

## The magic of a Government House feast

By Rachel Rilkoﬀ

It starts with a special occasion ... like the annual banquet of the Association of Former MLAs of BC.

It could also be a celebration of a remarkable British Columbian, an anniversary of a historic event, the visit of an important dignitary. Celebrating, inspiring and connecting the citizens of our fair province is an important role under the mandate of Her Honour, the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. And, what better place to host such an event than Government House.

The Estate of the Lieutenant Governor is a National Historic site and within it is Government House, known as the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. During the five-year term of the Honourable Judith Guichon, BC's 29th Lieutenant Governor, Government House played host to 682 events, with 265 of those open to the public.

The spectacular ballroom, with soaring ceilings hung with crystal chandeliers and windows looking to unimpeded views over Juan de Fuca Strait; the elegant drawing room with cozy settees and a fireplace carved with the Latin word *Salve* (welcome); and, the substantial dining room with a long table seating up to 40 guests, watched over by the imposing face of Haida artist Bill Reid's "Grizzly Bear Mantelpiece" carving – all set the stage for a unique setting in which to celebrate. But to fill these rooms with guests of honour requires a many-layered process, delivered by a small yet mighty corps of staff.

Programmes and Events is headed by Heidi Elliott, a veteran of Government House having served four Lieutenant Governors. Some events held at Government House are long-standing traditions, such as the former MLAs dinner, and have a more or less established guest list.

While the modern age has ushered in the occasional use of e-invites, Government House carries on the tradition of an elegant invitation card, embellished with the golden crest of the Lieutenant Governor. The Programmes team coordinates the mailing of invitations, RSVPs, tracking of dietary requirements, and fielding questions.



*YOUR SETTING AWAITS ...*

*The long table in the dining room set for a multi-course event*

Once invitations have been distributed, the Programmes team begins building the foundations, creating a document timed down to the minute – the script by which the event will run. A call goes out to Her Honour's legion of Honorary Aides-de-Camp, who volunteer to support Her Honour throughout the evening. Entertainment is secured, including a piper to open the event to the dulcet wail of the bagpipe. The traditional

*continued on Page 4*

**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:

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

Or emailed to [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com)  
or [ootd@shaw.ca](mailto:ootd@shaw.ca)

Editor: Brian Kieran  
Layout/Production/Research: Rob Lee

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.

**Thank you** to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, add a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

**Reni Masi, Surrey**  
**Jim Rabbitt, Merritt**

# From the Editor's Desk

It is just a few weeks until the annual AFMLABC dinner at Government House and this year we have a very special guest speaker, Global BC's veteran Legislature correspondent Keith Baldrey.

Again, in this issue, as he did in the Summer issue, Keith has kindly offered a guest column. While Keith is best known for his TV "stand-ups," getting the measure of this veteran journalist is better accomplished through his writing. His roots are ink stained, at the Vancouver Sun, and, as you will discover, he has not lost the political reporter's knack for provoking thought.

In his column that foreshadows the undoing of political coalitions on both sides of the spectrum, Keith makes reference to "an unmistakable rise in anti-immigration and anti-bicultural rhetoric in this country." As luck would have it, last year's AFMLABC dinner guest, Angus Reid, has just released a study that shows that half of Canadians (49 per cent) say the government's 2018 target of 310,000 new immigrants is too high. Further, they say that each of the groups of immigrants – economic, family and refugee/humanitarian – should be reduced. It is a sobering analysis of our national mood. Go to Page 10 for the full report.

Rob Lee tells me there are still some dinner tickets left, and you'd be advised to order quickly. It is going to be a great event.

These amazing Government House dinners are always staged with such seamless panache that we sometimes fail to appreciate the logistical complexity and culinary artistry that is unfolding unseen around us. Thanks to our Page 1 article written by Rachel Rilkoff, Communications and Event Officer at Government House, we have a better understanding of the magnitude of these special events. Clearly, feeding 100 hungry former MLAs is not a piece of cake.

**A word from our President Penny Priddy:** "Hello Everyone. I hope that you had a good and safe summer. Even though it is hard to use the phrase "good summer" in the midst of the tragedy of all the wildfires. I hope that you all stayed safe.

"Get your tickets now for the annual dinner. This is an exceptional opportunity to hear from our new Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin. It is also a chance to hear from Keith Baldry, a well-known and respected political correspondent who has been reporting on the day to day activities of the Legislative Assembly for more than 30 years. I look forward to his strategic analysis of the impacts of the political decisions that are made daily in the House. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity. See you there."

## **Board of Directors 2017-2018**

**Penny Priddy** . . . . . President  
**Jeff Bray** . . . . . Vice President  
**Ken Jones** . . . . . Secretary  
**James Gorst** . . . . . Treasurer  
**Gillian Trumper** . . . . . Past President

## **Directors**

**Anne Edwards**                      **Cliff Serwa**  
**Bill Goodacre**                      **Doug Symons**  
**Darlene Marzari**                      **Patrick Wong**  
**Lorne Nicolson**

## **Honourary Directors**

**Hon. Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, LL.D**  
**Hon. Steven L. Point, OBC**  
**Hon. Judith Guichon, OBC**

## **Honourary Members**

**Hon. Darryl Plecas**  
Speaker of the Legislature  
**Joan Barton, MLSc., MPA**

## **Honourary Life Members**

**Jim Hume**  
**Ian D. Izard, QC, Honourary Solicitor**  
**E. George MacMinn, QC, OBC**

## **Life Members**

**(The late) Hugh Curtis**

*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.*

# Tickets are still available!

# Association Annual Dinner

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

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

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

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

Please make your cheque payable to the **Association of Former MLAs of BC**. (If you wish, you may post-date your cheque, but **no later** than September 7, 2018).

