



Orders of the Day

The Publication of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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Winter 2016

OUR TWENTY THIRD YEAR



As with many projects, it started in a very small way. Issue No. 1, dated "Fall 1994", was the creation of (the late) Bob McClelland, Social Credit MLA, Langley, 1972-86. By '94, Bob and Denise were residents of Gabriola Island. Jim Rhodes was President, while Bob had become Past President. It was obvious to him that the Association needed some means of regular communication with Member-former MLAs and friends. Thus, *Orders of the Day* was named and introduced, a single sheet to start with, carrying items on both sides of the page.

Orders of the Day grew and evolved, and with Hugh Curtis at the helm became a full sized newsletter published 10 times per year. After Hugh's passing in 2014, Brian Kieran has assumed the editorial duties, taking *Orders of the Day* in new directions while retaining the spirit of the editors before him.

By rough count, *Orders of the Day* has produced well over 1,800 pages of news, humour and historical reflections.

We are grateful to our Members, advertisers and subscribers. Without their interest and continuing support, we could not have achieved this success.

Brian Kieran,
Editor

Robert Lee,
Production

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The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

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(The late) Hugh Curtis

The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

Thank You and Miscellany

2016 Association Dues and OOTD subscriptions.

It's that time again. Dues for 2016 are due. If you have already sent in your payment, we thank you.

Annual membership in the Association is \$60 and that includes the subscription fee for OOTD.

Fans of OOTD who are not Association members should send in a cheque for \$40 to remain on the newsletter subscription list.

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From the Editor's Desk

Former Premier Bill Bennett died last December at age 83. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's. This being the first issue we have published since his death we have dedicated significant space to celebrate his contributions to BC and to give his friends and colleagues an opportunity to say farewell.

I have fond memories of Bennett's deft ability to leave the media standing in the rain whenever he could. In the early 1980s the former premier discovered that he could escape the media by sending his press secretary, Hal Lieren, out to schmooze the press gallery wretches in the driveway outside the West Annex while Bennett detoured through the labyrinth of basement corridors to join his driver at the "CNIB Stand" at the East Annex.

One afternoon, when I realized what was happening, the premier and I had a foot race through the basement hallways. The only reason I caught him was because he had a bad cold. It did me no good he still said: "No comment."

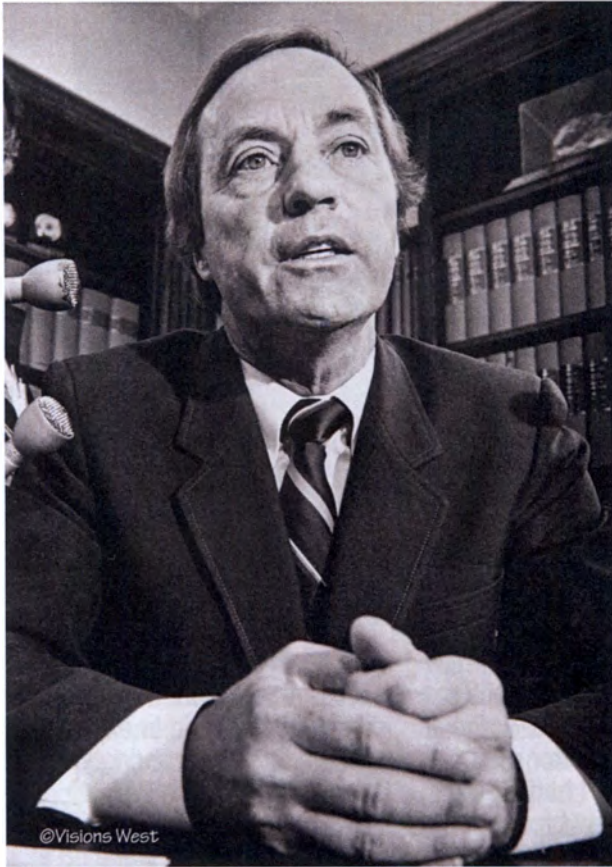
News of his illness became public two years ago when family friend Charles Fipke donated more than \$3 million in Bennett's name to Alzheimer's research at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, a partnership between the UBC Faculty of Medicine and Vancouver Coastal Health.

