

Our 'energized' Ian Waddell has left the political stadium



By Brian Kieran,
Editor OOTD

Ian Waddell – our energized, irrepressible AFMLABC President – has died at age 78. If ever it could be said a departure came too soon, this is it. He was so full of life and promise.

Ian had recently undergone relatively routine heart surgery ... if 'routine' can ever describe heart surgery. He had hired a physical training coach and was skiing in Whistler. He never felt better. He was full of energy and was excited about getting the AFMLABC on a solid financial footing with the help of the Legislature.

(Turn to Pages 3, 4 & 5 for more on Ian's great adventure and the many tributes that have flooded in. And, a must-read from the Vancouver Sun's Vaughn Palmer on Page 8.)

continued on Page 3

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, 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:

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

Or emailed to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com
or ootd@shaw.ca

Editor: Brian Kieran
Layout/Production/Research: Rob Lee

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

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Dave Hayer Interim President
Patrick Wong Treasurer
Jeff Bray Past President

Directors

Harry Bloy **Penny Priddy**
Ken Jones **Tim Stevenson**
John Les **Diane Thorne**

Honourary Directors

Hon. Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, LL.D
Hon. Steven L. Point, OBC
Hon. Judith Guichon, OBC

Honourary Members

Hon. Raj Chouhan,
Speaker of the Legislature
Joan Barton, MLSc., MPA

Honourary Life Members

Jim Hume
Ian D. Izard, QC, Honourary Solicitor
E. George MacMinn, QC, OBC
(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

Thank you to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, added a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter.

Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

Joan Barton, Victoria
Jeff Bray, Victoria
Judd Buchanan, Silverstar Mountain
Michael Coleman, Duncan
Marc Dalton, Maple Ridge
Craig East, Surrey
Arnie Hamilton, Victoria
Andrew Petter, Burnaby
Howard Lloyd, Nanaimo
Alan Newberry, Vancouver
Stephen Rogers, Vancouver
Moe Sihota, Victoria
Bernie Simpson, Vancouver
Tim Stevenson, Vancouver
Allan Warnke, Richmond

From the Editor's Desk

Obviously, this issue of OOTD is largely devoted to the passing of our Association President Ian Waddell. For the past several months I had been working closely with Ian as he charted a bright, more financially secure future for the AFMLABC. The man was unstoppable ... I thought.

Our special thanks to the *Vancouver Sun's* Vaughn Palmer for his excellent tribute to Ian and thank you to all those who offered their tributes on Pages 4 and 5.

Even though the spotlight has been on Ian, another passing must not be ignored. Lorne Nicolson has also left us. I was managing editor of the *Nelson Daily News* (now defunct) when Lorne was representing Nelson-Creston and serving as then-premier Dave Barrett's housing minister. I knew him to be a really decent guy and a public servant of the first order. His tribute is on Page 10.

As ever, my gratitude goes out to Jim Hume, the Old Islander, still scoring wordsmithing points when most others in their late 90s are snoozing in their rockers. Jim rarely misses an issue and I pray that continues for some time.

Finally, a nod to Premier John Horgan (Pages 12 and 13) who sits on top of the heap as Canada's most popular premier. I'm sure John appreciates, as well as most, that political popularity is a fickle and transitory phenomenon, a soufflé that can deflate in a heartbeat ... so, enjoy the ride while it lasts. Clearly, BCers believe you are doing a good job on their behalf in most challenging times.

Continued from Page 1

Ian was a former provincial cabinet minister credited with helping BC secure the bid for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. He died at home March 15th. A cause of death was not announced.

Here's Ian in his own words: "I'm proud to say I had a hand in drafting Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution which enshrines the rights of the Aboriginal People of Canada. I've appeared at every level of court in Canada and before just about every administrative board from Vancouver's Board of Variance to the National Energy Board. The Government of British Columbia appointed me a QC, literally a counsel to the Queen, a high honour. So, I am here Your Majesty if you need me!"

Cheeky as ever!

Waddell was elected as an NDP MLA in 1996 when he narrowly won the riding of Vancouver-Fraserview. Former premier Glen Clark said that owing to his energetic boosterism for the province, Waddell was his natural choice for Minister of Tourism and Culture in 1998.

"He had a big, shameless, upbeat personality," Clark said. "He was a terrific tourism minister. He was a booster. He loved being positive about Canada and British Columbia."

Waddell persuaded Clark that the province was falling behind other jurisdictions when it came to attracting film and production companies and he dramatically increased the film tax credit that helped foster a multi-billion dollar industry in BC.

On the day before he died, Waddell posted a photo to Twitter from his Vancouver balcony with the caption: "The view from my deck today as the blossoms start. See Stanley Park in distance and the rest of Canada over the coastal mountains. Paradise."

Waddell's career in provincial politics followed a 14-year career as a member of parliament. Waddell was the NDP MP for Vancouver Kingsway from 1979 to 1989 and then represented the riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam until 1993. During his time in Ottawa, Waddell was instrumental in ensuring constitutional protection for Indigenous Peoples and treaty rights were enshrined in the repatriated Canadian constitution in 1982.



Waddell was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1942. His family immigrated to Canada when he was five. His father, Jack, worked as an electrician; his mother, Isabel, was employed as a waitress. Initially staying in Scarborough, Ontario, the family later moved to Etobicoke. He studied history at the University of Toronto, graduating with a BA in 1963. After receiving a teaching diploma from the Ontario College of Education that same year, he taught at Western Tech. He then returned to U of T to study law, graduating in 1967. Later he studied at the London School of Economics where he received a master's degree in international law.

Once out of politics, Waddell co-produced a documentary – "The Drop: Why Young People Don't Vote." It won a best producer award at the Beverly Hills Film Festival. Waddell also served as President of the Association of Former Members of Parliament Foundation.

(With files from the *Vancouver Sun*, *CP* and Wikipedia.)

2021 Member Dues are due!

Annual membership for former MLAs in the Association is \$60 (unchanged from previous years) and that includes the subscription fee for *Orders of the Day* (OOTD).

Fans of OOTD who are not former MLAs/Association members should send payment of \$40 to remain on the newsletter subscription list.

