



Photo credit (above and Page 5): John Yanyshyn

BC women celebrate 100 years of historical achievements

Our governmental and societal landscape is well populated in 2017 with women of distinction and many of them gathered Feb. 20th at Government House to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women securing the right to vote in BC.

BC Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, hosted the evening reception attended by a cross-section of women MLAs from the past and present, local women in municipal jurisdictions, as well as senior legislative staff, current legislative interns, a representative group from Daughters of the Vote (Equal Voice), Women in Legislative Counsel, and poet Zoé Duhaime who wrote "100 Candle Bonfire" for the unveiling of the Hall of Honour at the Legislature in October of last year.

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Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

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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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.

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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.

From the Editor's Desk

At the end of the day, Orders of the Day remains relevant as long as it continues to enlighten, entertain and engage its readers. Of the 3-Es 'engagement' continues to be my cause célèbre. It is also a principal focus of the association's new president Penny Priddy. She has asked me and the editorial board of OOTD to really shake the membership tree this year and encourage our readers to share the many good stories, ideas and opinions they have retained and nurtured in their political afterlives.

This issue of OOTD contains a few good examples of the kind of reader engagement we are seeking: Joan McIntyre and Gordon Gibson have submitted thoughtful responses to articles written by their colleagues for the Winter edition; Ian Waddell has written a very timely article on youth voting in Canada; and, Ujjal Dosanjh has shared a compelling view of Canada at 150 through an immigrant lens.

With a provincial election on our threshold I am hoping to lighten up the bipartisan post-political landscape with a number of your best campaign yarns: The motel room from hell, the campaign bus that never got there, the podium that collapsed, the strangest door-to-door encounter; the day you lost your stump speech and other precious lessons learned in that very first campaign.

Please let me know quickly if you plan to participate and plan to submit your story by March 24th. If possible keep those amazing recollections to about 300 words and think 'pictures.' I can be reached by email at ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com or by cell at 250-203-7158.

from Page 1

BC women celebrate

Association of Former MLAs of BC President Penny Priddy had this observation: "As I watched the vibrant, confident women in the regal ballroom, it occurred to me that if it were 100 years ago they would only have been able to be there "on the arm of" a man. The magic of the evening was in the laughter and celebration of women which took place with no regard for political affiliation."

Speaker Linda Reid set the stage for an evening of celebration: "On Oct. 3rd, 2016, as part of Women's History Month, we opened a display of the first women elected in British Columbia. The display features framed archival photographs of women of provincial prominence from 1917, the year the Provincial Elections Act was amended to grant some women the right to vote in provincial elections and to stand for election to political office. The following year, Mary Ellen Smith was the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

Not all women received the right to vote in the same year. In fact, in British Columbia it was a journey of some 35 years until all women were granted the franchise. In 1917 women who qualified as British subjects were enfranchised; in 1947 Chinese and South Asian women were enfranchised; in 1948 Mennonite and Hutterite

women; in 1949 First Nations and Japanese women; and, in 1952 Doukabout women were granted the right to vote.

Madame Speaker chronicled the many ground-breaking firsts that BC women have celebrated over the years:

- Grace McInnis was the first BC woman elected provincially in 1941 and then to the House of Commons in 1965;
- Tilly Rolston was the first woman in Canada to be appointed a cabinet minister with portfolio in 1952. She was the first to urge the hiring of women in the police force;
- Nancy Hodges was first woman in the Commonwealth to be elected speaker in 1950 and first BC woman appointed to serve in the Canadian Senate in 1953;
- Eileen Dailly -- the first woman to serve as acting president of executive council in 1972 -- introduced mandatory kindergarten in all districts, abolished corporal punishment in BC schools and created the first aboriginal school district, the Nisga'a School District;



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- Shirley Bond was the first woman in BC history to hold the position of Attorney General;
- Rosemary Brown was the first black woman elected to a provincial legislature in Canada 1972 and was a founding member of the Vancouver Status of Women Council;
- Ida Chong and Jenny Kwan shared the distinction of being the first women of Chinese descent elected in BC;
- Mable Elmore was the first woman of Filipino descent elected in BC and Jane Shin was the first women of Korean descent elected in BC;

- Naomi Yamamoto was the first woman of Japanese descent elected in BC; and
- Melanie Mark was the first woman of aboriginal descent elected in BC.

Madame Speaker also proposed a toast to Grace McCarthy who was unable to attend. "She was the first female president of a chamber of commerce in Canada; the first female deputy premier; she started Canada's first toll free help line for children and, perhaps most important, she persuaded the federal government to introduce legislation which, for the first time, permitted Canadian women to take mortgages without requiring a man to guarantee the loan."



