

## BC's new LG supports the LGBTQ community



This summer Victoria's Pride Parade featured a special participant, BC's new Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin and her sidekick MacDuff – "the Vice-Regal Canine Consort."

We believe Her Honour is the first BC LG to march in the pride parade. In her "previous life" she participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade in her capacity as a member of the board of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation. Her Honour's Aide-de-Camp is Captain Evelyne Lacey.

From July 1st to the 10th, Victoria celebrated Pride Week along with the LGBTQ community. The big event was the Victoria Pride Parade and Festival, taking place on July 10th. The parade marched down Government Street to MacDonald Park, where the party really began.

Victoria's first gay pride parade was held in 1991 and has grown in popularity each year. The parade and festival attract tens of thousands of people including city councillors, mayors and police officers from each of Victoria's municipalities. This year the Victoria Pride Parade, billed as the city's largest annual promenade, included thousands of members of Victoria's LGBTQ communities and attracted about 25,000 spectators.

**Please turn to Page 11 for more pictures of Her Honour's action-packed first summer at Government House.**

**Her Honour**

**The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC**

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

# Thank You and Miscellany

*Orders of the Day* is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

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# From the Editor's Desk

The Ryerson University School of Journalism publishes an annual review that gives heart to those of us who lament the sad state of print journalism these days. While many of our newspapers fight to remain relevant and commercially viable, the academics at Ryerson reaffirm that the study of journalism tradecraft is alive and well.

The Spring 2018 edition of the *Ryerson Review of Journalism* features a section titled "Storied Careers" in which two of Canada's oldest journalists look back on their careers. One of them is our own Jim Hume who, at 94, is still producing well written columns for a loyal following that includes many of you and many of his former *Times-Colonist* readers.

The writer reminds us that Jim was dismissed – not face to face, but by email – at age 90 after a 48-year career with the T-C ... not one of the cost-cutting newspaper's finest moments.

Ryerson School of Journalism Chair Janice Neil has given us the green light to reprint Jim's storied career in this edition of OOTD. Enjoy.

Jim is a regular contributor to this newsletter and appears this issue with a look back to the days of premiers Dave Barrett and W.A.C. Bennett, and the introduction of Question Period. Jim asks if "our once vaunted oral question period been wasted and brought into disrepute by oppositions seeking verbal victories and governments offering vaudevillian replies."

And, that prompts me to remind you that the Hon. Darryl Plecas, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, has established the Speaker's Forum on the Role of Members to bring in a variety of participants with different backgrounds to provide input on how the roles of MLAs can be enhanced in our parliamentary system.

Mr. Speaker has invited former MLAs who wish to contribute their thoughts and ideas to send them to [SpeakersForum@leg.bc.ca](mailto:SpeakersForum@leg.bc.ca). If you do participate, please copy us here at OOTD, [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com).)

*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.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Dinner is just dinner? Not an AFMLABC dinner!

Our 41st Annual Dinner at Government House will be held on Friday, September 21st and I am hoping to see you all there.

What is a dinner and why should you attend? Dinner means so many things. Dinners include family dinners, holiday dinners, community dinners and, sometimes, formal dinners. They all have things in common. They are where conversations happen, stories are told, memories are shared and points of view are sometimes debated.

At our AFMLABC dinners, all these things occur. AFMLABC dinners are also about honouring the history of our democratic governance in BC, and we remember and honour former MLAs who have served their province so well.

If you need a reason to attend beyond the above, I suggest that you attend to listen to Keith Baldry, this year's guest speaker. What an opportunity! This is the 41st dinner and Keith Baldry has been a legislative reporter for three-quarters of that time. For more than 30 years, he has reported on happenings in our Legislature in both print and on television. He will have reported on many of our members and our respective political parties. I expect Keith will share his views of how the Legislature has changed over 30 years and maybe if we are lucky, share one or two "old war stories."

In addition, we will have the honour of hearing comments from our new Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.

In closing, I will mention the younger citizens who are readying themselves to participate in the political process. Aside from conducting a mock parliament in the Legislature over the Christmas break, the BC Youth Parliament engages in many varied and meaningful projects and activities throughout the year as described on their website.

The BC Youth Parliament always has a table at the dinner. I know that several of you had conversations with BCYP members last year. They value hearing from former MLAs and we benefit from their views about our ever-evolving democratic process.

The Speaker of the House is always a welcome guest and this past year Speaker Darryl Plecas was welcomed and his participation was much appreciated.