For the record, upon W.A.C. Bennett's retirement from the legislature after 20 years as premier, Bill successfully ran for a seat in 1973 and, in 1975, was elected premier. He was re-elected premier in 1979 and 1983, and retired from politics in 1986 – after more than 10 years in BC's top post.

In 2007, Bennett received the Order of BC. He was praised for leading our province through a challenging economic time in the early 1980s and left office with the province poised for success in a modern, global economy.

Bennett's legacy has stood the test of time. He is remembered as a builder and an optimist who always had an upbeat vision for British Columbia.

On Page 4 you will find Jim Hume's poignant reflections on "a good man remembered." Jim was a senior Times Colonist political writer based in the Legislative Press Gallery throughout Bennett's tenure as premier. No one knew him better.



William Richards Bennett 1932 - 2015

A Celebration of Bill Bennett's Life was held on Sunday, January 31st in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hotel, Kelowna.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made in Bill's memory to the Alzheimer's Society, Suite 307 -1664 Richter Street, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 8N3. You can visit the link at:

<http://www.alzheimer.ca/en/bc/alsheimer-resource-centres/okanagan-kootenay>

The Association has made a donation to the Alzheimer's Society.



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A Good Man Remembered

(Editor's Note: Jim Hume, writing as poignantly as ever, recalls special moments shared with former Premier Bill Bennett who did not often show his kinder nature to the unwashed media.)

Postage stamps. Nothing more. Just notes on brief items from the passage through life of William Richards Bennett, 83, born April 14, 1932, and who left us for what the poet Christina Rossetti described as the "silence more musical than any song."

These reflections are culled from tattered notebooks jammed with scribbles almost beyond cipher. None are of great importance, all are important in understanding what kind of man Premier Bill Bennett really was.

The notes are not sequential, just blowing in the wind and settling where they may to hopefully add a caring dimension to his tough-guy exterior image.

Item: Thousands of feet above the Pacific Ocean the First Class section of the old and trusty Canadian Pacific Airline trans-Pacific flight winging the Premier and his small entourage – an executive assistant, a deputy minister and a press secretary – home from an economic mission to Japan. They are grouped on the starboard side talking quietly among themselves through take-off and then through dinner, which even in first class is not a gourmet delight.

On the port side I sit in lonely splendour relaxing in unexpected luxury while not quite sure whether I have been upgraded as an act of kindness or mistaken as part of the VIP group which I know has been upgraded as a courtesy gesture to a much travelled first minister. Whatever, I sit quietly sipping Scotland's classic version of the sleeping pill when Premier Bill slides into the seat beside me and in the quiet of the cabin while others doze we start talking. Not about the mission, not with notebook at the ready. Just talking. Mostly about family, about the early months of marriage and its challenges; about the problems of raising children – and what disappointments we must have been to our own parents.

We talked for hours, just a couple of middle age guys with old growing up problems – as children and adults – identical to millions of others. I have never written about the details of that mile-high conversation. And never will. It was just two guys talking, not a politician striving for a favorable headline or a journalist looking for a front page byline.

It wasn't the first time we had long chats with notebook, pens and news probing questions put to one side. Only a few days before our airline marathon we had walked the streets of Nagasaki around midnight marveling at the multitudes still abroad at that time of night.



It's fair to wonder what on earth we were doing at the witching hour in the second city in the world to experience the full terror of nuclear war. The answer is boringly simple. I had a ghastly 3 a.m. Nagasaki time live interview broadcast with CBC, Vancouver, and decided staying awake would be better than trying to wake up at three hoping to sound intelligent – a difficult task at any time of day. Premier Bennett was wandering around the hotel lobby because he couldn't sleep. So we went walk-about in the crowded but orderly streets of Nagasaki and talked about how safe we felt as strangers in a city where we had no language.

We wondered if Vancouver could ever be like Nagasaki at midnight on a Friday night. I was a heavy smoker in those days, addicted and craving. Premier Bennett followed me into a tiny store not much bigger than a kiosk with an elderly Japanese gentleman in charge. His grasp of English was as useless as my grasp of Japanese and my charade like plea for cigarettes was a dismal failure. The Premier remained silent – and amused. But wait. The old chap raised his hands, palms out, obviously asking us to wait.