**See Pages 15-16 for details**

TELUS PureFibre™ helps  
build better businesses.

TELUS PureFibre is the #1 internet  
technology for speed and reliability<sup>1</sup>.

Our 100% fibre optic network gives businesses the  
advantages they need to operate locally and compete globally.

This direct connection enables seamless uploading and  
downloading at speeds never before available. Through this  
technology, TELUS PureFibre gives businesses the power to:

- Process sales transactions quickly
- Update and backup data in real time
- Reimagine the way that they deliver services and innovative new solutions
- Collaborate, connect, and communicate with ease

To find more, visit [telus.com/businessbenefits](http://telus.com/businessbenefits)



 **TELUS**  
the future is friendly®

1. Traditional copper wire or copper wire hybrid networks are subject to capacity constraints and environmental stresses that do not affect TELUS fibre optic technology, which is based on light signals. Not available in all areas. TELUS, the TELUS logo, and the future is friendly are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under license. © 2018 TELUS. 18\_00424



*from Page 1*

## Government House dinner

moments that make an event at Government House so special – the order of the procession, the Loyal Toast, the playing of God Save the Queen – are all carefully considered.

When the big night arrives, the Operations team is there to roll things out smoothly. Having taken care of set up – moving tables, chairs, ordering necessary supplies, paying vendors, arranging for parking, coordinating audio/visual, music and lighting – under the direction of Ms. Thandi Williams, Operations are the behind-the-scenes crew helping to play out the script written by Programmes.

Within Operations is the Service team, headed by Gwendoline Gold, another veteran of service to the House. She directs a small army of casual serving staff whose helping hands mix drinks behind the bar, swoop about the room offering hors



*Full timer service team member Tracy Wilson briefs staff on the night's event*

d'oeuvres, serve plated dinners, clear tables, and run dishwashers. Many of the most beautiful details of an event come courtesy of the Service team. There's a certain art to setting a table for a formal plated dinner, numerous in steps and consisting of a symphony of task-specific cutlery, drinking vessels and fine china, emblazoned with the ever-present crest of the Lieutenant Governor. From the fragrant flower arrangements to the friendly volunteers checking coats, these are all calling cards of the Service team, providing the best in hospitality.

Down in the kitchen, Executive Chef Aleks Kornat can be found planning and executing menus designed to showcase the best of the province. Winning bottles of the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Wine



*Executive Chef Aleks Kornat plates one of several courses for a black-tie dinner*

Awards accompany dishes carefully crafted to represent local seasonal fare, inspired by the bounty of BC. Some items are so local they can be harvested steps from the Government House kitchen, plucked from the herb garden, orchard or the vegetable patch lovingly tended by the Friends of Government House.



*An elegant table setting for a formal plated dinner in the Ballroom*



*The dining room set for a multi-course luncheon, with "Grizzly Bear Mantelpiece" visible in the background*

Finally, guests begin to arrive, entering through the historic porte-cochère (the last remaining remnant of the original Government House) and into the foyer where, in cold months, an epic fire skillfully lit by Terry Singh may be roaring in the fireplace. From there the evening plays out, usually with Her Honour's Private Secretary, Jerymy Brownridge, as Master of Ceremonies and the Honourable Janet Austin as gracious hostess, welcoming one and all to Government House.

There is magic felt when one walks into the ballroom and sees weeks of careful planning contained in one special evening. Hopefully, this story, with its logistical, administrative and planning detail, pulls back the curtain a little. The end result is always a memorable festivity.

And, with her mandate just beginning, the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, looks forward to further celebrating remarkable British Columbians, with many delightful events to come.

**(Rachel Rilkoﬀ is the Communications and Events Officer at Government House.)**



## Are BC's grand political coalitions in danger?

Nothing lasts forever in politics.

Moreover, in applying that aphorism to the BC political landscape, it's worth asking whether the two political coalitions that have ruled this province for nearly 70 years could soon founder on rocky shoals.

There are several pieces in play that suggest this province's political culture could be in for a big shakeup, one that could threaten the stability of both the BC NDP and the BC Liberal Party.

Foremost is the coming referendum this fall on electoral reform. If it passes – and I don't think anyone has a real handle on whether it will or not – there will be some form of proportional representation (PR) model to elect folks to the Legislature.

The party most negatively impacted by such a development is likely the Liberals, the so-called “free enterprise coalition” that, like its predecessor Social Credit, is an amalgamation of both liberal and conservative viewpoints.

A PR model would provide an opening for true conservatives to break from Liberal ranks and go it alone. The measure of conservative support in BC has been overestimated before, but recent developments signal change.

First, Ontario Premier Doug Ford rode a wave of right-wing populism (mixed with some decidedly Trump-like characteristics) to grab power in Queen's Park. His anti-government, anti-carbon tax, anti-establishment fist-shaking is getting a lot of media attention and has not gone unnoticed in BC.

Right next door are Conservative governments in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with Jason Kenney, of the United Conservatives, favoured to win the next Alberta election.

If conservatives were to hold power in the four closest provinces to BC, it could light a spark under a BC-based Conservative Party (and such a scenario would be challenging for any BC government, NDP or Liberal).