Cheques should be made out to:
The Association of Former MLAs of BC

and mailed to:
PO Box 31009
University Heights PO
Victoria, BC V8N 6J3

You can also make your payment online by going to our website www.formerbcmla.com. Go to the Payments page in the navigation bar and follow the prompts. Be sure to include your name and purpose for payment in the Comments section on the Payments form

Tributes celebrate the caring dynamo that was Ian Waddell

Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker: When I think of Ian there are so many memories that make me smile. He was such a large presence in the building, he had so many wonderful stories to share. Ian touched a lot of lives and will be remembered for his experience, his energy and his humour. He will indeed be missed by so many people, but his name will continue with the wonderful stories we tell of knowing him.

AFMLABC Vice President Dave Hayer: Ian had so much energy and so many hopes for the Association and its members. Amongst his priorities were increased funding from both public and private sector supporters of the Association's non-partisan mandate; new initiatives such as videoed interviews with former members to share their stories for broadcast; and, webinars featuring special guests leading topical discussions. Ian believed the political arena should be a shared experience. All were welcome. He understood what most retired politicians come to appreciate; that, regardless of our political stripe, there is more that brings us together in the cause of good governance than those fleeting partisan issues that keep us two sword lengths apart.

AFMLABC Past President Jeff Bray: As the outgoing President of the Association, I was so grateful for Ian's eagerness to step up into the role as President. His energy and passion not only for our Association, but indeed the role all former parliamentarians can play in our society, was infectious! I always loved his phone calls as I was assured of a half-dozen ideas coming from Ian in rapid succession. He always set large goals; he was never one to submit a timid or, dare I say, conservative idea. Although I only got to know Ian over the last few years, I suspect he was someone people found it hard to say no to; how does one diminish the energy and enthusiasm of Ian Waddell. He will be missed, but his legacy in our Association will endure as there are about a dozen projects underway as a result of Ian's desire to take us ever forward.

Premier John Horgan: Ian Waddell was the first person to welcome me to Parliament Hill when I was a legislative assistant 35 years ago. Everything Ian did, he approached with passion and desire to make progress for people. I was saddened to learn of his passing. He helped boost the province's film industry into the thriving Hollywood North that it is today and was instrumental in getting the 2010 Vancouver Olympics bid off the ground. He was a defender of our environment, an accomplished author and lawyer, and worked to make life better for young people at every opportunity. He will be missed.



Ian's red ride

Health Minister Adrian Dix: This is a big loss in our lives. When I think of Ian, I think of him with a smile. He had an energy for life. Ian was pivotal in pushing for Vancouver to host the 2010 Winter Olympics over Calgary and Quebec City. (Dix was an aide to Waddell as an MP and worked on Waddell's unsuccessful bid to lead the federal NDP in 1989.)

Federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh: Ian was a champion of social justice and his legacy is that of a man who always uplifted those around him. Rest in Power Ian.

Joan Barton: Ian's passing was such a shock! Ian was so full of life and the "can do" spirit. He will be missed by us all and his shoes will be hard to fill. I enjoyed working with him and hearing all his grand ideas. British Columbia has lost a very special person.

Bill Blakie: Very sad to hear that my colleague for 14 years, 1979-93, and friend for 42 years, suddenly left us. Ian came to Canada from Glasgow when he was five, and went on to have a successful life as a lawyer, MP, MLA, and author. We had many things in common, including things Scottish. My first toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns was at a dinner in his riding of Vancouver-Kingsway in 1982. Ian was a cheerful, energetic and committed person who was still working on various projects, some of which we discussed recently over the phone. I will miss him. Last two times I saw him was at McNally-Robinson for an event related to his latest book, and in Puerto Vallarta in December 2019.

Tom Perry: I think it was impossible not to like Ian (or his late mother, the wonderful Isabel Waddell). His positivity was infectious, but unlike many politicians, it was also sincere. I also liked his free-thinking and willingness to question some established dogmas. We were lucky to have Ian amongst us, and representing us, for so long.

Moe Sihota: Ian's zest for life was evident from the time that I first met him – as was his passion to build a Canada that was fair, just and equitable. His bubbly personality, thoughtfulness, energy and optimism were infectious. And above all he was a supportive friend to all that met him. Along the way, we shared many laughs and a few adventures.

Ian was particularly helpful during my tenure as BC's Constitutional Affairs Minister. His advice and mentorship were invaluable as he would regularly guide me through the finer points of constitutional law. He was appropriately proud of his efforts to advance the rights of Indigenous People and insisted that the Charlottetown Accord build upon Sect.35 of our Charter of Rights.

In 1996, Ian gave me a call and asked for help during the tightly contested race in Vancouver South. Ian was up against a strong Indo-Canadian candidate who challenged him to a debate in front of the congregation at the Ross Street Gurdwara. Ian accepted, only to discover that the debate was to be in Punjabi and broadcast live on Ethnic Radio! Not knowing what to do, Ian called and asked me to be his translator. I obliged and every time Ian spoke, I translated, and the crowd would erupt into joyous applause. Ian mistakenly assumed that his translated utterances were doing the trick. The truth of the matter was that we stacked the audience with party faithful!

That wasn't the only time that Ian asked for my help. As Tourism Minister, Ian was asked to perform the opening kickoff at the 1999 Grey Cup. He sheepishly told me that he lacked experience and was afraid that he would duff the kick, or worse still land on his rump. So, a few days before the big game, we ventured out to the back lawn of the Legislature for a practice session. There was Ian, wearing his suit and dress shoes on a miserable rainy November afternoon in the middle of a mud bowl imitating Lui Passaglia. Regrettably nobody from the Press Gallery was around to photograph the moment. But, as always, Ian represented BC admirably on the big day.

Ian's life was full of adventure, frolic and political success. Always with a smile on his face, Ian earnestly served his country with dignity and honour. He was proud of his Scottish heritage and a faithful son to his beloved mother, Isabel – with whom he is now reunited.

Vance Campbell: The guy just never stopped, he was energy in a body, he never stopped going. Wherever he went, a whirlwind followed him and nothing but friends wherever he went. He was very good to his friends. He was a constant part of my life. (Campbell received a photo from Waddell recently of him skiing Whistler Peak-to-Peak.) I thought, how amazing for a guy in his late 70s to be doing that.



Waddell on the road

Creative BC CEO Prem Gill: We are very sad to hear the news of Ian's passing. He was a passionate supporter of BC's film industry and will be missed by many. Condolences to his friends and loved ones on behalf of Creative BC.

