

The prayer for Coventry ... “Father forgive”

By Jim Hume

When we remember the fallen we sometimes forget events like November 14, 1940, an ear-nipping cold and crisply clear evening and a perfect setting for the rise of an orange-tinted, full Hunter’s Moon. It was 7 p.m. and I was just off a 12-hour shift at Alfred Herbert’s machine tool factory waiting for a bus to take me nine miles home.

At 7:10 p.m. air raid sirens began their ululating wail to warn “hostile aircraft” were in the vicinity. And, just a few minutes later incendiary bombs – small cylinders containing either gasoline or phosphorous – came clattering over roof tops to challenge the moon for the right to light the streets. Like most 16-year-olds I knew the incendiary drill. Crash a bag of sand to block the bright mini-fire or lacking sand bags use a garbage can lid. Or anything else to deprive heavy duty bombers from following a clear-lit path to whatever was their target for the night. Incendiaries were not large, but they burned bright.

At around 7:30 the first high explosives began to fall. It would be 11 more hours before the last tumbled from the skies. Thankfully, we didn’t know that, we just thought the German Luftwaffe was starting a little earlier than usual so would be finished and back home in Europe after a four-hour nuisance raid leaving us to catch a few hours’ sleep.

My bus arrived about the same time, I scrambled on and with a bus load of other workers headed for home. As we reached the outskirts of the city the driver shouted we should look out the back window and see what we had just left. It was only eight o’clock and a great fire was already burning, pulsating like a heartbeat each time another high explosive bomb struck home. The entire centre of the city looked to be on fire and in the middle of the flames was the centuries old



Winston Churchill and the Mayor Alfred Robert Grindlay visiting the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

St. Michaels Coventry Cathedral. But, we didn’t know that until morning came.

Actually, it wasn’t until the afternoon of the 15th that I got to see the results of the raid – code named Operation Mondscheinsonate (named after Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata). All night I had watched Coventry burn from nine miles away, forbidden to return by old soldier parents until the bombing stopped. It would be 6:30 a.m. before the all clear sounded and half a dozen of us, all 15 or 16 years old, climbed on our bikes and rode back into the still burning city to help where we could.

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Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

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Thank You and Miscellany

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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.

From the Editor's Desk

In this issue of OOTD we mark the passing of Rafe Mair, truly one of BC's much larger than life public figures.

Back in the day when Rafe was required listening as CKNW's hot line host, I had the combative pleasure of being a regular guest on Monday mornings discussing political shenanigans from my perch in the Legislative Press Gallery. In those days, I was writing my *Reliable Sources* column for *The Province*. I think my gritty take on politics in Victoria appealed to the feisty former cabinet minister. I certainly enjoyed jousting with him.

When Rafe was finally escorted out of radio journalism, *The Tyee*, BC's online source of hard-hitting and left-of-centre journalism, provided Rafe a home. For more than a decade, he was a regular *Tyee* columnist enjoying zero censorship.

In appreciation of his contributions, *The Tyee* has launched the Rafe Mair Memorial Fund, dedicated "to funding investigations and solutions reporting about environmental issues in British Columbia."

Rafe's widow, Wendy, says: "Rafe would be thrilled that the *Tyee* is setting up a memorial fund in his name to further his legacy of fearless environmental reporting in BC. As he mentioned in one of his books, 'Man is charged with the responsibility to leave the environment as he found it and, in our case, to restore and enhance that which has been harmed.'"

The Association of Former MLAs of BC does not have a lot of Honorary Life Members. In fact, they're like hens' teeth. One of the exclusive members of this club is an extraordinary blessing for the association and an incredible bonus since we get to benefit, issue to issue, from his political and social commentary drawn from many decades of observation. Of course, I'm talking about Jim Hume who at 93 is writing as clearly and poignantly as ever.

In November, we normally offer a reasonably generic 'Lest We Forget' remembrance. As important as Nov. 11th is, these stories suffer from a sameness since the focus is usually on the brave soldiers who fell in the major conflicts of the 1900s.

This issue we see war through the lens of a British Midlands teenager who is at once intrigued and terrified by the blitz that is flattening the countryside. That teenager is Jim. The clarity and power of his retained youthful wartime images is shared with us this November ... lest we forget.

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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.

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Coventry *continued from Page 1*

The city had been without power or water since the first wave of 500 bombers began unloading 500 tonnes of high explosives and 36,000 incendiaries killing 568 and seriously injuring more than 1,000 more. The dead were buried five days after the raid in a mass grave in London Road Cemetery. A small, white curved wall records their names.

With our factory without power and water we ran errands, delivered messages and tried to look brave when a bundle of rags that was once human beings was pulled from wreckage. It was late afternoon getting dusk, low cloud, no visible moon when I saw the shattered Cathedral, walls still standing around a pile of rubble and fire blackened roof timbers. Someone had bound two charred beams together in a cross and placed it where the altar had once stood. On the shattered wall behind someone had chalked "Father forgive." The original cross is now stored safe from the elements, but a replica still stands where it was originally placed. The chalked message faded with the years but now remains unchanged on a more permanent bronze plaque.

Coventry would suffer 18 more air raids, but none as massive as Moonlight Sonata, although two came close. On the night of April 8/9 in 1941 some 289 civilians were killed, 470 seriously injured. The following night, 170 died, 150 badly wounded.



