



# Orders of the Day

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

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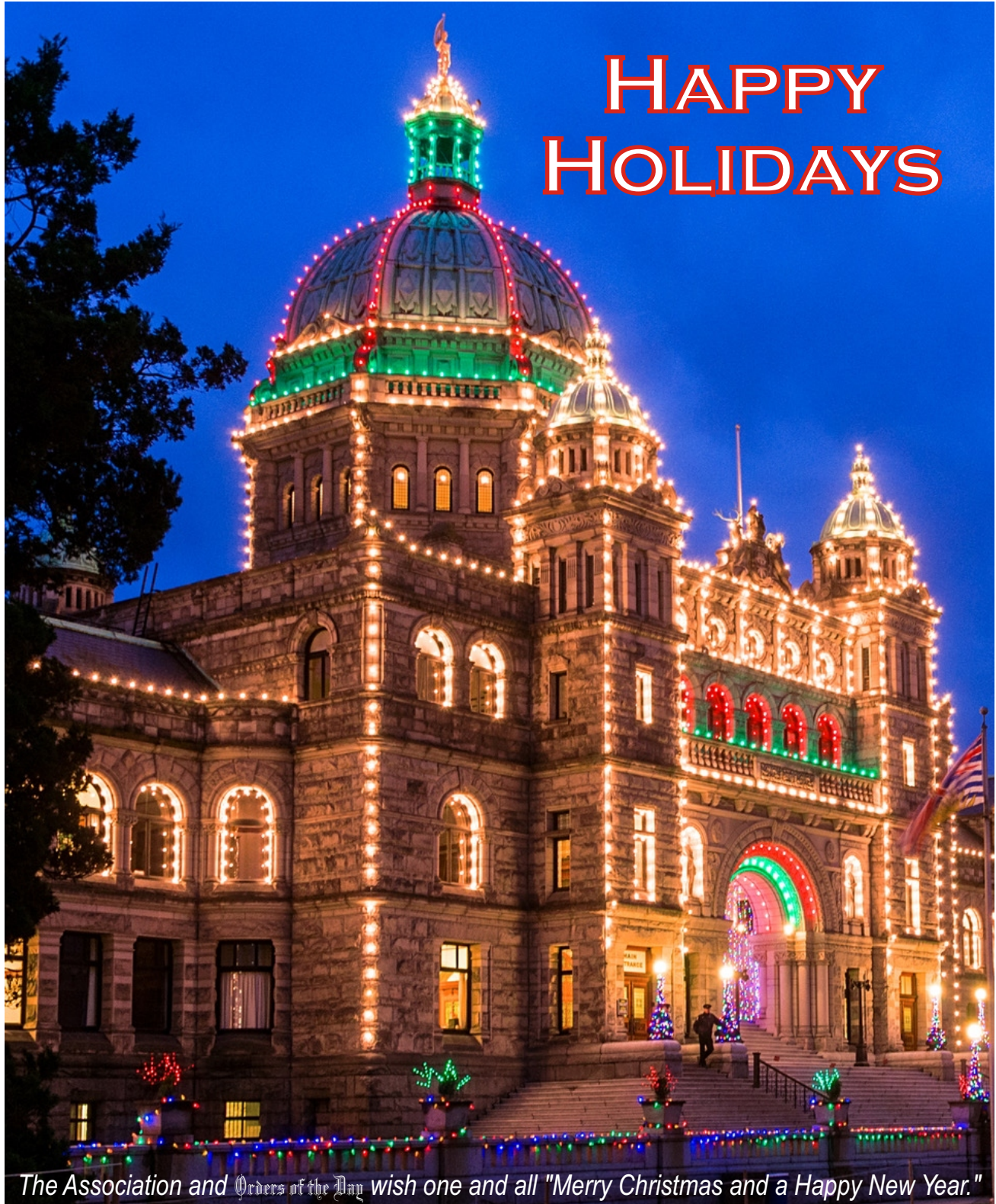


Photo Credit: John Yanyshyn / Visions West Photography

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

# From the Editor's Desk

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

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

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*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.*

I thought we were done reporting on the electoral reform referendum until the 2019 "Winter" issue of OOTD when we would know the results and indulge in some analysis of the outcome of the battle between proportional representation (PR) and first past the post (FPTP).

However, as we were "going to press" on Nov. 29th, Elections BC was reporting that only 29.5 per cent of our province's 3.29 million eligible voters had mailed in their ballots. In some Greater Vancouver bedroom ridings – like Surrey-Green Timbers and several other Surrey ridings – the participation rate ranged between 16 and 25 per cent, somewhat disheartening. Meanwhile, some "golden age" havens - like Courtenay-Comox and Parksville-Qualicum - ranged between 37 and 44 per cent ... better, but still nothing to write home about.

By any measure, these returns reflect a significant lack of public engagement on one of the most fundamental questions that can be asked in the process of reforming governance.

Previous referendums in BC, like those on electoral reform in 2005 and 2009, and on the HST in 2011, had voter turnouts of more than 50 per cent. There is no minimum voter participation threshold for referendums in this province.

At month's end, many theories were bouncing around in media reports about the lack of voter engagement. University of the Fraser Valley political science professor Hamish Telford understated the obvious: "It doesn't seem to me like there's an overwhelming engagement on this issue. It may be the case that some people are either still deliberating or may be sitting on their ballots because of the postal worker issue."

Elections BC extended the filing deadline to Dec. 7 to compensate for the Canada Post strike. Perhaps, that will be enough to push returns over the 50 per cent level.

On deadline we learned of the passing of John Savage, the MLA for Delta from 1986 to 1991 who served as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. We will do a fitting tribute in the Winter edition.