Silas White (Nightwood Editions publisher of Waddell's book, "Take the Torch"): Ian will be remembered by everyone who encountered him for his non-stop energy, enthusiasm, generosity and vitality. His lifelong love was for life itself, which he demonstrated as full-speed as ever in recent days as he honed his home workout routine and planned to write a book on seniors' fitness – despite, I am sure, never actually considering himself to be a senior citizen.

AFMLABC director Ken Jones: A week before the sudden loss of our Association's super-energized President, Ian and I had a great wide-ranging conversation on future plans for the former MLAs.

It was indeed a shock to get the call saying he had passed away at home. Ian was so full of ideas to make things better in the service of our members and the community.

He had plans and was moving to implement them. We talked about establishing an Association office in the Legislature and setting up a series of interviews with former MLAs on the government TV channel and youth-involved parliamentary education programs utilizing the experience of former MLAs.

Our hopes were high for this AFMLABC renaissance. We need to do all we can to carry on with this enthusiasm. We owe it to Ian to pick up the torch and get these initiatives underway. Rest in peace, Ian, you have served us well.

Legislators sing in harmony on local election reforms

By Tom Fletcher
Black Press

There was a rare display of non-partisan agreement at the BC legislature this session as debate began on bringing municipal election finance rules into line with provincial restrictions on fundraising and campaigns.

Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne, who was mayor of Tofino until the October election, said the changes are mainly based on 2018 recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer. They include extending the official campaign period for local elections from 29 to 89 days, restricting third-party donations and preventing local political slates from accepting money for operating expenses between elections.

“This new framework will result in elector organizations being treated more like provincial political parties under the Election Act, but continues to accommodate the elements that make local elections unique from provincial elections,” Osborne told the Legislature in March. “Changes to the rules governing election advertising will enhance the transparency of advertising by making it clear who is sponsoring advertising during the pre-campaign period.

“The types of activities that are captured as election advertising will be clarified. This will ensure that paid canvassing activities, such as door-to-door canvassing or canvassing by telephone and mailing election materials on a commercial basis, will be subject to election advertising rules.”

Liberal MLA Dan Ashton, a former mayor of Penticton, said the inclusion of paid canvassers as a registered advertising expense and a \$1,200 cap for third parties donating are overdue reforms.



Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne speaks in the Legislature.

Hansard TV

“It provides Elections BC with additional penalties to fine people who do not comply with the rules and the process, and it also removes the 30-day local residency requirement in order to vote, as that has pros and cons,” Ashton said.

“It allows access for strata properties and other properties for canvassing. I look upon my peers that are from the Lower Mainland and look at all those large towers inhabited by residents and wonder how they have the opportunity to be able to show those residents what they want to do for them. That's a difficult process, and I hope that that also comes into consideration in the future.”

Jinny Sims, NDP MLA for Surrey Panorama, welcomed new restrictions on “pseudo-parties that operate as electoral organizations” in civic elections. Osborne noted that election slates or municipal parties are mainly a Lower Mainland phenomenon now, but with technology and advertising changing quickly, the province needs to be ready to regulate elections for councils, school boards and regional districts.

Speaker Chouhan restarts “Speaker in School” project

Speaker Raj Chouhan has reinstated the “Speaker in Schools” program through the Parliamentary Education Office. The Speaker is “visiting” schools to talk to students about the work that happens at the Legislative Assembly and his role as the Speaker.

COVID-19 protocols dictate that these visits are happening virtually by Zoom, but hopefully this year or next he will be able to do visits in person. This isn't a new program, but it has been restarted since Speaker Chouhan came to this office and it is the first time it has been offered virtually.

The Speaker in the Schools Program was successfully launched in the fall of 2012. This initiative encourages students in grades 4 through 7 to engage in democracy and consider contributing to their communities by becoming parliamentarians when they grow up.

The Speaker shares first-hand knowledge with the students by leading them in a model legislature exercise. The students explore how a bill becomes a law through an engaging simulation.

Bills are debated on topics of their choosing, such as the construction of a new skating rink, reduction of daily homework or the provision of iPads for all students. The students are provided with costumes and role play the various positions within the House to conduct a bill debate.



The objectives of the program are to: Introduce the students to the role of the Legislative Assembly in our democratic system of governance; introduce the students to the role of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; encourage the students to think about how they can be involved in our provincial democratic institution; role play a provincial debate in their classroom; promote the BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy to classroom teachers; and, introduce the teachers to the many Parliamentary Education Office educational resources available for teaching democracy in their classrooms.

News from the Leg.

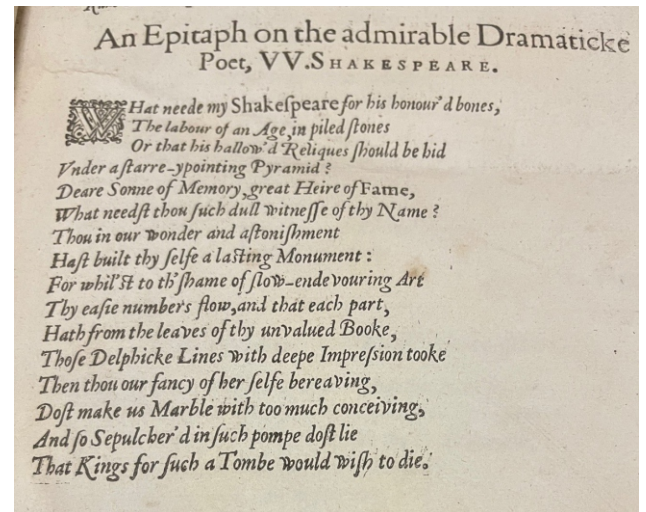
Shakespeare's Second Folio Is the crown jewel in Leg Library

When you think of the Legislative Library, you might think of government publications and books about public policy. You probably wouldn't think of Shakespeare – but the library has one of the best collections of Shakespeare in Canada. The crown jewel of this collection is a Second Folio of Shakespeare from 1632.

The story begins with the death of Shakespeare in 1616. At this point, only about half of his plays had ever been published, and they were all published as one-play editions. In 1623, two colleagues of Shakespeare put together the First Folio; 900 copies were printed, of which around 200 survive. Currently, 82 copies are in the famous Folgers Shakespeare Library in Washington DC. There is only one known copy in Canada, at the University of Toronto Thomas Fischer Rare Book Library.

Folios are a single piece of paper printed with four separate prints. The page is then folded to form two two-sided pages. In early printings, folios were generally expensive, well-made books. The Gutenberg bible was another famous folio printing.

