

Global's Keith Baldrey is the 2018 AFMLABC dinner speaker



(Editor's note: What a delight to have Keith Baldrey as the AFMLABC dinner speaker this year. Trust me, this Press Gallery veteran has stories to tell. Keith and I go back three decades when I was in the gallery for the *Province* and he was there for the *Vancouver Sun*. Those were heady days for BC's two major "competing" newspapers. We fought like Pitbulls for news scraps and we took no prisoners. After 30 years in the political trenches, Baldrey sits at the head of the class.)

Keith Baldrey – Global BC's chief political correspondent, Legislative Press Gallery veteran of more than 30 years and one of BC's best known political commentators – will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Association of Former MLAs of BC annual dinner at Government House September 21st.

Baldrey joined *The Vancouver Sun* in 1984, and moved to *The Sun*'s legislature bureau in 1986, becoming *The Sun*'s legislature bureau chief in 1989. He joined BCTV (now Global TV) in 1995.

(See the Annual Dinner Ticket notice on Page 15 & 16.)

Even though Baldrey has been covering politics full-time since 1986, his interest in the subject goes back a lot further than that. Growing up in the 1960s, he became hooked on current events at an early age, as tumultuous events such as the assassinations of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War and its protests, and later Watergate all played out on the evening television news (Walter Cronkite was his hero) and the front page of his favorite newspaper, *The Vancouver Sun*.

After a stint in student newspapers and freelancing (including covering the 1983 Progressive Conservative leadership race – won by Brian Mulroney – for the now defunct *Columbian* newspaper in New Westminster), he landed a job as the city editor of the *Solidarity Times*, the official paper of the Operation Solidarity protest movement against the then-Social Credit government's restraint program.

The *Solidarity Times* inevitably folded when the protest movement collapsed, and in May 1984 Baldrey joined *The Vancouver Sun*. Immediately, he was assigned to the paper's federal election coverage team. A short stint as a crime and courts reporter followed, and then one day, in 1986, Social Credit Premier Bill Bennett announced he was stepping down.

Baldrey immediately turned to city desk and said: "I'll phone the next premier, the guy who will replace him!" When he said he was referring to ex-cabinet minister Bill Vander Zalm, there were guffaws all around, but, sure enough, Vander Zalm won a multi-ballot victory at the party leadership convention. Baldrey became a full-time political reporter for *The Sun* and joined the Legislative Press Gallery.

He co-wrote a book on the Vander Zalm government with Gary Mason, a then-Sun colleague and now *Globe and Mail* columnist. Baldrey quit *The Sun* suddenly in early 1995 and joined BCTV, the television news ratings giant. He's still there – although the station is now called Global BC, and like all reporters these days, Baldrey finds himself filing for various television newscasts, the station's web site and, of course, its Facebook page.

Baldrey is a regular commentator on CKNW radio and has written a syndicated newspaper column for almost 20 years (the column appears in the Glacier Media chain, including such papers as the *North Shore News* and the *Burnaby Now*).

He has covered 10 premiers and eight election campaigns and doesn't plan to retire any time soon.

Baldrey lives in Victoria with his wife and fellow journalist, Anne Mullens, their two daughters, and their Shiba Inu dog, Teddy.

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:

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

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

Thank You and Miscellany

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From the Editor's Desk

It is a pleasure this issue to feature a study on seniors' mobility, just released by BC's Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie, as well as some nonagenarian context courtesy of our resident "Old Islander" Jim Hume.

Mackenzie's study contains this conclusion: "It is important to recognize the growing dynamic of seniors who wish to remain as independent as possible and engaged with their communities, friends, and families, but are no longer able to drive."

And, Jim – still driving at 94 (much to the chagrin of some know-it-all whippersnappers) and relishing enviable comfort in his retirement community – reminds us that the "golden age ... turns to dross" for many seniors not as fortunate as he.

Many readers of this newsletter are firmly ensconced in the seniors demographic. I hope these two pieces give you some food for thought.

Global's Keith Baldrey is no stranger to our readers. Back in the day, many of you stood on the receiving end of his microphone, his camera lights burning holes in your self-confidence. After 30 years roaming the corridors of power, it is safe to say not much gets by him. He tells it like it is and has earned our regard for his fairness and insightfulness.

Keith is going to be a great speaker at the AFMLABC dinner at Government House on September 21st and I suggest you get your tickets early. Rob Lee has set up the back two pages of this issue to make the ordering of tickets as easy as possible.

Our next Summer newsletter will arrive on your doorstep toward the end of July. It would be nice to feature a photo album page of some of your summer adventures. You can email your hi-res jpegs to Rob and me at ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com.

A summer of fun at Government House

Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin will be hosting a number of public events in June and July at Government House. It is an opportunity to see and possibly meet the new L-G, and to see the inside of Government House.

