister.

He called an early election for December 1975, likely hoping to head off the emerging coalescence of political parties on the right under the old Social Credit banner -- surprisingly now under the leadership of W.A.C. Bennett's son, Bill.

Barrett's gambit failed and BC's first NDP government was defeated, becoming historically sandwiched between two more enduring Social Credit administrations led by members of the Bennett family dynasty.

Nevertheless, Dave Barrett will always be remembered as an important premier and larger-than-life political figure. And many of the reforms implemented under his short-lived government have endured, shaping policy debates since that time.



Dave and Shirley Barrett

**(David Mitchell is a former BC MLA and is currently Chief External Relations Officer at Bow Valley College in Calgary.)**