Madame Speaker Linda Reid chronicled "many firsts."



Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon hosted the event at Government House.



Mary Ellen Smith, played by Madeleine Humeny (one of the Leg's Parliamentary Players), speaks to the audience.



Among the speakers were Association President Penny Priddy and MLA Carole James.

Potholes on the road to International Women's Day

By Anne Edwards

International Women's Day (March 8) started with a march of women workers in New York City in 1908 and by 1911 had one million people, women and men, marching to demand better pay, shorter hours and the vote for women.

This is the latest list that I saw of countries that make Women's Day a holiday, although the piece does say they are "among others": Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China (for women only), Cuba, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar (for women only), Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal (for women only), Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zambia. The others, for some reason, are unnamed.

Interesting, isn't it, to learn that, among the 27 countries who make International Women's Day an official holiday, three countries - China, Madagascar, Nepal - have made it a gender separate holiday for women only? How many men will be persuaded to support gender equality unless, as a cynic might say, they might be able to reclaim the holiday for themselves as well? Even as I jest, I put it to you: will naming a day off for women only persuade men toward the goal of equality?

Even more interesting about that list is that the countries who presume to have led the world-wide fight for gender equality are not included. No United Kingdom, United States of America, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Germany, or any other European country except Russia, Ukraine and Armenia. No Canada. Of course there are other days and other ways to encourage the continuing struggle - for example, Canada's recognition of October as Women's History Month. But it is encouraging to recognize how many other countries in the developing world are there.

Trying to accommodate feminist views in a world where young boys are surely as vulnerable as young girls, it is sometimes odd when we first address, let's say, requests for help to girls only to get an education in Africa. There are thousands of boys who don't get a reasonable education there.

I've spent my family life trying to be fair to my sons and daughter. But, logically, it is the girls who need more help, particularly in Africa, because they are more likely to be kept out of school for lack of money. So it's not an issue of fairness when the race is already half lost by the girls in the third world. Just do it, and then make another donation that will help girls and boys.



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And “affirmative action.” When my son graduated from university and was seeking a job, he lost a couple because he was a white male. I have advocated for affirmative action over the years; I had to defend it. Ouch! That hurt!

Being a feminist presents some potholes on the road of life. But then, aren't we all used to potholes?

The long journey towards parity:

1908

Great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter work hours, better pay and voting rights.

1909

The first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on February 28th. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

1911

International Women's Day was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19th. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, hold public office and end discrimination.

1913-1914

On the eve of the First World War, campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day. In 1913 following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to March 8th and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since.

1975

International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations.

1996

The UN commenced the adoption of an annual theme in 1996 which was "Celebrating the past, Planning for the Future". This theme was followed in 1997 with "Women at the Peace Table", and in 1998 with "Women and Human Rights", and in 1999 with "World Free of Violence Against Women."

2000

By the new millennium, International Women's Day activity around the world had stalled. The world had



moved on and feminism wasn't a popular topic. International Women's Day needed a jump start.

2001

The global internationalwomensday.com digital hub dedicated to IWD initiatives was launched to re-energize the day as an important platform to celebrate the successful achievements of women and to continue calls for accelerating gender parity. Each year the IWD website sees vast traffic and is used by millions of people and organizations all over the world to learn about and share IWD activity.

2011

2011 saw the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. The first official event had been held in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. In the United States, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 2011 to be "Women's History Month," calling Americans to mark IWD by reflecting on "the extraordinary accomplishments of women" in shaping the country's history.

2017 and beyond

The world has witnessed a significant attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation may feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970s know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. The unfortunate fact is that women's pay is not equal to that of men doing the same work, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than it is for men.

Statesman who joined BC to Canada is long forgotten

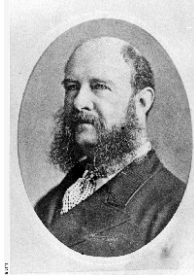
By Jim Hume

We don't remember our heroes too well in British Columbia. The navigators get statues or modest busts; our politicians get abuse while in office and the dustiest corners of archives, a few pages in easily forgotten books – or oblivion.

Among the almost forgotten in this prolonged year of celebration of the birth in 1867 of the Confederation of Canada is Sir Anthony Musgrave, former Governor of Newfoundland and a colonial officer of stature.

Having failed to persuade Newfoundland to join the new Confederation of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick – Sir Anthony was asked to swing from east coast to west to try and persuade the new Colony (1867) of British Columbia to settle internal squabbles left over from the fractious United Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia days, get together under the single banner of British Columbia, join Canada and become the western anchor of the fledgling country.