Within months those numbers became minor in the killing game as Allied air forces responded with mass destructions of property and civilians in Dresden, Cologne, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Berlin and other German cities. The estimated civilian dead totalled 600,000 including 76,000 children.

In 1945, single bomber raids on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and two nuclear bombs eclipsed them all in terror, death and destruction.

In 1958, Canon Joseph Pool wrote *The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation*. It is still prayed at noon each weekday in the new Cathedral which remains firmly linked to the shell of the old. And every Friday at noon the brief ceremony moves to ancient St. Michaels to pray in front of the charred cross for an end to "the hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class" and from "the covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own" and "the greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth" and "our envy of the welfare and happiness of others" and "our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless and the refugee."

"Father forgive," is the response to each reminder of human failings. But, it is not made on behalf of others, but for ourselves. It's not a bad litany for Remembrance Day – the day we remember our dead but sometimes forget who they were.

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November 11 gets Commons clout

The House of Commons passed legislation this summer giving Remembrance Day the same legal status as Canada Day and Victoria Day.

It is mainly a symbolic move, as the Commons couldn't make Nov. 11 a statutory holiday across the country, because that is a matter for the provinces.

Currently, Remembrance Day is a holiday in all provinces and territories except for Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. Federal employees also get the day off.

The legislation, introduced by Nova Scotia Liberal MP Colin Fraser, followed a number of failed efforts to single out Remembrance Day. One problem is that the Royal Canadian Legion has worried that making Nov. 11 a legal holiday would change people's attitudes and they might not bother making the effort to attend local ceremonies.



In debate, Fraser said his bill would affirm Parliament's commitment to Nov. 11 as a solemn day of remembrance. "I believe it is important for us as parliamentarians to shine a light on the significance of this day and state clearly why it is unique and deserving of prominence," he said.

The bill passed by a 205-36 margin, with most of the opposition coming from the Conservatives.



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The Mighty Hughes ... “We need more like him”

By Les Leyne
Times-Colonist

A new book, launched this month, accuses reporters of being gushy on the topic of Ted Hughes, to the point where coverage of his various adventures in BC politics resembled what you'd find in fan magazines.

I was going to object to this outrageous slur, but after a quick review of the record, I plead guilty on all counts.

The Mighty Hughes, by former reporter Craig McInnes (disclosure: A friend), has hit the shelves and lands with particular impact in Victoria, because this is where Hughes made a national name for himself, after starting an entirely new career.

That career was essentially speaking truth to power, usually when it was the last thing power wanted to hear. Through a period when politicians were lobbing an unusual number of hot potatoes around, many of them landed on Hughes's desk.

Governments have all kinds of systems in place to regulate conduct, but it always comes down to the type of people running the systems. Hughes was, and is, exactly the right person to deliver a judicious bit of advice, or a common-sense way out of a mess.

The more he did it, the more he was called upon to do some more, to the point where he was carrying the day just by sheer force of reputation.

Space prohibits going into much detail, but McInnes does, and it's a remarkable compilation of ethical emergencies at a time when Bill Vander Zalm's Social Credit government was creating enormous amounts of work in crisis management. There were a few times in the late 1980s and early 1990s when things truly looked to be spinning out of control. It was Hughes who held it together, by making tough calls based on common sense and the rule of law.

His best-known call was on the conflict of interest of Vander Zalm, a ruling based on the fabled Fantasy Gardens deal. It was Vander Zalm himself who called in Hughes (“The worst mistake I ever made”). The job was a precursor to the new conflict legislation that was in the works.

There were no precedents; it all depended on Hughes. He delivered the goods. It was the most compelling conflict ruling ever delivered. It featured the premier and his wife in all-night meetings with a mysterious billionaire, a brown envelope full of cash and an eccentric real-estate agent who went through all the waste baskets and saved the evidence.

Hughes found assorted conflicts all down the line, and Vander Zalm was gone days later. But that was easy work

compared to other calls he had to make. Handling another tangled mess, Hughes once had to advise his own boss — the attorney general — that he had to resign. Elsewhere, he had to tell furious cops he wasn't going to prosecute another politician they were sure they had dead to rights.

There's a startling chapter illustrating why his career path wasn't the straight-line ascent that you'd think. Even though his legal smarts and outstanding character were recognized early on, he got caught in some passive-aggressive Liberal-Conservative tribal warfare in the Saskatchewan world of law.

His career as a judge stalled, and the work environment became toxic to him.

The Saskatchewan judiciary got exactly what it deserved for that episode. They lost him. He quit, and with his equally legendary wife, Helen, a Saskatoon city councillor and future Victoria councillor, bolted for the coast. He took a lower-echelon job in the attorney general's ministry and essentially started over in 1980 at 53.

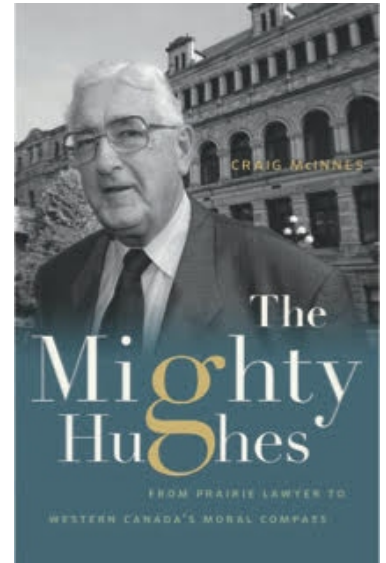
The Saskatoon boy did a few shifts in a hospital laundry during a public-service strike while re-inventing himself here.