If these are not enough reasons for you to attend, just come for the fun. Bring a family member or friend and enjoy the evening.

See you there!  
Penny Priddy



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# Canada split down the middle over Trans Mountain

The Trans Mountain Pipeline saga has had enough twists and turns to rival its potential path from Edmonton to the Burrard Inlet.

The decision by the federal government to purchase the project from Kinder Morgan has split Canadians down the middle, according to new public opinion polling from the Angus Reid Institute.

The poll finds equal numbers of Canadians saying the government made the right decision and the wrong decision (37 per cent take each side), while a significant portion of the population is unsure (26 per cent).

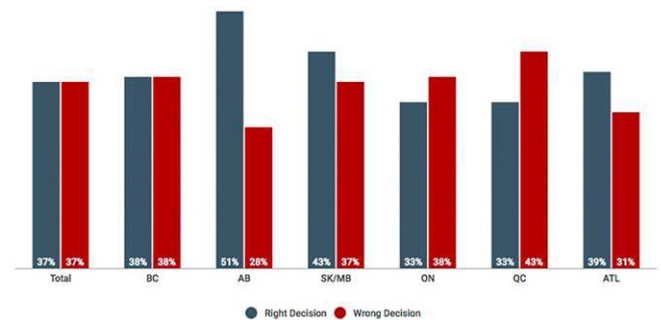
The debate rages on. Two-thirds of those who say the government made the right decision in buying the pipeline feel this way because they believe the project will be a good investment for Canadian taxpayers (66 per cent). Opponents, on the other hand, say that the government has set a bad precedent for future resource projects by taking control of this one (64 per cent).

## More Key Findings:

- British Columbia residents mirror the national average on opinions of the government's decision to buy Trans Mountain – 38 per cent say it was right and 38 per cent say it was wrong. Half of Alberta residents (51 per cent) say the Liberals got it right while 28 per cent disagree.
- Overall support for the project is in line with previous Angus Reid Institute tracking. Roughly six-in-ten (57 per cent) support Trans Mountain, up marginally from 55 per cent in April.
- Canadians are split close to evenly when asked if the government has done a good job on this file. Four-in-ten say they have (39 per cent), slightly more say they have done a poor job (42 per cent). Men are much more positive than women.

When Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Natural Resource Minister Jim Carr sat in the National Press Theatre to announce the federal government purchase of the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion and related infrastructure, they likely anticipated some political blowback.

In your view, did the federal government make the right decision or the wrong decision in purchasing the TransMountain pipeline expansion project?



It didn't take long for Conservative and Opposition leader Andrew Scheer to seize on the opportunity. He and Shadow Finance Minister Pierre Poilievre were quick to accuse the government of failing to exercise constitutional rights and exhaust other options before purchasing the project. Protestors joined the government in objecting, staging protests across the country in response to the announcement.

However, not everyone was upset. The government suggested that the project would be a "sound investment opportunity" and would ensure the creation of jobs for Canadian workers. Albertan Premier Rachel Notley praised the plan, and a pro-pipeline rally was held in Calgary in response to the announcement.

The decision is polarizing across the country, with British Columbians split evenly and at least three-in-ten on each side of the debate in every region but Alberta. Even in Alberta, where this poll finds 82 per cent of residents voicing support for the pipeline project itself, only slightly more than 50 per cent believe the government made the right call.

Perhaps the best exemplification of the tension over this decision is among those who say they outright support the pipeline. While just over half (56 per cent) say that this was the right route for the government pursue, one-quarter say it was the wrong decision (24 per cent) and 20 per cent are unsure.

As for those who are opposed, their reasoning is primarily rooted in the precedent that this decision sets. More than six-in-ten (64 per cent) say that the government should not be in the business of owning pipelines and should not be offering this type of recourse as an option for struggling projects. Another four-in-ten (39 per cent) say that the price tag was simply too high.

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KEITH BALDREY:

## Will new, tough Justin stand up to pipeline heat?

Trudeau did two things that may transform his image from that of a soft vacillator to that of a tough politico who is prepared to make the bold calls.

Whether this works for him will not be known until he tests the electorate next year, but anytime a political leader seems tougher, things tend to work out for the better more often than not.

First, Trudeau bought a controversial pipeline, knowing full well the heated reaction that would get.

Second, he stood up to a bullying U.S. President Donald Trump over proposed tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum.

Let's deal with the pipeline first.

In proposing to take the pipeline off Kinder Morgan's hands and to have the federal government – potentially, if no private investor(s) can be found – construct the second line, Trudeau followed through on his vow that “this pipeline will be built.”