It wasn't an easy assignment. In 1869 when he replaced Frederick Seymour as Governor of the Colony of British Columbia, Musgrave inherited a government in desperate financial straits with factions pulling every which way in search of the best path to solve their problems.



J. S. Helmcken, son-in-law of James Douglas, wanted to maintain a British connection whatever happened. Amor De Cosmos, flamboyant, eccentric, outspoken newspaper publisher, was for Canada. Lesser but still serious voices favoured asking the USA to take over the faltering Colony.

It took Sir Frederick a little less than two years, but he finally accomplished his goal to settle down the fractious westerners long enough to travel east with a series of “demands” of Canada if it was serious about wanting a presence on the west coast. Among the attending delegates were De Cosmos, later to become British Columbia's second premier, and English loyalist Helmcken who is reported to have remained skeptical after Canada agreed to all of BC's demands.

All BC debts would be assumed, fresh investment cash would flow west for public works, and an election would be held to provide a first fully elected government for the estimated 11,000 European and 26,000 indigenous people in the new province. As a double bonus BC would be allowed six members of the Confederate parliament instead of the two or three it was entitled to under the representation by population formula – and instead of a good wagon road requested through the mountains to provide a land link for BC with the rest of the country – Canada would build a railroad.

Contributors to Wikipedia credit Sir Frederick with being “both a capable administrator and an able placater of the (BC) assembly's notoriously contentious members.” Under his guidance in July, 1871 British Columbia joined Canada as its sixth province. His success in BC after his failure in Newfoundland (it was 1949 before the Atlantic province voted to join Canada by a narrow 52.3 per cent majority) saw him move on in the Colonial service to help other colonies achieve self-government.

He advised and organized in Natal, Australia, Jamaica, and back to Queensland, Australia, where he died at his office desk in Brisbane, Oct. 9, 1888. His name is remembered at half a dozen locations in Australia from coastal bays to mountain ranges.

In BC, Salt Spring Island has Musgrave Road, Musgrave Place; and Musgrave Landing; in the Coast Mountains in the north-central coast area are the Musgrave Peaks.

And that's it for the man who brought a little sanity and reason to real wild west politics and played a key, but basically unremembered, role in making sure we became Canadians.

(More great yarns from Jim Hume, esteemed Honorary Life Member of the AFMLABC, can be found at www.jimhume.ca/.)

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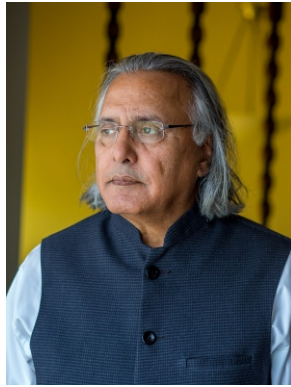


Canada opened its doors to millions like me

By Ujjal Dosanjh

I celebrate Canada of 2017 for opening its doors and promise to millions like me.

An immigrant from India, I arrived in Canada in May 1968. Just the previous year Canada had celebrated its Centennial capped by Expo 67. I had been in the United Kingdom for over three years and left for Canada shortly after Enoch Powell made his anti-immigrant Rivers of Blood speech. Since then I have happily journeyed along with Canada the last one third of its 150 years. Canada has been good to me. It has made me feel at home. It is full of promise and potential as a model country for the world.



For me, Canada 150, marking the 150th anniversary of the country as a Confederation, is not just about the last 150 years. It can't be. It is about celebrating our land with its ancient peoples who have been around from time immemorial. It is about understanding the past: its accomplishments and failures, equalities and inequalities, justice and injustices, the opportunities availed and missed, the prosperity created and the still evident poverty. It is not about quarrelling with the past 150 years; it is about debating the Future 150.

Canada is my chosen home. It is not perfect; no country is, but it is more perfect than most. It is certainly less imperfect than it was in 1968 and obviously a lot more perfect than it was 150 years ago. For me Canada 150 is about making Canada, in the years ahead, an even more perfect confederation, a more just, egalitarian, prosperous and inclusive society.

A brief look in the rear view mirror shows we have made a mess of the indigenous peoples' lives and it is taking us far too long to undo the damage. We need to move more quickly so that indigenous inequality, poverty and the racism they face is no longer an issue at the end of the next 10-15 years -- not the next 150.

By Canada 200 it would be wonderful to have had at least one -- if not more -- indigenous prime ministers. The mistreatment of the indigenous people will continue to stare us in the face until there is complete equality, reconciliation and rebuilding of robust indigenous presence in every aspect of Canadian life.