In 1632, the second edition of Shakespeare was published – The Legislature Library's Second Folio. It was, for the most part, a reissue of the First Folio, although with different printers and publishers. There was an attempt to fix the typographical errors of the First Folio, but quite a few new typographical errors were introduced. Despite the new errors, the Second Folio is a considerable improvement on the First in terms of accuracy, and is the basis of subsequent Shakespeare editions.



One of the most interesting additions to the Second Folio is the poem “An Epitaph on the Admirable Dramaticke Poet, W. Shakespeare.” This is the first known published poem by John Milton.

There are three known copies of the Second Folio that reside in Canada – at the Thomas Fischer Library, the UBC Library, and our own BC Legislative Library.

In addition to the Second Folio, the Legislative Library's extensive Shakespeare collection includes two copies of the Fourth Folio, the last of the Shakespeare folio editions, as well as a complete set of the Capell Shakespeare from 1768.

Legislature project near completion

An ambitious project to enhance landscaping and security along the Belleville Street border of the Legislative Precinct is nearing completion.

Randy Spraggett, the Legislature's Manager of Capital Planning and Development, says the project was scheduled to be complete by March 31st. It is designed to improve safety and security through landscape upgrade and improved pedestrian flow.

Capital Planning and Development, a new department in the Legislature, has been working with the City of Victoria and PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc., a BC-based landscape architectural firm, on the project.

In addition to encouraging greater public use and enjoyment of the Legislature grounds, the project will include features to protect against security threats. Key design features include:

A widened sidewalk along Belleville Street; seating edges, raised lawn and planted areas; the addition of a symbolic Pacific Dogwood tree; an enlarged area around the Cenotaph to accommodate large crowds during Remembrance Day ceremonies and other events; retractable and stationary bollards to serve as a vehicle deterrent system and a design feature; and, two new flag poles and interpretative signage as part of a First Nations Recognition Project.



Accolades reinforce a common theme – Ian's enthusiasm

By Vaughn Palmer
Vancouver Sun

On Dec. 1, 1998, BC's then-tourism minister Ian Waddell rose at his seat in the Legislature with some breaking news with far-reaching implications for the province.

"Today, the ballots of the Canadian Olympic Committee were counted to decide the winning Canadian bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics," Waddell reported.

First ballot: 26 votes for Vancouver-Whistler, 25 for Quebec City, 21 for Calgary. Second ballot, after Calgary dropped out: Quebec City 31, Vancouver-Whistler 40.

"It was a great show of confidence in BC," said Waddell, who credited teamwork from the bid committee and a winning pitch by his boss, Premier Glen Clark.

Joining the celebration were then-Opposition BC Liberals who promised to work with the bid committee to ensure that BC would emerge the winner "in the global competition for the 2010 Winter Olympics."

Four years later – with the Liberals in government and the New Democrats relegated to the sidelines – Waddell reciprocated that show of bipartisan support.

Vancouver held a plebiscite in early 2003 on whether it really wanted to host the Olympics. Waddell joined other New Democrats on the "Yes" committee and helped carry the day for the Games.

A few months later, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver-Whistler by a close vote of 56 to 53.

I would also note that Waddell was one of the first politicians, although far from the last, to lowball the cost of hosting the Games.

"We think we can make money from the Olympics," he said early in his time as a supporter. On the eve of the opening in February 2010, he admitted, "If I'd known we had to spend \$1 billion on security, I don't know if I would have been so keen."

But he remained a booster. Indeed, a common theme in the accolades that flowed in the wake of Waddell's sudden death at age 78 on March 15th, was reference to his enthusiasms.

Another was his willingness to reach out to political opponents in a province where "take no prisoners" is the more common practice.



Former BC Liberal Attorney-General Geoff Plant posted this tribute to Waddell on social media: "Irrepressible, ageless, practical idealist, ever-achiever. You made partisan politics less partisan, saw solutions instead of obstacles, showed how much can be achieved by politicians in opposition, and always had a friendly hello. RIP, from a grateful admirer."

Former BC Liberal cabinet minister George Abbott: "Very saddened to hear of Ian Waddell's passing. He was truly a gentleman in every sense of the word. In polarized political worlds, he was always willing and able to reach across party lines. Surprisingly few do and he will be missed by many."

Waddell served only one term in the BC Legislature, following five terms and 14 years in the federal parliament.

He made a joke of the transition in his first speech as a provincial MLA, after narrowly winning a Vancouver seat in the 1996 election. "I am told there is a policy in this House for former members of parliament when they give their maiden speech," said Waddell. "The Opposition can't heckle, but all the government members can."

Some members of the then-NDP caucus of MLAs had assumed that Waddell, with his federal experience and close connections to Premier Clark, would go directly into cabinet. Instead, Clark gave him committee work for 18 months before appointing him Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Waddell often played things for laughs, sometimes outrageously so. On Tartan Day in 1998, the Glasgow-born MLA showed up in the House in a kilt to underscore his Scottish heritage.

continued next page

This being BC, one of the members couldn't resist a heckle: "What's worn under the kilt?" Not missing a beat, Waddell fired back: "Nothing is worn. It's all in perfect working order."

One can even imagine the impish Waddell milking this week's accolades for laughs with a favourite anecdote about the tributes to departing NDP Leader Ed Broadbent back in 1989.

After hearing several speakers refer to him as a "statesman," Broadbent turned to Waddell: "You know what a statesman is, Ian? It is a dead politician."

Not to say that Waddell lacked seriousness of purpose when the moment called for it – whether boosting the film industry, defending the environment, promoting cooperative federalism, or pleading the case for Indigenous People.

Along with the cheery asides in that first speech in the Legislature in 1996, he said that he always emphasized to young people that politics was about fighting for what you believe in.

"We got Medicare because people went out there and fought for it; politicians lost seats and governments fell to get that. Now we accept it in Canada and we've got to remember that the struggles were worth it."

There was also an unabashed outpouring of patriotism from an immigrant who had travelled all over the country.

"I love this country and I've seen it in all aspects," said Waddell. "I've travelled throughout the north – Canadians are a northern people. (U.S. President) George Bush said he was looking for a kinder, gentler society. It is here."

Delivered in all sincerity, but with an ever-present twinkle in his eye.

