



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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Summer 2016

SFU's Andrew Petter to address AFMLABC banquet



Photo Credit: SFU Peak newspaper

An educator's educator, Simon Fraser University President Andrew Petter will be the guest speaker at this year's annual Association of Former MLAs of BC dinner on October 1st at Government House.

Dear Reader:

You can detach this extra cover and backpage and leave the rest of the newsletter intact.

Information for the 2016 Association Annual Dinner and the response coupon are printed on this detachable page.

SFU's Andrew Petter to address AFMLABC banquet



Photo Credit: SFU Peak newspaper

An educator's educator, Simon Fraser University President Andrew Petter will be the guest speaker at this year's annual Association of Former MLAs of BC dinner on October 1st at Government House.

Petter, who served as an NDP MLA between 1991 and 2001, held many key cabinet portfolios including: Minister of *continued on Page 3*

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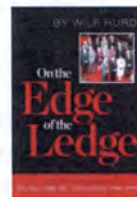
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Her Honour

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 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

Two pieces in this busy Summer issue are close to my heart.

First is the piece on Gerry Furney's special day July 1st in Port McNeill. It was an honour to be given a few minutes to pay tribute to the BC mayoralty record holder. And, it was an honour to bring greetings from AFMLABC President Gillian Trumper.

It is hard to imagine a public service record spanning five generations with 38 as mayor. That service places the 82-year-old in the history books: BC's longest serving municipal leader with 47 years on council, 38 of them as mayor; and, Canada's second longest serving mayor. He stands in line behind John Hamlyn, the 82-year-old mayor of Crow Head, Newfoundland who has reigned for 51 years and ahead of Hazel McCallion, the retired 93-year-old mayor of Mississauga, Ontario in office for 36 years.

Gerry was a 21-year-old adventurer from Ireland via England, Europe and New York when he landed in BC. He found a job in a Port McNeill logging camp and the only way to get there was by boat. He was given a one-way ticket on board the S.S. Catala berthed at the Union Steamship dock in Vancouver. Thus began his grand adventure.

It is also a treat to pass along the Union Club story. Subsequent to writing it, the club received another honour. In July, it gained national historic site status for its landmark Gordon Street building. The club was founded in 1879 in a room over a butcher shop at Yates and Government streets.

Membership grew steadily in the early years and when it reached 149 in 1884, the club decided to build a clubhouse, buying property at Douglas and Courtney streets near St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The clubhouse built there served until the early 1900s, when growing membership again necessitated a move.

The result was construction of the club's current Gordon Street location, former home to a badminton club, beginning in 1911. The club was built with a brick-and-terracotta exterior in the beaux-arts style, with architect Francis Rattenbury managing the project.

Petter to speak

Aboriginal Affairs, Minister of Forests, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors, Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations, Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Relations, Minister of Advanced Education, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations and, finally in 2000, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Human Rights.

(Go to P-17 for all the information you need to order dinner tickets.)

"At the dinner I intend to speak about BC's post-secondary education system – past, present and future," Petter tells Orders of the Day.

"In particular, I am planning to discuss the contributions of MLAs and successive governments to building the system we have today, describe the nature and strengths of that system, and suggest what more we might do to leverage those strengths for the benefit of the province and its future."



It is a fitting topic because Petter brings with him a life-long commitment to education and extensive experience as a university teacher, constitutional scholar and academic administrator.

Prior to joining Simon Fraser University, he completed a term as the longest serving dean of the University of Victoria's highly regarded Faculty of Law where he oversaw the establishment of an innovative new graduate law program, pioneered significant Aboriginal initiatives, and secured funding for major facilities upgrades.

Petter was born in 1953 and was raised in Oak Bay. His family moved to Nelson where he graduated from L.V. Rogers Secondary School as class valedictorian.

His post-secondary studies were at Nelson's former Notre Dame University where his father was a professor and he did a stint in the early 1970s as CKKC Radio's open-line show host. There, he got a first-hand taste of politics interviewing the likes of newly elected premier Dave Barrett and former premier W.A.C. Bennett.

An avid follower of U.S. politics, his own political experience began at 19 when he was asked to serve as executive assistant to local MLA Lorne Nicolson.

Petter attended the University of Victoria (UVic) in 1976 to study political science. Encouraged by the law

school's first dean, Murray Fraser, he entered the law program in 1978.

Graduating from UVic Law in 1981, he received the Law Society of BC Gold Medal for finishing top in his class, and went on to earn an LL.M (Public Law) with first-class honours from Cambridge University.

He briefly practiced law in Saskatchewan before becoming an assistant professor at Osgoode Hall Law School (York University) in 1984. He joined the UVic Faculty of Law in 1986. He has taught and written extensively in the areas of Constitutional Law and Public Policy, and is currently a member of the BC and Saskatchewan law societies.

Petter taught in the UVic law faculty for five years before heeding Premier Mike Harcourt's call to run as NDP candidate in Saanich South in the 1991 provincial election.

During his political career Petter played an instrumental role in the Nisga'a treaty negotiations and led the province's efforts to work with First Nations and the federal government to create the BC Treaty Commission.

He also oversaw the establishment of BC's Forest Practices Code and the creation of the BC Knowledge Development Fund to support investments in research infrastructure.

As minister responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission, Petter brought about the restoration of St. Ann's Academy and spearheaded the development of the Galloping Goose and Lochside trail systems, a popular walking, running and cycling network stretching from Sooke to Victoria (on old railroad rights-of-way) and to Sidney. For that, and the parks and greenways he helped to create, Petter earned the tag of "Minister of Rails and Trails."