Public Tours

Visit Government House for a tour of the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. Volunteer tour guides outline the role and responsibilities of the Lieutenant Governor and share the fascinating history of this National Historic Site.

Public tours are scheduled one Saturday a month, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tour dates are June 2, July 7, and August 4. Tours are one hour in length. Admission is free, and no booking is required. However, tours have a maximum capacity of 100 people, so spaces will be allotted on a first come first serve basis.

Note that tours of the public rooms are available to school groups and non-profit groups and must be booked at least four weeks in advance.

Uniformed Services Ball

On June 9, Government House invites all men and women of the uniformed services – army, air force, navy, emergency services, fire, ambulance, police, etc. – and their guests to the annual Uniformed Services Ball.

Included in a ticket is a stand-up dinner and open full bar. The evening features live music from funk, soul and r&b band The Midnights, with dancing in Government House's beautiful ballroom. Time: 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$100. Dress: Mess Kit/Black Tie with Decorations.

To purchase tickets, please fill out a Ticket Purchase Form (<http://itgov.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TicketPurchaseForm.pdf>) and send by email to GHRsvp@gov.bc.ca or by fax to 250-387-2077 or call 250-356-0927 to place an order over the phone.

Music on the Lawn – and open house

July 5: Rukus – classic rock. 6 p.m. At the Bandshell. Free. Food trucks onsite.

July 12: Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes – blues. 6 p.m. At the Bandshell. Free. Food trucks onsite.

July 19: 5 Jacks and a Jill – old faves and new raves. 6 p.m. At the Bandshell. Free. Food trucks onsite.



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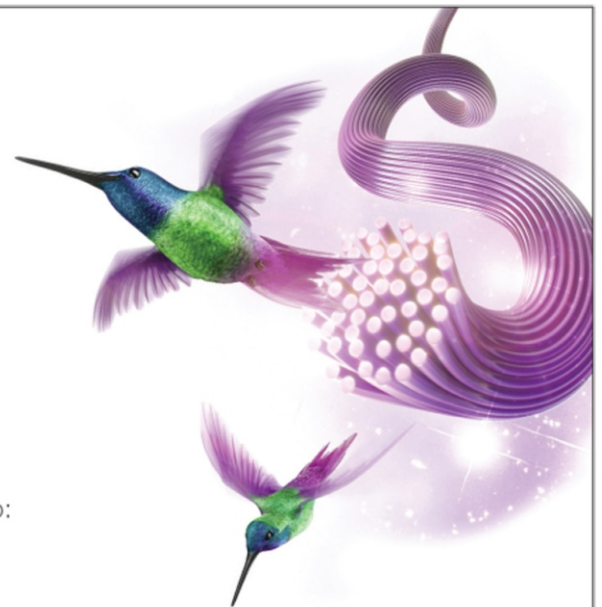
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Kinder Morgan ... by the numbers

Protests against Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline have followed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for months, from Vancouver to Ottawa to London. Not London, Ontario. London, England.

The protests from the United Kingdom's branch of Greenpeace during Trudeau's recent visit for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting serve as an indication of the scale of interest this pipeline debate has garnered. But, while Canadian protesters may find unity in the demonstration by their international counterparts, the broader Canadian public is less enthusiastic about resistance to this project.

An Angus Reid Institute study of the Trans Mountain conflict finds Canadians are three times more likely to say the protesters (the Canadian ones) do not represent the mainstream view of their compatriots than to say they do.

This opinion may be driven by the perceived benefits of approval or consequent harms of rejection on this project. Six-in-10 Canadians (59 per cent) say the pipeline expansion would help the Canadian economy overall, while one-in-five (17 per cent) say it would have negative consequences.

As the project has continued, protests have increased. Since March of this year, roughly 200 more people have been arrested, including federal Green Party leader Elizabeth May and federal NDP MP Kennedy Stewart.

While protesters have vowed to continue, most Canadians are not of the belief that this group represents the mainstream view of their neighbours. In fact, six-in-10 Canadians say this group represents a fringe view, while just 23 per cent disagree.

Notably, when asked whether the protests they have seen make them more or less likely to support the pipeline, only in Manitoba and Quebec do the demonstrations have the desired effect. In each case, a marginal number of respondents say they're more likely to oppose the expansion from what they have seen.

While Kinder Morgan has signed mutual benefit agreements with more than 40 First Nations thus far, a number of other First Nations leaders have



continued to state that these do not necessarily constitute consent, and the community remains divided.

This process and a potential resolution to concerns will be important going forward. Two-thirds of Canadians (68 per cent) agree that maintaining a positive relationship between the government and those First Nations that oppose the pipeline should be given significant consideration during this process. This includes a firm majority in all regions outside of Alberta. Many opponents – including Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs – claim that Kinder Morgan did not attain “consent or social licence” from British Columbians and Indigenous peoples for this project, which has led to conflict and delays. A majority of Canadians agree.