While we celebrate the huge strides on equality for women, we still have far to go. Canada is a world leader on fairness and equality for the LGBTQ but much more remains to be done. We have come a long way from the Chinese Head Tax, the Komagata Maru, the internment of Japanese Canadians and the persecution of the German, Ukrainian and Italian Canadians during the Second World War.

We have recognized that in 1939 Canada was wrong to turn away the St Louis from our East coast with 907 Jews from Europe on board forcing them to return to Europe, where 245



of them would perish in concentration camps. But the lessons of that historic wrong were forgotten in our treatment of the ship full of Sri Lankan Tamils running away from terror and civil war arriving on our shores 70 years later in 2001.

As Canada continues to welcome immigrants from all over the world, we need to ensure that we assist them with integration into the economic, social and political life of the country. In the internet age that can lead to fragmentation of life and isolation, it is even more important that as a society we remain connected with each other in our neighbourhoods, towns and cities. We need to constantly remind ourselves of our history and remember it as we continue to move forward on the path to progress in race relations to build more connectedness and social solidarity in diversity.

We need to reduce our dependence on the extraction and sale of raw natural resources. A more robust manufacturing base is a must for Canada. Creation of wealth must be enhanced along with our response to the environmental changes occurring worldwide.

Poverty in Canada is a stark reality, our enduring shame. UNICEF's recent report on child poverty placed Canada 26th out of 35 rich nations for child well-being; putting us "at the back of the pack." Child poverty is nothing but poverty among the parents and the guardians of those children -- simply: poverty.

The wealth gap in Canada is shocking. Two billionaires control the same amount of wealth as the poorest 40 per cent of Canadians. That's not much better than the entire world where the eight richest men control as much wealth as the poorest half of the world. A rich and caring country such as ours has no excuse for the degree of poverty or the huge wealth gap. Such poverty and disparity in a relatively affluent country should set the alarm bells ringing -- to not fall silent until a fairer, more equitable and poverty-free society is created.

On the international front many traditional assumptions about trade, foreign policy, international alliances and allegiances are under stress. The election of Donald Trump, his questioning of NATO's relevance and of trade deals, the Brexit vote and the ascendant right in parts of Europe including France are just some of the challenges that will require careful stewardship of our country and its relationships with the world.

As we confront the challenges ahead, we must never lose sight of the essence of the Canadian Project: to create the most prosperous, egalitarian, just and inclusive society and help build a more caring and peaceful world. The Canadian Project is not perfect, at least not yet. Much remains for us to worry about, contend with and accomplish; Canada 150/Canada 2017 reminds us that our pursuit of a more perfect Canada must continue.

Why young people vote

by Ian Waddell

In the federal election of 2011 only 38 per cent of young millennials voted ... that was voters aged 18 to 24.

Just before the federal 2015 election, BC's Chief Electoral Officer Keith Archer told an SFU audience that this number was, in fact, dropping. But, in the 2015 Canadian election, according to Abacus Data, turnout by millennials increased by 12 per cent. About 45 per cent of 18 to 24 year old voters backed Trudeau's Liberals, 25 per cent voted New Democrat and 20 per cent voted Conservatives.

Millennials changed the Government of Canada.

Strangely the young voters stayed home for the Brexit votes; 36 per cent voted versus 80 per cent of those over 65. The result could have been different. In recent Hong Kong elections young people came out and voted, surprising Beijing. Had they come out in the numbers they did for Obama in the recent U.S. election Hillary Clinton would probably be president.

So what happened in Canada?

I got a bit of a ringside seat just before the last federal election when I produced a documentary film *THE DROP: Why Young People Don't Vote*. We took a young BC actor, Dylan Playfair - the son of Arizona Coyotes coach Jim and nephew of former NHLer Larry - and asked him to find out the answer to the question posed in the film.

He started with the BC provincial election and moved to the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, to the Burning Man party in Nevada, to the Rob Ford election in Toronto, to North Carolina seeing voter suppression and finally to Ferguson, Missouri talking to young black activists. The film played on national TV and in colleges and won best producer at the Beverly Hills Film Festival (beating Morgan Freeman if you can believe it!).

But, truthfully the film was a small part of a bigger effort largely unseen by the media. CIVIX out of Toronto has been running youth voting programs for a number of years in schools to educate young people about voting. They also run 'Student Vote' where young people take part in a parallel election. They recently had 925,000 young people in 6,760 schools cast mock ballots.

Leadnow in Vancouver and Apathy is Boring in Montreal worked to get young people involved in the political process and to vote. Apathy is Boring produces videos and rock concerts to show voting is "cool." Springtime Collective in Halifax has pushed for young people to be involved in Atlantic Canada. Generation Squeeze and Inspirit are other organizations working on youth involvement.