"When I think of Ian, I think of him with a smile — he had an energy for life," said Health Minister Adrian Dix, speaking for many of us who had the pleasure of knowing Ian Waddell.



Vaughn Palmer

CANFOR IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 12 COMMUNITIES IN BC

As a company that uses a renewable resource to produce sustainable products, we are part of the climate change solution and the circular economy.



**In the last 20 years,
Canfor has planted over
1 billion trees in Canada.**



Learn more at [Canfor.com](https://www.canfor.com)



Former NDP Housing Minister, Lorne Nicolson, has died

Lorne Nicolson, who left high school teaching in Nelson to serve in the cabinet of former premier Dave Barrett, died in late February at age 85.

Former NDP cabinet minister Andrew Petter served as Lorne's executive assistant from 1973 to 1975 while he was Minister Without Portfolio Responsible for Housing and then Minister of Housing. He says: "Lorne was a dedicated MLA who worked tirelessly to represent and improve the quality of life of his Nelson-Creston constituents. As Minister of Housing, he oversaw a major expansion of co-ops, seniors and low-income housing.

"Lorne loved the Legislature and, after serving 14 years as MLA, he became an enthusiastic member of the Association of Former MLAs of BC and regular attendee, with his wife Frances, at the Association's annual dinner at Government House."

Petter shares this account of Lorne's service to his constituents: "There was the time that Lorne, who happened to be home in his constituency, snuck into the back of the Taghum Hall where a meeting of local residents had commenced to protest Department of Highways' plans to upgrade the wooden Taghum Bridge.

"The residents had long complained about the condition and safety of the bridge, but they did so in the hope that it would be replaced by a new, much more expensive concrete bridge in a different location with a better alignment. The meeting got fairly heated and at one point, an attendee with Sacred connections tried to make political hay by demanding 'Where's our MLA? Why isn't he here to represent us?'

"At this point Lorne, who had gone unnoticed, quietly stood up and said: 'Here I am. I came to listen so I could represent your concerns to the Minister of Highways in Victoria.' This completely defused the situation and Lorne, true to his word, not only carried the residents' concerns to the minister, but managed to persuade the department to change its mind and commit to the new bridge which was completed a few years later. A nice example of the quiet, determined way in which Lorne went about representing his constituents. He was no showboater, but he got things done."

He had to drop out of university for a few years and worked for Continental Can Company. While there, he joined the United Steel Workers Union and thereafter felt a warmth for unions and what they have done for the betterment of wage earners.

For 10 years, he taught math and physics and coached wrestling at LV Rogers High school in Nelson. Many of his students became life-long friends.

He became politicized and campaigned to be an MLA for the Nelson-Creston constituency. Losing his first election, he won the second and joined the Dave Barrett NDP government.

Lorne retired from politics in 1986. His life was characterized by his unflagging curiosity and attraction to new experiences. He was a skin and SCUBA diver when both sports were new. He cycled competitively when there were fewer than two dozen racing cyclists in the province.

He discovered the new world of personal computers, starting with the "KIM-1" one of the earliest home computers and became hooked on the new technology. So, when he retired from the political world, he opened a computer supply store with his son Sean offering a full range of computer services.

He was also an avid golfer, skilled skier and every autumn made apple juice with friends, using an antique apple crusher and apples from trees more than a century old. He loved music as well, his taste running from jazz to David Bowie to E.L.O., including a passion for "bel canto" operas.

Lorne has been cremated and the family, wishing privacy, will have no ceremony. Lorne leaves to mourn Frances, his wife of 62 years, sons Sean (Leslie Dickinson) of Nelson and Cameron (Susan Rutherford) of Calgary, and his sister, Karen Lehmann of Midway.



Former BC housing minister Lorne Nicolson (left) signs up NDP memberships in December 2010 with Corky Evans and Michelle Mungall.

In the post-brownout age could there be a Site D?

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

If you can remember when “brownouts” were a regular feature of life in British Columbia, then you are an aging westerner who lived in the era before W.A.C. Bennett shocked Canada from coast to coast with his “nationalization” of BC Electric, a private company he felt was standing in the way of economic progress.

That story is voluminously documented and well told by a multitude of sources. It makes fascinating reading of grand, touching on dictatorial, political decisions and the development of what would eventually become one of the great debate battlegrounds of the century – the development of hydroelectric power.

It was in 1961 that construction began on what would eventually be named the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, 186-metres high (610 feet) and boastfully proclaimed “one of the world's largest earth-filled dams.” Seven years later, in 1968, the project was declared completed at \$756 million with a flourish of announcements that it had all been achieved “on time and on budget.” There was a modest confession a little later that a draw from reserve funds had been required for building a storage reservoir in what was known as “the Trench.”

The first great step toward the electrification of British Columbia had been taken, although the debate on final terms of the benefit-sharing agreement between BC and the USA continued for years. The passage of time muted bitter NDP opposition to what had become known as the Columbia River Treaty; more power became readily available, and “brownouts,” the frustrating regular fading of power at peak usage time, became rare.

The Bennett Dam and power plant development sparked angry environmental debate and cries of injustice from the Stay Kea Dene First Nation, who lived in the valley where their ancestral homes were now buried by the great lake created behind the new dam. A compensation formula was established, but it was far from a happy solution.

The wide-open spaces of British Columbia's famed Peace River country with fabled rivers and virgin valleys became a centre of attention for BC Hydro and its next major power project. This massive development named Site C would fulfill BC power needs well into the 21st Century.



Geotechnical issues, delays and the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed the price tag for the Site C dam to \$16 billion, but Premier John Horgan says cancelling it now would be too big a hit to taxpayers. He said: “It would have left us with a \$10-billion debt with nothing to show for it.” He added that his government “inherited a project that we wouldn't have started.”

Could it be that Premier Horgan will ultimately appreciate that Site C could, 15 or 20 years from now, be the economic lifeline its supporters have always claimed?

Just two weeks ago, BC took possession of two electric-powered ferries. More will follow. The entire world is on the verge of abandoning fossil fuels for electrically-powered vehicles.

More modern houses and apartments are being constructed with built-in security systems, blinds and curtains that open and close at the touch of a button, and hand-held miracle gadgets that we have to ask the grade two nipper next door to show us how they work.

When W.A.C. Bennett stormed ahead with his Columbia River Treaty and his first hydro projects, the criticism was fierce and unrelenting. But, the ultimate successes of BC Hydro saw an end to regular brownouts and the start of the era when it became hard to find even a remote cabin in BC where you couldn't switch on an electric light.