Petter chose not to run in 2001 and instead returned to UVic to resume his teaching career. He soon filled the vacancy of acting dean of the university's faculty of law and went on to serve as dean—the first graduate of the school to serve in that position—from 2002-2008.

While dean, the faculty created a new interdisciplinary graduate program and collaborated with northern partners to deliver the Akitsiraq Law School for Inuit students in Nunavut.

As well, Petter founded a new National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair, and during his tenure the number of Aboriginal students in the faculty rose to more than eight per cent of the student body. He also secured funding for major facilities upgrades, including a \$5-million law library renovation.

Time for a woman's face on Canadian currency

by Anne Edwards

On International Womens' Day in March Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it was time Canadian women appeared on our bank notes as recognition of their contributions to our country. The Bank of Canada recently announced a list of 12 iconic Canadian women who could be featured on new bank notes. The finalists included artist and writer Emily Carr, Inuit artist Pitseolak Ashoona, and Nellie McClung. Following public input, it announced that McClung had been chosen.

McClung, 1873-1951, a political activist, teacher, social reformer and politician, was a leader of the women's suffrage movement and one of the Famous Five women who petitioned Britain to have Canadian women declared to be "persons."

So it's to be Nellie McClung. Good. She was something marvelous in her knowledge, interests, actions and wit. She will represent at least Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and BC as places she lived.

And, good for Canadians for sticking to what they know. They certainly haven't come yet to appreciate Pauline Jewett, Kim Campbell, Catherine Callbeck, Rita Johnson, Irene Parlby, Agnes Macphail, Grace McInnis, etc. But they know Nellie. Sort of.

One of the respondents in a recent CBC poll about what we think of Nellie McClung being named the favourite, said: "Good. I've heard of Nellie McClung, so she must have done something big." She sounded enthusiastic. (Every politician knows this woman as the average voter.)

Not enthusiastic at all was a young man who told CBC: "I don't agree with it at all." In essence he said: 'You'd have to take somebody off one of the bills in order to put a woman's face on it. Who would you take off? Unless they made a new denomination. Maybe they should do that. I like the faces I'm used to.'



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His were the words of a true conservative; he's probably still regretting the loss of the penny. I suppose the perfect answer to his way of thinking would be to create a \$3 bill with the chosen woman's face on it, a clear statement of what the young man and his ilk think of women. You've heard people say it, haven't you? "As useless as a \$3 bill."

A friend said to me the other day: "No I did not 'vote' in the poll. I am not going to line up to vote for a single woman in a long list to be 'honoured' by joining the old boys on the bills."

Trying to do my duty to the country as best I can, I have come up with a solution. We should put a woman's face on each of our bills as they come up for renewal at the Mint. We have fives, 10s, 20s, 50s and 100s. One of our exceptional women would then be on each of five bills. That would please my friend. Somewhat.

And, Canadians would learn more about those women as the transformation proceeded. Like the average voter, they would know she "did something big." Although, who knows anything about PM Robert Borden, and that's not just because few of us see \$100 bills very often?

And it would please the young man who, by the end of the process, would be familiar with the faces and would not want them changed for anything. He would have come to like them.

Simple. Like most federal issues, right? Just ask Justin.



AAA Outlook Stable

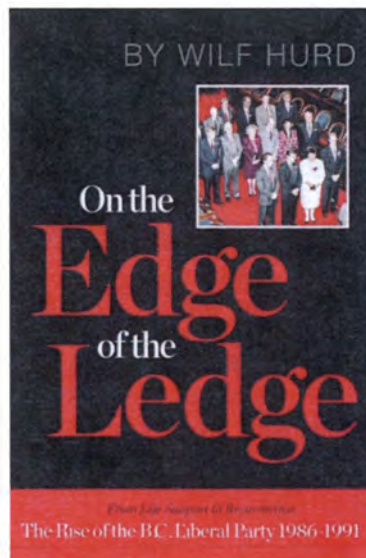
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Wilf Hurd's "Edge of the Ledge" is a good read

By Jim Bennett

"On the EDGE of the LEDGE: From Life Support to Resurrection – The Rise of the BC Liberal Party 1986 to 1991" by author Wilf Hurd (MLA Surrey-White Rock 1991 to 1996)



Like many political and campaign books this one also is a little bit "inside baseball," but it's still a good read for former MLAs who know in their heart of hearts that their own election was not due entirely to their own hard work and personal appeal to voters and that their eventual election was really due to countless unnamed individuals who gave of their time and energy to bring about success for their own male or female candidate.

As one who toiled in the trenches myself as far back as 1971, I was impressed that this former 'Member' took time to interview many of his party's diehards who kept faith throughout one of their party's worst wilderness periods from 1986-1991. It even included transcripts of some of those interviews at the end of his book.

And, while many will argue that the BC Liberals were still somewhat in the wilderness and NOT fully resurrected by the time the 1991 provincial election was finally called by Premier Rita Johnston on September 19, I for one think Wilf has correctly given due credit to the party's new leader, Gordon Wilson, for establishing a presence.

His energy later provided (with the help of a "planned" dramatic line in the famous televised leaders' debate) a pivotal moment and opening for voters to finally give consideration to a third party in this province. Not since Pat McGeer carried the Liberal banner and garnered 19 per cent of the vote in the 1969 election had hopes risen so high in the days prior to the vote.