We did, wondering what we would do if he returned with cops and if it might be wiser to just quietly fade back to the sanctuary of our hotel. Before we could decide the old fellow returned accompanied with a young girl in school, uniform and obviously aroused from sleep. The old man gave her a nod – and she asked in perfect English what it was we were looking for. It was embarrassing to ask for a packet of cigarettes. I proffered a fistful of Japanese yen. She made change, declined a tip, bowed as did her grandfather and the Premier and I wandered "home" all too aware of how far behind we were in international relationships.

"... he goes down in my book as great because while he fathered major projects he genuinely cared about the little things in life."

Four or five years ago I phoned the then long retired Premier to say I would be in Kelowna for a few days and how about lunch or dinner? He said he would prefer breakfast, would meet me at my hotel and treat me to "the biggest and best breakfast you've ever had." We met in the hotel lobby in front of a room offering the continental breakfast offered free to paying guests.

"That looks good," he said, ushering me through the door to the first two available seats. It wasn't the biggest and best breakfast I ever had but it was a wonderful reminder that Bill Bennett was still a careful spender. And we talked of a favourite memory – the day in the Yukon when he took the pillows off his bed to keep my granddaughter safe.

I had almost forgotten that 1978 story of a trip to Whitehorse and being invited along with other reporters and government officials to a mini-reception in the Premier's modest motel suite of a sitting room with separate bedroom. I declined the invite because I was being visited by my Yukon-based son Andrew, his wife Buni and their first child, Kate some 18 months old.

"Tell them they're invited," said the Premier. So they came.

Kate faded fast falling asleep on her mother's lap. "That's not very comfortable for you" said the Premier "bring the baby into the bedroom." He led the way taking two pillows from the head of the bed, stationing one on either side of Kate "to make sure she can't roll off the bed."

I see by the news story that he is going down in history as a great Premier because of giant material projects. Fair enough. But he goes down in my book as great because while he fathered major projects he genuinely cared about the little things in life. And he did say as he ambled away after our Kelowna breakfast day "call me next time you're in town. I owe you breakfast." He was, as they say in Scotland, a careful spender.

In my book a good man – and in politics they're hard to find.

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



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Special memories in our hearts

by Grace McCarthy

It is an honour to pay tribute to Bill Bennett, an inspirational leader, a devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, a supportive colleague and a remarkable friend for more than 50 years.

I had the privilege of working with both Bill and his father, W.A.C. Bennett, and both cared deeply about the economic lifeblood of British Columbia. They cared enough about British Columbians to rise above challenges that inevitably came with the job of being First Minister. Bill had a strong sense of right and wrong and was never one to back down from a challenge; in fact, he relished a good war of words!

Our family carries special memories of Bill Bennett in our hearts. I remember the massive door-knocking campaign in Kelowna which propelled Bill to the Office of Premier. When I was President of the Social Credit Party, I remember the dedication undertaken by Bill and the membership to restructure what was, at that time, the largest provincial political party in Canada.

I remember the bold decisions Bill made in the lead up to Expo 86 and the brilliant decision of calling on Jimmy Pattison

to build the world's fair, a celebration that lifted British Columbia out of a recession and brought hope for the future. But mostly, I remember the many opportunities and responsibilities he gave to me in various portfolios, and for that I am most grateful.

Bill was a wonderful leader with a great sense of humour. He had the ability to bring people together. He gathered a hard-working team around him, gave them vision, insight and inspiration, enabling each to succeed. Their success was his success. Our mutual friend and colleague, Rafe Mair, said it more succinctly than anyone else: For Bill, each and every one of his Ministers "would have crawled a mile over broken glass" because Bill instilled such unwavering loyalty.

Bill worked hard all his life and had an immense interest in sports, initiating the BC Summer and Winter Games. He was competitive, yet compassionate, and made a difference to so many. Because Bill expected you to do well, you somehow did.

Bill has left a remarkable legacy. Ray and I send our condolences to the Bennett family, to R.J., and especially to the children and grandchildren, for whom Bill was an extraordinary role model. We celebrate that Bill is now at peace. God Bless.

A political novice develops political genius

By Brian Smith

I first knew Bill Bennett as a tennis compatriot. Soon, a friendship developed. I was a local lawyer and mayor and I became a confidant. He recruited me to run, unsuccessfully, for the Socred nomination in an Oak Bay by-election in 1978. Finally, in 1979, I was elected MLA as part of the Social Credit second term. Bill was now my boss but we kept playing tennis together.