I doubt if I'll still be around in 2025, so I will miss any Horgan announcement that BC Hydro will be launching “Site D” to meet growing market demand for electricity.

BC's John Horgan leads Canada's premier pack

As the hot, bright and unyielding spotlight of scrutiny shifts from Ottawa to provincial capitals in the current phase of vaccine distribution, premiers will be judged over the next three months on this key performance indicator, among others.

For now, however, Canadians are still more inclined – for the most part – to give their provincial leaders better assessments than worse in terms of approval.

Indeed, five of Canada's premiers receive the endorsement of at least half of their respective provincial constituencies, including BC's John Horgan. Two-thirds (66 per cent) of British Columbians approve of the job he's been doing.

Newfoundland and Labrador's Andrew Furey draws a split review, with as many people in his province affirming his performance (45 per cent) as disavowing it (45 per cent). Nova Scotians, meantime, are still trying to figure out their brand-new premier, Iain Rankin. While he appears to be the least approved-of premier in the country, this is a function of fully half the province (51 per cent) as yet unable to render an opinion on the job he's doing.

This leaves Manitoba's Brian Pallister and Alberta's Jason Kenney as not only the least-approved of, but the most disapproved of by those in their provinces. Pallister appears to be bouncing back a little, at 36 per cent compared to 32 per cent last quarter. Kenney's approval remains statistically unchanged, currently at 39 per cent.

Those playing above 500: British Columbia Premier John Horgan holds the top spot this quarter, approved of by 66 per cent of his constituents, having survived a politically risky announcement that the now \$16 billion Site C hydroelectric dam would indeed be completed, and drawing some buoyancy from news announcing details for the province's mass immunization plan. The new strategy made headlines across the country for extending the time between first and second doses of applicable COVID-19 vaccine to four months. After initial conflict over this timeline, other provinces announced they'd adopt or study the same four-month spacing.

Time will tell if more recent problems – such as the swamping of a hotline for making vaccination appointments – will have an impact on the level to which British Columbians approve of their premier in the coming months.

Quebec's François Legault is approved of by 62 per cent of Quebec residents. After imposing uniform restrictions and curfews across the province in January, Quebec returned to its colour-coded, regional system of restrictions in February. This has meant the reopening of stores, restaurants, and movie theatres in parts of the province, though not the densely populated red zones.

Legault has voiced optimism as Quebec has opened up, but he also continues to face criticism for the “deplorable conditions” in long-term care homes that led to immense losses of life last spring. Just under half of all COVID-19 deaths in Canada have occurred in Quebec. A coroner's inquest into the LTC issue started in February.

In Saskatchewan, Premier Scott Moe's approval slips four points over the last quarter to 57 per cent. The Premier who won re-election handily last fall has been under pressure to tell an electorate, that skews towards fiscal conservatism, when the province will emerge from a period of deficit spending and return to balanced budgets.

Though still above the 50 per cent mark, New Brunswick's Blaine Higgs' current approval level (54 per cent) has dropped a significant nine points over the past three months. The premier has faced recent criticism over the province's handling of housing affordability which has been a challenge for renters and low-income residents throughout the pandemic.

continued next page



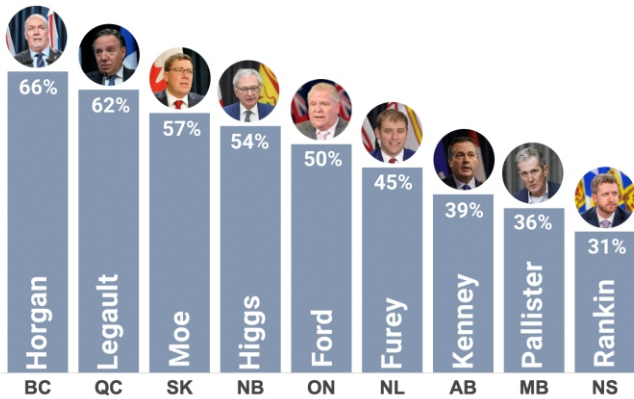
Proud supporter of the Provincial and Federal governments. Offering exceptional value year round with our special government employee rate. Ideally equipped to handle all your meeting needs; flexible meeting spaces with natural light, exquisite food, thoughtful amenities and superb service.

To book a room, or to find out more, call 1.800.661.7550, or email: reserve@hotelgrandpacific.com.

463 BELLEVILLE STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.
HOTELGRANDPACIFIC.COM
1.800.663.7550

Premier Approval March 2021

ANGUS
REID
INSTITUTE



Doug Ford's approval also drops this quarter, putting him at 50 per cent. What had been a remarkable renaissance for the Ontario premier over the last year appears to be coming to an end. His approval has dropped 19 points from where it was last May. Ford has been both praised and criticized for management of the pandemic. Most recently it was reported that he overrode the advice of Ontario's top doctor when he opened up testing to the general public, which led to backlogs. Ford faces re-election next year.

The sub-500 group: Manitoba was finally able to reduce its restrictions in February after cases dropped dramatically in the province from where they were in late November. Further loosening of procedures went into effect on March 5, allowing 10 people to gather in public instead of five, and increasing restaurant capacity from 25 per cent to 50 per cent, among other changes. Although employment in Manitoba has started to recover, the province is still grappling with significant losses from earlier in the pandemic, its unemployment rate still at eight per cent. Premier Pallister is approved of by just 36 per cent of Manitobans this quarter.

Alberta Premier Kenney has the second lowest approval rating among Canada's premiers this quarter. The COVID-19 crisis, combined with low oil prices, devastated Alberta's economy. The government projected an \$18 billion deficit and a total provincial debt of more than \$115 billion in its budget released in late February. After facing heavy criticism for its handling of the pandemic early on, Alberta has taken a cautious approach to reopening, and has seen downward trends in its case numbers over the past two months. Two-in-five Albertans (39 per cent) approve of Kenney's performance.

A couple of exceptions: Newfoundland and Labrador is in the middle of an unorthodox election. Premier Furey has faced criticism for a winter election call that was to be held on February 13, but was then delayed, and then amended to only accept mail-in ballots to be received by March 25. (*At OOTD press time the election outcome was not known.*) COVID-19 restrictions have prompted criticism from residents, one-third of whom (36 per cent) now say the result will be illegitimate, regardless of who wins. Furey's approval rating is 45 per cent this quarter as he and the rest of the province await results, which will be released at an unspecified date. The same number in Newfoundland and Labrador (45 per cent) disapprove of him.

Nova Scotia Premier Rankin was sworn in February 23, succeeding Canada's longest serving premier, Stephen McNeil. Opinions of Rankin are still developing. Half (51 per cent) of Nova Scotians have no opinion of him, 31 per cent approve. This currently makes him the least-approved of premier in the country, but by no means is he the most disapproved of. That distinction is shared by Pallister and Kenney.

(Source: Angus Reid Institute)



BRITISH COLUMBIANS BENEFIT FROM PERSONAL SERVICE

As B.C. continues to grow, so does the demand for personalized service. That's why there are offices in virtually every community, with over 15,000 insurance brokers province-wide, ready to serve. Brokers provide families with advice and better coverage for their homes, vehicles and businesses.

Working together in the community, brokers help families by providing information about safety, emergency preparedness and other local issues.

For more on insurance brokers and the benefits they provide to B.C. families go to bcbroker.ca.

HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



A single malt antidote to rabid partisanship on the Hill

By Adrian Humphreys
The National Post

On the last day of Parliament before Christmas break, Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons, was hustling through a hallway when someone stopped and asked him to autograph a bottle of whisky.

Rota happily complied. It was, after all, his whisky. In a way.

The bottle was the newly released Speaker Rota's Selection Scotch, a lavish and intense cask strength single malt, the latest release following a tradition of each new Speaker of the House of Commons releasing a special bottling of one of the many malts from Scotland.

It speaks to how popular the tradition has become that it has its own niche of collectors: politics nerd meets Scotch connoisseur.

It all sounds like an old, dusty tradition.

One can imagine James Cockburn, Canada's first Speaker, a waistcoat-wearing Conservative elected in 1867, with monstrous mutton-chop sideburns, demanding a special dram to wet his whistle, perhaps something peaty and dark, drawn from a forgotten cask in the bowels of a Highland warehouse.

But he didn't start this. Nowhere close.

It started with Peter Milliken in 2003. The retired Liberal MP for Ontario's riding of Kingston and the Islands became the longest-serving Speaker in Canadian history, presiding over the House during three prime ministers. Among his accolades is an achievement ignored even by his Wikipedia page.

He decided the Speaker should have an official Scotch.

Now the person who starts something is important, but so is the second who repeats it, and the third who makes it a tradition.

Rota is now the fourth consecutive Speaker to select an official Speaker's Scotch for Canada's Parliament. Between them, they have released six different single malts over 17 years, each with a distinctive label and special packaging.

Milliken insists the Speaker's Scotch — and the way it is chosen — acts as an antidote to the rabid partisanship of the modern-day Parliament, although he concedes even the power of one of the world's most storied drinks can only do so much.

It's had its critics and controversies. It's had its supply problems. It's an intensive labour of love, requiring staff to hand-label thousands of bottles. And it's even needed an unorthodox facelift because of COVID-19. Through it all, however, this modern tradition has flourished.

It's now something a new Speaker is most asked about when taking office.

Even so, there is a reluctance to talk about it publicly. Although run on a cost-recovery basis, there can be an optics problem connecting booze too strongly with the corridors of power and embracing a product often associated with elites and wealth. And a foreign one at that.

To uncork all of this, National Post spoke with Speakers who have presided over the House and the tradition of the Speaker's Scotch. It all suitably began on the banks of the River Thames in London, under the imposing façade of Big Ben, in the Palace of Westminster, Britain's Houses of Parliament.

PETER MILLIKEN (Speaker of the House from 2001 to 2011): "I went on an official visit to Britain to the Speaker there, fairly soon after I was first elected. I visited a few times. And Speaker Michael Martin talked to me about his whisky that he had selected and all that. I met with him and had a taste of his whisky and I thought this is something that we should do in the Parliament of Canada, too.

"I arranged to have it done by having a tasting, at which a number of whiskies were offered for tasting to the MPs. It was a popular event. Members from all parties came, a fair number of them. They seemed to like the experience of standing around in the Speaker's dining room, mixing and mingling and sipping these different whiskies. Then they voted for which one they thought was the best. I voted too, but whichever won the vote was the Speaker's Selection.

"The Speaker's Selection isn't really the Speaker's choice — it's the member's choice, they vote for it. I organize the tasting and select the whiskies for the tasting, but it was the members who voted it in."



Starting in 2003 with Peter Milliken, each Speaker of Canada's House of Commons has selected an official Scotch. Between the four of them, they have released six different single malts over 17 years, each with a distinctive label and special packaging.

Photo by Chris Nardi/National Post.

ANTHONY ROTA (Speaker 2019 to present): "When I became an MP, one of the highlights was going to the Speaker's dining room and trying the different Scotches that were put before us and we would rank them. One of the questions I got most often after being elected Speaker was: When are you getting a Scotch? When will the Scotch come out?"

continued next page

“The first Speaker's Scotch, chosen by MPs in 2003 was a feisty 10-year-old Talisker, with a smoky start and a peppery finish. It's worlds apart from the second chosen during Milliken's tenure, a 15-year-old Dalwhinnie, which swaps custard and honey for smoke and pepper. The bottles are specially labeled and sold in the parliamentary dining room. They became popular with MPs to buy as gifts for supporters and friends, especially at Christmas. Speakers present them to international delegations, when visiting others, and serve it at receptions.

“One of the things people have expressed concern about is that we have a foreign distiller providing the Speaker's drink. It is a tradition that it is Scotch, and I don't want to break that tradition, but one tradition I'm looking to start is to have a Speaker's Canadian rye whisky as well. I'm hoping that we will all come back (from COVID-19) and part of the return will be a tasting of the different ryes.

“In February (2020) we had decided we were going to go ahead – but then COVID hit and I thought I'll wait until we return to some semblance of normal so that we can have an official tasting. Well, we waited and waited and waited. Everyone was asking for it. They started asking again when we got back in September, but as we got close to Christmas, more and more people were asking about it.



The label from the original Speaker's Scotch selected by Peter Milliken in 2003. It is the only one not to bear the name of the Speaker who selected it.

Photo by Patrick Kennedy.

“Finally, we thought, OK, we're obviously not going to end up having a big taste test, so we're going to bring them home at the Speaker's Farm, which is the Speaker's residence, and on a Saturday night I had to sacrifice myself and try the different Scotches myself.

“My wife's not a big fan of Scotch, she said she'd run the blind taste test and make sure it is completely random. She had them all lined up and then she had a second run with a little bit of water in them. She knew which one was which. I was not aware of what I was drinking. I really enjoyed the evening and my wife enjoyed it as well.”

One really caught Rota's attention. It packs a huge punch. With a splash of water, it really opened up. That's the one he picked. It was a cask-strength Aberlour A'Bunadh. Milliken is pleased his tradition carries on. When COVID retreats, Rota joked, he should hold a reception to “see if his selection is upheld by the members.”

Get healthcare from home.



TELUS Health is working tirelessly to ensure innovative virtual care is available to every Canadian. **Babylon by TELUS Health** is a free app that can help relieve the current stresses on our healthcare system while reducing the risk of catching or spreading illnesses.



See a doctor from your phone.

British Columbia residents can video chat directly with a licensed doctor.



Check your symptoms 24/7.

Canadians across the country can use the AI-powered Symptom Checker.



4.9/5 App Store rating*

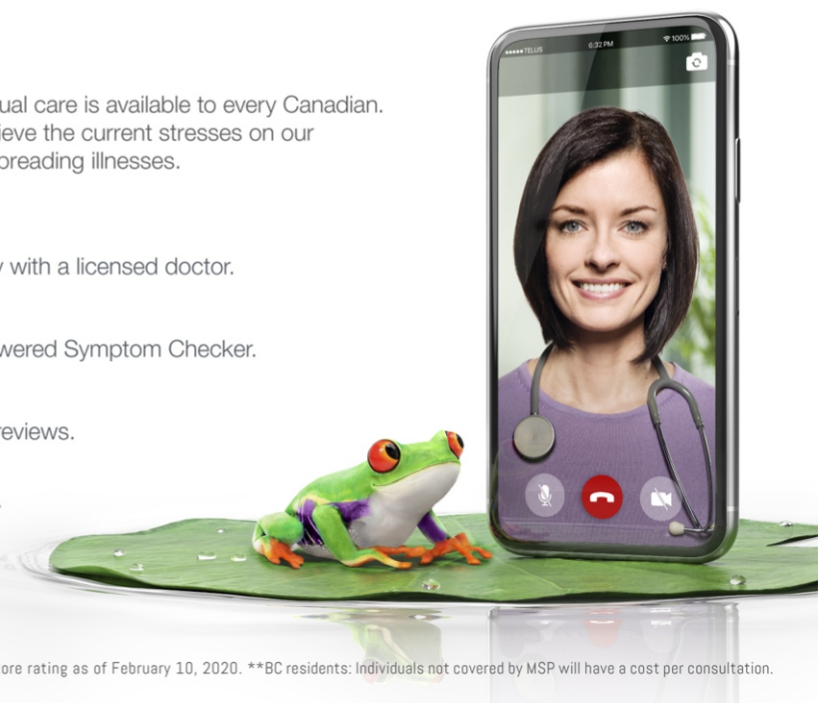
Loved by Canadians with thousands of five-star reviews.



At no cost to you.

Consultations for BC residents covered by MSP.**

Download the free app.



*App Store rating as of February 10, 2020. **BC residents: Individuals not covered by MSP will have a cost per consultation.

30 years ago this month

Vander Zalm quits; Rita Johnson is nation's first female premier

In April 1991, saying he'd had enough of the "bumps and bruises of political life," Bill Vander Zalm announced his resignation as BC's premier, creating an historical opportunity for his long time colleague Rita Johnson.

The announcement came days before provincial conflict-of-interest commissioner Ted Hughes released the results of his investigation into whether the premier mixed public and private business during the operation and sale of his former Fantasy Gardens theme park in Richmond. He and his wife Lillian had purchased the land in 1984 and transformed it from a small botanical garden into a European-style shopping village, a display gardens and a biblical theme park.

Vander Zalm was subdued throughout the brief press conference, insisting he was frustrated but not bitter over the controversy that accompanied the \$16-million sale of his Richmond theme park to Taiwanese billionaire Tan Yu the previous summer, which involved accepting a \$20,000 payment in cash.

With the resignation, Rita Johnson became the first female premier in Canadian history.

The daughter of John Leichert and Annie Chyzzy, she was educated in Vancouver. In 1951, she married George Johnston. Much of her early life was spent running a trailer park in Surrey.

She first entered politics as a city councillor for Surrey. In 1983, she was elected as a Social Credit MLA representing the riding of Surrey.

She was re-elected in 1986 in the newly created riding of Surrey-Newton and became a cabinet minister under Premier Vander Zalm serving in various portfolios. She had previously served under Vander Zalm when she was a councillor and he was the mayor of Surrey.

Vander Zalm appointed Johnston deputy premier in 1990. When Vander Zalm resigned, on April 2, 1991, Johnston was named interim leader of the party. As such, she was appointed premier on April 2, 1991, making her Canada's first female premier.

At a Social Credit party convention in July 1991, she was formally elected leader of the BC Socreds in an upset, defeating the favoured front runner Grace McCarthy.



However, she had little time to implement any new programs since she faced a statutory general election in October.

The party was also bitterly divided because of the leadership contest, and it had little time to repair the breach before the writ was dropped.

Johnston's long association with the scandal-plagued Vander Zalm significantly hampered her prospects of winning the election in her own right, and she was soundly defeated by the NDP led by Mike Harcourt.

Moreover, many moderate Socreds switched their support to the previously moribund Liberals. The Socreds lost more than half of their popular vote from 1986 and were cut down to seven seats, falling to third place in the Legislative Assembly behind the NDP and Liberals.

Johnston herself lost her own seat to the NDP's Penny Priddy by over 10 points, and all but seven members of her cabinet were defeated. Harcourt later said that he preferred facing Johnston rather than McCarthy, believing McCarthy would have been a tougher opponent in a general election.

Johnston resigned as leader of the Social Credit Party on January 11, 1992 and was replaced by McCarthy. After her defeat, Johnston retired from politics and has had a low public profile.

She returned to public life in 2009 as an advisor for the British Columbia Conservative Party.

Bruce Strachan, a good friend of Rita reports: "Rita is in a nursing home in Vernon; she has dementia and is not doing well. I saw her a few years ago and her memory was fading."