Hurd writes: "It is a story of small triumphs, even bigger setbacks, and above all the determination of a small group of activists who were committed to the cause of ending British Columbia's polarized and divisive political environment.

"In the end," he concludes, "it is a story of how Gordon Wilson and a committed group of political survivors, contrarians and unpaid but determined organizers were able to bring the Liberal Party of BC back from the 'Edge of the Ledge' and possible oblivion, to achieve the eventual mainstream political strength it enjoys today."

I personally think that the author (who was part of the wilderness period as well as the electoral success of the 17 miracle seats) is more bang-on with his theme later developed when he writes: "It's often been said that support for political parties in British Columbia is six miles long and six inches deep. With voter turnouts lagging and public interest focused mainly on the few months and weeks leading up to a general election, the important stories on the forces within a party that ultimately shape our democracy often fly off into space, underreported and underappreciated."

Not so anymore, thanks to the former MLA from Surrey-White Rock (1991-1996).

This reviewer of Hurd's contribution to the history of 'Lotus Land' politics is purposely leaving the riveting recount of "the Dynamics of the Great Debate" in Chapter Four to future readers of this most meaningful contribution to our history.

I will say though that for those who watched the promoted fight-of-the-decade the night of October 8, 1991 it certainly brings back memories and provides a fascinating insight into the behind the scenes activities of the Wilson believers on that historic night.

Another fascinating read for me was Hurd's Chapter Eleven on political finances or what he called "The Lean Years." I'm sure he didn't intend for the Chapter Eleven reference - synonymous with bankruptcy in the United States - to be the chapter it turned out to be, but so it was. In this chapter the author goes behind the scenes in the days leading up to the fall election call to show how close the political party was to becoming bankrupt before the first bell ever sounded.

Former MLAs also appearing at the end of the book with verbatim interviews with the author include: David Mitchell, Christy Clark and the man-of-the-10 second-clip - Gordon Wilson.

I found it to be a good read that I recommend to others.

(Jim Bennett was an assistant to MLAs Pat McGeer, Grace McCarthy, David Mitchell and Bob Chisholm.)

Port McNeill's new clock chimes "Time well spent Mayor Furney"

by Brian Kieran

On July 1st, Port McNeill said thank you to its former mayor of 38 years, a grand Irish immigrant named Gerry Furney.

I was invited to say a few words. It went something like this: "Years ago, when I was a working journalist, the Union of BC Municipalities AGM was a must attend event.

"Gerry was always there, always in the centre of a clutch of politicians. Premiers and cabinet ministers would seek him out for a hand shake. Rookie municipal politicians would seek him out for a wee dram of good counsel.

"His smiling Irish brogue never masked his passion ... the wellbeing of the BC's hard working resource communities often labouring through hard times.

"Gerry never suffered gladly the wisdom of the higher purpose people of the large urban centres who were disconnected from the realities of life at ground zero. He fought steadfastly for responsible resource extraction so vital to the sustenance of towns like Port McNeill."

He was BC's voice for the men and women of the Hinterland who worked in the mines and the mills and on the water. His poem, Caulk Boots, (from his collection titled "Popcorn for Breakfast") says it all: "It's sad that men in fancy suits don't know too much about caulk boots."

He was the great grandfather of Vancouver Island grassroots politics and the poet laureate of the working stiff.

On July 1st it was my honour to bring greetings from Gillian Trumper, our president and Gerry's long time friend.

She asked me to share this message: "Gerry ... this is a special day for you as Port McNeill recognizes you for all the years you have given to the community.

"You have many friends and colleagues amongst the Association of Former MLAs of BC and we wish to congratulate you on your remarkable achievements.

"I have known you for many years. From the first time we met, when Carmel and I were on the North Island College Board, we travelled together on municipal business many times.

"You even greeted me once as I stepped off a plane at Heathrow. I think Carmel was arriving at the same time. Everything you did was for the community you loved, for Port McNeill. It is a privilege for me to have you as a friend. You taught me so much.

"All the very best to you and Carmel."



Mayor Shirley Ackland celebrates "time well spent" with former mayor Gerry Furney.



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Union Club unveils a Coat of Arms for the ages

For almost 30 years, the office of the Governor General of Canada has regulated heraldic emblems in this country.

In June 2012, the Union Club of BC - home away from home for many former MLAs over the years - resolved to join the ranks of other private clubs in Canada (such as the Rideau Club, the Windsor Club and the Westminster Club) by seeking its own coat-of-arms.

A Heraldic Committee was formed, and its members worked over the past four years petitioning Ottawa for a grant of arms and designing (with the guidance of the Governor General's heralds) a set of emblems that would signify who they are. The proclamation of the club's arms during the Club's Member Appreciation Night in June, celebrated the culmination of this process.

Overseeing the ceremony was Christopher Mackie, Special Counsel to the Union Club & General Committee member, and Robert Watt, L.V.O., F.R.H.S.C., Her Majesty's Rideau Herald Emeritus.

Atli Crane, the club's Manager of Communications and Engagement, described the process and the special elements of the coat of arms:

"In Canada, a coat-of-arms granted by the Crown is an honour akin to an appointment to the Order of Canada or other decoration for meritorious service. In our case, the

Governor General's office has seen fit to honour our club in recognition of our history of contributions made to Victoria and the wider community.