Bennett's achievements in public life were monumental. Like his father before him, he was a visionary who gave us BC's current economic status as a gateway to Asia, and elevated Vancouver to a world-class city.

Bennett pursued the World Trade Expo 1986 as a catalyst to developing provincial infrastructure and foreign trade. He wanted the federal Liberal government of the day (which had no elected members in BC from 1980-84) to partner with the province to help finance the entire Vancouver infrastructure for Expo.

Expo almost didn't happen. In 1983, BC was caught in a severe recession – low commodity prices and high interest rates. In one year, provincial revenues plunged by 33 per cent and the government embarked upon a radical program of restraint and downsizing. The Chair of Expo, Jimmy Pattison, told us in 1982-83 that we couldn't afford Expo. Bennett's response was to proceed. He told us this was our one chance to showcase the province internationally and make Vancouver a world city.

Bennett's political genius is impressive if you remember that he was a political novice when he took his father's place in the Legislature and became Socred leader. In less than two years he convinced four MLAs sitting with old line parties to cross the floor and join Social Credit. In 1975, he defeated the NDP government of Dave Barrett and welded together a

coalition of centrist politicians that governed the province until 1991.

He managed to persuade the federal Liberal government to make huge infrastructure investments in BC at a time when they had no electoral representation. He pulled all of this off when only a few years earlier (1981) he headed up a premier's conference that was eight of 10 opposed to Trudeau's unilateral efforts to amend the Canadian Constitution in London.

Bennett and his fellow premiers forced Trudeau to compromise on his amending formula and Charter of Rights. Bennett won the day, but always kept a cordial working relationship with the Trudeau government.

Often Bennett's personal qualities were under appreciated during his time in office. He was not a natural orator and television sold him short. As a friend and later as a cabinet colleague, I found him warm and funny and ferociously loyal. He did not dump colleagues who were in trouble. He stuck by them, as his father had done before him.

He could also crack the whip when his ministers drifted in the wrong direction. When the cabinet seemed captivated by a large new spending initiative, the premier called for a vote. Everyone voted for the scheme. Bennett said: "Ayes - 21 and Nays - 1 – I see the nays have it!" We all laughed for a long time and the program died.

Bennett always put his family and Audrey on top of his priority list. He will rank amongst our top four great premiers, two whose name was Bennett.

(Former Attorney General Brian Smith originally delivered a longer version of this tribute in September 2011 at the Annual Tennis Tournament charity banquet on behalf of Kelowna General Hospital honoring three Kelowna citizens: Herb Capozzi, Dave Ritchie and Bill Bennett who was present.)

Bill put us on the world stage

I was truly saddened to hear of the passing of Premier Bill Bennett. He was a great leader and premier; like his father he had a vision for British Columbia. He was a builder, a doer; his many accomplishments will be his legacy.

I was a new tourism minister when he gave me the responsibility of looking after Expo 86. For the next four years we worked our way through many challenges, including battles with labour, foreign countries, civic leaders who were against it and more. Through it all he was steadfast and backed us all the way.

At one time Expo 86 came perilously close to being cancelled; Premier Bennett would have none of it. Expo was going to be for all British Columbians and that included building it. Expo 86 turned out to be one of the best things that had ever happened to British Columbia; it put us on the world stage.

I can remember vividly the day in cabinet when he gave the go ahead for the Coquihalla Highway. Many people both inside and outside government wanted it. There were those against it and I can only imagine what the traffic on the Fraser Canyon would be like today if it hadn't been built. He decided to build BC Place and SkyTrain as well, again despite the naysayers.

He knew when government had to cut back due to tough economic times. The restraint program of the early 80s was not popular with everyone, but it had to be done. He also knew when it was time to loosen the purse strings and get things moving. Tumbler Ridge and the Revelstoke Dam were also built on his watch.

More than anything, he knew how to run a government. He gave his ministers and others a job to do and then let them do it. History will treat Bill Bennett very well; it is just so sad that the last few years of his life were so tragic. I remember how depressing it was to see him a little over a year ago and thinking, what a terrible end for such a great man. He was a good friend and I will miss him.

Claude Richmond
Former MLA and cabinet minister, Kamloops

He did not vary ... regardless

After sharing an office with Bill for a short time I had no worries about his leadership ability.