Six-in-10 (58 per cent) say that Kinder Morgan brought much of this problem upon itself by not ensuring social licence with First Nations people. Just one-in-five (20 per cent) disagree. Even among supporters of the pipeline, 56 per cent say that Kinder Morgan could have done a better job.

If the Trudeau government's strategy in gaining public support for this project is to make the economic case for the country, it may just succeed. While there have been cases made in support of and in opposition to the pipeline from a strictly economic perspective, Canadians tend to lean toward the support argument.

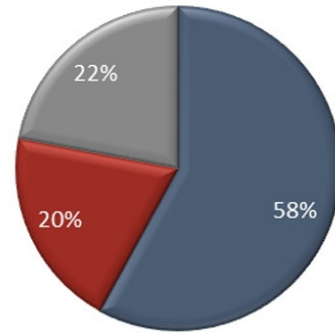
When asked whether building the pipeline would help, hurt, or have no impact on the Canadian economy, Canadians are overwhelmingly positive about the perceived benefits.

Three-quarters of Canadians say that one of the

Three-quarters of Canadians say that one of the considerations in this discussion is the importance of maintaining Canada's reputation as a strong place to invest. The same number say that the independence and expertise of Canada's regulatory process is at play here.

While the desire for economic growth is clearly evident among the Canadian public, so too is the concern about the associated risks of the project. Asked to consider the tension between economic benefits and environmental risk, one-in-three (36 per cent) say that they believe the risk versus benefit trade-off is close to equal, while one-in-four (24 per cent) say the risks outweigh the benefits.

Agree/disagree with the statement:
"Kinder Morgan could have done a better job earning public support for this project and brought much of this on themselves"



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Not sure/Can't say



Lyall Hanson dead at 88

Former Vernon mayor, MLA and cabinet minister Lyall Hanson died April 23rd at age 88 following a lengthy illness.

Hanson was mayor of Vernon, starting in 1981, before entering provincial politics in 1986, becoming a Social Credit MLA in the Okanagan-North riding from 1986 to 1991, and then Okanagan-Vernon from 1991 to 1996.

He served under then-Premier Bill Vander Zalm as Minister of Labour and Consumer Affairs from 1986 to 1989, and as Minister of Municipal Affairs from 1989 to 1991.

Lyall's Victoria former roommate and colleague, Bruce Strachan, recalls his friend's "baptism by fire."

"Lyall and I met in 1986. It was his first provincial win, but he came to Victoria with considerable municipal electoral experience. He had served as a city councillor, a regional district director and mayor of Vernon. Lyall was appointed to cabinet and the tough Labour portfolio," Strachan told OOTD.

"As a new minister, he handled two very contentious pieces of legislation like an old pro. It was a baptism by fire, but Lyall stayed cool, patient and saw the bills through to enactment. Those of us who served in previous parliaments were amazed at how quickly Lyall got up to speed on the legislative process.

"Since we were both living in Victoria from Monday to Friday morning only, we took an apartment together. It was a good working arrangement and we got along well. The 34th Parliament was not without its contentious times, but, through it all, Lyall kept a calm demeanour and never let the peripheral political issues get in the way of his doing a good job for his portfolio or the constituency.

"In 1991, I was defeated along with a number of my colleagues; however, Lyall kept his seat and stayed on as an MLA until the general election of 1996.

"Never one to sit still, Lyall led an active life after politics, serving as president of the Vernon SPCA, a member of the O'Keefe Ranch board of directors, chair of People Place and as a director of the Vernon Women's Transition House.

"In 2000, I bought a piece of recreational property in the North Okanagan and Lyall and I continued our friendship. As the years went by, Lyall's health began to fail and he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. It was tough to see the disease take its toll, but, through it all, Lyall stayed strong mentally and enjoyed discussing the issues of the day. Particularly political issues.



"Our last visit was at Christmas. There was no doubt he was failing and even carrying on a conversation was difficult; but, in spite of this, Lyall was pleasant. He had no complaints and spent a good deal of time asking about others. That's just the type of fellow he was.

"It was difficult to watch someone who had such a full and active life as Lyall succumb to a terrible disease like Parkinson's, but he left this world as he had served it, with a genuine interest in others, compassion, and dignity," Strachan said.

In an interview with the Vernon Morning Star, Vander Zalm said: "Lyall was one of the finest people I had the pleasure of serving with during all of my long political involvement. He was straight, honest and a good guy. I'm sorry to hear of his passing."

Current Vernon-Monashee MLA Eric Foster paid tribute to Hanson in the Legislature: "Lyall was the mayor of Vernon before he was an MLA, a tireless supporter of our community at that time, and certainly after he retired from provincial politics. To many of us in those days — younger, aspiring politicians — he was a great mentor and a source of a lot of knowledge. At the end of the Social Credit era, Lyall was one of the few Socreds that we managed to get re-elected."