"At the centre of our arms is a depiction of the keystone over the main entrance to our clubhouse. As its purpose is to hold a structure together, it represents unity, and thus our club's name. It is surrounded by an open wreath of golden maple leaves, in a 'U' shape, recalling the political goal of our founders: a 'union' of the Crown Colony of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada. The artist has painted six maple leaves in the wreath, suggesting that BC was the sixth colony to join Canada.



"Above the keystone and maple leaves are the waves and the sun-in-splendour from the Royal Arms of British Columbia. They directly signify our club as a club of British Columbia, and also the successive Lieutenant




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Governors who have been members. As design elements, they appear in the top portion of our shield, as they did in BC's arms at the time our club was founded.

"A helmet sits atop our shield, as is traditional in heraldry. It is crested by a coronet of maple leaves and Pacific dogwood flowers (the provincial flower of BC). This coronet serves to again emphasize our name and origin, as advocating 'union' with the dominion. And from this coronet a lion's paw extends, grasping a sword in a blue scabbard. The lion's paw suggests the lion in the Royal Crest of BC. The sword was inspired by the replica weapon borne by our modern presidents, as a symbol of their office (nicknamed, 'Excalibur').

"As a whole, the lion's paw issuing from a coronet and grasping a weapon suggests the crest of our founding president, Sir Matthew Begbie. He bore a crest of an armoured arm issuing from a coronet and grasping a spear. Depicting our sword sheathed also recalls the badge of Knights Bachelors, which Sir Matthew would have borne.

"Supporting the shield are a wapiti deer and cougar. The former is a supporter in the Royal Arms of BC. And both are animals native to Vancouver Island. Each has a 'collar' of laurel, recalling the laurel wreath used to encircle our club's monogram. And they stand on a rocky mount, reminiscent of the rocky outcroppings around

Victoria and her harbour, strewn with local Douglas-fir branches. The waves beneath allude to our location at Victoria's Inner Harbour.

"Our motto is Latin (a traditional language for heraldic mottoes) can be translated as, 'Friendship In Unity and In Strength'.

"We have also been granted a heraldic badge and flag, for use by our members. These are a depiction of the club's keystone, and (for the flag) that same badge on a flag of royal blue."



Christopher Mackie, L.R.H.S.C., Special Counsel to the Union Club and General Committee Representative & President Bernard Beck

An advertisement for Canfor lumber. The top half shows a warehouse filled with stacks of lumber wrapped in white plastic with red and white Canfor logos. The bottom half features a large, close-up view of a Canfor logo on a red background. Below the logo is the text "There is no substitute for Canfor" and "PRODUCT OF CANADA". At the bottom left is the Canfor logo, and at the bottom right is the text "CANFOR IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 12 COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC" and "WWW.CANFOR.COM".

It is quite impossible to understand

“It is quite impossible to understand how we can be such strong individuals, so insistent on the rights and claims of every human soul. And yet at the same time countenance (and if we are English, even take quite calmly) this wholesale murder, which if it were applied to animals or birds or indeed anything except men would fill us with a sickness and repulsion greater than we could endure.”

by Jim Hume

The words above belong to Vera Brittain as written in her classic *Testament of Youth*, first published in 1933 by Victor Gollancz Ltd and still available in well printed paperback edition by Virago Press. It is a remarkable book recounting the journey of a young female from the years just prior to the First World War, through that horrific conflict and beyond.

Vera Britain was born December 29, 1893. She was an outspoken feminist before the word had meaning, was a patriotic English woman who learned the hardest facts of life – and death – as a nurse in the overflowing casualty wards of that Great War to end wars. She died in March 1970 – an outspoken, lifelong, fervent pacifist converted to that cause by the never-ending procession of shattered minds and bodies from the bloody trenches of France and Gallipoli.

It was after reading in *The (London) Times* that by mid-1915 total casualties of WW1 had reached five million dead and seven million wounded that Ms. Brittain found it “impossible to understand....this wholesale murder which if it were applied to animals or birds.....would fill us with sickness and revulsion....”

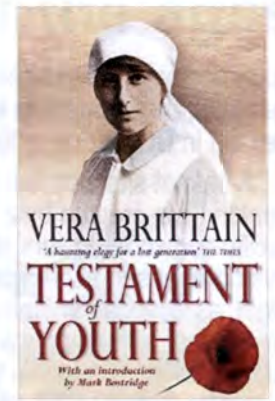
A frightening truth and still, a hundred years after first written, a chilling one.

Read of a plan to cull invasive deer, rabbits or wolves and protesters will hit the streets waving placards; organizations will spring up to prevent the cull and capture wayward rabbits for shipment to a sanctuary for protection.

Read of a fire-fight where drones or smart bombs slay innocents along with an official enemy and we “countenance...even take quite calmly this wholesale murder...”

We are assured by our leaders that collateral damage is unavoidable and some of us, having been on the receiving end of less than smart bombs or shells, know it to be true. In war innocents have always died along with combatants.

But that shouldn't make it calmly acceptable. Too many rage and fulminate against cruelty to every animal on planet earth – except the one called human.



A century or so before Vera Brittain, Scottish poet Robbie Burns wrote “man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.” Another truth which, apparently, still remains “quite impossible to understand.”

If you haven't yet organized your summer reading find a copy of Brittain's *Testament of Youth*, read it – then ask yourself some questions. And provide honest answers.

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

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Young students embrace a lesson in governance

by Alex Dauncey-Elwood,
2016 Legislative Intern,
Political Science, University of Victoria

As part of the BC Legislative Internship Program, the Interns organized a Student Education Day to teach young leaders about the role of politics and government through a PowerPoint presentation, questions and two activities.