Second, there seems to be an unmistakable rise in anti-immigration and anti-bicultural rhetoric in this country. (See Page 10, for the latest Angus Reid analysis of Canadian views on immigration.) Most of it is occurring back East (Conservative MP Maxime Bernier's Twitter outbursts being a prime example). But, this often-inflammatory talk is all over pervasive social media channels.

I don't think it will put down deep roots in BC, but keep in mind our province is no better than its neighbours when it comes to closet racism. Political coalitions tend to keep this kind of extremism muzzled and buried. If they disappear, this kind of rhetoric can bubble to the surface pretty fast.

As for the NDP, it is not immune to shockwaves, whether or not we switch to a PR model. The party is increasingly under pressure from environmental extremists – whether it's the Leap Manifesto crowd or U.S.-financed environmental lobbyists urging BC to shun resource development.

The ultra-green crowd has condemned the ruling NDP for continuing to build the Site C Dam, for cutting taxes to allow an LNG industry to take root, and even for allowing practices such as fracking to free up natural gas.

A shift to a PR model would almost certainly make it hard for the NDP to maintain its existing coalition, returning it to the days of being primarily influenced by unions and social activists.

However, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to hold the existing coalition intact over a longer period of time, PR or no PR.

Rising tribalism, an environmental movement demanding curbs on industry, our biggest trading partner descending into near-fanatical protectionism and increasingly split along racial and cultural lines – all eventually will impact BC.

And that may mean the two parties that have ruled this province for decades may no longer be in a position to demand compromise among their ranks as the price for power, and for enacting many – but by no means all – of their diverse followers' most cherished ideals and policies.

Change is coming to this province. It may not come next year or perhaps not even during the next five years, but it is on its way.

And frankly, I'm not sure that's something to cheer about.

**(Keith Baldrey is chief political correspondent for Global BC and the AFMLABC's guest speaker at the Sept. 21st Government House dinner. Keith.Baldrey@globalnews.ca)**



# David Anderson receives Order of BC



Olympic silver medalist at Rome in 1960, lecturer, writer, advocate and politician, the Honourable David Anderson has received the Order of BC in recognition of his service to the people and the environment of BC and Canada.

In an exclusive interview with OOTD Anderson said: "It was a surprise, a very pleasant surprise, to receive the Order of British Columbia on BC Day this past August. As it is now 12 years since my retirement from political life, I must say I thought my involvement in public life was forgotten as the world moved on. Not so, apparently.

"The reason the Order of British Columbia is such an honour is the truly remarkable membership of people from every corner of the province who have done, and are still doing, so much to make this province a better place. As former practicing politicians, we know better than most how many such people there are in BC, and how hard they work for their fellow citizens. To join the ranks of the few who are members of the Order is indeed a high honour, one that I greatly cherish."

As Member of Parliament for Esquimalt – Saanich from 1968 to 1972, Anderson identified the issues surrounding oil drilling, pipeline developments, and oil tanker traffic on the West Coast, long before they became widely shared public concerns. He founded and chaired the Special Committee on Environmental Pollution.

Anderson's legacy stands to this day, both in the awareness he raised and the moratorium on oil drilling off the Coast. He resigned his federal seat in 1973 to run provincially. He won the Victoria riding and was elected leader of the BC Liberal Party. After his defeat in 1975, he continued conservation efforts as an environmental consultant and adjunct professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, focusing on coastal and wetland protection and marine pollution from oil transportation and exploration.

Anderson served as the sole commissioner for an inquiry into Fraser Valley Petroleum Exploration, was special advisor to the Premier on Tanker Traffic and Oil Spills and served on the panel appointed to

investigate the impacts of mining on fish habitat in the Yukon. In 1993, he returned to public office as Member of Parliament for Victoria and had a number of federal cabinet appointments: Minister of National Revenue, Minister of Transport, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Minister of Environment. He served as the senior minister for BC for eight years.

His achievements include securing an allocation agreement under the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, which aided in salmon stock protection; establishing Canada's first Marine Protected Areas; and securing Canadian ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and Canada's first endangered species legislation, the Species at Risk Act. He did not seek re-election in 2006 but continued pursuing his passion for the environment on the board of the World Fisheries, becoming its president the following year.

Anderson is an Officer of the Order of Canada, an honorary citizen of the City of Victoria, and a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He is the only Canadian to be elected president of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental program.

Rowing Canada has honoured him for his achievements in sport and public service. He has been the recipient of numerous national and international conservation awards including the 50th anniversary International Conservation Award from the Atlantic Salmon Foundation and the Roderick Haig Brown Conservation Award. He has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria, and an honorary Doctor of Science from the Wilfred Laurier University.

The Order of British Columbia was established by statute on April 21, 1989, to recognize those persons who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the province or elsewhere. The Order represents the highest form of recognition the province can extend to its citizens.

**(The Order of British Columbia investiture ceremony will be held for recipients and invited guests at Government House on Sept. 20.)**



# Former MLA, Dr. Ray Parkinson, passes at 96

Dr. Ray Parkinson, the NDP's 1960s champion of "Medicare for All," has died at age 96. Ray was the NDP MLA for Vancouver-Burrard from 1966 to 1969.

His family describes him as "a man of the world who loved to dance ... who held highest that which happened between people, and as a result was able to contribute to any gathering and was active in a long list of organizations. Ray had the gift of being a listener and was always interested in people."