Anne Clarke served with Hanson on Vernon council and succeeded Hanson as mayor in 1986. "Lyall was the one who encouraged me to run for mayor," said Clarke. "He was a really good businessman, full of common sense. Whenever we had reports from staff, his approach was very business-like and down to earth. We worked well with council as a team. We could give input and he would change his mind on something if he heard something that made sense."

The best is yet to be? Not for every senior

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

In his poetic tribute to Rabbi Ben Ezra, Robert Browning wrote: "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." He must have been kidding as he spoke to worried citizens breaking through the traditional three score years and 10.

Don't worry about your loss of drive and energy, the poet said. After 70, our lives will get better than the best you have ever known. He was claiming that a dream of faith was fact; that the last steps we take in mortal life are the first we take in paradise once we clear this fumble-bumble stretch of time we fondly call "the golden age." That is, before discovering how quickly gold can turn to dross.

I envy Browning's faith, but do not share it. As I move through my nonagenarian years I am fortunate that at the age of 94 I am still in fairly good health and well settled as a resident of Berwick Royal Oak Seniors Retirement Community. When I moved into my country residence 18 months ago, I promised to keep my blog readers informed about life in the slow lane.

It's another of the many promises made but never kept – until today when I am reminded by BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie that there are many hundreds of seniors in my nonagenarian class lacking the comforts I take for granted.

Faltering minds and bodies, and a lack of thoughtful government programs keep them in isolation and mostly forgotten. On Page 8 of this month's issue of OOTD, we read that these are the people Ms. Mackenzie seeks to help. There could not be a more worthy cause.

Being still licensed to drive my car, I am able to make and meet medical appointments as required. But, even if I could not drive myself, Berwick Royal Oak has a service for residents that provides transportation to and from medical appointments. It has some minor restrictions, but by and large handles the Monday through Friday rides to appointments smoothly.

Sadly, there are far too many isolated seniors without help of any kind.

My only problem in driving myself is my irritation when younger people express surprise that at 94 I'm allowed out in public in charge of a motor vehicle. I ask them if their concern has to do with my age or if they feel I'm too far gone physically or mentally. The response is usually modest embarrassment as they assure me my mind seems okay and that while I may not be ready to run a marathon, I appear to be fit enough to drive to my doctor's office. Then they add: "But, at 94? ..." whatever the hell that means.

My doctor – and yes, I know I'm extremely fortunate to have one – put me through my bi-annual driver's health tests six months ago. He tested me mentally and physically with some tough reflex reaction tests. He must have given me a passing grade because my licence was renewed for another five years.



I like to think my driving record helped. I started driving 75 years ago in England and my record is soiled with only two speeding tickets – both picked up in the 1960s on a same-day Sunday drive from Kamloops to Vancouver.

When it comes to the community support referenced by the Seniors Advocate in her report, I am blessed. At Berwick, things run as smoothly as they should in a small village. That's what Berwick Royal Oak really is – a small village boasting a population of close to 300 with as many variations of character, some strong, some frail; some of brilliant brain, some once brilliant now dimmed by faltering memory. Most happy, a few marred with discontent.

Ms. Mackenzie would be wise to take a look at the smooth efficiency of the operation. She may not find solutions for all the problems she seeks to resolve, but she would find some clear sign-posts pointing out routes to follow.

(You can read more of Jim Hume's fine writing at The Old Islander, <https://jimhume.ca/>)

"This havoc must stop!

GREAT BRITAIN (This England Magazine) – It's about time the authorities did something about older drivers.

For too long they have caused havoc by hogging the inside lane, sticking to the speed limits and halting at "STOP" signs, causing great inconvenience and preventing others doing what they like.

Another concern is by avoiding fines they are not doing their bit for state revenue and therefore placing a further burden on younger drivers.

Until older drivers can prove they are proficient at weaving in and out of traffic, driving while texting or talking on their mobile phones, tailgating, using drugs or doing wheelies – they must be banned from holding a licence.

Seniors mobility “a complex problem” – Seniors Advocate

Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie says a new transportation program is needed to help reconnect isolated seniors with their communities.

Her findings are contained in a study, *Seniors Transportation: Affordable, Appropriate and Available*, which reflects over a year of consultation and research.



Isobel Mackenzie

It concludes: “At the age of 65 approximately 90 per cent of BC seniors have a driver’s licence but this drops to approximately 44 per cent by the age of 85.”

She says it is challenging when we begin retirement still driving ourselves to activities and appointments but find, many years later, that we are still living independently and engaged with our community, but we are no longer able to get ourselves out and about by car.

After age 85, the proportion of seniors who are no longer actively driving far exceeds the proportion of seniors who are living in residential care or assisted living where transportation needs are primarily met by facility operators and/or services are delivered on-site.

It is important to recognize the growing dynamic of seniors who wish to remain as independent as possible and engaged with their communities, friends, and families, but are no longer able to drive.