He was strong; he had a vision for British Columbia. When I nominated him for leader it was not without opposition.

He soon proved that he was the man for the job when it came to difficult and controversial decisions. The opposition party was more experienced in the legislature. He soon overcame.

He had a vision for British Columbia and when he made a decision he did not vary regardless of the opposition.

Don Phillips
Former MLA and cabinet minister, South Peace River

Always a great competitor

I have many memories of Bill Bennett, from his quick wit and occasionally sharp retorts to his incredible work ethic.

He was practical, hard-working, analytical and decisive. Away from the Legislative Assembly he was a competitive athlete. Jone and I enjoyed the occasional tennis game with Bill and Audrey and I played a golf game with him. Always a great competitor, he wanted to win.

In one memorable tennis match with Bill and Audrey in Maui, we won the first game while he was analyzing our play; after that it was almost all Bennett victories. In one game I hit a shot down the court lines to an open court, and Jone quipped: "Oh Russ, all the way from the back bench to valet parking." The Bennetts enjoyed that quip.

So many memories. In particular, those that came from the all night sittings in 1983. Throughout those all-nighters the premier came into the House at around 3 or 4 a.m. to cheer up his side. That is leadership.

The real test of his leadership, however, is the ongoing results of his decision making. So many good things happened in BC because of Premier Bill Bennett.

Russ Fraser
Former MLA and Attorney General, Vancouver South

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Tough when tough was needed

In 1975 I ran 'for' Bill Bennett as a Socred candidate in Nanaimo as you may recall.

Here a year later in 1976 I was running 'with' him at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park. (In the photo 'yours truly' is neck and neck with Bill. Merv Lepper, an old Kelowna friend of Bill's is in the background trying to catch up.)

Bill and I were both regular joggers in those days and on a few occasions over the years took the time to share an early morning 'canter.'

Bill was a fine gentleman, bright, warm, with a keen sense of humour, but tough when there was need to be tough. He was a leader in the true sense of the word.

Graeme Roberts

Former Nanaimo mayor and MLA



An honour to serve with Bennett & Co.

From 1975 to 1986, I had the honour and privilege to serve with Bill Bennett, former Premier of BC, and Bob McClelland, a minister in the Bennett government.

Prior to the 1975 election, I only knew Bill Bennett as the son of W.A.C. Bennett and that he was from Kelowna 40 miles up road from where I lived in Penticton. During the '75 election campaign and the years that followed I recognized the strength and commitment of the man. Bill wanted the best for British Columbia and its people. We went through good times and bad but always with Bill's steady hand of leadership through the economic downturn in '79 and the early '80s, the restraint program to control government spending, and the threat of a general strike. Bill handled them all with the commitment to make things better for the people. As a result we came out of those tough times and went on to accomplish a great deal.

Those accomplishments included BC Place, SkyTrain, the Coquihalla Highway and Expo 86, an event that presented British Columbia to the world. Bill wasn't looking for accolades; he just wanted to get the job done. As a matter of fact, Bill announced his retirement during EXPO 86, satisfied it would be a success.

Bob McClelland was a cabinet colleague and a good

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friend. He held four portfolios during his term, including Health, Energy, and Labour. The people of BC were well served by Bob.

I was privileged to sit at the cabinet table with these two men. Looking back, I consider them as my friends and mentors who provided me with the insight and wisdom to be successful in my career after politics. For that I am truly grateful.

Someone once said: "We are like actors on a stage; we enter, we enjoy the spotlight, we perform, and then we exit, to be remembered or forgotten by the quality of our performance."

Bill Bennett and Bob McClelland will be remembered.

James J. Hewitt

MLA and cabinet minister, Boundary Similkameen

Bill came into his own

Despite his father's dominant role in British Columbia politics, Bill Bennett was not a natural politician, and this showed in the time he spent in Opposition, where he was underestimated by the Barrett cabinet and by the Press Gallery.

In government it was a different matter--here Bill came into his own, with a distinct management style, and it was

here that he developed considerable political skill at holding the fractious non-NDP coalition together. He served the province well and deserves respect from across the political spectrum.

David Anderson

Former Liberal leader and MLA, Liberal MP and cabinet minister, Victoria

He worked for the public good

Bill was a fine Premier. He was honest, direct and he worked for the public good, not his own.