McInnes tracks him adeptly through all the phases of his life, although Hughes probably qualified as a hostile witness at the start. The book is a project of a group of friends and admirers, and Hughes had to be dragged into co-operating.

It was worth the effort. He is a marvel of accumulated wisdom. He has retired about five times, but his phone still rings with assignments.

The lasting impression of the book is how badly we need people like him. Particularly in Washington, where they're crying out for a person of rectitude to apply the rule of law.

But there I go again, with the gushing.



Praise for *The Mighty Hughes*

“We used to say that if Ted Hughes did not exist, we would have to invent him. But as Craig McInnes makes clear in this remarkable biography, Ted was his own invention - a public servant who established his credibility and integrity case by case, year by year, making some of the toughest judgement calls ever faced in this country.”

- Vaughn Palmer *Vancouver Sun*

“*The Mighty Hughes* effectively captures the many roles of Ted Hughes in public service, as a thoughtful and indefatigable listener of marginalized groups and issues of social injustice, along with his stature as a fearless and forceful speaker of truth to those in power.”

- Michael J. Prince - Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, University of Victoria

“Craig McInnes’ brilliant book, *The Mighty Hughes*, captures the road Ted travelled, proving that truth, principle and a strong moral compass can protect public interest and enhance the body politic. To understand BC politics, buy this book.”

- Bob Plecas - Former deputy minister, author of *Bill Bennett: A Mandarin’s View*

“Craig McInnes has written a richly textured, must-read book on the tour de force who is Ted Hughes. This is the story of a man who has led an extraordinary life at the centre of some of the most remarkable events in BC and Canadian political history. This is an inspirational account of a true Canadian hero - a giant in legal, public and political circles.”

- Maureen Maloney QC - Professor of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University, and former BC Deputy Attorney General and Dean of Law

“Craig McInnes’ biography of Ted Hughes provides engaging insight into Ted’s life, career and unshakeable reputation for integrity, wisdom, sound advice, the ability to untangle other people’s messes, and his belief in the value of politicians, good government and the dignity of all individuals. The Mighty (and Fearless) Hughes is the model and high benchmark for all independent adjudicators in the country.”

- David Phillip Jones QC - Administrative lawyer in private practice, Conflict of Interest Commissioner for Yukon and for NWT



Ted Hughes and Craig McInnes at book signing

“Craig McInnes has wonderfully captured the forces that shaped the life and career of Ted Hughes, whose remarkable contributions to the legal and social fabric of Canada will continue to inspire for generations to come those who would give a powerful voice to the most vulnerable in our communities.”

- Daniel Shapiro QC - Chief Adjudicator, Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat



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Rafe Mair leaves extraordinary legacy

By Tom Hawthorne
writing for The Tyee

Rafe Mair swapped his seat at the provincial cabinet table in Victoria for one in a radio studio in Vancouver. Only in British Columbia would that be a promotion.

The well-known broadcaster and author died Oct. 9th. He was 85.

Mair did not become a radio talk show host until age 49 in 1981, by which time the lawyer had served five years in the BC Legislature and held four different cabinet portfolios, as well as responsibility for constitutional affairs. He found a larger following and greater sway behind the microphone.

For more than 20 years, Mair invited a procession of politicians and others onto his radio hot seat, where he would batter them with a trademark patter of tough questions delivered in a rapid, staccato style. His legal background made him adept at treating “guests” in an adversarial and inquisitorial manner.

His fans — and they were legion — cheered a kindred spirit whom they saw as a champion of common-sense concerns. His detractors heard an irascible, opinionated scold. (The columnist Hubert Beyer once described him as a “bombastic open-line host with slight leanings toward megalomania.”) It was hard to be neutral about Rafe.

“I am a prickly, hard-to-get-along-with bugger with an excess of pride and, I suppose, ego,” he acknowledged. His self-regard was not insubstantial. He shared with his audience his personal struggles with anxiety and depression, an admirable effort on his part to use his celebrity to help remove the stigma from mental illness.

A fly-fisherman whose preferred practice was catch and release until he decided even that was cruel, Mair was an outspoken advocate for the environment, especially for salmonids and the great British Columbia rivers in which they spawn. He opposed fish farms and successfully fought Alcan’s Kemano Completion Project, which threatened the salmon-bearing Nechako River.

History will remember him as the chief pitchfork-wielder and torch-carrier of the populist mob that arose to oppose the constitutional reforms known as the Charlottetown Accord. Put to a referendum, the package was rejected by 68.3 per cent of British Columbia voters, the largest margin of defeat in the country, no doubt owing to Mair’s over-the-air campaign.

Mair was a proud contrarian. All governments were phoney, all liberties imperilled, all proclamations of democracy a sham. He had no kind words for the bloodless corporate culture of Corus Entertainment even before the company suddenly terminated “The Rafe Mair Show” on CKNW one morning in June, 2003. He declared himself to be “the remaining survivor of the shit-disturbing clan in Canada.”