Most of the public transportation currently offered – traditional transit, HandyDART, Taxi Saver Vouchers – offer support to some seniors some of the time, but none can fill all transportation needs for

all seniors. While family and friends can fill many of the gaps, they are a shrinking pool. “Not all seniors have family and friends who can get them out and about,” Mackenzie says.

The report highlights that getting a person from point A to B does not totally capture the transportation needs of frail and vulnerable seniors. Many seniors may have the physical ability to take a bus or use HandyDART, but they have cognitive challenges that require someone to accompany them. For others, their physical frailty requires someone to assist them throughout their trip. None of the current programs provide for these needs and even with recommended improvements, the report notes they will continue to fall short.

To fill the gap, Mackenzie has recommended a new program, “Community Drives” that would be administered under the existing home support program.

“The provincial home support program assesses the physical and cognitive function of seniors, determines what their needs are, determines how much they can contribute to the cost of needed services and hires, and schedules and supervises thousands of staff who deploy every day to assist seniors in maintaining their independence.

“Along with helping seniors get bathed, dressed, and ensuring they take their medications, the program could easily schedule in someone to pick up seniors and take them to a medical appointment. Using the existing infrastructure of home support will allow the program to get up and running quickly and will reduce duplication.”

Mackenzie’s report notes that a roundtrip outing on Translink’s HandyDART costs about \$80, while an hour of home support can cost less than \$38.

In addition to the new service, Mackenzie has called for improvements on a number of fronts.

“We need to offer a little more support to older seniors who may be trying to navigate the public bus system for the first time in 60 years.” In this regard, Mackenzie has recommended a provincial “Seniors Bus Buddies” program be developed that would pair seniors up with someone who could help them figure out how the bus system works and even ride with them for the first few times.

Mackenzie has also recommended that HandyDART be expanded to more transit systems and there be an increase in the number of nighttime and weekend routes. "HandyDART is a lifeline, especially for those who are wheelchair bound, yet it is offered in only 25 out of 31 transit systems and only about one-quarter of the systems offer night and weekend service."

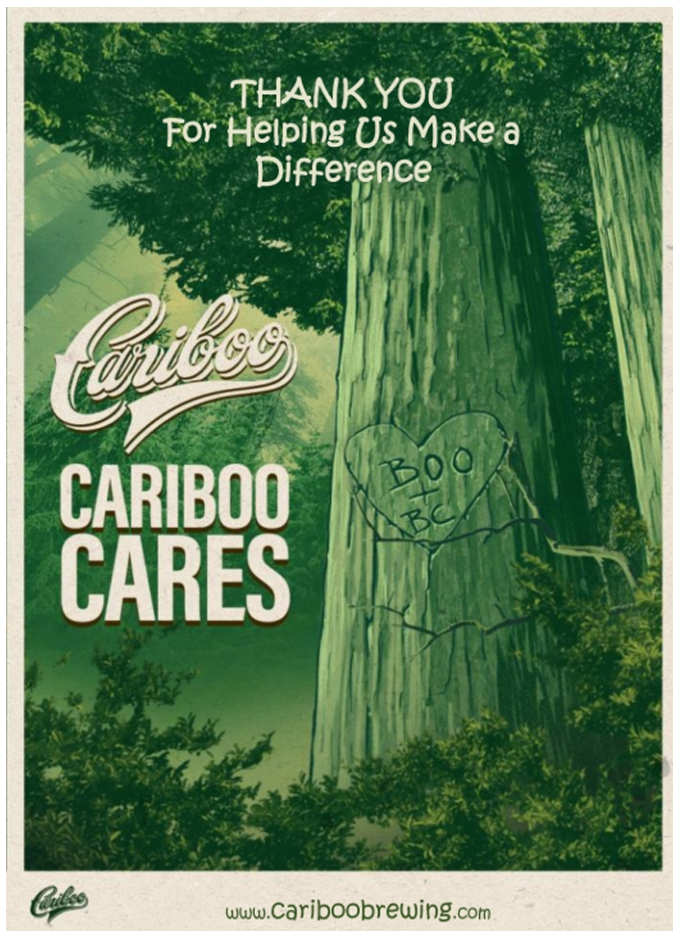
The report recognizes the significant contribution that family members and friends make in providing transportation. Mackenzie has recommended that costs related to fuel and parking be allowed as a tax deduction for those who drive those frail seniors who are no longer able to drive themselves.

"The best deal for the BC taxpayer is for family and friends to drive their loved ones. With rising costs, we should consider some relief through tax deductions just as we allow for people who drive their cars for business."

The report also touches on the contentious issue of the cost charged by physicians for the Driver Medical Examination Report (DMER). Mackenzie has recommended that all class 5 license renewals that require a DMER be treated the same. This would result in physician reimbursement of \$75 for those who are required to complete the DMER because they are age 80 or older.