He asked me to join his party in 1974 and though I declined I appreciated that and admired him for how he rallied his troops.

He went on to defeat Dave Barrett in 1975 (and I will always speak well of Dave too).

There followed more than 10 years of some of the best government this province has had. Premiers come and premiers go, but this was a very good one.

We all owe him a lot.

Gordon Gibson

Former Liberal MLA and leader, North Vancouver

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BC Youth Parliament passes \$25,000 budget

By Youth Premier Nathan How

The 87th British Columbia Youth Parliament, at the Legislature, had an extraordinarily successful session this December with 95 engaged and dedicated young people arriving from all across the province to set an ambitious agenda for the coming year.

Our government passed a budget of nearly \$25,000 that will enable us to undertake a wide range of endeavors, new and old.

Service remains the crux of our operations with Camp Phoenix, an over-night summer camp

targeted at underprivileged children, returning to our agenda after years of absence.

Park and beach clean-ups, soup kitchens, free soccer programming, and six Regional Youth Parliaments (mini-versions of our organization for high-school students in various communities) are equal priorities in the months to come.

All of this is supported by renewed fundraising efforts, including a gala event for elected officials from all tiers of government this April. There is much to do, and much to look forward to from the British Columbia Youth Parliament in 2016.



Front row left to right: Callista Ryan, Minister of New Member Relations; Darya Ali, Minister of Camp Phoenix; Nathan How, Premier; Sheridan Hawse, Minister of Sessional Affairs; Angus Lockhart, Attorney General and Minister of Finance; Suyoung Ahn, Provincial Secretary. Back row left to right: Lindsay Veenstra, Minister of Parliamentary Education; Nicole Thompson, Minister of Internet Affairs; Morgan Weir, Deputy Minister of Camp Phoenix; Morag Champagne-Holland, Minister of the Islands; Chris Coulson, Deputy Premier and Minister of Archives; Kyle Dow, Minister of Communications.



Yvonne Cocke, "a formidable force," has died at 91 after Alzheimer's battle

Yvonne Cocke passed away peacefully Jan. 19 at 91 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

She and husband Dennis were the Power Couple of BC NDP politics in the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Yvonne was born and raised in Saskatchewan and moved with her family to BC in her teens. She married Dennis in Vancouver and they put down family roots in New Westminster.



Dennis and Yvonne lived lives dedicated to community service. Dennis served as an MLA and cabinet minister from 1969 to 1986. Yvonne was a community and political activist working as a campaign manager and political organizer in many elections and serving as a City Councillor in New Westminster.

News of Yvonne's passing reached Orders of the Day just as we were putting the Winter issue to bed. Robin Geary and former MLA and cabinet minister Colin Gabelmann quickly wrote us to say: "We were saddened to hear of Yvonne's death. She was a good friend to us both. We first got to know Yvonne in the mid 60s and early 70s as she and Dennis both became very active in the NDP.

"Yvonne was a committed feminist and an outstanding organizer. She and Dennis were so strong and effective within party circles that some wanted to 'unplug the Cocke Machine.' Fortunately, party members were smarter than that.

"Yvonne provided sound and inspired leadership in many different venues and was a role model to countless younger women and men. She was actively involved in her community and her province.

"Yvonne was an inspiration and great support to many of us, and especially to Dennis. She was a great British Columbian who will be long remembered. We loved Yvonne and will miss her."

Veteran public affairs journalist Rob Mickelburgh posted this comment on his Facebook page: "The second half of the legendary 'Cocke Machine' has left us. Yvonne was a formidable force behind the scenes in the provincial NDP back in the day. Few campaign organizers were better.

"She and her husband Dennis, an excellent Health Minister in the Dave Barrett government who outlawed pay toilets as discriminatory against women, were a strong team within the NDP, hence 'the Cocke Machine.' She was a superb backroom tactician and organizer, could read the public mood like nobody's business, and was razor sharp."

Mickelburgh said the Cocke power years "were a fun time when people really duelled and were passionate about politics."

Former MLA and cabinet minister Anne Edwards says: "Yvonne Cocke was a legend in the CCF and New Democratic Party. She served the people in the party for many, many years. She worked tirelessly. She and Dennis were a force to be reckoned with.