So it wasn't by chance that more young voters came out to the polls.

This generation, as I found out doing the film, is probably the smartest ever and does care about issues, but they are easily turned off by conventional politics. The challenge is to keep them involved.

When young people talk to other young people about voting it seems to work.



Dylan Playfair in
THE DROP:
*Why Young People
Don't Vote*

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Clive Lytle's good life to be celebrated April 9

Family and friends of Clive Lytle – provincial organizer and subsequently provincial secretary of the New Democratic Party – will be celebrating his life on Sunday, April 9th.

Clive died last October at age 79. His remembrance will take place at 2 p.m. at the Operating Engineers Hall, 4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby.



There will be a second, more informal, event at Hastings Racecourse on the afternoon of Saturday, June 10. Details will be available in April.

Born on August 10, 1937, Clive grew up in Winnipeg and, for a brief time, in California. Returning to BC, he lived in Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminster and Vancouver, enjoying his last years at Fountain Terrace adjacent to Granville Island. Grand Beach in Manitoba, Zihuatanejo in Mexico, and Hastings Racecourse in Vancouver played important roles in his memories and the stories of his life.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of British Columbia, he worked with the Vancouver International Festival, served first as Research Director and later as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for the BC Federation of Labour. He received a Nuffield Foundation grant for study in Great Britain and was appointed as provincial organizer and subsequently provincial secretary of the New Democratic Party.

Clive's widow Linda welcomes the opportunity to invite friends to join in the April 9th celebration. "Johanna and Ron have been helping me with making the arrangements, and they'll both be participating in the day's program, which also includes Ray Haynes, Tom Berger, Colin Gabelmann, Robin Geary and Stan Lanyon. One of our horseracing friends, Zihuatanejo friends, and family members (Clive's eldest sister and our daughter Shannon) will also be speaking. We are hoping to keep the program to just over an hour, so there's time for visiting at the end."

Linda has also extended an invitation for people to submit memories, reflections and/or photos, which will be reproduced for use at the gathering and later compiled into a memory book.

These materials can be forwarded to RemembranceGatheringForClive@gmail.com. or postal mail to Linda at #501 - 1477 Fountain Way, Vancouver BC V6H 3W9. Having the materials by March 15 would be very helpful.

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In Mexico the hot flush is free

by Brian Kieran

Gather round, jaded Snowbirds. I'm just back from two sunny weeks in Bucerias and I bear witness to the replenishing benefits of a decidedly not-all-inclusive, un-luxury holiday in the state of Nayarit, Mexico where you can find modest accommodation reminiscent of India's Best Exotic Marigold Hotel for \$50 a night and – thrown in for free -- get a toilet that thinks it's a bidet.

And, if you really play your cards right you can get an electrical outlet right inside your shower stall. Ah, but I'm spoiling you too soon.

The Marigold Hotel, of movie fame, was home to a disparate band of retirees thrown together by the whims of longevity. The folks who could not get a room there would have been just as pleased with Casa Ana Ruth, on Calle Juventino Espinosa less than 100 metres up from Banderas Bay where the hump back whales are breaching as if on command.

Casa Ana Ruth, named in honour of the wife of the owner, is full of Canadians this winter, as it is most winters. Down for up to six months a year a loyal band of Canadian seniors, most from BC and Alberta, adopt this small seaside town and embrace Casa Ana Ruth – with its Fawltly Tower foibles – in a manner that would startle and confuse four and five star seeking Snowbirds.

When we were here a few years ago, our room came complete with a shower that produced only cold water and, somehow, a toilet that flushed hot. When we mentioned this to Francisco, the owner, his remarkable fluency in English gave way to a look of Mexican confusion and he declared such a state of affairs inconceivable.

Just last week the fridge in our neighbour's "suite" packed it in. Rather than buy a new one immediately, Francisco swapped it out for a fridge from another suite. As successive occupants realized their fridge was just a cooler the offending appliance migrated like a contestant in a game of musical chairs. It's gone now and the beer is cold all round.

Don't get me wrong, Francisco does a great job of managing Casa Chaos and becomes a dear friend quickly. He is out front each morning sweeping the sidewalk before the breakfast crowd descends on Los Pericos, the very fine ground floor restaurant. He will meet you in person at the airport. He will drive you up to Sayulita for breakfast or south to Puerto Vallarta to walk the Malacon. When we arrived a day early this year he put us up in a neighbouring hotel and picked up the tab ... needless to say his hotel is always full despite the odd glitch.