"This is really an irritant rather than an impediment, but it is an issue I hear about surprisingly often and seniors do appear to have a point about age-based discrimination in terms of DMER costs that are subsidized by RoadSafetyBC," Mackenzie says.

The report also comments on improvements for pedestrians, recognizing that walking is a form of transportation used by many seniors. It also examines the shortcomings of the taxi industry. You can read the full report at <http://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/>.



A horizontal advertisement for Trial Lawyers Association of BC. The top half shows a silhouette of a person lifting a child in the air against a light background. Below this, the text "Lawyers helping People" is written in a serif font. Underneath is the heading "Current Campaigns" in a bold sans-serif font, followed by a list of three bullet points: "... battling for increased Legal Aid funding for BC's citizens", "... monitoring ICBC's delivery of auto insurance", and "... promoting a Wrongful Death Accountability Act". Below the list is the text "For more info visit www.tlabc.org". At the bottom left is the logo for "TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION of BC" and at the bottom right is contact information: "1111 - 1100 Melville Street", "Vancouver BC V6E 4A6", "Phone: 604 682-5343", "Toll Free: 1 888 558-5222", and "Email: tla-info@tlabc.org".

RFK assassination was never an open and shut case

Fifty years ago this month, on June 5th, Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary.

He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death.

After the assassination of JFK, Robert remained as Attorney General until 1964, when he resigned to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate from New York. In March of 1968, he announced his candidacy for the presidency and with the win in California, appeared headed for the nomination.

The Mary Ferrell Foundation, a non-profit group generating accessible and interactive history for critical thinkers, says Kennedy, who had made many enemies during his time on the Washington scene, was well aware of the dangers he faced in trying to reclaim the presidency lost in 1963 when his brother was killed in Dallas.

Fate befell him just after midnight on June 5, 1968, moments after declaring victory in the California Democratic primary. Escorted through a kitchen pantry in the Ambassador Hotel, RFK was assailed by Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan firing a .22 pistol. Kennedy was shot multiple times, and five others were wounded.

An open-and-shut case? Not so. The starkest physical and eyewitness evidence indicated a conspiracy involving Sirhan and at least one additional gunman.

Sirhan's diaries were full of such phrases as "RFK must die" and "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated." But, Sirhan continually maintained that he has no memory of writing in his notebook nor of the events that night at the Ambassador Hotel. This has led many to believe that he may have been a real "Manchurian Candidate," programmed to shoot RFK and then fail to recall who put him up to it.

Sirhan was seen in the hotel in the company of a girl wearing a polka-dot dress. The girl and another male companion were seen running from the pantry after the shooting. RFK campaign worker Sandy Serrano, taking a break out on a balcony, saw them run from the hotel, the woman gleefully shouting: "We shot him. We shot him." When Serrano asked who they meant, the girl replied: "Senator Kennedy."



The autopsy report, coupled with dozens of eyewitnesses to the scene, cast grave doubt on the otherwise obvious conclusion that Sirhan actually fired the shots that hit RFK. Coroner Thomas Naguchi determined that RFK had been shot three times, all from the rear at a steep upward angle, with powder burns indicating that the fatal shot being fired from one or two inches away. (By all accounts, Sirhan was in front of RFK and not closer than a few feet away).

What did the LAPD do with all this evidence of conspiracy? The files of their investigation, released 20 years after the assassination, show that the evidence was ignored, and in some cases actively countered. Sandy Serrano, the prime witnesses to the girl in the polka-dot dress and a male companion, was browbeaten into retracting her story.

Sirhan's sometimes-stated contention that he killed Kennedy for political reasons – in particular, RFK's support for Israel – doesn't hold up well under analysis. For one thing, the TV documentary he cited as provoking him was seen in L.A. on May 20, and Kennedy's speech supporting fighter jets to Israel wasn't given until the 26th. But it was on May 18 that Sirhan wrote "RFK must die" over and over in his notebook.

Political views related to the Arab-Israeli conflict may have motivated Sirhan Sirhan. But that motivation was not necessarily that of his accomplices, whoever they were. Robert Kennedy had accumulated many powerful enemies during his career – CIA officers, organized crime bosses, Vietnam war hawks, ardent segregationists. Given the fear that Kennedy's achieving the presidency could induce in them, it is not at all clear who the ultimate sponsors of Sirhan and his accomplices might have been.