Rob Lee and I, and our eagle-eyed editorial board – Irwin Henderson, Joan Barton and Anne Edwards – hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!



# President's Report

Well, the holiday season is upon us. For many, it is a time for family and friends, giving and receiving. Holiday parties, present wrapping and New Years' resolutions are all in the mix. It is also a time to think of those less fortunate who are part of our communities. As MLAs, many of us have had the privilege of working with our wonderful local not-for-profits who serve those most in need. One of the ways we, as former MLAs, can continue to serve our communities is in helping raise the profile and support for these amazing organizations.

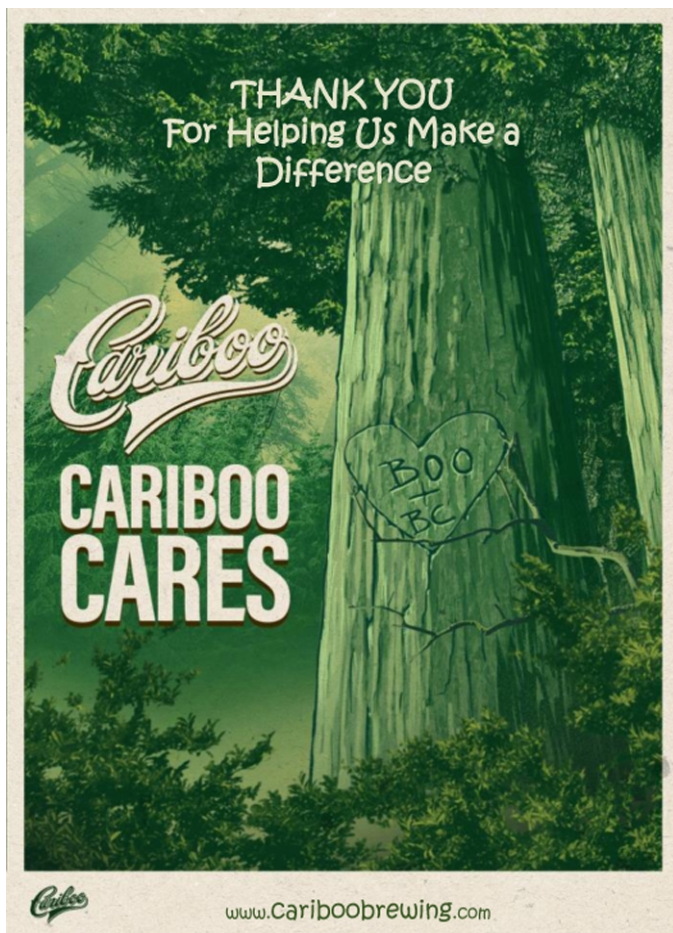
As we gather with family and friends and enjoy the many activities that happen this time of year, we also raise a glass in remembrance of our colleagues who passed away this year – Rafe Mair, Dave Barrett, Barrie Clark, Jim Nielsen, Lyall Hanson, Dr. Ray Parkinson and John Savage. Although we may not have met each of them personally, as former MLAs, we all shared a unique experience in the service of our province by being Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The New Year, 2019, is shaping up to be an interesting year. We will have the results of the provincial referendum on proportional representation, and there will be a federal election. There will be a lot to watch and follow, and much potential fodder to fill the pages of this publication. As always, our crackerjack editorial team of Brian Kieran and Rob Lee welcomes articles, letters and ideas from you, our members and newsletter subscribers.

On behalf of the entire executive of the Association of Former MLAs, I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!



Jeff Bray  
President, AFMLABC



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# BCYP gears up for 90th Legislature session

By Sheridan Hawes  
Premier, 90th BCYP

As our December session approaches, my Cabinet is hard at work creating a schedule of events for the week of Dec. 27 to 31.

On Dec. 27, we have our opening ceremony with Richard Zussman, Global News, attending as our Lieutenant Governor. On this day, we will be debating our Reply to the Throne Speech, and each member will have an opportunity to introduce himself or herself to the house. We hope you can join us in giving our new members a warm welcome to BCYP.

From Dec. 28 to 30, we will be debating our various pieces of legislation including our Parliamentary Activities Act, Camp Phoenix Act, Supply Act, and others. We also have workshops and committee meetings during these

days. Our awards ceremony and house leader elections will be taking place on Dec. 30. Throughout the week, when time permits, we will debate the Private Member's Resolutions voted on for debate by the membership.

On Dec. 31, we adjourn early as we have been invited to Government House for a light lunch and tour hosted by our patron, the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Janet Austin.

If any former MLAs wish to stop by and watch, or would like to give verbal greetings to our membership, please contact my Provincial Secretary, Callista Ryan, at [callista.ryan@bcyp.org](mailto:callista.ryan@bcyp.org). We would love to have you join us at the Legislature.



The 90th BCYP cabinet: (From top to bottom, left to right) Kishoore Ramanathan, Olivia Reid-Friesen, Natalia Porro, Astra Lund-Phillips, Sophie Sacilotto, Adriana Thom, Sheridan Hawse, Charlotte White, Lisa Ni, Victoria Ritchie.

# Samara research helps politicians engage with youth

Following the 2015 federal election, when youth (ages 18-24) voted in record numbers, Samara Canada noticed that several Members of Parliament (MPs) from different parties and regions were setting up their own youth advisory board or council. These local youth councils are generally organized by the constituency office and provide a non-partisan forum for local youth (both under 18 and over) to meet with their MP and discuss political issues.

Samara sought firsthand knowledge of the purpose, operations, and impacts of these councils, in order to develop a practical guide to help elected representatives and their staff at all levels of government run successful youth advisory bodies.