Ray was born to Alice Redman and John Parkinson in North Winnipeg on March 22, 1922. Family roots were in the CCF Party and later the NDP. As Ray grew up, he played accordion for dance bands as well as playing hockey for many teams. As a soccer fan, he became one of the longest holders of Whitecaps' season tickets. Ray met Ella McWilliam at a dance in Boundary Bay and they married in 1945.

Ray enlisted in the Air Force during the Second World War, serving in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps as an ambulance driver and medical assistant. Ray's experience in the war led to his interest in medicine and his becoming a psychiatrist. He studied at the University of British Columbia and McGill University and went on to practise at the Medical Health Centre in Burnaby. He also consulted at the Fraser Valley Health Units in Chilliwack and Mission.

The family says: "As part of his work, he always tried to help people find meaning in their lives through their relationships and in their work and it was astonishing to see how wide his network of friends and patients was in all walks of life."

He ran for election both federally and provincially and in 1966 became the NDP MLA for Vancouver-Burrard. His platform was Medicare for All, and he was successful in convincing his medical colleagues that Medicare in BC would be good for everyone. Parkinson was defeated when he ran for re-election in 1969. After leaving politics, he returned to private practice in Vancouver.

Ray was also involved in the Vancouver Maritime Museum and Simon Fraser University and was a member of the board of both, serving as chair of the SFU Board of Governors for five years. Ray received an honorary LLD Doctorate from SFU in 1989.

Ray and Ella had four children Graham (Laurie), Laura (Stephen), Jennifer (Duncan) and Colin (Aishah). Ray became a grandfather, always happy to spend time at home or at the family cabin with Anika, Cameron, Neil, Felix, Laila and Iman.



Ray and his family guest Joanne Yates at the 2012 Association Annual Dinner



# Surrey: A City of Stories wins Heritage BC award

*Surrey: A City of Stories*, a legacy book produced as part of Canada 150 celebrations, has won a Heritage BC Award, while also being a finalist for a BC Book Prize. Among those honoured early this year for spearheading the project is AFMLABC President Penny Priddy.

Mayor Linda Hepner says: “*Surrey: A City of Stories* is a wonderful legacy that invites us to reflect on our past and celebrate the accomplishments of our growing city. I am delighted to see that the book has been recognized for its contributions to Surrey. The accolades received are truly a win for community effort.”

Penny says: “I have been involved in Surrey heritage for some time now, and I have noted that the Surrey history books are not current and do not necessarily tell the stories of everyday Surrey people in our history, nor do they address the 12,000 years of indigenous habitation on these lands before settlers adopted the name Surrey.

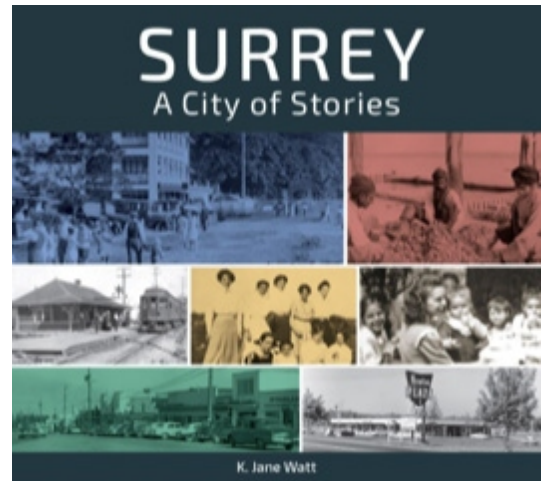
“I believed that the 150th Birthday of Canada would be the perfect time to embark on this project. I presented the idea to the mayor and council, the Heritage Advisory Commission, and the many interested history lovers in our city. Everyone was excited about the possibility and funds were identified to produce the book.”

Penny and two others served as readers as the book was being written and provided guidance about content, themes, format and resources. From idea to publication, this was achieved in one year – an astonishing accomplishment for a book of this magnitude.

Penny adds: “My goal and the goal of others was for the book to be easy to read. I believe we have succeeded and I was delighted to be asked to provide the closing quote for the book. The aspirational goal is to have the book online to enable greater access to the material.”

The author, K. Jane Watt, says: “Many people came forward to share their stories and documents, and to urge others to do so. *Surrey: A City of Stories* depends on archival collections that are the gifts of individuals, families and businesses over time. Archives and museums depend on trust to grow their holdings, and the civic collection that this book showcases is a legacy of that community trust over a long period of time.”

BCbooklook.com reviewer Janet Mary Nicol says: “This visually rich book provides a satisfying history of the City of Surrey. For a project to mark Canada’s 150th birthday, K. Jane Watt has devoted her passion for BC’s past to provide a concise text accompanied by more than 500 photographs, documents, maps and other fascinating illustrations.



“Obviously, delivering an historical overview of sprawling Surrey is a daunting task, considering its vast mix of urban and rural landscape framed by the Fraser River to the north and the Strait of Georgia (Boundary Bay) to the south, including six town centres in between — Whalley, Guildford, Fleetwood, Newton, Cloverdale, and South Surrey.”

Recognizing sustainable conservation of British Columbia’s unique cultural heritage, Heritage BC presents the annual awards, which celebrate the outstanding and significant achievements in heritage conservation of individuals, organizations, groups, businesses and government in communities across BC.

“The support and enthusiasm from the community for this book have been tremendous,” says Councillor Dave Woods. “The Heritage Commission had high hopes for this project and could not be happier receiving this award.”