"I joined the NDP long after Yvonne. She welcomed me with warmth, as though I had been there for long years and had contributed as did she. She made a point of making everyone feel welcome wherever she was busy bringing our best efforts to the political world of BC.

"I feel sure I speak for a large crowd when I say she has been missed in these later years, and she will be missed by many for a longer time yet."

Yvonne served as a director on several Boards including Vancity Savings, Royal Columbian Hospital, as Chair of the Board of Governors at SFU and President of the New Westminster YM/ YWCA.

A celebration of Yvonne's life will be held in the spring and Orders will give you those details as they become available.

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Voters can pick 'none of the above' in Whitby-Oshawa byelection

By Mike Crawley, CBC News

Ever wish you could choose "None of the Above" in an election?

Voters in the provincial riding of Whitby-Oshawa will soon see that option at the bottom of their ballot in the upcoming byelection.

A 46-year-old man from Thornhill, Ont., formerly known as Sheldon Bergson, spent \$137 to legally change his name to Above Znoneofthe, got 25 voters to sign his nomination papers and registered with Elections Ontario to run in the Feb. 11 byelection.

Since the candidate names appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, his will be 10th of the 10 candidates.

But there's one small hitch in his plan. On provincial election ballots, candidates' names are printed with first name then last name. So instead of appearing as "Znoneofthe Above" his will read "Above Znoneofthe."

In a phone interview, Znoneofthe said he's trying to give an option to people who are fed up with voting over and over for the main parties and seeing nothing really change.

"I'm aiming for all of the people who don't normally vote," said Znoneofthe, who has run in previous federal elections for the National Party and as an independent candidate under his former name.

"I thought, one of these days we should get 'none of the above' on a ballot," he said.

Ontario's Elections Act requires that candidates put their legal surname on the ballot, but nicknames can appear in place of a legal given name. Znoneofthe's official name change was listed in the Ontario Gazette in December.

Znoneofthe is a married father of two who works in customer service for a bank. He said his family and colleagues still call him Sheldon. He said he started the process to change his name last fall in hopes of running in the federal election, but it didn't happen in time.

Znoneofthe vowed to keep his new name if he wins the byelection.

Just above Znoneofthe on the ballot will be Greg Vezina, leader of the None of The Above Party. Others running in the byelection include Progressive Conservative candidate Lorne Coe, the NDP's Niki Lundquist and Liberal Elizabeth Roy.

The byelection was called after Christine Elliott announced she was resigning as MPP for Whitby-Oshawa shortly after she lost the PC leadership race to Patrick Brown.



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"... and I hear they're lining up in the old country to get here..."

2016 Association Dues

It's that time again. Dues for 2016 are due.

Annual membership in the Association is \$60 and that includes the subscription fee for *Orders of the Day* (OOTD).

Fans of OOTD who are not Association members should send in a cheque for \$40 to remain on the newsletter subscription list.

Cheques should be made out to:

The Association of Former MLAs of BC

and mailed to:

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Member News

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

Funds raised for Bill Reid Memorial Shelter

Options Community Services Society (OCSS) and the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society (SHHS) and have kicked off a fund raising drive to build the Bill Reid Memorial Shelter in Cloverdale.

The OCSS will operate the new facility for those facing homelessness in the community. It will have 16 shelter beds and 12 transition beds. The fundraising drive and the official name for the shelter were unveiled in December. The societies plan to raise \$300,000 and will name the facility after the late Bill Reid.



Those funds are going toward construction of the facility which will be paid for largely by BC Housing.

"This \$300,000 is really showing the community's commitment to the project," Surrey Councillor Vera LeFranc told the Surrey North Delta Leader. She estimates that construction will begin this year.

There's little question among people behind the project that it should be named after former Social Credit MLA and Tourism Minister Bill Reid, "Mr. Cloverdale." Reid died in May, 2013 after a battle with cancer. He was passionate about the problem of homelessness and brought the community together a decade ago to work on a solution.

Reid initially supported the creation of the existing 10-bed shelter south of Highway 10, near 176th Street. It is now unable to meet demand and SHHS and Options are planning to create the new space adjacent to the current building.

OCSS's Deputy Executive Director Lori Dennis says: "The past couple months the excavation process was started for the development, but we're still in the early days. For people looking to get involved in helping end homelessness, this is a perfect way to do it."