On June 10th, students from two grade six French immersion classes from Central Middle School filed into the Ned DeBeck lounge to listen to the 10 politically passionate interns. Much to our amazement, these students were interested, engaged and full of inspirational ideas on how to create a better future for us all.



My fellow interns did a fantastic job making the BC political process clear and understandable. After students spent 40 minutes actively listening to a presentation on the role of MLAs, the levels of government and our electoral system (while answering questions posed throughout) we went on to conduct a BC budget activity.

For this exercise, we had eight labelled jars, which roughly represented some of BC's ministries, such as health, emergency preparedness, agriculture and transportation. Students were each provided with a number of chips, representing budget expenditures, which they were asked to allocate into the various ministerial jars.

The Interns added up the chips and announced the proportion of the budget that was distributed to each ministerial jar. Similarly to the actual government budget, education and health received significant portions of the budget for both classes. However, when we revealed the actual budget breakdown for 2016-2017, the students were surprised to see the portion of the budget received by the Ministry of Environment which was their number one choice for ministerial funding.

In doing this exercise, students learned how budget expenditures are allocated and the tough decisions government faces regarding spending. The interns were impressed with the intelligent and insightful reasoning that the students provided in justifying their budget expenditures.

After a snack break, groups of students created their own political party, complete with a five-point platform. This allowed students to express their own opinions and negotiate within a group to prioritize issues.

Platform points included stronger animal abuse protections, stronger protections for LGBTQ rights, increased rights for Indigenous peoples, measures for reducing greenhouse gases, and free post-secondary education, to name a few.

Students were eager to present their platform to the class. It was inspiring and comforting to see so many young people interested and passionate about issues. These 11 and 12 year old students are our future politicians and leaders and we are happy our future is in good hands.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2016, the British Columbia Legislative Internship Program was established in January 1976, patterned after the Parliamentary Internship Program introduced in the Canadian House of Commons in 1969.

Each year, the program enables 10 Canadian university undergraduates to supplement their academic training by observing the daily workings of the Legislature first-hand and by providing Members of the Legislative Assembly with additional assistance during the parliamentary session.

Madame Speaker takes her message to the classroom

By Karen Aitken
Director, Parliamentary Education Office

The Hon. Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, launched a new school program initiative in the fall of 2013. Since that time, she has been travelling to visit elementary school classes around the province targeting those school districts where there has not yet been a teacher participate in a BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy.

One June 14, we visited the Coquitlam-Maillardville riding with MLA Selina Robinson joining in the activities at three elementary schools. The students were excited to dress up in robes as the Speaker and Clerk and carry a small replica of our mace as the Sergeant-At-Arms.

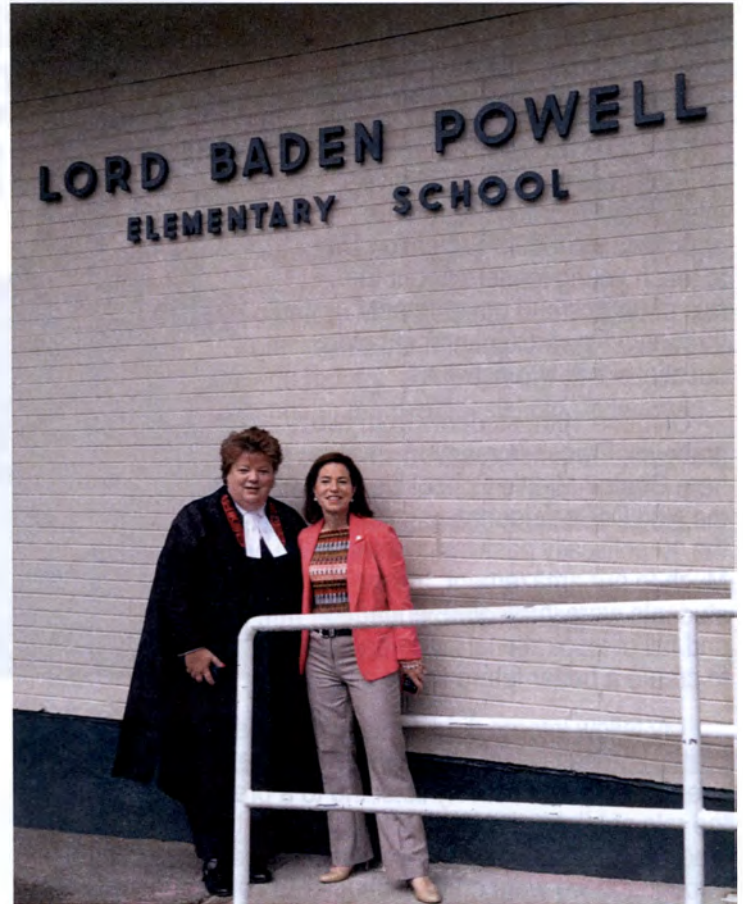
Initially shy, the students were soon keen to engage in debate on such topics as eight months of schools instead of 10, funding for an outer space program and enhanced safety for children in cars. We were impressed with their thoughtful comments and heartfelt notions. And, they love the temporary tattoos!

The teachers are encouraged to apply to the upcoming October Teachers' Institute and are also provided with new educational resources including posters and activities. One teacher commented that we covered in a one hour visit what she hoped to teach about government in a week's lessons.