*Surrey: A City of Stories* can be purchased for \$25 at any City of Surrey facility and Black Bond Books locations. The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission has purchased a copy for every Surrey school and branch of Surrey Libraries.



*“Surrey: A City of Stories” was recognized with a Heritage BC Award on May 11 at Heritage BC’s annual conference in New Westminster.*

*Left to right: Michael Gibbs, Surrey Historical Society President; Ryan Gallagher, City of Surrey Heritage Administration Manager; K. Jane Watt, author; Penny Priddy, Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission; Councillor Dave Woods, City of Surrey.*



# Mr. Speaker and his Clerk put a King on notice

By Jim Hume  
The Old Islander

There was a time when the most dangerous job in England was that of Speaker in the House of Commons. In the early days of parliament, seven Speakers were beheaded after, as the spokesperson for parliament, they delivered to the King parliamentary decisions he didn't want to hear.

This hazardous job was not eagerly sought. The pay was good, the power in the House supreme, but the risks for the first centuries of parliamentary democracy saw few MPs volunteering for the task. That reluctance to accept the Speaker's role is still reflected in every parliament in our Commonwealth when a new Speaker is elected and hustled protesting to the Chair by fellow members from government and opposition benches.

Chuckles and polite laughter accompany the brief ceremony, the origin of the charade long forgotten. But, between 1377 and 1642, the Speaker's chair was not a comfortable pew. And one cold London day, January 4, 1642, with Speaker William Lenthall in the chair, it was very uncomfortable indeed.

King Charles I was on the throne and was a most unhappy royal. He had been informed that five MPs were speaking and voting against his royal demands. With a strong armed guard, he marched into the Commons, occupied Lenthall's Speaker's chair and demanded to know where the five MPs (who had wisely absented themselves) were hiding. He wanted them arrested and charged with treason.

A remarkable oil painting still hangs in the corridors of the English Parliament in London recording that dramatic event when parliament, through its Speaker, faced down a ruling monarch. It shows the King standing imperiously in front of Speaker Lenthall's chair to make his demands. Lenthall has fallen hat in hand to one knee to address the King. Behind him sit two table officers, Clerk Henry Elsing and Clerk Assistant John Rushworth.

Elsing is looking over his shoulder, obviously fearful in the King's presence. Clerk Assistant Rushworth, charged with the duty of recording events in the House, bends to his task scribbling furiously. It is to Rushworth we owe thanks for the still preserved record of the happenings on that historic day when Speaker Lenthall told the reigning King his first duty lay with the people's parliament, not the Palace.

When His Majesty asked him whether any of his five critics were in the House, whether he saw any of them and where they were, the Speaker, falling on his knee, answered: *"May it please Your Majesty; I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the*



*Speaker Lenthall faces King Charles I*

*House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here; and humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon, that I cannot give any other answer than this to what Your Majesty is pleased to demand from me."*

What has any of this to do with we citizens of British Columbia, hundreds of years after a clerk at table issued parliament's challenge to a would-be dictator King? Possibly nothing, possibly everything, if we believe our form of democracy with its myriad faults remains the best form of government and if we retain respect for a courageous Speaker and a team of dedicated clerks who shaped its foundations.

A few years ago, the Canadian Parliamentary Review described the senior Clerk as one who *"...sits alone at the Table ... never speaking unless called upon to do so ... Clerks are not players in the political arena ... they are the ever-present, ever-watchful managers of the interaction evolving before them ... Clerks are the silent facilitators of ... political exchanges which they attempt to shape into proper parliamentary form, thus discreetly helping preserve parliamentary democracy. This is the Clerk's single-minded resolve – respect for parliament."*

In simple language, the Clerk's team is in the House, but not of it. A silent recorder of events, a guide and facilitator, but above and remote from the boil of partisan politics and never part of the debate.

Just the lynchpins that keep the ship safe in the fiercest storms

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

# Fewer immigrants please, Canadians tell pollster

Against the backdrop of increasingly fraught conversations about immigration policy, an analysis by the Angus Reid Institute finds that half of Canadians would prefer to see the federal government's current immigration targets decreased.

For those in that camp, the qualifications of immigrants do not appear to matter. While Canadians are generally positive about the economic benefits of immigration for the country, across each of the three major classes of permanent residents – economic, family and refugee/humanitarian – a majority of those who say immigration is too high also say that each of these individual group totals should be reduced.

Over the course of four decades, the number of Canadians saying immigration is either at the right level or should be increased has remained above 50 per cent, even as immigration levels have consistently risen, beginning under the Brian Mulroney government in the 1980s. Over the same period, the number saying immigration levels should be decreased has fluctuated in the 40 to 50 per cent range, suggesting the issue has been a source of division for more than 40 years.

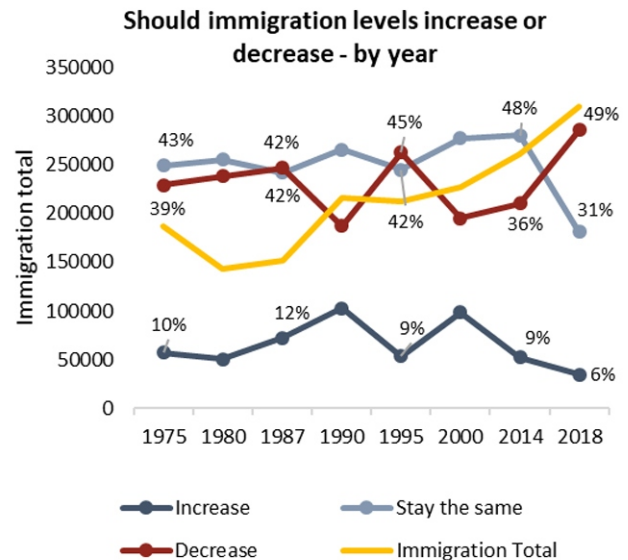
The most recent data reveals a notable change, however. As immigration targets have risen from 260,000 to 310,000 between 2014 and 2018, so too have the number of people saying there should be fewer immigrants to Canada: one-third (36 per cent) said this in 2014, half (49 per cent) say it now.