A rare moment



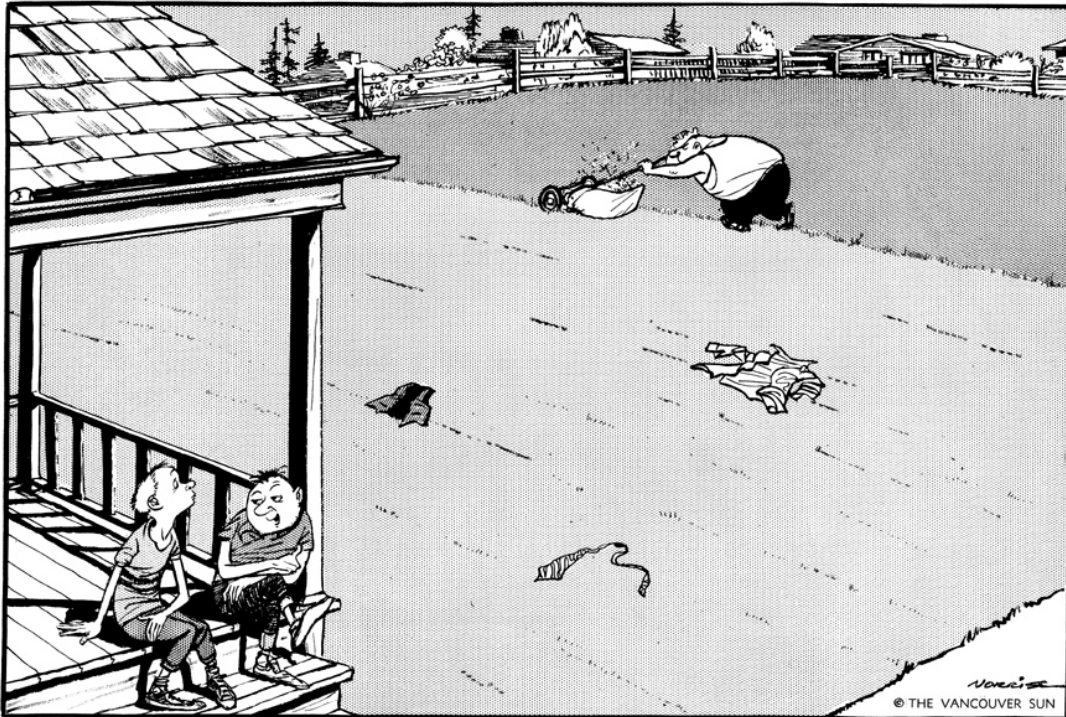
A rare moment ... all smiles, no barbs and no desk pounding in the House as veteran photog John Yanyshyn captures the current 87-seat government in Victoria.

This is the official “portrait” of the 41st Parliament formed after the general election of May 11, 2017. The next election is scheduled to be held on May 11, 2021, if the Legislative Assembly is not dissolved earlier.

Another photog, Don Chaput, captured Yanyshyn perched on his step ladder to get the best angle. John is no stranger in the corridors of power. He has been capturing government and political images since the early 1980s.



Len Norris



"Priced myself out of the market ... temporarily ..."

June 17, 1958

NORRIS
© THE VANCOUVER SUN

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Letters

Dear Editor:

So now we know Jim Hume's secret – of how, through the decades, he managed to carve out such a unique niche as an honourable observer/reporter of our wacky world of BC politics. He prayed!

To Jim, whom this Editor has described as our Association's 'scribe emeritus.' In your 70-odd years as 'newspaperman,' if you were reciting Considine's prayer all that time, then consider your prayers answered.

To use words to 'build' [rather than destroy]?

To 'write from the shoulder'?

To avoid pieces of 'airy nothingness'?

And, my favourite ... 'to let my stomach rebel at plucking meat from publicity handouts'?

In the opinion of this former politician, you have provided a great service to upcoming professional reporters. They not only have Considine's prayer to guide them, but they also have the rich legacy of Jim Hume's columns to show them what such principles look like in practice.

Thanks, Jim, for your career's worth of wit, wisdom and yes, fairness ... well ... OK, maybe not every single column ... but close enough!

Joan Sawicki
MLA Burnaby-Willingdon, 1991-2001

Brian and Rob:

As always, great job on each issue of the newsletter! I'm happy to send in my current year's dues and a little extra.

All the best,
Ida Chong, Victoria

We welcome your letters - you can mail them to:

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

Or email to: ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com

A toast from John Reynolds



Yvonne and I in Disney World with our son Neil and his family... Neil wanted to take a picture of my glass of wine. I thought a good picture would be with Yvonne ... guess who's driving home!!

Brian:

Many happy thoughts. Enclosed is Cliff's dues and a little bit extra.

All the best,
Lois Serwa, Kelowna

To the Editor:

I liked the NAFTA, BC Forest Sector, CKNW and previous/new Lt. Gov. articles in the May 2018 issue.

Regards,
Craig East, Surrey

Member News

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

Where are they now?

When it comes to former MLA Gerard Janssen (Alberni, 1988-2001, NDP Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture) the answer is everywhere. Throw a dart randomly at a map of the world and you are likely to hit a spot he and Florence just visited or will visit next week. As you will discover, a backpack and a few travel points are his ticket to ride.

Retirement ... now what?

Well, since I left office, like many others, I wonder where I get the time to do all the things that need doing versus the things that I want to do.