Kenneth Rafe Mair was born in Vancouver on New Year’s Eve, 1931. His parents, Frances Tyne (née Leigh), known as Frankie, and Kenneth Frederick Robert Mair, a salesman born in Auckland, New Zealand, had married at St. Paul’s Church in Vancouver 16 months earlier. He attended Maple Grove Elementary in Kerrisdale until his parents enrolled him in Grade 5 in St. George’s School, a private boy’s school where he became a cricket player. He later returned to the public system, graduating from Prince of Wales High in 1949 before embarking on a “checkered career in arts” at the University of British Columbia. This was followed by law school from which he graduated in 1956, “not with distinction but in the top third” in a distinguished class including, from the letter B alone, Tom Berger, Ron Basford, Tom Braidwood and Peter Butler.

In 1960, he began articling with Vancouver lawyer Tom Griffiths, “a guy after my own heart,” Mair wrote in his 2004 memoir, “a guy who assumed that the establishment was peddling a load of horse buns until the contrary had been clearly demonstrated.” Called to the bar a year later, the young lawyer handled many personal injury cases.

A scratch golfer, Mair also had a reputation for being hotheaded on the course and one tale of a Mair tantrum at the Quilchena Golf and Country Club became legendary.

“He chucked his bag of clubs into the lake in front of the clubhouse and stormed into the men’s lounge,” the golf historian Arv Olson recounts in *Backspin*. “Several drinks later, vowing never to play again, he left the clubhouse, cursing as he fumbled through his pockets. Then he remembered. Before teeing off, he had put his car keys in his golf bag for safekeeping. To the delight of clubhouse onlookers, Mair removed his shoes and socks, rolled up his pants and waded into the pond. He dragged the clubs out with considerable difficulty. Upon removing his keys from the side pocket, he heard someone shout gleefully, ‘We knew you wouldn’t quit for more than 24 hours.’ Mair promptly flung the clubs back into the pond, found the parking lot and drove off.”

In 1969, he moved his family to Kamloops to join the practice of his law school classmate Jarl Whist. Elected to Kamloops city council, he soon set his sights on Victoria, as he ardently opposed the NDP government of premier Dave Barrett. He won the Social Credit nomination for Kamloops in May 1975, and then defeated NDP incumbent Gerry Anderson in December. Mair won re-election four years later. He liked to say the first time he ever voted Social Credit was for himself.

The newly elected MLA was intimidated by Bill Bennett, his party leader and new premier whose “tough guy” persona contributed to his surviving in office for 11 years. Bennett named Mair Consumer Affairs Minister (later renamed Consumer and Corporate Affairs), a provocative posting for someone who considered bankers to be “mostly greedy, malicious, unfair, grasping and overly eager to seize all those assets the poor borrower had pledged.” Mair hired his friend, and longtime federal Liberal, Tex Enemark, as deputy minister, embarking on an ambitious program of reforms. Not for nothing did some of his fellow Socreds call him “Red Rafe.”

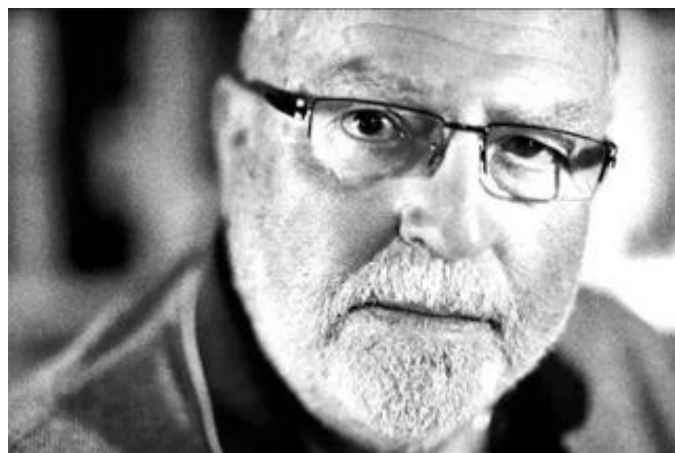
He later held both the health and environment ministries, where he negotiated an agreement to save the Skagit River from being turned into a lake to provide hydroelectric power to Seattle. The lawyer relished the give-and-take of insults and jibes on the floor of the legislature, but later confessed embarrassment at having been caught on camera in the corridors screaming, “You slanderous bastard!” at the NDP’s Alex Macdonald, a former attorney general.

For four years, Mair also handled constitutional affairs at a time when the topic roiled Canadian political discourse. His experiences with his counterparts in Eastern Canada did not warm him to his fellow Canadians, whom he felt did not understand British Columbia. One lesson he said he learned — Canadian premiers are “one-man dictators controlled by corporate money.”

In 1981, he walked away from electoral politics and into the studio of radio station CJOR, where he hosted an eponymous, three-hour-long, morning public affairs talk show. His first star guest was Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark on a long-distance telephone call.

Mair’s arrival at the station, owned by Jimmy Pattison, bumped Pat (“Go ahead, doll”) Burns from the coveted morning slot to an evening show. CJOR badly trailed CKNW, long the “top dog” among Vancouver’s private radio stations. Not long after CJOR fired Mair in 1984 (replacing him with former NDP premier Barrett, which must have stung), he was hired by ‘NW, hosting “Nightline BC” He brought him with a modest but growing audience and eventually moved to talk radio’s prime time from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Sept. 1, 1988. He held that spot for almost five years with the highest-rated radio program in Western Canada.

The radio studio provided a pulpit from which Mair launched memorable crusades — from praising Paul Watson as an environmental warrior to fighting fish farms to halting the Kemano Completion Project to exposing bureaucratic incompetence to rousing the rabble in opposition to constitutional proposals from those he saw as Eastern elites.



The station was three times a finalist for the prestigious Michener Award for public service during his stint at CKNW. The radio station earned a Michener citation of merit in 1990 for Mair’s reports on poor practices by the province’s social services ministry. In 1994, ‘NW won again for crusading to cancel the billion-dollar completion of the Alcan’s Kemano power project. The citation described Mair as “a potent force” in the campaign. In 2003, Mair received the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack Webster Foundation.

Fired by CKNW in 2003, Mair bounced back months later on AM600 (the former CJOR). “If that’s retirement, you can have it,” he said in his first broadcast after being off the air for two months. He had a smaller audience and less influence, though he hardly slowed in his prolific production.

Throughout his radio career, he remained a busy writer, publishing columns in the Province, the Financial Post, Georgia Straight and other publications, including The Tyee, since 2005. He also became a familiar TV commentator while maintaining an active web presence at www.rafeonline.com, not to mention writing several popular books.

A great tragedy in his life was the death of his 17-year-old daughter Shawn in 1976. She died of head injuries after the car she was driving veered across the road and crashed head-on into a truck. The aftermath of the death contributed to the breakup of his marriage to the former Evelyn MacInnes. He later married Patti Ballard (née Patricia McMicking), who was for many years his producer. “I wouldn’t want to answer under oath for all my behaviour during our marriage,” he wrote in his memoir. They divorced. Mair proposed to his third wife, Wendy, who was 15 years his junior, just four days after meeting her. They wed in 1994, establishing a home in Lions Bay.

(Thanks to Tom and The Tyee for permission to reprint this piece. It was edited for space.)

Rafe tributes

“Rafe was a conspicuously successful reformer”

by Tex Enemark & Perry Anglin

Headlines on the death of Rafe Mair called him a giant of broadcasting because he was known across Canada as an opinionated Vancouver hotline host. Few know that his enormous intellect distinguished him in a Social Credit cabinet from 1975 to 1981 and later author of 10 books. That intellect, his decency, and even his sudden outbursts, made it a joy for us to work for him in the first of his jobs in the Bill Bennett government.

He was a conspicuously successful reformer. Starting out in Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Rafe introduced 22 bills in two sessions. The department was responsible for consumer protection, tenants rights, liquor, the stock exchange, and more.

Rafe was a hard-working dedicated minister and a demanding boss. His sense of humour was pungent. He was amazingly well read, articulated firm principles, and spoke eloquently, with enormous clarity. Profanity was his second language. He could speak both languages at once.

A politician of fairness and great integrity, impatient with injustice, he administered rules by the book and was always on his guard with supplicants, never meeting alone with someone wanting a concession. He insisted that people appeal through proper procedures. That didn't make him popular with colleagues who just wanted good news for a constituent, and to hell with the rules.

Liquor matters were a major part of his portfolio, and he reformed with zeal many outdated liquor laws to encourage more responsible consumption. He vastly increased wine imports — but he also revolutionized winery rules. With his new policies, the wine industry grew from five wineries making “plonk” to more than 220 estate wineries, many world class.

Rafe fearlessly persuaded the seven car dealers in the Caucus that strict new regulations would improve their image by cracking down on the shady practices of disreputable competitors.

He did not like the hyper-partisan atmosphere of BC politics. Faced with a heavy legislative load, he thought that consulting with the Opposition NDP critic would help things along. His colleagues accused him of considering joining the NDP.

Early on, a columnist gave him a “D” in his first annual “Cabinet report card.” Being a quick learner, and fun, he was an “A” for every year thereafter. He was the most quotable of ministers, telling the Legislature that he would de-control rents “carefully, like porcupines making love.” But if a reporter's question stumped Rafe, rather than make something up, or guess, he would refer him to the appropriate public servant.

Rafe thought the world of Premier Bill Bennett, who indulged his penchant for sending senior staff to Cabinet meetings rather than come himself, much to the annoyance of other ministers.

Later, as a broadcaster, he often told listeners that if they thought that those in charge knew what they were doing, they were sorely mistaken, but as minister he had no such doubts.

The three of us remained close friends in the years since then. We can still hear Rafe's laugh. Full-throated and hearty. Like the man.

(Tex Enemark was Rafe Mair's deputy minister. Perry Anglin was assistant deputy for consumer affairs.)

Rafe was a tireless warrior who cared deeply

By Gordon Gibson

Rafe was a fine man, and I take the liberty of counting myself among his many, many friends.

We met in the days when I was a politician and he was an open-liner (the most prominent in BC). We found much in common and continued to talk, on and off air - more so in the later days - about politics generally and especially the Constitution, on which he was most knowledgeable.

We were comrades in arms against Meech Lake and even more so, Charlottetown, believing these adventures bad for Canada and especially the West. In one of those talks, he inspired me to write my first book, for which I am deeply grateful.

He had his worries and troubles as do we all, but he overcame them. He told me once he was never so at peace as in front of a microphone. After his family, next best in his joys, I would bet, would have been his sequential crusades, touching all topics but with a special bent toward the welfare of the salmon.

In all things, he was a tireless warrior. He cared. He cared deeply. We are better for his life. God bless you, Rafe.

Irascible, irreverent and irrepressible

By Bill Tielmann

“Hear! Hear! To opt to be pall bearers and abandon principles at the same time makes no sense – and lousy politics.”

- Rafe Mair – post-election email May 16, 2017

Irascible, irreverent and irrepressible – that would be Rafe Mair!

And he was also a true political tumbleweed, elected as a Social Credit MLA but who endorsed both the BC Greens and New Democrats afterwards.

Rafe simply could not be contained within the unfriendly confines of just one political party – because he had to call it as he saw it – and BC is far the better for it.

(Tielman is a political columnist, former communications director to the premier and was a frequent guest on Rafe's shows.)

The James Walker Prize in environmental law

In memory of Jim Walker, a prize has been established at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law to support students demonstrating an excellence in, and commitment to, improving environment law and policy through their work at the UVic Environmental Law Clinic.

Jim, a true conservation champion, passed away on June 20, 2017 in Victoria after a brief illness. He joined the BC provincial civil service in the mid-1970s as the Head of Habitat Protection in the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Working with the Trail Wildlife Association on the Seven Mile dam project on the Pend D'Oreille River, he spearheaded the establishment of the fish and wildlife compensation programs that, to this day, are associated with the water licences issued by the province to permit major hydro- electric developments.

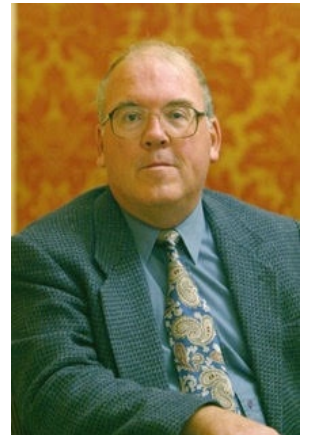
During his 28 years of service, he was also Director of Wildlife and a long serving Assistant Deputy Minister of Fish Wildlife and Habitat Protection.

His friend Rod Silver says: "Jim's legacy is one of outstanding leadership, and tremendous conservation achievements as well as mentorship of environmental law students. Our goal is to award an annual prize funded from a permanent endowment."

Former colleague Nancy Wilkin says: "Here's our chance to remember Jim and recognize bright environmental law students at UVic. We all know how important policy and legislation is to protect the environment ... especially fish, wildlife and habitat.

"So, here's our opportunity to contribute whatever we can and get this endowment built.

Give what you can and remember Jim when you do."



To make a donation to the prize go to:
<https://extrweb.uvic.ca/donate-online/in-memory-of-james-walker>.

Or mail a cheque to:
Elizabeth Eby, Faculty of Law,
UVic, PO Box 1700 STN CSC,
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2.



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Flu season is here and we've been warned

The flu season is upon us and it could be a bad one if flu activity in the Southern Hemisphere is any indication.

Australia and other spots in the Southern Hemisphere have grappled with one of their worst flu seasons on record. Health officials in North America keep a watchful eye over the flu in the Southern Hemisphere, which affects residents during their winter (or our summer).

There have been more than two and a half times more flu cases reported to Australia's National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System this year compared with the same period last year, according to Australia's Department of Health.

Most the cases have been in people over the age of 80 and in between the ages of 5 and 9. They have largely involved a strain of influenza virus known as H3N2, which reportedly can cause more severe issues for older people and those with weakened immune systems.

It's the Southern Hemisphere/Australia experience that lays the groundwork for predicting which viruses may make the rounds by the time they make their way to North America.

The ground rules in BC are simple: Seniors, anyone with immune system issues, those who are in regular contact with seniors or senior family members, anyone in care or a medical facility should consider getting a flu shot.

Reminders are posted in hospitals and care facilities. If you are visiting one of these facilities, you are asked to get a flu shot to help prevent spreading the infection amongst those most vulnerable. Staff are required to have shots or wear masks, yet another visual reminder.

In British Columbia, the seasonal flu vaccine is provided free of charge to many people:

- People 65 and older and their caregivers
- Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
- Health care workers
- Emergency responders
- Healthy children from 6 months of age to less than 5 years old
- Household contacts and caregivers of children from birth to less than 5 years of age

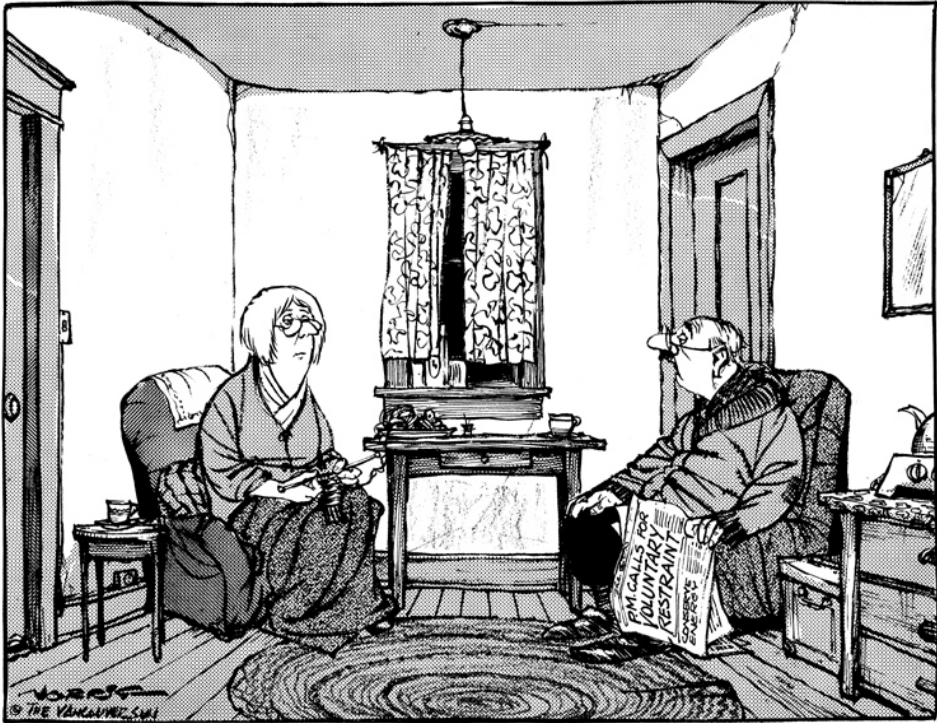


- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
- Owners and operators of poultry farms
- Aboriginal peoples
- People who are very obese (those with a body mass index of 40 or greater)
- Corrections officers and inmates in provincial correctional institutions.
- Those who provide care or service in potential outbreak settings housing high risk persons (e.g. crew on ships)
- Visitors to healthcare facilities

This year's influenza vaccine contains strains that have changed from last year's vaccine. The 2017/2018 vaccine contains: A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (new), A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus (unchanged), B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria-lineage)-like virus (unchanged) and B/Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata-lineage)-like virus (quadrivalent vaccines only).

Immunize BC provides a locator link at www.immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu/ to help you find a location near you where shots are available. Or, you can call your doctor's office. Most local pharmacies are offering free flu shots with an appointment. All of the provincial health agencies' websites - such as Island Health at www.viha.ca/flu/ - will answer your questions about the vaccine and ways to stay healthy through this year's flu season.

Len Norris



November 1, 1973

"Gosh, we've been practising conservation and restraint for all the wrong reasons ... poverty."



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\$1,000 doesn't go far in Zimbabwe, MP complains

HARARE - Zimbabwe's legislators are complaining about their poor remuneration. MP Irene Zindi says legislators are earning \$1 000 a month which is too little for them to do anything.

"I took my car for service and they want \$600. I am only paid \$1,000 per month, so where do I get that money from? When parents have no money to pay school fees for their children, they expect you to assist with payment of fees and the list is endless ..."



Some legislators have to sell fuel coupons to get money while cabinet ministers are given coupons, pay and new cars.

Brexit ... exposed in musical

EDINBURGH (Reuters) - A retelling of Britain's vote to leave the European Union and its dramatic political consequences might perhaps be framed as high drama or extreme farce.

But audiences at the Edinburgh Festival recently lapped up a light-hearted sung comedy version, "Brexit The Musical", a sellout featuring a cavorting Boris Johnson, the most prominent Brexit campaigner, in matching Union Jack underpants and socks, looking for a lost plan.



Britons voted to leave the EU in June 2016, but since then a host of unforeseen political consequences, including a snap election in which the Conservative government lost its majority, have mired the country in uncertainty.

In the comedy version, David Cameron is relieved, once he has resigned as prime minister after the vote, that he no longer has to pretend to be an ordinary man of the people.

Geneva toilets flush with cash

GENEVA (Reuters) - Geneva prosecutors are investigating after toilets in a bank and three restaurants were blocked by about \$100,000 in high-denomination euro banknotes.

"We are not so interested in the motive but we want to be sure of the origin of the money," spokesman Vincent Derouand said, adding that neither throwing money away nor blocking a toilet was a crime.



The Tribune de Geneve newspaper, which first reported the unusual deposit, said the first blockage occurred in the toilet serving the vault at UBS bank in Geneva's financial district, and three nearby bistros found their facilities bunged up with 500-euro notes a few days later.

The European Central Bank said last year it had decided to discontinue the 500-euro note because of concerns that it was being used too often for illicit activities including money laundering.

Venezuela hunger plan is harebrained

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela's government has urged citizens to see rabbits as more than "cute pets" as it defended a plan to breed and eat them even as the opposition says this would do nothing to end chronic food shortages.

The "Rabbit Plan" is an effort by President Nicolas Maduro to boost food availability. But, Maduro's adversaries dismiss such ideas as nonsensical, insisting the real problem is a failed model of oil-financed socialism that was unable to survive after crude markets collapsed.



Rabbit consumption is common in Europe. But raising rabbits in significant quantities in contemporary Venezuela would be difficult.

Maduro says the country is a victim of an "economic war" led by adversaries and fueled by recent sanctions imposed by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Member News

Where Are They Now?

Dr. Terry Huberts

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 Dr. Terry Huberts who represented Saanich and the Islands for the Social Credit Party from 1986 to 1991. Huberts served in the cabinet of Premier Bill Vander Zalm as Minister of State for Vancouver Island and the Minister Responsible for Parks.

My interest in politics began in high school in Ontario, where I had studied and excelled in Canadian and American history. I was particularly interested in political figures. Perhaps I had a premonition that someday I would be in public life myself, but little did I know that Hugh Curtis would call me at age 39 to be his running mate in the new dual member riding of Saanich and the Islands. After some prayer and discussion with my wife, I accepted the challenge.

A number of political leaders influenced me over the years. The first would be John Diefenbaker in the 1960s, with his Canadian Bill of Rights; secondly, W.A.C. Bennett with his many accomplishments; and thirdly Hugh Curtis with his dedication and perseverance.

Transitioning from private to political life was a major adjustment. I wondered how time with my young family would fit into this new career and how I would deal with my busy veterinary practice. I had never even been in municipal or provincial government so I knew there would be a steep learning curve.

Returning to private life there was the challenge of starting a new veterinary practice as I had sold the former one. Broadmead Village Shopping Centre turned out to be the perfect place. It was gratifying and I was thankful to see so many of my former colleagues from both sides of the house support me.

The biggest lesson since being an MLA is the realization that life is short and our greatest legacy will be what we have done for others. The most important thing in this life is to serve, respect and care for our fellow men and women. If we, as former MLAs, still pursue that goal, we will continue contributing toward making BC a better place.



Today, I am fully retired from veterinary medicine; however, I do a fair bit of pro bono work for friends and family. My memberships are current in the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in England and in the College of Veterinarians of BC. I still love the career.

So, what do I do with my spare time? I am very active in my local Christian Reformed Church and just recently met our refugee-sponsored family from Syria. The first thing the father did when arriving at the airport was to walk over to the Canadian flag and kiss it. Wow! That should inspire us, as Canadians, to appreciate this country.

Recently, my wife Dale and I became grandparents. Lincoln Tennessee James Huberts has made his way into our hearts. Many of you already know how special that is! We've also done some traveling. Last year, with our family, we spent two weeks in the south of France. Later, we went on to enjoy Switzerland and my birthplace, the Netherlands.

Finally, to Orders of the Day, "thank you" for all the work you do to help us stay connected and informed. We are a select group of people who have made valuable contributions to British Columbia. To this day, I am grateful and honored to have served as an MLA and had the privilege to be the Minister of State for Vancouver Island and the Minister Responsible for Parks.

Thank you, and to all my colleagues past and future, may God bless you all.

Biafran War launched Doctors Without Borders

Fifty years ago this year, hostility in Nigeria among its three most populous ethnic groups fueled one of the deadliest conflicts in the second half of the 20th century, the Biafran War.

However, the conflict had one positive outcome: It led to the founding of Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF) in 1971.

In January 1966, Igbo officers tried to overthrow Nigeria's first democratically elected government. Although the coup largely failed, soldiers from the Hausa-Fulani and Yoruba ethnic groups launched a counter coup forcing the Igbo minority to flee to their ancestral lands in southeastern Nigeria. Their leader, Lieutenant Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, proclaimed the independence of an Igbo-dominated Republic of Biafra. But Nigeria would not let Biafra go peacefully.

Five weeks later, on July 6, 1967, with the support of Britain and the Soviet Union, the Nigerian military invaded the new republic. They soon wrested control of the oil fields that the new government depended on to finance food imports. Biafra was devastated by a catastrophic famine and more than a million people died.

A team of six doctors set off on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission to Biafra. Being thrown into such a bloody conflict was a real shock for these fledgling doctors, who found themselves having to provide war surgery in hospitals that were regularly targeted by the Nigerian armed forces.

Two of the doctors - Max Recamier and Bernard Kouchner - believed the world needed to know about the events they were witnessing: Civilians being murdered and starved by blockading forces. In the following three years, other doctors began to speak up. These doctors, or "Biafrans," as they were known, began to lay the foundations for a new and questioning form of humanitarianism that would ignore political or religious boundaries, and prioritize the welfare of those suffering.

Kouchner said: "We wanted to ensure sufficient knowledge of this new type of medicine: War surgery, triage medicine, public health and education. It's simple really: Go where the patients are. It seems obvious, but at the time it was a revolutionary concept because borders got in the way. It's no coincidence that we called it 'Médecins Sans Frontières.'"



MSF was officially created in 1971 with the belief that all people have the right to medical care regardless of gender, race, religion, creed, or political affiliation, and that the needs of these people outweigh respect for national boundaries.

MSF's first mission was to the Nicaraguan capital, Managua, where an earthquake in 1972 had destroyed most of the city and killed between 10,000 and 30,000 people.

In 1974, MSF set up a relief mission to help the people of Honduras after Hurricane Fifi caused major flooding and killed thousands of people.

Then, in 1975, MSF established its first large-scale medical program during a refugee crisis, providing medical care for the waves of Cambodians seeking sanctuary from Pol Pot's oppressive rule.

In these first missions, the weaknesses of MSF as a greenhorn humanitarian organization would become readily apparent: Preparation was lacking, doctors were left unsupported, and supply chains were tangled. It became a turning point; the movement began to fracture.

A "realist" leadership of MSF emerged and the organization transformed into the professional organization it is today. Since 1980, MSF has opened offices in 28 countries and employs more than 30,000 people across the world. Since its founding, MSF has treated more than one hundred million patients.