## Key Findings:

- Half of Canadians (49 per cent) say that the 2018 target of 310,000 is too high. Three-in-10 say that number is about right, while the rest say it is either too low (six per cent) or they are unsure (14 per cent).
- Past Liberal and NDP voters are far more inclined to say that levels are “about right” (41 per cent and 35 per cent respectively) than Conservative voters – two-thirds of whom (67 per cent) say immigration should be reduced.
- Overall, however, a significant segment – at least four-in-10 who voted for each of the three main parties in 2015 say immigration levels should be reduced.
- Educational attainment appears to be a factor in views about immigration levels. Those with a high school education or less are nearly twice as likely as university educated Canadians to say that levels should be reduced (59 per cent to 32 per cent).

The Liberal government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has raised the target for new permanent residents from approximately 250,000 under the Conservative government of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper. This has arguably brought attention to an issue that generally does not register as top-of-mind for the majority of Canadians, who are often most concerned about economic issues and health care. The target for 2017 was 300,000, rising to 310,000 for this year and increasing incrementally in the coming years to 340,000 in 2020.

These current targets equate to roughly 0.8 per cent of the total population, rising closer to 0.9 per cent in 2020, and are in line with the proportion that Canada has accepted since 1990. At that time, Prime Minister Mulroney and his Conservative government were in the midst of tripling immigration totals during the party's nine-year term.



As immigration levels have risen in recent years, so too, has the prominence of immigration in public debate. In the United States, President Donald Trump has been at the forefront of this, saying recently that immigration has changed the culture of Europe and has been bad for that region.

His message has often been one in direct opposition to the immigrant foundation of both his own country and this one. Trudeau – and indeed most post-war Canadian prime ministers – have espoused the importance of immigration to both the Canadian economy and the progress of this nation.

Not all Canadian politicians feel this way. Conservative MP Maxime Bernier recently criticized Trudeau and the federal government for creating “a cult of diversity” which threatens to erode Western values in Canada. This speaks to a sense among the Canadian public that they would like newcomers to do more to fit in and adopt Canadian values rather than hold on to customs from their previous home country.

While concerns about asylum seekers crossing the border have Canadians particularly worried, it appears the desire to allow fewer newcomers to Canada extends further – to official, vetted, government-sponsored immigrants.

It is important to note Canadians, for several decades, have generally been averse to the idea of accepting more immigrants. Analyzing historical data from Gallup Canada, Harris/Decima and Angus Reid, the Angus Reid Institute notes that since 1975, the number of Canadians saying this country should increase immigration levels has never exceeded one-in-five. Instead, they have been much more likely to prefer the status quo or a reduction to immigration levels.

Regionally, British Columbia and Manitoba are slightly more amenable to increased immigration – both are divided between levels being too high or about right – but half of the residents in the rest of the country say levels should be reduced. In Ontario, the province where, by a wide margin, most immigrants settle, one-third (33 per cent) are satisfied with national levels while half (50 per cent) say they should be reduced.



---

# Sir John A. vanishing from the Canadian landscape

By Naomi Lakritz  
Calgary Herald

The latest to jump on the politically correct bandwagon is Victoria, which has removed a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald from in front of its city hall. It is kind of ironic, actually, considering that Victoria is named for the Queen who ruled during the Macdonald era and to whom he swore fealty as a loyal Britisher.

Poor Sir John A. He is the unfortunate victim of a narrow 21st-century mentality that sees him as a one-dimensional figure, someone who laid the foundation for the Indian residential schools and made derogatory comments about the need to civilize the “savages.” Therefore, he must be erased from the landscape, as if he had no more importance than a stick figure drawn in chalk on a blackboard.

Pretty soon, there will be nothing left of him, and it will be generally believed that Canada simply materialized on its own out of thin air. Of course, for all that the current generation knows of history, it probably already seems that way.

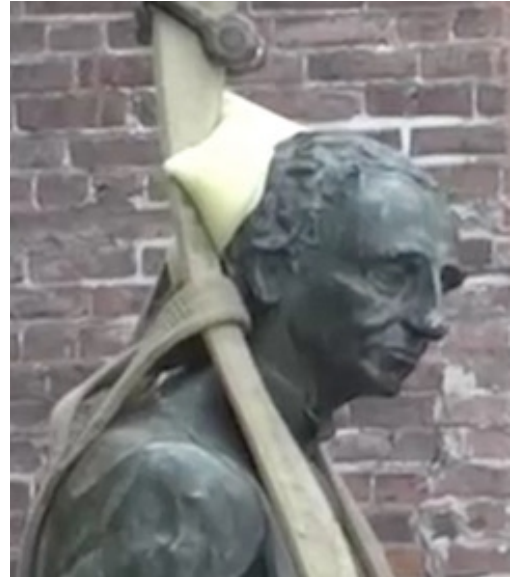
Yes, Macdonald said and did those things for which he is being censured and banished today. But he also said: “There is no paramount race in this country ...” And, he wanted First Nations people to have the right to vote. Yes, you read correctly.