The Canadians in residence here range in age from 60s to 80s and bring with them life experiences and skills that equip them for the delights of cobble-stoned Bucerias – emphasis on stones ... not your faux designer condo foyer cobble stones -- and for the flexibility that Casa Ana Ruth demands. Larry, from Nanaimo, is typical ... a great handyman who is always fixing leaky faucets, sticky locks and mysterious plumbing. These skills are reflected in the cost of his two-month stay.

And, when health challenges surface, as they always seem to do when seniors venture abroad, the Casa Ana Ruth gang



Sunrise in Mexico finds OOTD editor Kieran languishing over coffee at Casa Ana Ruth in Bucerias.

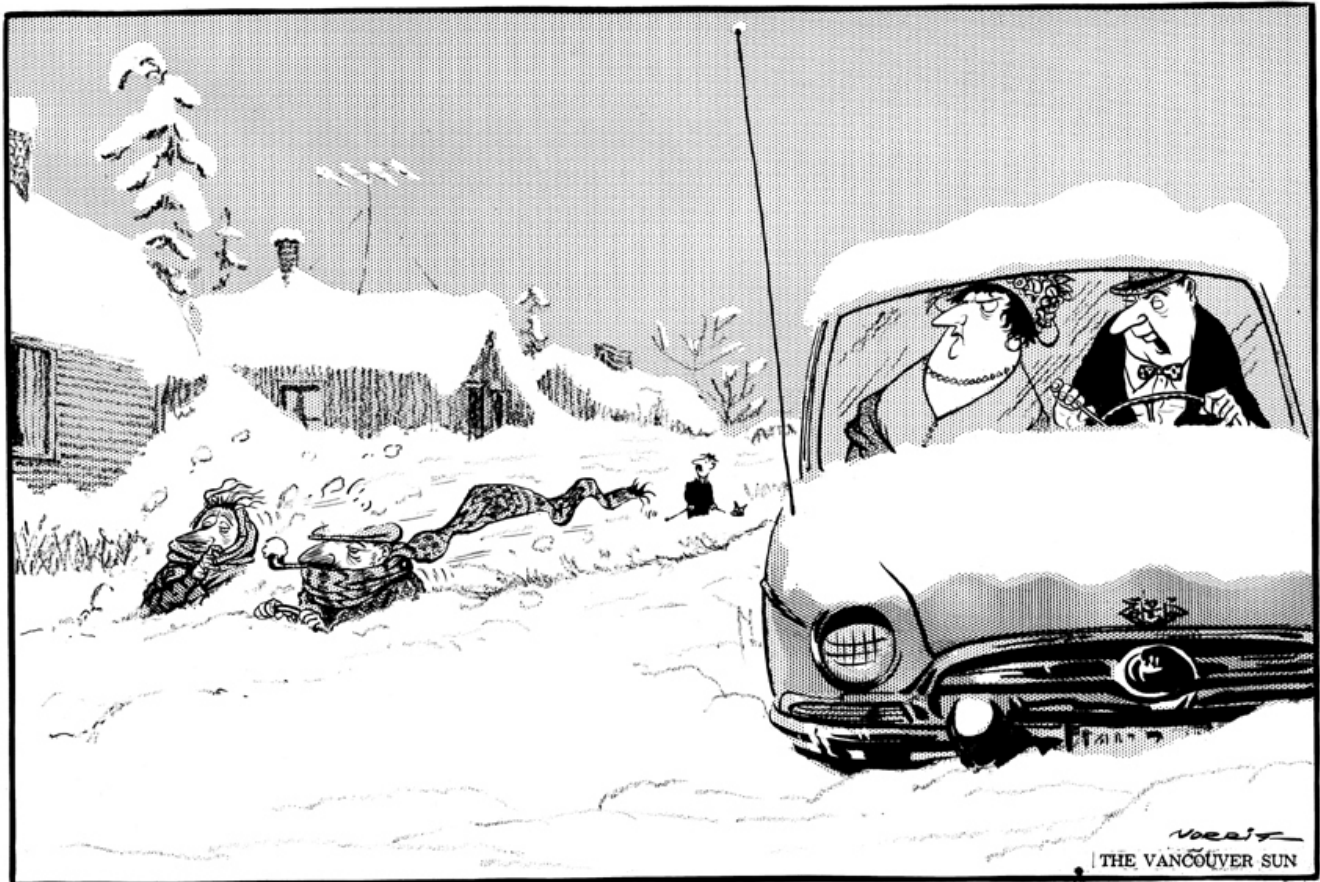
rallies as only an expatriate family can do. A few years ago, Wayne from the East Coast fell ill. Bob, from the Fraser Valley, who has mastered Spanish after 10 years of visits, and I got on my laptop and managed to find and contact a local doctor prepared to make a house call. Faster than you can ask "Does anyone in BC still make house calls?" a young doctor was on the scene and Wayne was plugged into an IV and stabilized. The doctor was at Wayne's side all night and watched closely until he was out of the woods. I think the bill was about 3,000 pesos and Wayne is still here and full of piss and vinegar.