Madame Speaker has also received rave reviews on thank you cards she received from students at West Point Grey Academy where she visited with a grade 10/11 social studies class. Comments include: "I enjoyed hearing about the path that led you to this role and how your passion for education influenced you."

The Speaker in the Schools program brings parliamentary democracy to the classroom encouraging students to become active citizens and think about how they can give back to their communities in the future.

To learn more about this program, contact Karen Aitken at 250-387-0832 or email karen.Aitken@leg.bc.ca

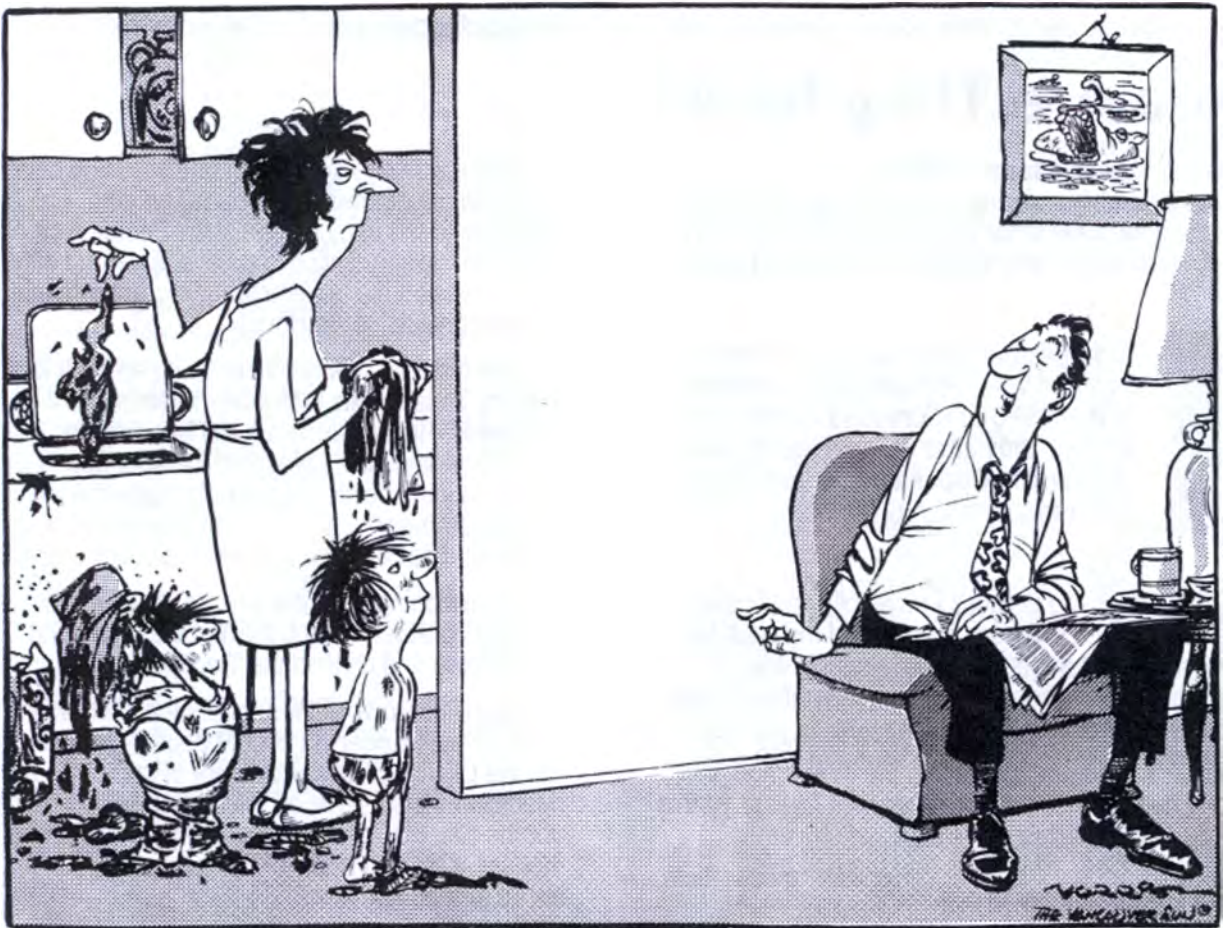


Speaker Reid and Coquitlam-Maillardville MLA Selina Robinson pause for a photo during their school visits.



Speaker Reid with Campbell River students in 2015

Len Norris



"And what did we do today ... play football in the mud or attend the legislature?"

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
- 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 oold.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 the spotlight is on Doug Symons who represented the Liberals in the riding of Richmond Centre from 1991 to 2001 after being a teacher for 29 years. In Opposition he served as the Transportation Critic.

"What attracted me to politics? I have followed politics, provincial, federal, and the world for much of my adult life. I admired MacDonald, Laurier and more recently, Pierre Trudeau, for their dedication to, and their vision for Canada.

But in the late 1980s things in BC were different. The Social Credit Party was in trouble. On the other hand, the Liberal Party had not elected a member for 17 years. At this time I had become involved with the peace movement because of the nuclear arms race. And through this involvement I met a number of politicians.

Just prior to the End the Arms Race annual Walk for Peace, I asked Richmond City Council to declare Richmond a Nuclear Free Zone (symbolically). It was always declined. On the third attempt, I suggested that if council would put the question on the upcoming civic election ballot I would stop coming to them with that request each year. Council agreed and the vote was 60 per cent in favour. This was quite a surprise to the council and to me because I then realized that through politics I could have some effect.