Writing in the *National Post* in 2015, Richard Gwyn, the author of a two-volume biography of Macdonald, said: “Macdonald wanted native people to gain the franchise, an act at that time of immense symbolic importance, without losing any of their rights under either the Indian Act or any of their treaties.”

It only took almost another 100 years before anyone as enlightened as he presided over this country.

Gwyn added: “By the manner of his extension of the vote to Indians — a model of integration as opposed to the discredited alternatives of either assimilation or apartheid — Macdonald was even further ahead, almost by a century. His initiative affecting indigenous people did not out-live him, though: in 1898 it was cancelled by the newly-elected Wilfrid Laurier. Thereafter, native people continued to be denied the vote, all the way to 1960 when John Diefenbaker restored Macdonald’s initiative.”

Macdonald also wanted women to have the vote. “He wanted to amend the act so that the ‘Persons’ clause would read ‘Persons means men ... or women who are widows or unmarried’. He anticipated the famous ‘Persons’ judicial decision of 1929 by almost half a century,” Gwyn wrote.



*Statue of Sir John A. Macdonald hoisted during removal*

Macdonald explained his views this way: “I am strongly of that opinion, and have been for a good many years, and I had hoped that Canada would have the honour of first placing women in the position she is certain, eventually, after centuries of oppression, to obtain ... of completely establishing her equality as a human being and as a member of society with man.”

This is the forward-thinking man whom the politically correct now desire to obliterate on the basis of a number of untoward remarks he made. His crime is that he acted like a product of his time, instead of our own. This is the visionary whose accomplishments British statesman Benjamin Disraeli praised as those of “a considerable man.”

Macdonald knew he had done things that were wrong. Like all of us, he was a complex human being with flaws and virtues.

“My sins of omission and commission I do not deny; but I trust that it may be said of me in the ultimate issue, ‘Much is forgiven because he loved much,’ for I have loved my country with a passionate love,” he said.

Forgiveness is not in the vocabulary of the politically correct faction who fail to realize that, without Macdonald, there might not even be a country called Canada today.

O Canada, how do you have the heart to do this to Sir John A. Macdonald?

**(Naomi Lakritz is a Calgary-based journalist who writes a column for the Calgary Herald.)**



# Len Norris



October 18, 1955

"I don't care if you are planning on being the Premier of BC ... when I call you to dinner you COME ..."



## Serving Every Community

Throughout BC there are thousands of insurance brokers ready to serve our community. We help families and businesses protect their most valuable assets. We're right there to help settle claims, offer the best advice and deliver helpful information to keep everyone safe. By being close by, we develop a personal relationship and intricate knowledge of every customer's needs. You can't do that on the phone or a website. That's why we're right there.



[ibabc.org](http://ibabc.org)



100 years ago

# The foundering of the Princess Sophia

The Princess Sophia's departure from Skagway was a festive event. The Sourdough Dance on the night of October 22nd brought men and women together from across Alaska and the Yukon to toast bon voyage.

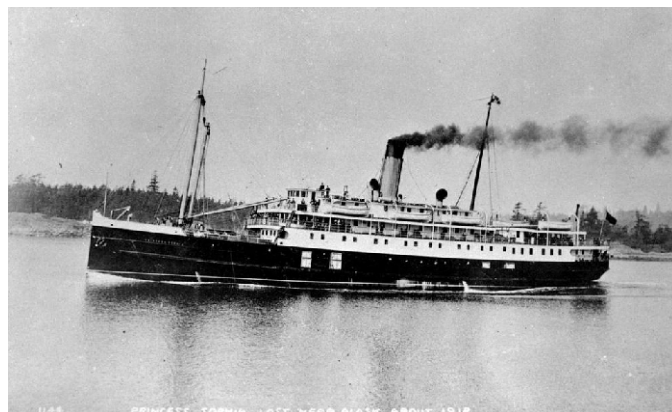
The United States had joined the war effort, and troops making their way south had been greeted like celebrities in the streets of Dawson. There were rumours that WWI was drawing to an end. The Sophia left to a chorus of "See you in the Spring," and the spirit of victory hung in the air.

The Princess Sophia departed Skagway at 10:10 p.m. on October 23, 1918, three hours behind schedule. Captain Leonard Locke was at the helm, with more than 25 years of experience on the Pacific Northwest coast. Shortly after leaving port, a north wind rose to upwards of 50 knots, and by the time the Sophia rounded Battery Point – only an hour after leaving Skagway – heavy snow and fog led to zero visibility.

Navigational technology was limited. Her distance from the shore was miscalculated in the blinding storm, and the Sophia was blown dangerously off course. On October 24th at about 2 a.m., the Princess Sophia hit Vanderbilt Reef head-on at a speed of about 11 knots. The impact brought her hull right above the water to rest on the rocky outcrop, surrounded by raging seas. The Princess Sophia had not sustained any immediate damage, but angry winds blasting across her beam ground her hull against the rocks.

Vanderbilt Reef is a large submerged rock in the centre of Lynn Canal. Markers were limited to the Sentinel Island Lighthouse 6.5 km off, and an orange-black bell buoy installed by U.S. coastal authorities that was only visible in daylight. Lynn Canal is a 135 km stretch of coastline that is never wider than 17 km across. This narrow passage channels winds upwards of 70 to 80 knots and stirs the williwaw winds coming off of the surrounding glaciers; narrow passages and intense weather conditions make this the most treacherous stretch of the 1,500 km voyage from Vancouver to Skagway.