These insights were drawn from interviews with MPs, constituency office staff, and youth members themselves. They provided a glimpse into how several youth councils have formed, the various ways they can be run, and the impact they can have. Samara found that youth councils are highly adaptable to the interests and needs of youth and the elected representative involved. As such, there is no single “correct” way to organize a youth council.

Young people are just as much – if not more – socially and civically engaged than older generations. Studies find that Canadians 15-24 years of age are more likely to volunteer, be members of an organization, and have greater trust in public institutions. Youth also participate at higher rates across a range of avenues of politics, activism, and political discussion. And yet, youth who are eligible to vote are less likely to cast a ballot or to consider voting a civic duty compared to older voters. As a result, politicians tend not to speak to or hear from young people while canvassing and consulting. This, in turn, can alienate young people from the political system.

One way to break this cycle is to provide youth with direct opportunities to become involved - to take part in political decision-making, share input on issues that matter to them and meet with politicians between election periods. Organizing a youth council or advisory board is one promising way of accomplishing this.

For this project, Samara surveyed a small sample of youth councils that reflect a mix of regions and riding types, as well as MPs from different parties and with different demographic profiles. Several current or former youth members were also interviewed.

When asked why they joined the council, every youth member brought up their personal interest in politics and their desire to become more involved. Youth councils are overwhelmingly made up of youth who already hold a positive view of formal politics.

Some young interviewees mentioned that the council was their only opportunity to take part in politics, or that other avenues of participating – such as student government at the university level or youth clubs – were not as meaningful, or too competitive. Several were attracted to the non-partisan nature of the council, as they were not yet attached to a party. They also valued the opportunity to talk about issues they cared about in an open forum.

## Engaging Youth Between Elections



Having a direct exchange with their elected representative was also a source of motivation for all the members interviewed. Several members also wanted to learn about the social issues and remedies unique to their constituencies, or how to get better involved in politics generally.

Other youth wished to “get outside the bubble” of their usual social network and meet with peers who had different perspectives. Interestingly, some of these same members also noted that they applied to the council in order to connect with peers who shared similar interests.

Finally, youth council members reported that they wanted to learn practical new skills that they could add to their resumes.

When asked why they created a youth council, each MP and constituency office staffer replied that it was primarily to initiate a more meaningful dialogue with youth in the community. Several mentioned that they wished to go beyond the usual outreach strategies in schools and universities, and that a youth council would give young people a chance to speak more candidly and in greater depth.

Other MPs and constituency staff explained that there was a need to provide space for youth perspectives, and that they had started their councils to better represent youth opinions in the riding.

Another common reason for creating a youth council was to increase the interest of youth in their community and to engage them in politics. MPs and constituency staff hoped to inspire youth to pursue careers in politics and to provide members with a personal connection to government officials.

Some councils were created to gain insight into young constituents’ opinions on specific policy issues. Two MPs wished to learn how to connect with youth in general, and to use the formation of a youth council to address the accusation that sometimes politicians “speak past” young people.

For others, the decision to create a youth council included a strategic incentive. Some said that they were responding to the higher youth voter turnout of the 2015 federal election – highlighting the power of turnout to capture the attention of politicians. Others shared that establishing better relationships with youth was a party objective, and one signalled that they would use the council to “get ahead of the curve.” Another presented the formation of the youth council as a way to not “fall into the trap of having youth say [MPs] have sidelined us.”

Source: <https://www.samaracanada.com/research/political-leadership/local-youth-councils>

# Legal pot in Canada earns a resounding yawn

Following Canada's marijuana legalization process for the past year, one might be forgiven for considering Ottawa's legislated pot party pass to be the biggest deal since the invention of sliced bread.

The fact of the matter is, the nation has been stifling a huge yawn of indifference. A recent Nanos Research survey for CTV tells us most Canadians (79 per cent) are not interested in smoking marijuana. Only eight per cent said they were interested in smoking marijuana while 11 per cent said they were somewhat interested and two per cent were unsure.

Province by province the results varied with 88.6 per cent of Quebecers not interested in smoking marijuana, while BC registered the lowest number of uninterested respondents at 73.6 per cent.

This may explain the lengths to which the Government of BC has gone to educate the public regarding the dos and don'ts of puffing weed and munching brownies.

A visit to the government's cannabis clarity web page – <https://cannabis.gov.bc.ca/> – provides a comprehensive collection of cannabis permissions and denials ... most of it just plain common sense.

It states: To protect your health, keep young people safe, and help prevent crime in your community, non-medical cannabis will be sold exclusively at government-run stores, licensed private retailers, and the BC government's online store.

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) operates public retail stores and the online store. The list of public retail stores will be available on the BC Cannabis Stores website. As of Nov. 25, there was just one store in Kamloops posted on this site. Online sales will be available only through the BC government online store. Private retail stores cannot offer online sales, and delivery services for non-medical cannabis are not permitted.

The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch is responsible for licensing and monitoring private retail stores. Licensed private retailers may sell cannabis and cannabis accessories. They may not sell liquor or tobacco or any items other than cannabis and cannabis accessories. The list of licensed retailers will be available on the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch's page. Licensed retailers will be required to display a valid licence where it is visible to the public.



All legal non-medical cannabis has an excise stamp attached to its packaging. Federally-licensed producers and processors apply the appropriate excise tax stamp for British Columbia. If the product does not have a British Columbia stamp, it is not legal for sale in BC. Each province and territory has a different colour cannabis excise stamp for products sold in its jurisdiction.