In 1989, I took an early retirement incentive offered to teachers. By the time of the 1991 provincial election I had become the President of the Richmond Liberal Riding Association. I was unsuccessful in finding anyone interested in being the Liberal candidate. I suggested to the riding executive that I would put my name on the ballot if they would work on the campaign.

With 40 per cent of the vote, I won! I believe I was the "why not" choice as many were tired of the other two parties. In the next election it was a 60 per cent win.

As a former high school teacher, I found the legislative chamber considerably more rambunctious than the classrooms of my teaching years. It was interesting, challenging and I learned a lot about BC and met many dedicated people both in and out of government. But by the middle of my second term in office I was becoming disillusioned by the politics in politics.

There was no cooperation or discussion of issues between government and opposition. And, non-elected advisors to the party leaders were doing much of the decision making. This might have appeared differently to me if I was on the government side rather than the opposition side of the House.

The most satisfying part of being an MLA for me was helping constituents with government agency related problems. Having someone call back to say "Thank you" made my day. Also, being the Transportation Critic and having some knowledge of boats made the job of debating the government's Fast Ferry Program easy. In spite of that success, I decided not to seek re-election in 2001.

Transitioning back into private life was quite easy. In my second go at retirement, I joined the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and chaired the Transportation Committee.

I continue to volunteer at our local Gateway Theatre and after a heart surgery in 2006, I became a volunteer patient for the Clinical Skills department of the UBC Faculty of Medicine. I also serve on the Senior Advisory Committee for the City of Richmond and in my free time I repair the houses, cars and boats of the family and look after a fair sized garden and lawn.

I'm busy and at age 83 life is good and I have never regretted my 10 year experience of being a MLA.



Doug and wife Marge always loved a Richmond parade.

Here they are in 1999 cycling in the July 1st Annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.

Letters

In honour of the Queen's birthday I thought would send on a couple of stories from way back when.

When the Queen was here for our Centennial the Legislative Assembly was to be presented to Her Majesty. We lined up in the galleries and spent the waiting time practicing our bows and curtsies. Waldo Skillings was very busy showing his wife Helen how to do it properly. In the excitement of the moment when Waldo got to the Queen he too curtsied. It was said that, "We were amused."

The second story is about Tom Uphill. He was a independent from Fernie. We were instructed to hold the Queen's hand loosely and not to shake it hard as it was very tiring for her after so many handshakes. When Tom got to the Queen he grabbed her hand with his right hand and patted it with his left saying, "Hello Dearie, I used to know your mother."

Jean Campbell,
Mansons Landing

Brian:

Enclosed please find a cheque for my 2016 dues. Lately I have been very busy as we are downsizing from 3,000 sq. ft. to 2,370 sq. ft and 2 1/2 acres to 1/3 acre!

We are moving from 150 Mile House to Williams Lake effective June 2016.

Kindest regards,
Neil Vant

Brian:

You're doing a great job. This publication brings back lots of great memories for David and me.

All the best,
Liz McPhee,
Vancouver

Brian:

Enclosed are my 2016 dues plus a donation for the newsletter. Thanks for your great work.

Dan Peterson,
Abbotsford

Brian:

Really enjoy reading OOTD. Appreciate your good work and very much enjoy the articles and staying in touch with past colleagues.

Moe Sihota,
Victoria

Dear Editor:

There is a missing chapter in the last issue's Coquihalla story (OOTD, June 2016, P-16).

In 1987, as Minister of Highways, I listened to the Finance Minister's budget speech outlining the cancelling of Coquihalla 3 - Peachland to Merritt. I was very upset and went directly to his office for an explanation and was told that he and the Boss thought we were spending plenty in the Interior and more needed to be spent on the Coast and on the Island.

I asked if he thought these would be toll roads? No comment!

I phoned my deputy and asked what the projected dollar lift would be once Coquihalla 3 was built. His instant response was 40 per cent. Would that cover the capital cost of Coquihalla 3? His response was no. I then said okay put the toll up from \$8 to \$10, a lift of 25 per cent lift from the 40 per cent lift.

Would that cover the capital cost of Coquihalla 3, I asked? He called me back in less than an Hour and said: "Mr. Minister you got it." I then asked who set the budget for Coquihalla 2 and his response was: "There were six of us who jointly made that decision."

We went to Treasury Board and got our approval to build Coquihalla 3. We had a set budget and I instructed my deputy to have one engineer responsible for the budget and I wanted a report from him once a month on progress towards meeting that budget.

The record will show that Coquihalla 3 was brought in right on budget. Interesting I do not recall one single report in the media about that accomplishment.

Cliff Michael,
Salmon Arm

Brian:

Enclosed is my cheque for subscription renewal to OOTD, and a little extra.

Cheers,
David Laundry,
Brentwood Bay

Brian:

Attached are my 2016 dues plus a donation. Keep up the good work.

Brian Smith,
Victoria

We welcome your letters - you can mail them to:

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

Or email to: ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com

THE LEGISLATIVE FORECAST: THE HEAT IS ON

W.A.C.'s 1952 Socred minority lasted just 53 days

by Megan Lafin
Legislative Library

The election of a minority government in Canada is rare and creates unique challenges. In order for these governments to be productive, increased cooperation between rivals is required. In BC, the first and only minority government sat for just 53 days in 1953.