In these early hours of the grounding, panic was at a minimum. The electricity inside the Sophia still worked, so passengers and crew were comfortable, despite the harrowing circumstances. Fishing vessels Estebeth, Amy, E.A. Hegg and the Peterson were dispatched to help, and the Cedar and King & Winge soon followed. Captain Locke deemed it unsafe to transfer Sophia passengers in such heavy seas, and instead, thought it best to wait for the storm to die down to ensure everyone's safety. Meanwhile, the storm eventually forced all surrounding vessels to retreat back to the shoreline.

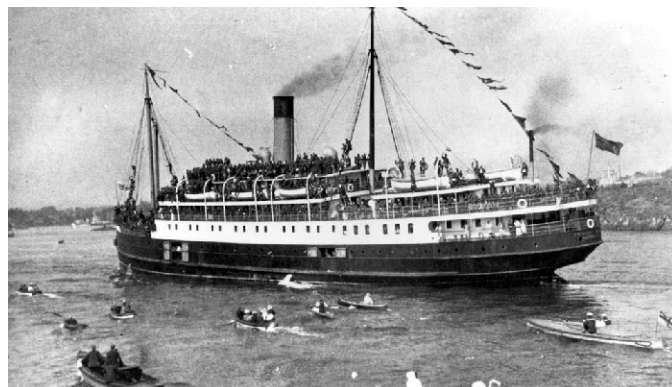


*Princess Sophia, lost near Alaska in 1918*

The Sophia waited in raging seas for more than 40 hours. As time went on, panic grew. An SOS was sent down the coast to CPR Headquarters in Victoria, but it was 12 hours before Captain James Troup received the message. As matters grew worse, people wrote their wills and tucked letters to loved ones inside their pockets.

Sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. on October 25th the Princess Sophia sank, taking all passengers and crew with her. There were no survivors. The first death toll reported by the *Dawson Daily News* on November 7th was 288 passengers and 55 crew members. The CPR Inquiry drafted an official report stating 289 passengers and 61 crew members were lost.

**(Source: The SS Princess Sophia Exhibition, Victoria, BC.)**



*The SS Princess Sophia in 1914, loaded with troops bound for the front of the Great War and being waved goodbye by many small boats in Victoria Harbour.*

# Member News

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

## Where are they now? Jim Rabbitt

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 former Social Credit MLA Jim Rabbitt. The Princeton-born mine worker served as an alderman in Merritt and was mayor from 1980 to 1984. Rabbitt was elected MLA of Yale-Lillooet in 1986 and served in the provincial cabinet as Minister of Labour and Consumer Services.

### What prompted you to seek public office?

My public life started when the crew I was working with at an underground mine near Hope selected and conscripted me to be their shop steward. Subsequently, I worked my way through the chairs to become president of the union local at Craigmont Mine, and from there I became an alderman and later, mayor. A group from the community approached me in the summer of '86 and asked if I was interested in running for the Socreds in an upcoming election. A week later, I was running for the nomination and was fortunate enough to win both the nomination and the following election. I was back in public life.

### Which political figure most influenced you?

Two individuals influenced me: Lester B. Pearson at the federal level and Bill Bennett at the provincial level. Both were great contributors to our province and country.

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

No, not on me, but it was somewhat hard on my wife and family. Sometimes people would say very rude things to Eileen or the children that they didn't have the guts to say to me.

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

Rebuilding my business from scratch as I had shut everything down when I ran for MLA.

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

Whatever is said and done, "do not take it personally." Whether it is a member of government, opposition or media, they are just doing their job as they see it.



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

My active interest is my business. My son and I are partners in a small construction company that does earth works and site servicing for custom homes. My definition of "retirement" is "doing what you want when you want." Every day I either deal with clients, work in the office or operate equipment. I still enjoy going to work every day. Through the internet, we enjoy following the adventures of our 10 granddaughters, one grandson and two great-granddaughters, and we are told another is on the way.

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

There is not a lot of time for hobbies. Fishing and fly tying have almost been eliminated. Golf and wood carving take up my spare time in the winter when Eileen and I go south to enjoy a few months in our park model in Indio, California. I do enjoy making my own wine. I haven't figured out whether the wine is getting better or my taste is getting worse. My involvement in the Association is limited to the annual dinner in Victoria and reading the monthly Orders of the Day which I thoroughly enjoy. It is great to meet and visit with colleagues from both sides of the house, the remaining staff, and press members who worked in the buildings during my term. It was a great chapter in my book of life.





# The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

## **Association Annual Dinner**

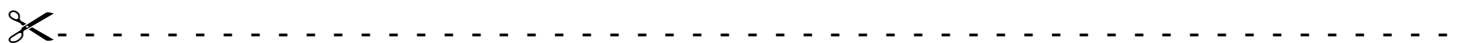
**Friday, September 21, 2018  
Government House, Victoria**

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

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

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

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



**Response Coupon** - please detach and return with your payment

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

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

Hemlock Committee Room  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria  
Commencing 1:30 p.m. sharp

### **Our Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner**

#### **Keith Baldrey**

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

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

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

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

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

View from  
**THE LEDGE**  
Keith Baldrey



#### **Additional guest names**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____