If that happened in one of your fancy five-star, all-inclusive beach resorts you'd be hauled away in an ambulance and never seen again.

Back in Canada, when I tell people about Bucerias and its gritty charms I often hear remarks about Mexico being too dangerous outside the confines of a gated resort. That's never been our experience. Folks here leave their doors unlocked. And, all the locals who serve us are friendly, trustworthy and try their best to accommodate our faltering Spanish.

This year our tranquility was disturbed ever so briefly when a female tourist in her early 60s dropped dead while dancing her brains out at the Drunken Duck nightclub just two blocks from the hotel. I'm not sure I'd want a gravestone epitaph that reads: "Taken before her time by the Drunken Duck." That said, most commiserators felt that if it is "your time," dropping dead at a happy bar in Mexico is not so bad.

Len Norris



February 17, 1956

"See ... the Jones' don't have any trouble getting around in snow in their little English sports car ..."

An invitation to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

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

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

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

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

Go to www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Member News

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

Where Are They Now?

David Schreck

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 David Schreck who served as an NDP MLA representing the riding of North Vancouver-Lonsdale from 1991 to 1996. He served as parliamentary secretary to the Premier and to the Minister of Employment and Investment.



I ran for public office because I wanted to apply my skills to affect policy as an MLA and I have always enjoyed debating and public speaking. By the time I won in 1991, I had endured three hotly contested nomination races and three elections, before finally winning thanks to a four-way split vote.

In the 1970s I enjoyed many banquets at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver where I listened to Tommy Douglas and Dave Barrett. Their dynamic oratory and commitment to social justice reinforced my passion for wanting to be an MLA.

The transition from private to public life for me was a clash of expectations versus reality. Prior to being elected I served as CEO of the Vancouver Resources Board, General Manager of CU&C Health Services and Acting CEO of the BCNU. It was a big shock to go from a senior management background to the almost powerless position of a government backbencher.

After my defeat in 1996, I worked for six months as Acting Co-Director of Operations for the Health Sciences Association. Soon after, I joined the Premier's office for Glen Clark and, after a brief interruption, that of Ujjal Dosanjh. I won't titillate readers with the details of those interesting times.

From 2001 through 2015, I amused myself by writing regular columns on provincial politics for my website, StrategicThoughts.com. In 2001, Rafe Mair invited me to participate in a half hour weekly segment on his CKNW show opposite various government supporters to discuss the week in politics. When Rafe left CKNW I continued with him on another station with the same format. Following that, Sean Leslie asked me to be on his CKNW show for a half hour every weekend to discuss politics.

I enjoy being one of the regular questioners on Vaughn Palmer's Voice of BC show. I still make the occasional appearance on CBC's the Early Edition opposite Colin Hansen when Moe Sihota is on holiday. I'm compulsive on Twitter, particularly on #bcpoli. I enjoy the writing, tweeting and media opportunities as much as anything I experienced as an MLA, but I likely would not have had these opportunities had I not been an MLA.

In retirement, I've found it increasingly difficult to find time to properly research material for my website. Involvement with the West Vancouver Community Arts Council and attending noon hour concerts at the Vancouver Art Gallery are high priorities in my life as are plays at the Stanley and Sunday matinees at the Vancouver Symphony. A severe case of incurable dry eye and Blepharitis keeps me in at night, and relatively out of mischief.

I've never attended the annual dinner put on by the Association of Former MLAs, but I appreciate the bulletins.



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Letters

To The Editor
Orders of the Day

I was most interested to read MD Tom Perry's excellent article, "Let's hear it for functional parliamentary committees". The timely call to reverse the trend to more secretive, less accountable governments deserves wholehearted support.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Select Standing Committee (SSC) on Children and Youth that I had the privilege to chair from 2009-13, was a good case in point. With the cooperation of the NDP Deputy Chairs Maurine Karagian and then Claire Trevena, we worked very hard, supported by the now Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees Kate Ryan-Lloyd, to have the committee function in a truly non-partisan fashion, as the Hon. Ted Hughes had envisioned in his report that led to the formation of this SSC, (some thought naively).

In fact, while we were undertaking the first statutory review of the legislation that underpins the role of the Representative for Children and Youth, Mr. Hughes actually made favourable note of the way in which we were performing as the Representative's touchstone to Parliament. This commentary made it into Vaughn Palmer's column much to my surprise!

The secret to our success primarily lay in taking personal leaps of faith and a willingness to build trust. As incoming Chair, I reached out to the Deputy and indicated that I was not prepared to see either side of the House score political points on the backs of vulnerable children and families. She readily agreed to support this non-partisan approach on a committee that had been very political. I believed this change would allow the Representative to have a secure platform to bring significant issues forward to the attention of both Parliament and the public.

Other factors such as members' level of interest as well as consistency of membership and clerical support on any SSC are also key in its effectiveness.

All of this can be replicated at will, given goodwill.

I have to admit that as partisan as I may have been when first elected, the non-partisan work of that committee on issues that matter, such as child poverty and improving the lives of children in care, was what I was most proud of on my exit from the hallowed Chambers.

Let's hear it for functional parliamentary committees!

Joan McIntyre,
former MLA West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a cheque to cover my membership including a small donation.

Please extend my appreciation to the various individuals who actively contribute toward the goals of the organization. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,
Charlie Wyse

Dear Editor,

I write to congratulate Joan Sawicki for her painfully clear insight into the status of current and former MLAs. Mere members of "focus groups" in office, "has beens" once out - that tends to be the truth. Of course it is not all dark. It was a wonderful experience and we have all had our moments of usefulness - but there should be more.

T'was not always thus, nor is it still, in the Mother of Parliaments. Most of the 600-plus MPs know they will never, ever be Ministers. This fact sets them free to challenge governments. In Canada though, practice and the media have made the Leader and his/her Office the ringmasters.

But on the horizon, there is hope. It is increasingly obvious that our political system has not changed to match the unbelievable evolution of our society. The U.S. is hooped, with a Constitution far past its best-by date and virtually unchangeable. Our Westminster system remains open to change whenever Members collectively want it.

The empowered, knowledgeable individual representative remains the key. Some changes are very easy - Committees with permanent mandates and research staff, for example.

Hopefully, "Formers" out there will have other ideas and push them.

Sincerely,
Gordon Gibson

Brian and Rob:

Great kickoff edition for 2017. Jim Hume - unmatched!
Penny, Joan and Tom - usual thoughtful selves.

Look forward to the next edition.

Mike Harcourt

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find payment for 2017 dues re: annual membership of the AFMLABC, and a bit extra for the cause.

It's always a pleasure to peruse the latest edition!

Sincerely,
John Les

OOTD:

Enclosed is a cheque for my dues. I always forget when membership dues are "due" - but the first of the year seems logical.

One of these years, I will be in town for the Annual dinner!

Sincerely,
Joan Sawicki

50 years ago

Nancy Greene wins World Cup

March 27, 1967

JACKSON HOLE, WYO – Nancy Greene of Canada swept past Marielle Goitschel of France by seven-hundredths of a second in the final run of the final race of the Alpine ski season here yesterday to win the first World Cup for women skiers.

The 23-year-old from Rossland, BC, needing a victory to win the Cup, finished second in the first run of the slalom in 46.16 seconds through the 56 gates and then won the second run in 44.51 seconds for an official combined time of 90.67 seconds.

In the World Cup competition, based on performances in nine meets in Europe and the United States, Miss Goitschel entered Sunday's race with a 21 point lead over Miss Greene.

The French girl couldn't add to her total of 172 points, unless she won the race, because a competitor can count only her three best results in each type of race – downhill, slalom and giant slalom. Miss Goitschel already had a first and two seconds in earlier slalom races.

Miss Greene, on the other hand, could only close the gap by winning Sunday's slalom, a victory worth 25 points to her. She came through like the champion she now is.

The triumph gave her a total of 176 cup points.

Miss Goitschel took third in the first half of the slalom in 46.21 and second in the second half in 44.53, for a combined time of 90.74.

Nicknamed "Tiger" by her teammates, Miss Greene swept all three races in the Wild West Classic meet, the last of nine World Cup events held in Europe and the United States. The first two races here were giant slaloms, and the victories added nothing to her total because she already had the maximum number of points possible in the event. Having already won three giant slaloms, Nancy's only purpose in winning more of them was to keep her rivals from winning them.

Miss Greene called her victory the greatest of her career. She is in her eighth year on Canada's national ski team.



Left: Nancy Greene and Jean Claude Killy at 1967 World Cup.

Right: Greene in 1967 GS.