In the 1940s and early 1950s the Liberal and Conservative parties governed as The Coalition. In 1952 the partnership began to breakdown and on April 10th the Legislature was dissolved and an election was called.

Prior to the election, the voting system was changed from "First Past the Post" to the "Alternative Vote." The Alternative Vote allowed voters to rank candidates (first choice, second choice, etc.) but the new ballot was extremely difficult to tabulate. It took three weeks for the second choice votes from the last place finishers to be distributed among the remaining candidates.

When the votes were finally tallied the Social Credit won 19 of 48 seats with 30 per cent of the popular vote, while the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) won 18 seats with 34 per cent. Lieutenant Governor Clarence Wallace consulted with high-court judges and Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. Ultimately, the leader of the Social Credit Party, W.A.C. Bennett, was asked to form a government as the 25th Premier of BC.

Early on in the session it was clear that thoughts of the next election were on the minds of MLAs. On February 10, 1953, just eight days into the session, "a diverting situation" was described in a Daily Colonist article:

"Normally the last thing any government wants after having just assumed the reins of power is another election, but for once there is the diverting situation ... of the provincial government practically inviting its opponents to throw it out of office. Everyone, of course, knows the reason, the Socred legislative strength is too slender for prolonged administration and the government would welcome the renewed and more substantial mandate it thinks it could get."

But, the opposition parties were not so ready to grant W.A.C. Bennett and his Socreds the new election they sought. The first test of the government came on February 26 when six Liberal members prevented the collapse of the government by voting with the government on a minor disagreement regarding the adjournment of debate.

While the Liberal-Conservative coalition of the 1940s was formed to suppress the CCF, the 23rd Parliament created a strange new partnership as described in the Daily Colonist on February 15, 1953: "Social Credit has forced a



Discussing It With the Press

Immediately after the Social Credit government's defeat, Premier Bennett was buttonholed in the corridor by members of the Press Gallery, who asked his next move. Here the Premier

is giving his statement. Left is hon. Tilly Rolston, Minister of Education. Times legislative reporter Gordon Forbes is to the left of Premier Bennett in the picture.

Smiling Education Minister Tilly Rolston is pictured with W.A.C. Bennett and reporters following the defeat of the minority Social Credit Government in March 1953.

legislative coalition of sorts among CCFers, Liberals, and Conservatives. Of course it's a pretty loosely-knit coalition, and it won't last, but these three groups have become soulmates in their efforts to keep Socreds in their place."

The Social Credit government was defeated in March of 1953, the first time this had occurred since the creation of party politics. The vote was on the Rolston Formula with 28 MLAs standing against the government: 18 CCF members, six Liberals, two Progressive Conservatives, one Labour, and one Social Creditor who bolted the party. The Rolston Formula, named for Minister of Education Tilly Rolston, proposed changes to the way in which the province paid school costs of municipalities.

Following the vote CCF leader Harold Winch appealed to the Liberal Party and the Lieutenant Governor to support his party forming government, but this was denied and an election was called for June 1953.

The results of this election gave the Social Credit government the clear majority it had hoped for, the result being 28 Social Credit, 14 CCF, four Liberals, and one Conservative. This was the last use of the Alternative Vote in British Columbia. Following the election the Social Credit majority returned the province to the First Past the Post model.



The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

*Under the distinguished patronage of
Her Honour Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia*

Association Annual Dinner

**Saturday, October 1, 2016
Government House, Victoria**

***With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon
you and your guests are invited to our 2015 Dinner.***

- Time: 6 pm for 7 pm
- Dress: Business attire please
- Cost: \$95 per person, taxes included. **All-inclusive, no host**
- Special Guest: **Andrew Petter, QC**
President, Simon Fraser University and former MLA and cabinet minister

This event is open to all. You and your guests need not be former MLAs. Join us for dinner and enjoy! Please advise soonest.

Please make your cheque payable to the **Association of Former MLAs of BC** and mail it to the address below. (If you wish, you may post-date your cheque, but **no later** than September 10, 2016). Sorry, no refunds after that date. If you have already reserved, thank you!



Response Coupon - please detach and return with your payment

I/we plan on attending Dinner at Government House on Saturday, October 1, 2016.

My cheque for _____ persons @ \$95 is enclosed. Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(please list additional guest names on the reverse side of this coupon)

Box 31009, University Heights, Victoria, BC V8N 6J3
Email: ootd@shaw.ca or ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com



The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

This is to notify all Members of our A.G.M.

Official Notice of 2016 Annual General Meeting **Saturday, October 1, 2016**

Place to be determined
Time to be determined

Our Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner



Andrew Petter, QC

Andrew Petter was appointed president and vice-chancellor of Simon Fraser University on September 1, 2010.

He briefly practised law in Saskatchewan before becoming an assistant professor at Osgoode Hall Law School (York University) in 1984. He joined the University of Victoria Faculty of Law in 1986. He has taught and written extensively in the areas of constitutional law and public policy, and is currently a member of the B.C. and Saskatchewan law societies.

Petter taught in the University of Victoria law faculty for five years before running as NDP candidate in Saanich South in the 1991 provincial election. He spent the next decade as an MLA and held a series of key cabinet posts.

From 2002-2008, Petter returned to the University of Victoria to serve as dean of the faculty of law where he oversaw establishment of an innovative new graduate law program, pioneered significant Aboriginal initiatives, and secured funding for major facilities upgrades.

Petter graduated from UVic Law in 1981 and earned a LLM (Public Law) from Cambridge University.

Additional guest names

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____