After the 2001 election, I worked hard to support Joy and Jenny in Victoria and to help look for new candidates for the next election. Florence decided to work part time as an RN and help do all the things around our little farm in Coombs, where we grow about 70 per cent of our own food. (I think it's the Dutch in me.)

My son Rejean married Diedre on our little farm. They now live in my mother's (expanded) house with our two grandchildren, Roan and Willem.

Like many other former MLAs, I have been asked to join just about every volunteer group in town. Currently, I belong to the Port Alberni Gaming Association (Casino), and the Port Alberni Toy Run that has raised more than \$2 million for charity and where I play Santa every year.

I'm also a director of the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Department (the fire hall is across the street from our house). I recently retired after 10 years with the Port Alberni Association for Community Living.

And, there has been travel. We have had an opportunity to see the world. Every three years, when we have saved enough travel points and part of our pensions, we travel to a part of the world. We backpack with no planned agenda.

We have circled Australia in December, January, and February. At Broome, in Western Australia, it was 47 C. More than 800 km north of Perth, we fed and petted the dolphins at Monkey Mia. We held 150-pound water pythons. We went to Phillip Island near Melbourne to see the mini penguins. Of course, I went to the Phillip Island motorcycle circuit, where you can go to sleep and be awakened each morning by the sound of macaws and parrots. I even had a chance to take part in the Sydney Toy Run.

We have taken our 1982 Volkswagen camper van around North America. We have visited all of Canada, and Florence's far-flung and very large French-Canadian family. We have travelled down the eastern seaboard for the colourful leaves in November.

We visited New Orleans seven months after Hurricane Katrina. Having seen the impact of the Alaska earthquake and the devastation it created in and around Port Alberni, it was horrifying to see once again the effects of Mother Nature's force. And, of course, in America, we noted the little time it took to place the blame on the bureaucracy.

We went to China and Mongolia, and then took the Trans-Siberian Express across Russia. It was not an express at all, by the way. We stayed in a yurt in Mongolia and then across Russia from Irkutsk to Moscow and St. Petersburg. And, yes, the Hermitage is magnificent. It makes Versailles look like an outhouse. After visiting there, you realize why they had a revolution.

Florence and I have toured most of South America including Argentina, Chile, Peru; we even hiked Machu Picchu. We went to Ecuador where our daughter Christina was doing aid work in a place called Cotacachi. We enjoyed a fabulous New Year's Eve on the streets of Quito. We fed and petted the iguanas in Guayaquil. I got a hernia, so Florence and Christina went to the Amazon without me. I got no sympathy from Florence: "I had two children, what's a hernia." We met some great folks in Bogota at the hostel where we celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Last fall, we visited England, Holland, France, and Ireland. We stayed with friends in London and relatives in Holland (I thought I had better go see my Dutch relatives, either before they go, or I go), before moving on to Paris to celebrate Florence's 75th. In Ireland, we went for a bit of a tour and visited with daughter-in-law Diedre's relatives.

Now, we are back on our little farm raising our three little pigs – Ham, Bacon, and Sausage – and tending a garden that is too large. Thankfully, our son Rejean and family live next door and help grow and eat the proceeds.

I still participate in the MLA motorcycle event in May. It started in 1988 when I was first elected.

Keep busy, keep moving and eat well.



Our yurt in Mongolia



At St. Basil's in Red Square



Florence on her camel





The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

*Under the distinguished patronage of
Her Honour Janet Austin, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia*

Association Annual Dinner

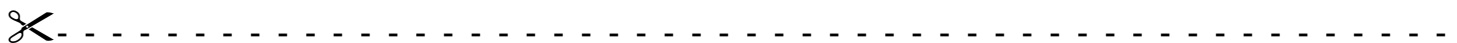
**Friday, September 21, 2018
Government House, Victoria**

***With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Janet Austin
you and your guests are invited to our 2018 Dinner.***

Time: 6 p.m. for 7 p.m.
Dress: Business attire please
Cost: \$95 per person, taxes included
Special Guest: **Keith Baldrey**
Global BC Chief Political Correspondent

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

Please make your cheque payable to the **Association of Former MLAs of BC** and mail it to the address below. (If you wish, you may post-date your cheque, but **no later** than September 7, 2018). Sorry, no refunds after that date. If you have already reserved, thank you!



Response Coupon - please detach and return with your payment

I/we plan on attending Dinner at Government House on Friday, September 21, 2018.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

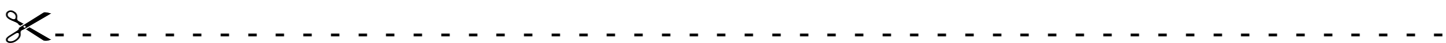


The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

Official Notice of 2018 Annual General Meeting **Friday, September 21, 2018**

Time and place at the Legislative Buildings to be announced



Additional guest names

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |