

A new, delighted, Lieutenant Governor takes office



With her partner, Ashley Chester, at her side, BC's 30th Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin, waved to well-wishers after being sworn into office at the Legislature April 24. Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman administered the Oath of Allegiance and Oaths of Office.

The new L-G is a remarkable community leader and advocate for social change. She has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Metro Vancouver YWCA, a position she held since 2003. Story and more photos Page 4. She follows Judith Guichon into Government House.

There was a farewell celebration at the Legislature April 23rd for the retiring L-G. See that story and picture on Page 5.

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, 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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From the Editor's Desk

"Eclectic" ... not a word I throw around a lot, but it really seems to apply to this month's issue of OOTD. This issue truly gathers ideas from a broad range of sources.

A few of those sources are distinguished political camp followers (in the most flattering sense) I know well ... being a camp follower myself. First, I want to thank Jess Ketchum for his article on the state of the BC softwood sector. Jess is one of those communicators who anchors a room when talk turns to forestry and/or politics. And, his softwood article (P-8) really anchors our spread on NAFTA and potential trade wars with Trump.

Then there's John Ashbridge, one of CKNW's solid voices in the days when every major newsroom in BC had its city desk radio tuned to AM 980. Sadly, 'NW has fallen from its lofty downtown tower perch and has been relegated to a lonely back corner of the Global TV newsroom. Ash puts it all in perspective (P-6). And, paired off with Ash this month, musing on journalism standards, is our very own scribe emeritus Jim Hume (P-7).

Quite a line up!

I also want to draw your attention to an invitation from Speaker Darryl Plecas (P-11). Mr. Speaker has launched a Speaker's Forum on the Role of Members to collect a variety of input on how the roles of MLAs can be enhanced in our parliamentary system. Specifically, Mr. Speaker hopes to meet AFMLABC executive members around the time of the association AGM this fall, and he has invited other members to provide written input on improving the roles of MLAs.

I have heard many of you lament that the Legislature in which you served was too fractured, too argumentative, too unproductive. Well, you have an opportunity to put voice to those concerns and I very much hope you will share your submissions to Mr. Speaker with the rest of us on these pages.

Just as we were about to send the May issue of OOTD to the printer Bruce Strachan informed us that former Vernon mayor, MLA and Social Credit cabinet minister Lyall Hanson died April 23rd at age 88 following a lengthy illness. We will publish a fitting tribute in the June issue.

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.

A report from our president

Spring is often described as a time of renewal. As I look out my window I see renewal everywhere. I see it in my own garden with cherry blossoms, brilliant colour on my rhododendron and holes in my lawn where the raccoons and skunks have been renewing themselves by digging for chafer beetles. I know that spring displays itself at different times and in different ways depending on where you live in our extraordinary province.

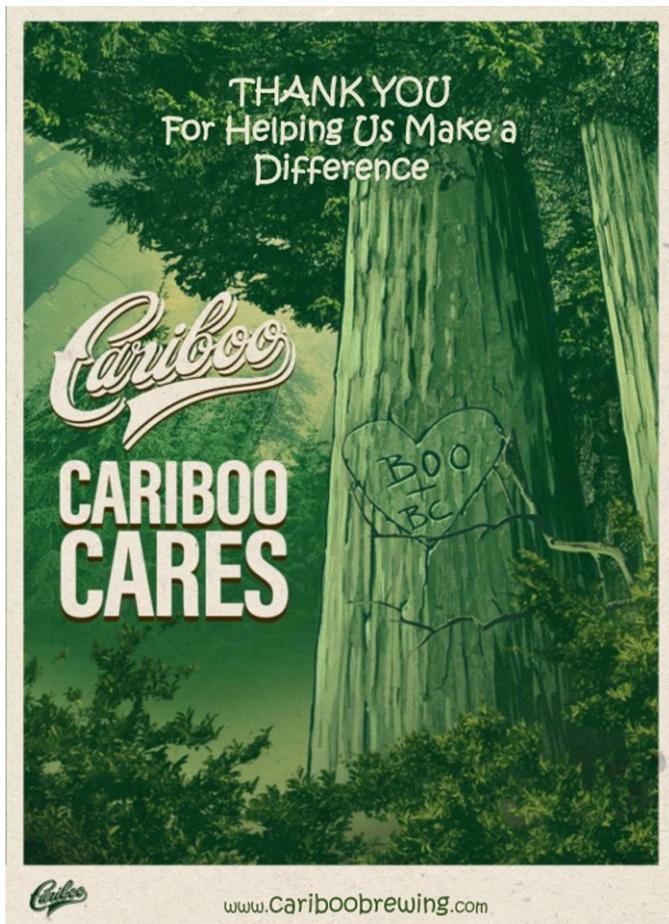
Renewal also brings the opportunity for you to renew your membership to the Association of Former MLAs of BC. I would really encourage those of you have not yet done this to do so now. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed. We are working to update our banking system but at the moment a cheque is still required for membership renewal in AFMLABC. Thank you for your patience.

There are many reasons to renew. It assists in keeping the association strong. It preserves a legacy for future members and honours those members who have served before us. In addition, it provides you with the excellent OOTD newsletter. It is your membership fees that allow us to continue to publish.

I have had the opportunity to speak with presidents of other former MLA/MPP groups across the country and our newsletter is the gold standard of publications and the envy of many associations.

In the spirit of renewal please renew your membership now.

~ Penny Priddy



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BC's 30th Lieutenant Governor is sworn in

BC's 30th Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin, has taken up residence at Government House after being sworn into office at the Legislature April 24.

At an installation ceremony at the Parliament Buildings, Austin took the Oath of Allegiance and Oaths of Office, administered by Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman, before members of the Legislative Assembly, dignitaries, family and friends. Her partner, Ashley Chester, was at her side.

One of her first duties as the new Lieutenant Governor was to inspect a 100-person guard of honour at the front of the Parliament Buildings. She received a 15-gun salute fired by a troop of the 5th (British Columbia) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, and the Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific played the Vice Regal Salute in tribute to her appointment.

"It's a privilege to welcome Janet Austin as the new Lieutenant Governor to British Columbia," said Premier John Horgan. "She brings an extraordinary list of accomplishments and tireless advocacy for people in British Columbia to this appointment. We are truly fortunate to have such an accomplished and engaged leader to fulfil this important role."

Austin succeeds Judith Guichon as the Queen's representative in BC.

A large advertisement for Canfor. The top half shows stacks of lumber wrapped in white plastic with the Canfor logo. The bottom half features a red banner with the Canfor logo and the slogan "There is no substitute for Canfor". Below the banner is the Canfor logo and the text "CANFOR IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 12 COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC" and "WWW.CANFOR.COM".

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“We are privileged to have had her service”

In a farewell ceremony at the Parliament Buildings April 23rd, Premier John Horgan thanked outgoing Lt. Gov. Judith Guichon for her service to the Province of British Columbia.

Guichon leaves behind a distinguished legacy. During her tenure, she championed several causes, including community music through the Sing Me a Song program, promoted British Columbia's vineyards through the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in British Columbia Wines, and celebrated Canada 150 by visiting 150 schools throughout the province. Guichon served as lieutenant governor since Nov. 2, 2012.

“I thank Her Honour for her years of loyal service to this province,” said Premier Horgan. “She performed her duties honourably, and executed her considerable responsibilities with the utmost integrity. We are privileged to have had her service.”

As a parting gift, the Province is making a \$10,000 donation to Stewards of the Future, a program started by Guichon to connect the province's youth to the outdoors. The funding will help ensure the program will continue to support high school teachers and other educators to take students on field trips, visit local sites of interest, and engage in stewardship projects in their communities.

As a lifelong rancher, Guichon was presented with a western saddle pad embroidered with the Lieutenant



In a farewell ceremony at the Parliament Buildings, Premier John Horgan thanked outgoing Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon for her service since Nov. 2, 2012.

Governor's Crest and the Province's Coat of Arms. Premier Horgan also thanked Guichon's husband, Bruno Mailloux, and presented him with a Haida Dreamtime wool blanket, woven by artist James Hart.

The farewell included a 15-gun Vice-Regal Salute, fired by a troop of the 5th (British Columbia) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian artillery. The Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy played the Vice-Regal Salute, in tribute to her service.

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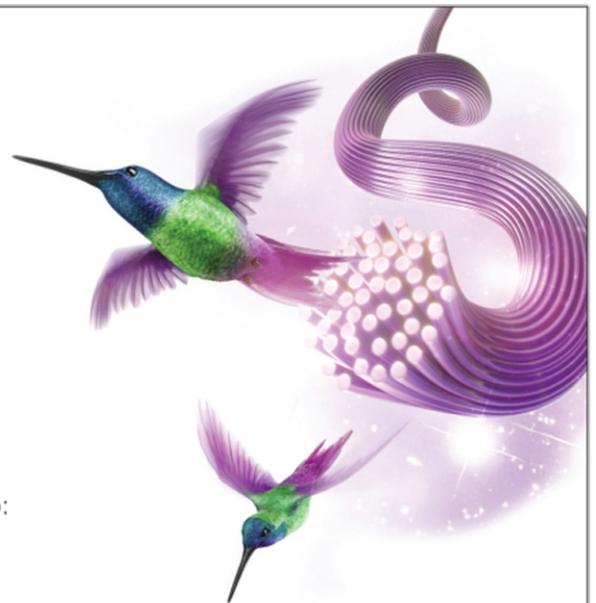
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Once 'Top Dog,' CKNW shares Global TV kennel

By John Ashbridge

"This is not your grandfather's Oldsmobile," as the automotive advertising slogan once proclaimed. Well, it's not your grandfather's radio station, either. It's no longer even your father's. And, sadly, the same assessment seems to now apply across Canadian broadcasting's private sector.

Long ignored is the once-overarching requirement of Canada's broadcasters to both "entertain and inform" while utilizing your public airwaves. Witness the slow demise of British Columbia's once-mighty CKNW newsroom, where yours truly spent a good part of four decades, working always to turn out a first-class product while upholding these government-mandated principles.

Soon, the "Top Dog" will close its news-gathering and reporting service in Vancouver and fold it into the jointly-owned local Global Television operation in Burnaby. Daily, 'NW already carries 90 minutes of simulcast Global TV audio under the guise of 'news programming.' TV sound without the pictures; just kill me now.

It's not just 'NW that is adopting a fundamental re-tooling of what was once its mainstay news operation at the behest of a head-office demand for adherence to its changing menu of economies-of-scale. It's the entire industry. It's the entire profession. And, yes ... it's all about the money.

In recent days, Bell-owned CTV announced the surprising firing of their highly-rated Vancouver supper-hour news team, Mike Killeen and Tamara Taggart. The corporate explanation: a "top-to-tail refresh of the station's locally focused newscasts, including new set designs and updated on-set technology." No mention of any promised expansion or improvement in the 'news' component of the daily product. Rogers got out of the daily television news biz in BC years ago when it scrapped its local City-TV newscasts and opted to concentrate its resources on so-called 'infotainment' programming.

The change has been even more profound in radio. Sometime last century, it was a common occurrence to see reporters from more than a half-dozen of Vancouver's English-language radio stations at any qualifying Vancouver media assignment. Today, if representatives from three stations turn up, we have a radio 'quorum.'



Ashbridge at the controls in the days of 'NW supremacy.

And, we've all seen the similar cutbacks that continue to affect the print medium as well as the painfully slow results of the ongoing effort by the public broadcaster to invoke a form of cross-platform 'information synergy' at the CBC. I could rant on.

But wait. All may not be lost. A glimmer of hope may yet flicker. Look to our immediate south and witness the sudden investment of time, resources and personnel in the coverage of the clown circus once familiar to us all as 'American politics.' Networks are hiring; new shows, segments and features are being developed; broadcasting owners who once saw no future in simply covering the day's news are jumping back into the fray and with both feet. It's Watergate all over again, some of we 'oldies' would say. And, the cable news networks have never been busier. Nor have their corporate masters apparently been happier, especially at the view of the bottom line.

It may just turn out that this new-found excitement to report on these troubled American political times will spur a new demand for more and better information programming for increasingly-shortchanged consumers in the Home and Native Land, so that we may all become a more-informed and enthusiastic (voting) public that continues to embrace our democratic principles. At least, that's what many of us should hope will happen among our neighbours to the south ... with the resulting, positive journalistic spill-over onto their neighbours north of the 49th.

And soon, please ... before we have to start draining our own broadcasting 'swamp'; in search of both bathwater and baby.

Considine's prayer: "Dear God, may I be fair."

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

A long time ago when I was a young man starting life as a newspaper reporter, I was given a framed copy of Bob Considine's Newspaperman's Prayer. For 25 or more years it sat on, or hung over, my desk wherever I worked. It was a constant reminder that I had a long way to go before I came close to being as talented or as influential as I thought I was.

In the late 1960s while I was on holiday, the prayer disappeared. I never discovered who removed it, frame and all, from my Press Gallery desk on the third floor of the BC Legislature. I was saddened to think a fellow scribe had coveted my minor icon enough to steal it, but comforted by the hope that whoever had would read it, and remember Considine's message to everyone working in a profession where the urge to play God is an ever-present temptation.

There have always been newspapers with publishers, editors, reporters and columnists who see their prime role in life as destroyers of governments – national, provincial or local. Considine was not one of them – and I tried, but often failed, to live up to the standards he sought.

As a columnist he prayed – and I still echo: "Dear God, may I be fair. Circumstances and dumb luck have placed in my thumby paws a degree of authority which I may not fully comprehend. Let me not profane it.

"Give me the drive that will make me check and countercheck the facts. Guide me when, lost for want of a rudder or a lead, I stumble through the jungle of speculation ...

"The twenty-six sharp edged tools we call our alphabet can do what other tools do; build or destroy. Let me build. But let me know clearly also what should be destroyed, what darkness, what bigotry, what evil, what curse, what ignorance.

"Never let me slip into writing down, in fatuous fear that readers will not understand. Let me write from the shoulder and always with the assumption that those who read know more than I."

The talents Considine prayed for were not unreasonable. They should be basic principles for all who report news professionally or as gossip over the Internet's many back fences. Unfortunately, they are not.

Considine prayed: "Such news as I find or comes my way, let me tell it quickly and accurately and simply, with an eye to my responsibilities. For news is precious. Few could live without it. When it is stopped or thwarted or twisted, something goes out of the hearts of men it might have nourished ..."



Reporters, editorial writers and columnists who, from time to time, lament the lack of trust the public holds today for government and lawful authority, should sometimes ask if they have contributed to that lack; to ask if they have been building confidence or chipping away at it.

Considine asked to be spared from ever writing "think pieces ... articles and columns contrived out of airy nothingness, or from a prone position, (which) can never replace the meat and potatoes of news."

A few other Considine prayerful requests:

"Let me champion just causes; remind me to be kind to copyboys for I'll meet them on the way back down when they are editors; protect the innocent from me when, with deadlines pressing, my aim becomes fuzzy; let my stomach rebel at plucking meat from publicity handouts."

Great targets of excellence for all who write professionally or just twitter here and there.

I still have a copy of his "Prayer" but no longer framed. It's the second item in his book *It's All News to Me; A Reporter's Deposition*. Not as colourful as my framed version but close to hand when I need reminding of principles I must never forget.

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

BC forest sector on its knees? Not so much ...

By Jess Ketchum

The unprecedented Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, fires destroying 12,000 square kilometers of standing forests, the imposition of countervail and anti-dumping duties by U.S. tribunals, President Trump's trade related bullying tactics, policy uncertainties, and NAFTA negotiations. British Columbia's forest sector is surely on its knees!

Well actually, not so much and here is why.

The Canadian industry along with both the federal and provincial governments recognized the importance of diversifying away from virtual dependence on the U.S. market. The U.S. remains our biggest market and extremely important, but smart marketing has resulted in increased shipments to other markets, most importantly Asian markets.

Most don't realize that the most significant user of all those containers leaving the Port of Vancouver on ships is the forest sector. Boxes filled with lumber, pulp and paper and other building products are destined for primarily non-U.S. markets. So, diversification of our markets has been one condition that has been central to our ability to withstand the U.S. imposed market restrictions.

Add into the equation increased U.S. demand for building materials well beyond the U.S. sector's ability to meet that demand domestically and we see supply and demand forces play out. The U.S. needs our lumber because a fired-up economy has resulted in single-family home starts in January alone being up 7.6 per cent over last year. Of course, increased demand while supply shrinks results in lumber prices escalating. The average price of a thousand board feet of SPF (spruce/pine/fir) lumber in 2015 was \$278 U.S.; \$401 U.S. last year; and, more than \$500 U.S. this year.

The increased upward pressure on the price generated by our products has meant that revenues generated by our companies have more than paid for the duties imposed. The high prices have resulted in profitable Canadian companies and that could continue through 2018 as it is anticipated U.S. demand will grow by two billion board feet per year while U.S. production might increase by about 800 million board feet. At the end of the day, the poor U.S. consumer is paying for the duties and more in the price of their new homes. If any jobs are lost, it is most likely the employees of America's home builders who are hoping for a break in the escalation of the cost of lumber.



It is also worth remembering four things:

How can the U.S. lumber lobby claim its members are being "injured" when the U.S. producers are reporting their largest profits ... ever!

Second, these current conditions provide Canada the ability to weather the cost of duties while continuing to work toward a managed trade agreement for lumber trade with the U.S. "No deal is better than a bad deal" is a familiar refrain coming from Canadian producers.

Third, every trade sanction imposed on our lumber producers has been imposed by U.S. tribunals that are too often influenced by U.S. domestic politics. Canada has been highly successful in having such sanctions reversed once international tribunals have considered the facts. The current round of duties will likely experience the same fate.

Finally, the forest industry is cyclical in nature and these heady days of high prices will be replaced at some point by market and business climate conditions not so favourable for our industry. For that reason, companies and governments must continually focus on efficiency and cost competitiveness. We must collectively resist the temptation to heap on costs seemingly rationalized by the current conditions.

Billions of dollars have been spent by companies to ensure we have many of the world's most efficient mills and that BC's workforce is the best. Here in BC, 140 communities and 145,000 direct and indirect family-supporting jobs depend on it. As well, billions of dollars flow to government coffers to support social safety nets, health care, education, and all those many government services we too often take for granted.

(Jess Ketchum is a communications consultant who spent five years as MA to the Hon. Alex Fraser, Minister of Transportation and Highways. Jess is a long-time supporter of the Association of Former MLAs of BC. The forest sector has been a client for 30 years and he worked on the last Softwood Lumber Agreement file.)

Canadians fear a trade war: Nanos Research

According to a Nanos Research study commissioned by CTV News, the majority of Canadians think that a trade war between Canada and the United States over NAFTA is likely or somewhat likely in the next two years. More than half say that Canada's response to the high tariffs threats should be to continue the negotiations and hope the U.S. changes its mind.

Specifically, when asked about the likelihood of a trade war between Canada and the United States over NAFTA and other bilateral trade issues, two in three Canadians surveyed said that it is likely (19 per cent) or somewhat likely (48 per cent). Three out of ten Canadians think it is somewhat unlikely (24 per cent) or unlikely (seven per cent). Three per cent are unsure.

Of all the provinces, BC respondents were most inclined (70.6 per cent) to believe a trade war is likely or somewhat likely.

When asked about Canada's response to high tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum recently imposed by the U.S. President Donald Trump, the majority of Canadians (54 per cent) think Canada should continue negotiations and hope the U.S. changes its mind.



More than a quarter (26 per cent) of those surveyed think Canada should raise tariffs on U.S. products in retaliation for the U. S. tariffs. Nine per cent think Canada should break off talks on NAFTA in protest of the tariffs and four per cent think that Canada should give the U.S. enough concessions on NAFTA to end the tariffs. Six per cent are unsure.

These observations are based on a Nanos telephone and online random survey of 1,000 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, conducted this spring. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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NAFTA ... the reshaping of North America

A backgrounder by James McBride
and Mohammed Aly Sergie
for the Council on Foreign Relations



The North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, is a three-country accord negotiated by the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States that entered into force in January 1994.

NAFTA's terms, which were implemented gradually through January 2008, provided for the elimination of most tariffs on products traded among the three countries. Liberalization of trade in agriculture, textiles, and automobile manufacturing was a major focus.

The deal also sought to protect intellectual property, establish dispute-resolution mechanisms, and, through side agreements, implement labour and environmental safeguards.

NAFTA fundamentally reshaped North American economic relations, driving an unprecedented integration between Canada and the United States' developed economies and Mexico, a developing country. NAFTA enjoyed bipartisan backing; it was negotiated on the U.S. side by Republican President George H.W. Bush and then-Canadian PM Brian Mulroney. It passed through Congress and was implemented under Democratic President Bill Clinton. It encouraged a more than tripling of regional trade, and cross-border investment between the three countries also grew significantly.

Yet, NAFTA has remained a perennial target in the broader debate over free trade. President Donald J. Trump says the deal has shifted U.S. manufacturing production and jobs to Mexico, and in August 2017 his administration reopened negotiations with Canada and Mexico with the aim of reforming it.

When negotiations for NAFTA began in 1991, the goal for all three countries was the integration of Mexico with the highly developed, high-wage economies of the United States and Canada. The hope was that freer trade would bring stronger and steadier economic growth to Mexico, providing new jobs and opportunities for its growing workforce and discouraging illegal migration from Mexico. For the United States and Canada, Mexico was seen both as a promising new market for exports and as a lower cost investment location that could enhance the competitiveness of U.S. and Canadian companies.

While the United States had completed a free trade agreement with Canada in 1988, the addition of Mexico was unprecedented. Opponents of NAFTA seized on the wage differentials with Mexico, which had a per capita income that was just 30 per cent of the United States. U.S. presidential candidate Ross Perot argued in 1992 that trade liberalization would lead to a "giant sucking sound" of U.S. jobs fleeing across the border.

Supporters like Presidents Bush and Clinton countered that the agreement would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs a year, while Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari saw it as an opportunity to modernize the Mexican economy so that it would "export goods, not people."

NAFTA also ushered in a new era of regional and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), which have proliferated as the World Trade Organization's (WTO) global trade talks have stagnated. The United States now has FTAs with 20 countries. NAFTA also pioneered the incorporation of labour and environmental provisions in U.S. trade agreements, provisions which have become progressively more comprehensive in subsequent FTAs.

Economists largely agree that NAFTA has provided benefits to the North American economies. Regional trade increased sharply over the treaty's first two decades, from roughly \$290 billion in 1993 to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2016. Cross-border investment has also surged, with U.S. foreign direct investment stock in Mexico increasing in that period from \$15 billion to more than \$100 billion.

But experts also say that it has proven difficult to tease out the deal's direct effects from other factors, including rapid technological change, expanded trade with other countries such as China, and unrelated domestic developments in each of the countries. Debate persists regarding NAFTA's legacy on employment and wages, with some workers and industries facing painful disruptions as they lose market share due to increased competition, and others gaining from the new market opportunities that were created.

Canada has seen strong gains in cross-border investment in the NAFTA era. Since 1993, U.S. and Mexican investments in Canada have tripled. U.S. investment, which accounts for more than half of Canada's foreign direct investment (FDI stock) grew from \$70 billion in 1993 to over \$368 billion in 2013.

However, the most consequential aspect for Canada predated NAFTA. In 1989, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (CUSFTA) opened Canada's economy to the U.S. market, by far Canada's largest trading partner. Overall, Canada-U.S. trade increased rapidly in the wake of Canada's trade liberalization. Post-NAFTA, Canadian exports to the United States grew from \$110 billion to \$346 billion, while imports from the United States grew by almost the same amount.

Agriculture, in particular, saw a boost. Canada is the leading importer of U.S. agricultural products, and one of NAFTA's biggest economic effects for Canada has been to increase bilateral U.S.-Canada agricultural flows. Canadian agricultural trade with the United States has more than tripled since 1994, as has Canada's total agriculture exports to NAFTA partners.

Neither the worst fears of Canada's trade opponents – that opening to trade would gut the country's manufacturing sector, nor their highest hopes – that it would spark a rapid increase in productivity, came to pass. Canadian manufacturing employment held steady, but the "productivity gap" between the Canadian and U.S. economies wasn't closed: Canada's labour productivity remains at 72 per cent of U.S. levels.

Speaker establishes “Forum on the Role of Members”

By Hon. Darryl Plecas
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



In December 2017, I established the Speaker’s Forum on the Role of Members. The purpose of the Forum is to bring in a variety of participants with different backgrounds to provide input on how the roles of MLAs can be enhanced in our parliamentary system.

The Forum will adopt a non-partisan framework to explore how Members may empower themselves to be more effective representatives of their communities, and how political culture and dynamics may affect Members’ parliamentary responsibilities and their representative role. Discussions on how to provide MLAs with a strengthened voice to represent their constituents and thereby enhance public perception of the role of parliamentarians will also be at the forefront of the Forum.

In its first year, the Forum will feature a series of roundtable discussions. This phase will provide the opportunity for those involved to discuss and identify, from their perspective, the challenges that Members face in the current political environment. Forum roundtables will be held with academics and political scientists, media, educators, youth, former MLAs, and parliamentary officials, amongst others. Themes and findings emerging during earlier sessions will assist in shaping discussion topics in subsequent sessions. Roundtable discussions will not focus on topics of

electoral reform, alternate electoral systems, or partisan issues of any kind.

In its final stages, the Forum will feature the publication and consideration of a final report, which is intended to foster a more broad discussion on its findings. It is hoped that the report will lead to consideration of potential Member-driven reforms at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The findings of the Speaker’s Forum may also be useful to other parliaments around the world to help identify best practices in enhancing Members’ roles.

To date, roundtables have been held with political scientists, media, and youth. Each of these three groups offered unique perspectives and valuable ideas on how we can strengthen the role of Members.

A Speaker’s Forum roundtable will be held with members of the Executive of the Association of Former MLAs of BC around the time of the association’s Annual General Meeting this fall. I very much look forward to the contributions that these former Members will make to the broad themes being explored in the Forum.

While it will regrettably be impossible to engage with all members of the association on this topic, I would invite any former MLA who wishes to contribute their thoughts and ideas to send them to SpeakersForum@leg.bc.ca. We would be pleased to take these contributions into account when producing this year’s summary report on the Forum’s initial findings.

2018 Dues and Subscriptions are now due

Annual membership for former MLAs in the Association is **\$60** (unchanged from previous years) and that includes the subscription fee for *Orders of the Day* (OOTD). Fans of OOTD who are not Association members should send in a cheque for **\$40** to remain on the newsletter subscription list. If you have already remitted, thank you.

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Golden throne offered in loo of a Van Gogh

New York (Reuters) - New York's Guggenheim Museum offered to lend an 18-karat gold toilet to President Donald Trump after the White House asked to borrow a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, the Washington Post reported recently.

The museum's chief curator offered to loan the toilet, which had been used by tens of thousands of visitors, in an email to a Trump administration official, the newspaper reported.

It was not clear how the White House responded to the Guggenheim curator's offer.

The piece, by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's, is an 18-karat gold, fully functioning toilet in a single-stall bathroom at the Guggenheim and used in private luxury by more than 100,000 people. It "skewers social complacencies" and the extravagances of the wealthy.



'Forget about it' EU judges tell 'Mafia' pizza'

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) - EU judges failed to see the funny side of branding a chain of pizzerias as "The Mafia," rejecting an appeal by a Spanish company to keep European trademark protection for its marketing slogan.

The European Union's General Court in Luxembourg agreed with a complaint by the Italian government that it was immoral to trade on the name of a "criminal organization" whose "activities breach the very values on which the EU is founded."



The judgment accepts Italy's demand to cancel a 10-year-old trademark held by La Mafia Franchises of Madrid. The judges said it was not right to grant legal protection to the slogan "La Mafia se sienta a la mesa" (The Mafia's at the table) because it promoted an organization known for extortion, corruption and murder.

Putin's grandpa cooked for Lenin and Stalin

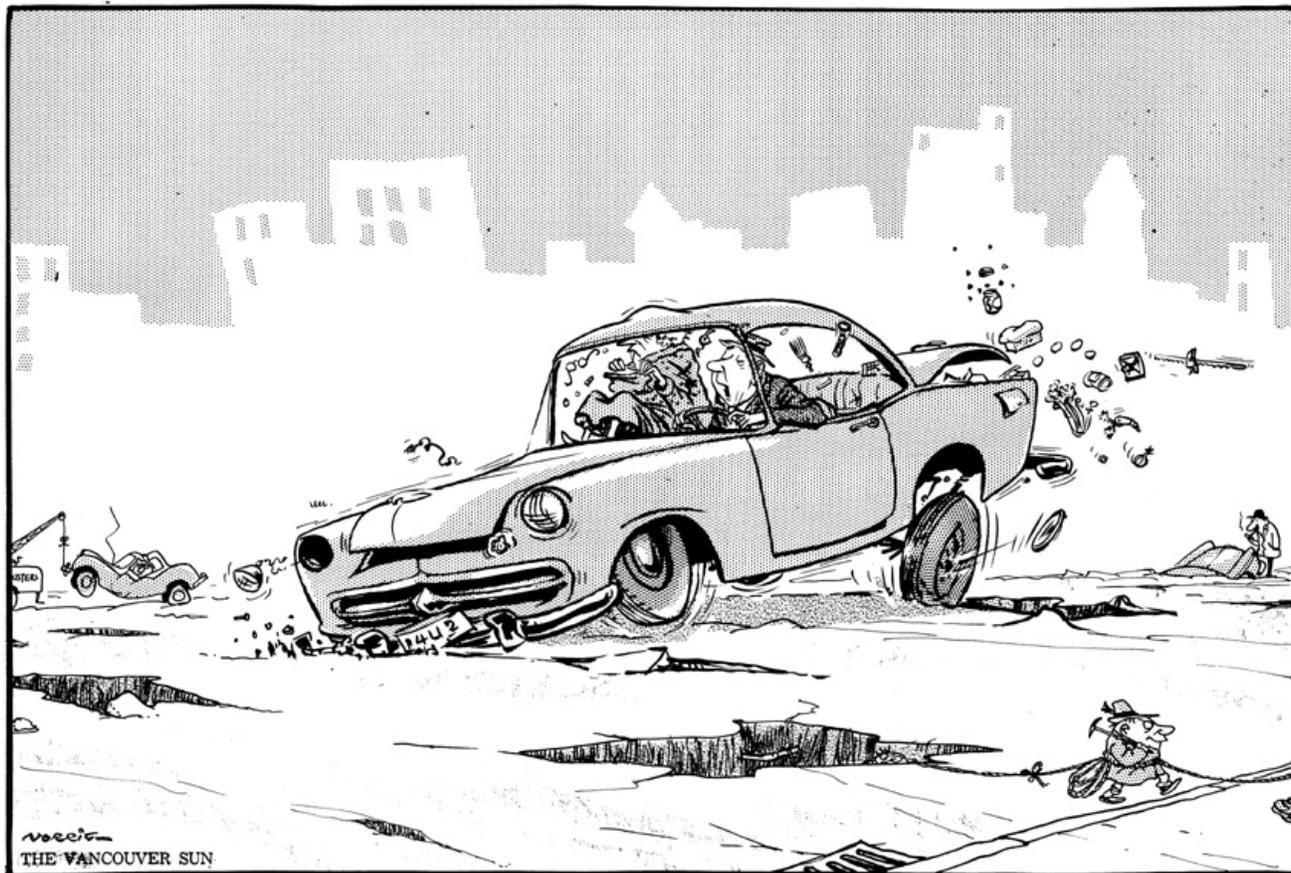
MOSCOW (Reuters) - Vladimir Putin's grandfather was a chef for both Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin, the president says in a film posted on the Internet.

In the two-hour documentary, called *Putin*, the president said Spiridon Putin was a valued member of Stalin's staff. The wartime Soviet leader, who died in 1953, conducted extensive purges during his three decades in power.

"(He) was a cook at Lenin's and later at Stalin's, at one of the dachas in the Moscow area," Putin said in the film seen by Reuters. Interviewer Andrey Kondrashov, who became the president's election campaign spokesman, said Spiridon Putin continued to cook for the Soviet establishment until shortly before he died in 1965, aged 86.



Len Norris



"You'll see ... now that the crowded summer season has started they'll find some silly excuse for tearing up the roads..."

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?

Regularly, 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 the District of Mission Mayor Randy Hawes who served as the Liberal MLA for Maple Ridge/Mission from 2001 to 2013. He chaired a number of Legislature committees including the Government Caucus Committee on Health and the Special Committee to Appoint a Chief Electoral Officer.

What prompted you to seek public office?

After being transferred from city to city in BC and the Yukon by the TD Bank, I was moved to Mission in 1979. In 1985 another transfer was imminent and my family, after establishing roots, did not want to move. I left the bank and embarked on a new career in real estate, land development and condo building. By the early 1990s, it was becoming increasingly difficult to develop projects as the city often changed requirements in the middle of the process. The frustration and costs of this led me to run for mayor hoping to bring positive change. I was elected and served three terms until again that same frustration resurfaced but this time at policies developed by the then provincial government. I ran for election in the Maple Ridge/Mission riding and was elected in 2001 and served as MLA until 2013.

Which political figure most influenced you?

I was most influenced by three former politicians: Peter Lougheed, as Alberta Premier, who turned a deficit into a surplus and a legacy fund in his first term through shrewd policy; Norm Jacobson, an MLA who exuded honesty and integrity; and Gordon Campbell, who had the most incredible work ethic I have ever witnessed.

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

My work in bank management taught me to always give straight answers and to always speak your mind. Work at both the bank and in real estate required extensive dealings with the public and all of this made the transition from private to public life appear seamless.

What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

On returning to private life I realized quickly that you can take the person out of politics but you can't take the politics out of the person. I found myself almost screaming at the television or newspaper as I watched what I felt was very poor policy enacted by the provincial and my local government. I spent over a year in retirement and, other than playing lots of golf, it was the most boring period ever in my life. Finding a way to be fully engaged was very difficult.

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

Without question, my biggest takeaway from both sitting as mayor and as MLA, is how accepting and understanding the public can be if you quickly recognize and acknowledge a mistake, apologize and move on. It is remarkable to me how often people in office have difficulty accepting and admitting a policy faux pas. Far too often the "damn the torpedoes-full speed ahead" approach has devastating results.

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

After witnessing a complete implosion of my local council (which I had helped elect), I was enticed and motivated to again run for the mayor's seat in Mission. In November 2014, I was honoured to be elected and find myself thoroughly enjoying this term with what I think is an excellent council.

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

Mission is embarking on the most exciting period of growth ever in its history and if I have any pet project currently, it is working with the council to ensure this progresses on a solid foundation. Golf, of course, remains a very important hobby and, as with all grandparents, grandchildren are always a huge part of life. Being a part of the AFMLABC and receiving the monthly copy of the OOTD is a great way of feeling connected to old friends on either side of the Legislature. Many of the stories and articles either bring back fond memories or provide very interesting history about the people and the events that built our great province.

Jim was always pushing the envelope

By Brian Kieran

The death of 79-year-old Jim Nielsen in early April instantly transported me back to the early 1980s when the former MLA for Richmond was getting a feel for life as Minister of Health.

Jim was in his early 40s and a force to contend with in the cabinet of then-premier Bill Bennett.

It was the relative infancy of the computer age. The computer as ubiquitous office resource was a relatively new concept, but Jim was pushing the envelope.

I was sitting in his office doing an interview and he expressed dismay that the health ministry was a collection of bureaucratic silos in which no one seemed capable of seeing the big picture, including him. He vowed to get a computer installed at his desk so that he could monitor, with the press of a key, how ministry resources were being allocated.

In March 1981, I did a feature for the *Vancouver Sun* from my perch in the Legislative Press Gallery. Here's part of that story:

"At first glance, Nielsen signals tough - tough enough to be a rhino. He simply isn't Jacuzzi and sunlamp pretty like MLA Walter Davidson. Nielsen with his CKWX sideburns, his Fonz-like Happy Days haircut and his Nixonian power jaw just doesn't strike you as a sympathetic character.

"Nielsen is not only an MLA of one of the most populated ridings (100,000 souls) in the province, he has a huge health portfolio to manage. He is a member of the executive council that deals with a range of issues and policies much more extensive than his main concern with health.

"He is a member of the legislation committee, the Confederation committee, the social services committee and the environment and land use committee. Some of these meet once a week.

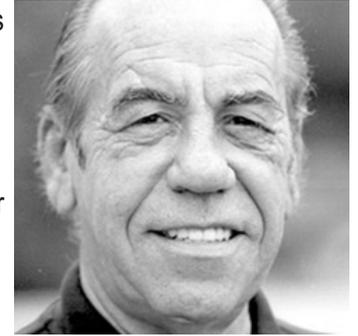
"There is a cynical attitude we as a society have about politicians. I've seen MLAs burn out over here and all they got for their troubles was abuse. Every member works like a sonofabitch,' he says.

"Nielsen, who turns 43 this August, has claimed just three days holidays since the 1979 election.

"I start digging and I forget to look up to see if the sun is still shining. You have to experience it to learn and then you make accommodations ... accommodations to make your personal life bearable. You could be away from home every night of the year if you allowed it to happen.

"Gordie Howe learned to conserve his energy and make use of it when it counted. He lasted 20 years and he did it because he didn't skate around the rink when he didn't have to. I've learned the lesson. I don't volunteer as much as I used to.'

"Even so, the imperatives of being an MLA seem to override the best of private intentions. A recent Nielsen weekend with the family was reduced by half with what should have been a half-hour opening of a health care centre. The half-hour opening took from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday."



BC's first environment minister died April 4 in New Westminster's Royal Columbian Hospital.

"He was very much a family man," said his daughter, Debra Tomkow. "His number one priority, always, was us." But as a public figure, Tomkow said her father was a brilliant politician and administrator. "He was very much about the people ... ensuring that his role focused on the community and what was best within that, instead of making people happy."

Tomkow said her father relished his time as a minister — especially his appointment as a health minister. "I think he really felt he could provide positive results in that role. I believe history does show that."

Born in Moose Jaw, Sask. in 1938, James Arthur Nielsen moved to Richmond in his early high school years. He spent many years as a talk radio host in the Lower Mainland before being elected MLA for Richmond in the 1970s. Nielsen's radio success was a great help to his political career, she said, because it gave voters a sense of where he stood on the issues and what he was passionate about.

Nielsen's stint as environment minister was notable not only because he was the province's first, but, as even he admitted in a 1999 interview, his Social Credit Party was largely ambivalent toward environmental protection.

Appointed to the post in 1975, he recalled former minister Phil Gaglardi calling BC "too big to pollute."

"Many people did not see environment and economy comfortably hand in hand," he recalled. His answer to that problem? "You just ignore a lot of people."

After spending three years with the environment portfolio, Nielsen served three years as minister of consumer affairs and five years as health minister. After politics, Nielsen worked as a public speaker and newspaper columnist. He spent his last years living in Langley.

He is survived by his wife Jean, eight children and 23 grandchildren.

(With files from local media.)

He drove his highways at Holy Spirit speed

Fifty years ago, “Flying Phil” Gaglardi had his wings clipped by then-premier W.A.C. Bennett.

The irrepressible minister of highways was grounded for flying family relatives around on a government jet. Bennett brought him back into cabinet in 1969 as minister of rehabilitation and social improvement; the irony of his portfolio title was lost on no one. However, he never recovered the power and profile he’d enjoyed as highways minister.

In a 2017 retrospective in the *Vancouver Sun*, writer Stephen Hume recalled historian William Kilbourn’s apt description of Gaglardi as the “man who drives his own roads with something like the speed of the Holy Spirit.”

British Columbia’s minister of highways and public works left his mark on everyone, even the amused men he caught slacking on road work. Gaglardi swooped down to fire them. But, he couldn’t. They were farmers fixing a fence.

The “Flying” nickname came from speeding tickets acquired on highways he was building at a feverish pace — he lost his driver’s licence several times. His other nickname “Sorry Phil,” came from the signs apologizing for traffic delays caused by road-paving projects.

“Flying Phil” was a fountain of colourful sayings. “The only time I tell a lie is when I think I am telling the truth,” he assured the Legislature. He left no doubt where he stood on issues from abortion (vehemently opposed) to development (vehemently in favour). “Those trees weren’t put on that mountain by God to be praised,” he said, “they were put there to be chopped down.”

Born in Silverdale on Jan. 13, 1913, he was one of the 11 children of John and Dominica Gaglardi, immigrants from Italy homesteading near Mission. He left school at 14 and became a bulldozer operator. Jennie Sundin, whom he later married, influenced his conversion to Pentecostalism. He studied at Northwest Bible College, and in 1938 became a pastor for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

He first settled in Langley and then, in 1944, became pastor at Calvary Temple in Kamloops.

Gaglardi ran successfully for Social Credit in 1952 and W.A.C. Bennett appointed him minister of public works and later highways. Bennett had a mission — to bring BC’s resources to market — and Gaglardi was the man to



make it happen. He launched a furious program of paving roads and building modern highways across a mountainous province equal in area to France and Spain combined.

After provincial politics he served as mayor of Kamloops from 1988 to 1990 and died Sept. 23, 1995. Gaglardi Square in his home town, a restful shade garden with an Italianate fountain and a statue, commemorates his boisterous place in BC’s history.

Writing in the *North Shore News*, Rev. Ed Hird recalls that Phil had been a hard-drinking logger and construction worker who would fight at the drop of a hat. His wife Jennie particularly appreciated Phil’s ability to both preach and fix their Model ‘A’ Ford. She agreed to marry Phil on the condition that he became an ordained minister as well.

“My mother was the drive behind my father,” son Bob Gaglardi remembered. “It’s hard to understand that, considering how strong a personality my Dad was. She was the boss at the end of the day, but she allowed my father to be at the forefront.”

Rev. Ed wrote: “Whatever Phil did in church life or politics, he did it fast and got the job done. Flying Phil saw his duty to keep the highways “in such shape that motorists will avoid the language which would deny them access to the highway to heaven.”