Adults 19+ can smoke or vape cannabis in public spaces where tobacco smoking and vaping are allowed. Smoking and vaping cannabis are not allowed in the following public places:

- Playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks, swimming pools and spray pools, or any decks or seating areas associated these places
- Public buildings, workplaces or common areas of apartments, condos, or dormitories, and within six metres of air intakes, windows, and doorways attached to these places
- Within six metres of bus stops, transit shelters, train stations, ferry docks and similar places
- Regional and municipal parks, except for designated campsites
- Provincial parks, except for areas identified or designated
- Public patios
- Health board properties, except in designated smoking areas
- Non-medical cannabis consumption (in all forms) is banned on K-12 school properties, as well as any adjacent sidewalks or boulevards. It's also illegal for both driver and passenger(s) to consume non-medical cannabis in a car.

# At Christmas ... “withhold not thine hand”

By Jim Hume  
The Old Islander

The log cabin lay snuggled down in the foothills snow. Inside, “Trapper” John Norton put another log on the fire, pulled up his chair and chatted with his dog Rover, his only companion and a good listener.

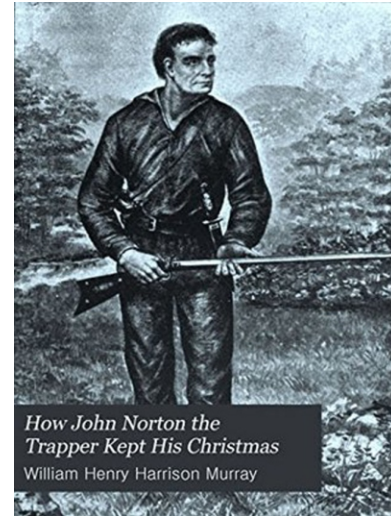
Trapper John, a fictional but believable character, and Rover and the log cabin, were created by Rev. William Henry Harrison Murray back in the late 1800s. They remain believable today and nice to know at Christmas time if you like stories about old men who sit by the fire and discuss with their lone canine companion how to best celebrate the festive season. If you’ve never met Murray’s wilderness men, Google – *How John Norton the Trapper Kept His Christmas* and *John Norton’s Vagabond*, for two Christmas stories, simply told with old-fashioned charm and carrying messages as strong and relevant as Dickens’ Scrooge.

*Vagabond* is my favourite. It tells the story of Trapper John sitting by his fire and asking Rover what they should do about the vagabonds who wander the hills, steal from legitimate traplines and are an unsavoury and untrustworthy lot, generally shunned and despised by “decent” folk. Trapper John explains to Rover that, while he doesn’t have much time for the vagabonds or their way of life, they are fellow human beings and many of them may just be down on their luck.

He says that earlier in the evening, he’d been reading “the Book” where it says: “Give to him that lacketh and from him that hath not, withhold not thine hand ...’ There it is Rover; we are to give to the man that lacks, vagabond or no vagabond. If he lacks food, we are to give him food; if he lacks garments, we are to give him garments; if he lacks Christmas dinner, Rover, we are to give him Christmas dinner ...”

So, Trapper John gouged invitations on birch-bark to a Christmas dinner at his cabin. He nailed them to trees in the vicinity of remote wilderness trails inviting all who read, vagabonds and fellow trappers, to come dine with him. And, on Christmas Day, his “table lacked not guests for nearly every chair was occupied.” Twenty men had breasted the storm that they might be at that dinner, and some had traversed a 30-mile trail to be there; a motley company gathered for a remarkable event.

Trapper John thanked everyone for honouring him by sharing his table “because I hated on this day of feasting and gladness to eat my food alone. I knew that the day would be happier if we spent it together.”



*How John Norton the Trapper Kept His Christmas*  
William Henry Harrison Murray

Then, it was time to say goodnight and goodbye. As his guests were leaving, he asked that they take with them more than just the memory of a well-fed, pleasant evening: “This be the lesson I want you all to take away with you as you go – that Christmas is a day of feasting and giving and laughing, but above everything else it is the day for forgiving and forgetting. Some of you are young – and may your days be long on the earth – and some of your heads are as white as mine and your years (left) not many, but be that as it may, whether our Christmas days be many or few let us remember in good or ill fortune, alone or with many, that Christmas above all else is the day for forgiving and forgetting.”

Trapper John reflected that while it had taken a long time for him to learn the true spirit of Christmas – “I’ve learned it at last.”

And the old man extended to his now departing guests a blessing and a request I first brought to readers in a column some 30-years ago, and have repeated a few times over the years. I do so again without apology because it remains forever timely – and needed.

*“Ah, friends, dear friends, as years go on and heads get gray – how fast the guests do go! Touch hands, touch hands with those that stay. Strong hands to weak, old hands to young, around the Christmas board, touch hands. The false forget, the foe forgive, for every guest will go and every fire burn low and cabin empty stand. Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas day may ever come to host or guests again. Touch hands.”*

Have a wonderful, loving, giving and forgiving, Christmas.

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# Many Christmas traditions originate in Britain

Christmas is nominally celebrated as the birthday of Jesus although there is no evidence he was born on that day. It was in 440 A.D. that the early Christian church officially proclaimed Dec. 25 as the birth of Christ.

For most of history, Christmas was just one of many festivals celebrated throughout the year.

In England, Christmas was initially called Yule, an old Saxon word for mid-winter. For centuries, it was traditional to burn a Yule log in the fireplace at Christmas. The Yule Log was an entire tree that was carefully chosen and brought into the house with grand ceremony. The largest end of the log would be placed into the fire hearth while the rest of the tree stuck out into the room. The log would be lit from the remains of the previous year's log which had been carefully stored away and slowly fed into the fire through the Twelve Days of Christmas.

When the Saxons were converted to Christianity the word Yule came to mean Jesus' birthday. The word Christmas (Christ-mass) was not used until the 11th century.

Our modern Christmas began in the 19th Century which is when many of the things that make up a "traditional" English Christmas were invented – Christmas trees, Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, and of course, Father Christmas or Santa Claus with his white beard and red costume. Hanging out stockings to be filled with presents was first recorded in parts of England and became common in the late 19th Century.

Christmas trees were used in central Europe from the Middle Ages. By the 16th Century they were decorated, and by the 17th Century, tinsel was being used. Other Christmas ornaments included paper flowers, candles, barley sugar, gingerbread, and wax shapes. The first Christmas trees in England appeared in the early 19th Century, but they did not become popular until a few years after the marriage of German Prince Albert and his cousin, Victoria, heir presumptive to the British throne. In 1848, the Illustrated London News showed a picture of the couple beside a Christmas tree, with the result that Christmas trees soon became fashionable in England. Then, in 1882, Edward Johnson – Thomas Edison's friend and partner, put together the first string of electric Christmas tree lights.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by John Horsley, shortly after Rowland Hill introduced the penny post. Before then, it would not have been feasible for ordinary people to send cards because of the cost of postage. However, with the advent of the penny post, by the 1860s, Christmas cards were part of the seasonal tradition in England.

Christmas crackers came on the scene in 1847. A confectioner from London named Tom Smith, while visiting Paris, saw sugar almonds being sold wrapped in tissue paper and was inspired to create the Christmas cracker. To boost sales, he later added little messages to the sweets and the explosive bang element. Eventually, his son added other extras such as hats and small toys.

There are many stories and legends concerning the origin of Santa Claus. Father Christmas and Santa Claus were originally two different figures. In England, Father Christmas was a man dressed in green (representing the return of Spring) who was supposed to visit families and feast with them at Christmas. He did not bring gifts. However, in the 19th Century, in England, Father Christmas merged with the Dutch Santa Claus – Sinterklaas or Sint-Nicolaas believed to be based on St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop who lived in Turkey in the 4th Century AD. His legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus.

Today, St. Nicholas is revered by many Christians as a saint. Because of the many miracles attributed to him, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, brewers, pawnbrokers, and students in various cities and countries around Europe.

St. Nicolas died on December 6, 343 and was buried in his cathedral. However, in the year 1087, his remains were taken to Italy to save them from the Turks who were persecuting Christians and destroying churches and holy objects. The bones are now kept in the Church named after him in the Italian port of Bari. On St. Nicholas feast day, the sailors of Bari still carry his statue from the Cathedral out to sea, so that he can bless the waters and so give them safe voyages throughout the year.





*In December 1848, the Illustrated London News published an engraving of the Royal Family gathered around a Christmas tree. The scene helped popularize the tabletop Christmas tree in England.*

Many parts of Europe formally observe St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6 when, in memory of his generosity, it is traditional to give gifts or to give to charity. Children in families who celebrate St. Nicholas Day receive treats – including candy, cookies, small toys, or fruit – in stockings, socks, shoes or bags. In Poland, Santa brings gifts on Dec. 6. St. Nicholas Day is a religious observance but not a nationwide public holiday in countries such as Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Dutch took the tradition of “Sinterklaas” to America in the 16th Century. In time, Santa Claus evolved into a figure who brings gifts to sleeping children at Christmas. The modern Santa Claus or Father Christmas was invented in 1862 by a German-American artist called Thomas Nast and in the late 1860s, Santa Claus as we know him today was imported into England.

Sources: <http://www.stnicholasil.org/the-life-of-st-nicholas/>;  
<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/12daysofchristmas.shtm>

# Employing golden agers? Canada is middling

By Kristine St-Laurent  
Senior Policy Analyst  
BC Business Council

In common with most industrialized countries, Canada's population is aging at an accelerating pace due to lower fertility rates and longer life expectancies. The combined effect is transforming population structures across Canada (and many other countries).

As populations age, countries will have to rely more heavily on productivity growth and increased labour force participation from under-represented groups to maintain living standards and provide tax revenues to pay for public services.

Workers who are 55 years and above – considered to be in their “golden age” – are one of the groups under-represented in the labour market.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) recently produced the 2018 iteration of the firm's Golden Age Index to quantify how well different OECD countries are doing in harnessing the talent of older workers.

The Index assesses the impact of older workers on various aspects of the labour market, including employment, earnings, the gender gap and participation in training. PwC estimates that as much as \$3.5 trillion could be added to the combined GDP of the advanced economies by encouraging more people at or nearing retirement age to stay in the workforce.

Overall, the Index shows an upward trend in the number of older individuals remaining in work. Iceland tops the Index with 84 per cent of the 55-64 age range employed, compared with the OECD average of 60 per cent. New Zealand was second (78 per cent), and Israel (66.8 per cent) took third place. Germany, Israel and New Zealand showed the most significant improvements, with all climbing in the Index since 2003.

At the opposite side of the scale are Luxembourg with 40 per cent of the same age group employed, Greece with 37 per cent, and lastly Turkey with 34 per cent. At 62 per cent employment in the 55-64 demographic, Canada is in the middle of the OECD pack in 18th place. Canada has dropped in the rankings from its 2015 position.

So, what motivates people to work past the “traditional” retirement age? The evidence suggests that a mix of personal circumstances/preferences and policy factors can explain the high employment rate among older workers in the top performing countries. The Golden Age Index identifies policies and practices that support continued workforce attachment in the highest-ranking economies:

**1. Increasing the retirement age:** Top performers in the Index have opted to keep people in the workforce longer by increasing the retirement age. Not only does this bolster government tax revenues, but it also helps retain the knowledge and experience of older workers a little longer.

**2. Further training and support for older workers:** Top performers in the Index also adopted measures to support workers with on-going professional development and retraining programs. Twinning this with an increased retirement age likely accounts for higher employment rates among “golden age” workers in some countries, as life-long learning is critical to facilitate the skills needed for longer careers. Looking ahead, there is strong evidence that the ongoing digital disruption will be skill-biased so that low-skill and low-wage workers are at the highest risk of automation. Adapting to the digital economy may be harder for some aging workers. Providing incentives for on-the-job tech training, upskilling and professional development can help to keep older workers in the labour force.

**3. Flexible working arrangements:** According to the Index, one of the primary reasons that older people opt-out of work is inflexible work arrangements. Making work options more flexible is another means to encourage longer careers. This can be done by increasing opportunities for part-time, contract or temporary jobs, as well as by offering partial retirement options.

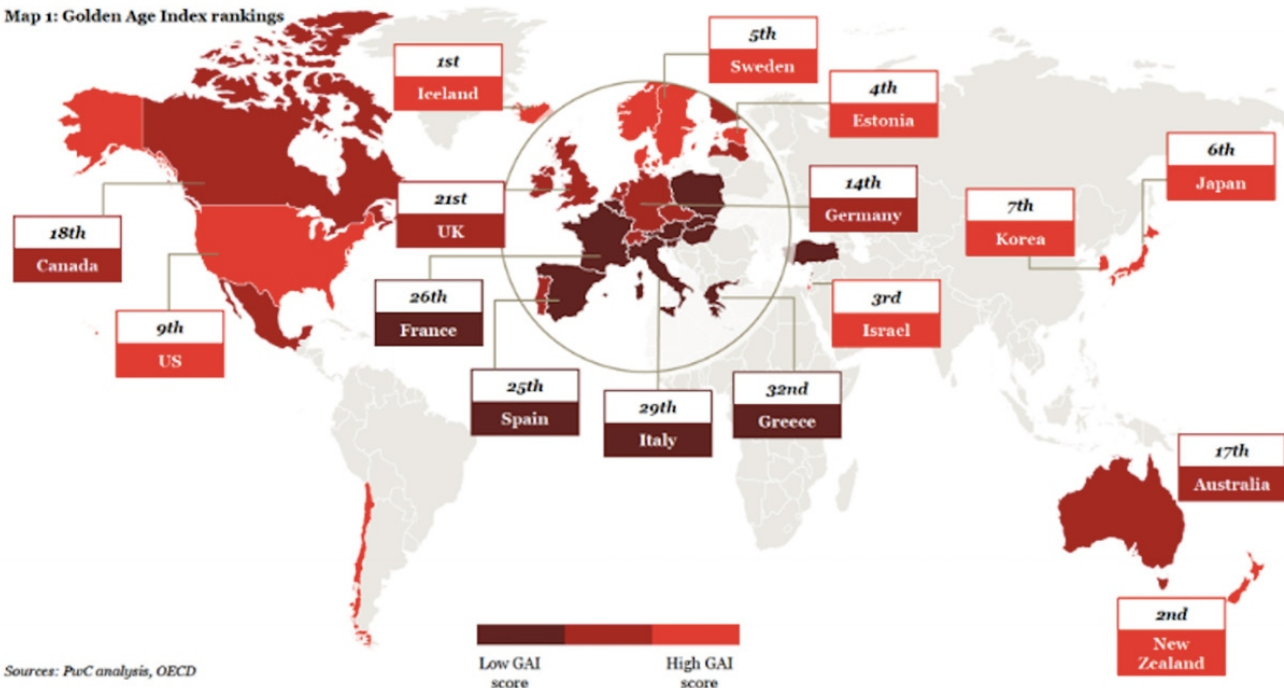
Going forward, older workers can be expected to have an even greater presence in the Canadian workforce as the 55+ population continues to swell. Top marks on the Golden Age Index go to countries that have put policy measures in place and implemented workplace practices that make work more attractive to the 55+ age group. Canada's middling performance in the Index suggests there is more that employers and policy-makers here can do to increase flexibility and expand labour force participation among older adults.



## Our Golden Age Index explores the economic prospects of older workers across 35 OECD countries over time

Iceland and New Zealand continue to occupy the top two places, with Israel and Estonia outperforming Sweden this year. The Southern European countries including Turkey, Greece and Italy perform less strongly on the index.

Map 1: Golden Age Index rankings



Source: PwC Golden Age Index.

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## The Trumpy Bear "screams America"

WASHINGTON - When Trumpy Bear first emerged via an infomercial, the public declined to cuddle him. Perhaps the Donald comb-over put them off.



Now, more than a year later, the furry stranger has been ushered back into the limelight by a new round of advertisements just in time for the holidays. But still, Trumpy Bear remains somewhat of an American mystery.

Trumpy Bear's Facebook page describes him as a limited edition, collectible teddy bear that "screams America."

The bear's creator, V.L. Lange, from a company called "Reel Vision, says: "When President Donald Trump was elected to office as the first non-politician president, I felt it was time to name an American fearless grizzly bear after our new president."

## Oops — ignore that invite says U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy in Australia has apologized for accidentally emailing out an invitation to a "cat pyjama-jam" featuring a photo of a cat dressed as the *Sesame Street* character Cookie Monster.



The email reportedly sent from the State Department, featured some Latin text and an RSVP button to the event, according to the *Australian Associated Press*.

Spokesperson Gavin Sundwall told the AAP the email was a "training error" by new staff testing out a newsletter platform. It's unclear how many people received the invitation.

"Sorry to disappoint those of you who were hoping to attend this 'cat pyjama-jam' party, but such an event falls well outside our area of expertise," Sundwall said.

## A twist on the talking head

"This is my very first day at Xinhua News Agency," says a sharply dressed artificial intelligence news anchor. "I look forward to bringing you the brand-new news experiences."

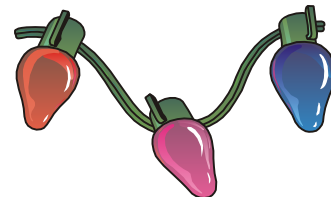
China's Xinhua News Agency has billed the technology as the "world's first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor," unveiled at the World Internet Conference in China's Zhejiang province.



The anchor "learns from live broadcasting videos by himself and can read texts as naturally as a professional news anchor," Xinhua says. Some disagree about whether the technology appears natural.

The AI anchor was produced with "facial landmark localization" and "face reconstruction," according to *China Daily*. As the BBC notes, it "appears that photo-like facial features have been applied to a body template and animated."

The *South China Morning Post* suggests it could save networks money in news anchor salaries, and even "one day challenge the human variety." But some experts are skeptical about the kind of news-watching experience an AI news anchor offers. "It's quite difficult to watch for more than a few minutes. It's very flat, very single-paced, it's not got rhythm, pace or emphasis," Michael Wooldridge from the University of Oxford told the BBC.



## Holiday Diversions answers

*The Big Break* movie quiz

1B, 2J, 3C, 4I, 5E, 6D, 7G, 8H, 9F, 10A

Holiday Scramble

ICE, SNOW, COLD, CHILL. HE'S COOL

# Len Norris



December 24, 1975

*"This is George's finest hour ... his shopping spree is over ...  
he doesn't know he got the wrong sizes ... forgot the batteries ... hasn't added the bills ..."*

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

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

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

**By cheque:** Send cheques to the Victoria Foundation at #109 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G2. Please ensure they are made out to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

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

Go to [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

Click on the [Make a Donation](#) button and then on the "Online" link and then the [CanadaHelps](#) link which will take you to the Foundation's page on the CanadaHelps web site.

Click to indicate whether you want to donate now or monthly and you will be taken through the steps to make your donation.

In the section for designation of your gift, click on the drop down menu to select the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.

You may pay with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Interac or through a PayPal account.

After you pay for your gift, CanadaHelps.org will send you an online receipt.

There are several privacy permissions available. If you choose to include your name and address in the information which is sent to the Victoria Foundation, the Association will be pleased to acknowledge your gift.

If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or [sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

# Member News

Please send news about your activities to [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com) for the next newsletter.

## Where are they now?

Each issue we ask a former Member of the Legislative Assembly a series of questions. What drew them to public service; what lessons have they taken away; and, most important, what are they doing now.



This month we welcome Allan Warnke, Liberal MLA for Richmond-Steveston from 1991 to 1996.

### What prompted you to seek public office?

In 1983, the provincial Liberals in Vancouver-Point Grey asked me to be their candidate in the provincial election, and I saw this as an opportunity to advocate issues including education and the environment (later I submitted presentations to the Sullivan Commission on Education and the Connaghan Commission on the Environment).

I had returned to British Columbia in 1981 to teach at UBC – public policy, public administration, the administration of justice, and the Canadian government based on my experience and graduate education in Ontario. But I was also involved with several successful campaigns with the Liberals in Toronto and already helping the BC Liberals organize for future campaigns. In that election, I was one of three Liberal candidates (out of 52) who received more than 2000 votes. Then, in 1988, I was asked by local Liberals in Powell River to be their federal candidate. I ran a good campaign, doubling the vote, still losing to Ray Skelly of the NDP.

In 1989, a candidate search committee for the Liberals approached me at my home in Richmond and asked me to run in the next provincial election. I declined as I just accepted a position as Department Chair at Vancouver Island University. I was approached again a year later and was acclaimed as the Liberal candidate for the 1991 election.

### Which political figure most influenced you?

I was interested in politics in my early years. I met Tommy Douglas in Langley, and he recognized my grandmother. He beamed and said: "Agnes! How are you?" Until that moment, I never knew her name. Later, in Toronto, I supported and got to know John Roberts and Bob Kaplan very well. My mentor was Brian Bailey of Thornhill (a former Reeve), the best campaigner anywhere, respected even by the Conservatives. We became close friends, and he along with his friend Keith Davey, taught me the most about effective campaigning.

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

Not really. I was well prepared, and public life was what I expected. I loved campaigning but also understood government organization and legislative procedure. And I found the role of a policy advocate very rewarding.

### What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

My experience was unusual. I lost my university tenure while an MLA and being an MLA cost me a lot of money. But the greatest impact was on my family - my wife Geraldine and my mother. Enough said.

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

Despite the adversarial nature of the legislature, those facing you are not enemies.

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

Although retired from teaching at the university, I continued to present research papers at conferences worldwide. Geraldine accompanied me, and we would share these experiences. She died July 2, 2018, suddenly and unexpectedly. We were to go to Mission Hill in Riverside, California in November, but I went alone. I confess, without her, I will give my last paper in Bonn next year.

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

This article provides me with the opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to CFAx where the late Terry Moore knew he could count on me for comments ranging from Trump to the Middle East. I must say when Terry died in late September, I felt it personally. My heart went out to the entire CFAx staff. This article also allows me to express my appreciation for Hugh Curtis who continually encouraged me to keep up with provincial affairs.