Unique features will include the ability to bring animals to the facility. Many homeless refuse to come in out of the cold because they can't bring their dog with them. Pets are hugely important to many people, and this is particularly true of the homeless who struggle with social isolation and mental illness. In some instances, their dog is their best friend.

For more information or to donate, go to: www.options.bc.ca or surreyhomeless.ca/bill-reid-memorial-shelter/.



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OOTD Member/Subscriber Survey 2016

As we begin OOTD's 23rd year we want to canvass association members and subscribers to ensure we are delivering editorial content that meets your needs and entertains.

Please complete the survey below by checking the appropriate box and mail back to us.

Members and subscribers connected to OOTD by email will receive an electronic version that is simple to complete online and can be returned to us by simply clicking the "Done" box.

Please rank the following categories of OOTD content.

	Enjoy very much	Enjoy somewhat	Do not enjoy	Waste of space
1. News items & photos from former MLAs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. History page stories and pictures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Profiles of former MLAs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Humour (Question Period, Norris etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Bipartisan articles by non-members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Letters to the Editor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Special activities & milestones at the Leg.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Jim Hume's columns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Now, please tell us what's missing. What can we do to make OOTD a good read for you?

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The Bennetts: BC's winning father/son dynasty

By David Mitchell

Much of the country is transfixed these days by the novelty of a father/son political dynasty: the Trudeaus of Montreal. However, a generation ago the Bennetts of Kelowna became the first winning dynasty in Canadian politics.

Bill Bennett and his father, W.A.C. Bennett, were dominating political personalities from 1952-1986. For all but three of those years (1972-75), they served as premiers, governing with a determination that was polarizing but unwavering. Their public policy legacies continue to shape the province.

If you had started kindergarten in BC when W.A.C. Bennett first became premier, you could have graduated from university and launched your career, only knowing a single premier. A populist firebrand who espoused conservative fiscal policies (20 consecutive balanced budgets!), he led his Social Credit Party to seven consecutive victories.

W.A.C. Bennett's boldness and consistency had a significant impact on opening up the province to the development of its natural resources. He achieved this by building highways, bridges, ferries and power dams.

When his government was finally defeated by the NDP in 1972, it was difficult to imagine BC under new management. It was also widely assumed that the Social Credit Party, so strongly associated with his outsized personality, was finished. Therefore, it was a surprise that the former premier's son, Bill Bennett, decided to enter politics and seek the leadership.

This he achieved in 1975, successfully uniting the Liberals and Conservatives, and he didn't look back for more than a decade.

At first, Bill Bennett was derided as "daddy's boy" or "mini-WAC." However, the son was his own man. He modernized the Social Credit Party and professionalized government. He ushered in a contemporary, technocratic style of governance, causing his aging, restless father some concern.

When Bill Bennett returned from his initial First Ministers' meeting in Ottawa, presided over by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, his father had a poignant question for him. Referencing the positive press his son had received in Central Canada, W.A.C. said: "They seem to like you in Ottawa. And in Toronto they're writing glowing editorials about you. But what do they think of you in Spuzzum?"



Bill Bennett took the message to heart. He and his father hailed from the interior of the province. The Bennetts' roots were in small business and in the Okanagan Valley. And they would both correct anyone referring to the interior as the "hinterland" pointing out it was the "heartland."

Bill Bennett would win three consecutive and hard-fought provincial contests. He stared down massive protests over his public sector restraint program. He also oversaw the world's first large-scale privatization of government, started construction of the Alex Fraser Bridge linking Coquitlam and Surrey, commenced the building of Vancouver's first SkyTrain and opened Expo 86.

Perhaps his proudest achievement, however, was opening the first phase of the Coquihalla Highway, providing a shorter route from Vancouver to his heartland.

When he announced his retirement in 1986, indicating he would stay on as the MLA for Okanagan South, one wag in the Victoria press gallery playfully asked: "Okanagan South? Where's that?"

The departing premier simply smiled and responded: "Just follow the pavement."

Like his father, Bill Bennett played to win. Unlike his father — and many political leaders — he left public life undefeated.

(David Mitchell is a former BC MLA and the author of the biography, *W.A.C.: Bennett and the Rise of British Columbia and Succession: the Political Reshaping of British Columbia*. A version of this article first appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*.)