# HOLIDAY DIVERSIONS

by Rob Lee

## The Big Break Christmas movie child star edition

A number of movie and TV stars got their big breaks by appearing in a Christmas movie - who can forget Macaulay Culkin in *Home Alone*? Below are a number of movie and TV stars, along with their most notable movies and TV series. Match them with the Christmas movie role that launched their careers.

1. Peter Billingsley, *Iron Man* executive producer
2. Thomas Brodie-Sangster, *Game of Thrones*
3. Johnny Galecki, *The Big Bang Theory*
4. Nicholas Hoult, *X-Men*
5. David Krumholtz, *Numbers*, *The Deuce*
6. Juliette Lewis, *Cape Fear*, *August: Osage County*
7. Jake Lloyd, *Star Wars - Episode 1*
8. Taylor Momsen, *Gossip Girl*
9. Mara Wilson, *Matilda*
10. Natalie Wood, *West Side Story*



- A. Susan Walker, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)
- B. Ralphie Parker, *A Christmas Story* (1983)
- C. Rusty Griswold, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)
- D. Audrey Griswold, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)
- E. Bernard, *The Santa Clause* (1989)
- F. Susan Walker, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1994)
- G. Jamie Langston, *Jingle All The Way* (1996)
- H. Cindy Lou Who, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000)
- I. Marcus Brewer, *About A Boy* (2002)
- J. Sam, *Love Actually* (2003)

Answers on page 12

## Holiday Scramble

Unscramble these four words  
one letter to each square,  
to form four holiday words

CEI  
□ □ □

WONS  
□ □ □ □

DOLC  
□ □ □ □

LILCH  
□ □ □ □ □



Now arrange the circled letters to form the  
surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: !  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answers on page 12

## Christmas Quotes

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.  
~ *Winston Churchill*

There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus;  
he doesn't believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.  
~ *Bob Phillips*

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold,  
everything is softer and more beautiful.  
~ *Norman Vincent Peale*

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess  
created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it  
up too quickly.  
~ *Andy Rooney*



*35 years ago*

## Another first for Canadian women



Thirty-five years ago this month, then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau would make history when he put forward Jeanne Sauvé's name to Queen Elizabeth II as his recommendation on who should succeed Governor General Edward Schreyer as the Queen's representative.

In 1983, Sauvé became the first female governor general in Canadian history, and only the second woman amongst all the Commonwealth realms to assume the equivalent office. Elmira Minita Gordon was appointed Governor General of Belize in 1981.

In the national media, reaction to Sauvé's appointment was generally positive, with Sauvé's elegance, refined nature, and bilingualism viewed as an asset to such a posting, despite speculation regarding her ability to remain non-partisan, as would be expected of the vicereine.

By Jan. 15 of the following year, Sauvé resigned as an MP, and as Speaker in the House of Commons, and two days later she was hospitalized. Rumours circulated that it was due to cancer, but the official story was that she had contracted a respiratory virus, which was further complicated by an allergy to antibiotics. Her illness worsened, leading colleagues to believe that she would die, and Canadian Press and the CBC drafted preliminary obituaries.

Sauvé did recover and was released from care on Mar. 3, though the illness had delayed her installation ceremony, which had been scheduled to take place that month. Sauvé remained secretive about the exact nature of the illness and did not pay attention to rumours that she had developed Hodgkin's lymphoma, stating in interviews that it was a private matter and that she was well enough to uphold her responsibilities.

Sauvé's path from her home in Saskatchewan to Ottawa was circuitous. At a young age, her parents sent her from Saskatchewan to finish her education at the Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire Convent in Ottawa. She then studied at the University of Ottawa. After that, she took part in many youth movements, including the Jeunesse étudiante catholique de Montréal. From 1942 to 1948,

she travelled in North America and served as a bilingual spokesperson for the Mouvement de l'action sociale. In 1948, she married Maurice Sauvé and the couple decided to move to London, and then to Paris. She worked as an assistant to the Youth Secretariat of UNESCO and obtained a diplôme d'études in French civilization from the University of Paris.

On her return to Canada in 1952, Jeanne Sauvé began a career as a freelance journalist for CBC's Radio-Canada, CTV, and several American networks. She wrote editorials in major Canadian papers and was very active in many organizations, including the Union des artistes, the YMCA, Bushnell Communications, the Canadian Institute on Public Affairs, and the Institut sur la recherche politique. In 1982, Jeanne Sauvé decided to enter federal politics. Once elected, she accepted the position of Minister for Science and Technology, becoming the first woman from Quebec to enter the federal cabinet. Later, she was appointed Minister of the Environment and Minister of Communications. She was recognized for her excellent management and leadership skills. On April 14, 1980, she was elected Speaker of the House of Commons, becoming Parliament's first woman Speaker. She presided over a number of contentious debates, including the Repatriation of the Constitution of Canada in 1981 and the omnibus bill that legalized homosexuality in 1982. While she was Speaker, Sauvé restructured the administrative and financial management of the House of Commons. Her term as Speaker ended on November 30, 1983, after a long and tumultuous parliamentary session of three and one-half years.

In addition to her official duties as governor general, she advocated for peace, national unity, and youth. She crisscrossed the country to promote national unity and to make the governor general's role better known. For health reasons, she withdrew from public life and used her time to create a \$10-million fund for youth.

During her prestigious career, Sauvé was named Member of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Companion of the Order of Canada, and Commander of the Order of Military Merit. She was also awarded the Canadian Centennial Medal and the Queen's Jubilee Medal. On January 26, 1993, Jeanne Sauvé died in Montreal.

Source:

[http://edimage.ca/edimage/grandspersonnages/en/carte\\_v03.html](http://edimage.ca/edimage/grandspersonnages/en/carte_v03.html)