That he had no real option but to go into the pipeline business is one thing (he essentially trapped himself into this course of action because he sat on his hands too long as Kinder Morgan was relentlessly pummelled for years by other governments and protestors).

But to actually do it, knowing the gasps such action would induce in various quarters (including a good chunk of his supporters) still took a measure of political steeliness.

Trudeau, at the end of the day, has chosen to cast his lot with business and industry and the economy instead of with environmental activists.

This break had to occur at some point, over some issue. A government cannot govern effectively by shutting down a big part of the Canadian resource sector, a move that could lead to an economic downturn (if not an outright economic disaster).

He has made it clear that people like David Suzuki and Stewart Phillip are not driving his government's bus. The pipeline decision further cuts ties with the protest crowd.

Politically, the Conservatives cannot effectively attack Trudeau over his pipeline move because they, too, support the project. Federally, the political party most opposed to the pipeline is the NDP, but it is going nowhere fast, with a leader who has not come close to resonating with voters.

Trudeau can afford to lose a chunk of his environmental wing since it really has nowhere else to go. The federal Green Party remains a tiny fringe element on the political scene.

To be sure, there will also be many who do not like spending tax dollars on pipelines but Trudeau is clearly gambling that will not be a vote-changer for many.

So, while the pipeline decision may cost him a few seats, it's unlikely to send him packing from the PMO, given his rather weak political opponents.

As for Trump, the prime minister – who has had a good enough relationship with the president in the past to be called by some as the “Trump whisperer” – used unusually strong language in condemning the tariffs and then had his government launch its own set of counter-tariffs to the tune of more than \$16 billion.

Trump's tariffs are “insulting and unacceptable,” according to the prime minister, who pointed out two countries fought in wars together.

The massive counter-tariffs are the biggest trade action by a Canadian government since the Second World War, and the move is not without risks. Given Trump's volatility and complete lack of predictability, Trudeau's tough talk and tough action may harden Trump's position and lead to a drawn-out trade war that hurts both sides.

Then again, he may be able to move Trump off his strategy (if there is indeed an actual strategy in play) as the mid-term U.S. elections approach.

Indeed, already the language coming from Trump officials seems to be softening (the trade dispute is now being characterized down south as a “family squabble”).

In any event, the Justin Trudeau we are seeing emerging these days seems much different from the apparent celebrity lightweight many thought him to be just a few years back. He seems tougher and less soft, and that may bode him well down the road.

**(Keith Baldrey is chief political reporter for Global BC and writes for the North Shore News. He will be the guest speaker at the September 21st AFMLABC Government House dinner. He wrote this piece in early June.)**



# Mysterious portrait artist captures the Leg

By Richard Zussman  
Online Journalist, Global News

It is the BC Legislature's greatest mystery: who is behind the @bcpoliportrait Twitter account? The new Twitter profile popped up in April and every day new portraits are sketched of members of both the legislative assembly and the media.

"It has got to be someone who knows us quite well," Agriculture Minister Lana Popham said. "I don't know if it's someone inside the building or out of it. Is it a she, is it a he? Who knows?"

"I love it. It brings a real good-heartedness into this place."

It is unclear why the mysterious artist started sketching caricatures of the characters that occupy the Legislature. But it is obvious the account is catching on. It now has more than 500 followers and even Premier John Horgan has seen his picture.

"I have only seen a thumbnail of myself on my wife's Facebook messenger," Horgan said.

Horgan got sentimental when asked about his portrait, mentioning his affinity for political cartoons. The premier hopes the Twitter account leads to a resurgence in political cartooning in BC.



"I believe the editorial cartoon is a fundamental part of our news distribution. I am a big fan. A picture says a thousand words even if they are bad pictures," said Horgan. "Not to see [Adrian] Raeside more often, not to see [Bob] Krieger on the pages of The Province, I think it does a disservice to the province. If there are budding cartoonists out there, I wish them all the best."

As of writing, the @bcpoliportrait account had sent out 163 tweets. Not only does it include portraits of MLAs and the media, it also features pictures of the speaker, the clerks and props around the legislature including the famous bell that ends question period.

Politicians don't know when their portrait is coming and some are surprised when they pop up.



"My partner told me, 'Have you seen the portrait you have done?' I said, 'No,' and I looked and I said, 'That looks pretty neat. But I know I have hair,'" joked the mostly bald Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth.

There are a few clues online as to who the politically inclined artist might be.

One is that the sketcher appears to be a fan of Global BC legislative bureau chief Keith Baldrey.

Each morning a new picture of Baldrey is added to the Twitter page. They include depictions of the long-time reporter interviewing former prime minister Joe Clark, former premier Bill Vander Zalm, and one with a golf club and ball in hand. Baldrey's late dog Teddy has even made a pair of appearances.



The other is that the artist always seems to be listening. MLA Michelle Stilwell was originally drawn without her signature smile. But when the often-positive politician spoke out about her stern-looking photo, a new smiling photo was added.

"It is fun. Just look at how many people are following, are interested in it and are liking it," Stilwell said. "At least someone is following what we are doing here."



There is no sign of when all of this may be drawing to a close. The hope from most MLAs is that it will continue until every single politician has had their picture sketched out.

"You have to laugh at politicians sometimes," NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert said. "Certainly, some British Columbians laugh at us a lot. But, if you are able to draw a sweet portrait that both pokes fun and is just a nice thing to do, why not?"

## Did you know?

During 43 days of spring sittings in 2018, Hansard recorded 2,465,367 words spoken in debate

# STORIED CAREERS: Ryerson tells Jim Hume's story

By Jacob Dubé  
*Ryerson Review of Journalism*  
Spring, 2018



At the age of 90, Jim Hume was laid off from his job.

He maintained a regular Sunday column at the *Times Colonist* in Victoria, BC for 48 years, until he was notified the publication was “changing its structure” and cutting expenditures for freelance writers – he was on the chopping block. His final column ran on March 30, 2014.

Most would consider a layoff in their 90s career-ending, but on the same day he got fired, Hume asked his youngest son to help him set up a website; he didn't want his brain to atrophy. Hume updates his blog, *The Old Islander*, every week.

“I did it for my own health as much as for somebody else,” Hume says. “I've still got a deadline once a week; I still meet that deadline.” Lately, he doesn't have to look very far to find something to write about.

In *The Old Islander*, he writes about various topics including daytime television, electric cars, and provincial politics, with a patience and attention to history missing from many modern columnists.

Now 94, the nonagenarian has been a journalist for the better part of 70 years. In his career, he's met royalty, Canadian and British politicians – he had an annual Grey Cup bet against former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson; Hume won four and lost two – and is the longest serving member of the BC. Legislative Press Gallery.

“In a way, he's a kind of living memory,” says his son, Stephen Hume, 71, himself a former columnist for *The Vancouver Sun*.

Hume was born in 1923 to a blue-collar family in Nuneaton, England, a small town just north of Coventry. He lived on a grimy street overlooking a hat factory, but would often escape the industrial setting to visit his grandfather on the rich farmland exterior.

In a post Hume published days before Christmas last year, he reminisced about holidays spent in Nuneaton during the Great Depression. “Those were the days when the first carols were heard only a few days before Christmas; when a boy soprano could send “O Holy Night” echoing through the shadows of an old church's vaulted ceiling like an angel singing; when most of us could sing along with the great choruses of Handel's “Messiah.” And some of us still can.”

In his teens, Hume interviewed for a job as a copy boy at the now-defunct *Nuneaton Observer*, and when he told his

father, he forbade it. Hume's father was a veteran of the First World War, where he fought in the Battle of Gallipoli. He lost his left eye, a chunk of his cheekbone, and had severe damage to his left arm and collarbone after being hit by shrapnel from a Turkish shell. Hume's father was suspicious of white-collar work. “He wanted me to learn a trade which would last me the rest of my life,” Hume says. “He never thought journalism would do it.”

His father set him up with an apprenticeship at a tool plant in Coventry – his impression of a decent job – but it didn't go as planned. Hume wasn't so great with his hands and ruined more pieces of steel “than you would ever think possible.”

Hume's attempts at starting a writing career in England were all received with rejection letters. Around 1947, when Hume – newly married with an infant son – met Doris and Muriel Howe through a friend. The sisters were true romance novelists writing over 40 books since the 1950s. They told Hume he had a much better chance of making it as a writer in Canada, and recommended he move to Western Canada. He chose Victoria because it was furthest away from England. “I figured – in my total ignorance – that if we didn't like Victoria, we could start to work our way home.”

He moved to Victoria in 1948, but both the *Daily Times* and the *Daily Colonist* rejected his applications, citing a lack in knowledge of Canadian affairs. After a series of odd jobs as a woodsman and a baker, among others, Hume got a job as a sports reporter at the *Nanaimo Daily Free Press* in the 1950s, and everything snowballed from there.

He went on to work in several newsrooms, with one stint outside of journalism in a municipal government organization. When asked why he left his government job after only 18 months, Hume responded, “Because I can't stand you bastards up close.” He eventually settled on the *Times* – later renamed the *Times Colonist* – in the spring of 1965.

In the 1950s, Hume visited England, took his father to the pub, and showed his old man his bylines as a newly minted sports editor in Nanaimo. His dad still didn't believe this was how he was making a living, but Hume later found out his father would bore friends with stories of his “famous writer son.” Nobody knew how small the *Free Press* really was.

“I think he was proud of me in the end,” Hume says.

# A Q for X-MLAs: Does QP improve our political IQ?

By Jim Hume  
The Old Islander

The elected denizens of the BC Legislature live comfortable lives these days compared to working conditions some decades ago.

Before Dave Barrett and BC's first NDP government, citizens elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly who worked part-time for part-time pay. Within months of being elected in 1972, the New Democrats tossed out a system of governing held dear and protected vigorously for the previous 20 years by defeated premier W.A.C. Bennett. To be fair, Bennett was protecting a system he had inherited from decades of coalition governments when Liberals and Conservatives ran a cozy legislative operation with occasional flare-ups of political ambition but for the most part as amiable as an old boys' club.

Barrett changed the comfort zone dramatically. He announced that henceforth being an MLA would be a full-time job, that sessions of the Legislature would expand beyond the traditional few weeks in early spring, and that annual stipends would increase accordingly. In lock-step with these reforms came substantial wage increases for those who serve government, the civil service, soon to be re-named the "public service."

Government had suddenly become more expensive, but the NDP claimed it would also become more efficient.

And so it was that the old lion, who had resisted change of any kind for so long, sat in retirement and growled to friends – or anyone with the time and patience to listen – that all this modernization would weaken respect for government, would make MLAs lazy and would lead to a deterioration of parliamentary standards.

W.A.C. held firm to his old beliefs until he died in 1979, seven years after he lost the ability to reject demands for reform, including: A specifically designated daily question period; a full Hansard-style verbatim record of debate and other in-house proceedings; the establishment of an auditor general to keep an eye on government programs and spending; and, the establishment of an ombudsman – to quickly become an ombudsperson. Such demands had become routine.



Challenging the establishment of a question period was always a bit like attacking motherhood so, for 20 years, W.A.C. was condemned and often accused of cowardice for denying opposition MLAs a special free-range attack period in the legislature. And, if he wasn't called a coward, he was termed too old fashioned to be premier, too stubborn and set in his ways; time and change were passing him and British Columbia by.

It was in the mid-1970s that BC got its first oral question period and its first full Hansard reporting of proceedings in the legislature. It would be 1977 before the promise of an independent auditor general was kept. Two years later in 1979, the appointment of an ombudsman followed. Both "reform" promises were made by Premier Barrett's government; both were fulfilled by Premier Bill Bennett's Social Credit government which had replaced the NDP in 1975.

W.A.C. Bennett had little to say on the auditor general and ombudsman appointments; he termed them unnecessary but basically left them alone. However, even though he was retired with his son occupying the premier's office, he waxed loud and eloquent whenever invited, on the newly-established question period and the daily published Hansard.



In his book *W.A.C. Bennett and the Rise of British Columbia*, David Mitchell provides the most concise version of W.A.C.'s thinking: "The questions that are asked in a question period are not the questions of the day; they are partisan, political questions asked for political advantage. And the answers are withheld or, when they are given are political answers just trying to score points. They don't get down to brass tacks." It is a description anyone attending a question period in BC or watching a question session on TV from Ottawa might find easy to endorse.

It is a fact that question periods are jokingly referred to as just that – question periods, not answer periods; just a brief break in serious business for a spell of often ill-founded rhetoric usually drawing equally ill-founded responses. If either side can hurt the other in the exchange it's counted as points won.

W.A.C. insisted that unlimited open debate already existed in the legislature, especially on matters related to budgets and ministry spending, "the meat of any session." He said: "When I was there the opposition would quiz me back and forth. They could get up and speak 20 times not to just ask one question, but ask a hundred questions, pointed questions which are the best ... it wasn't just a few little questions politically asked, and politically answered, at the opening of each day, killing a quarter of a session when we could have been getting work done ..."

Along with his argument that MLAs were wasting a lot of valuable time on petty one-upmanship exchanges, W.A.C. would charge that the complete record of Hansard enabled members to skip sessions without good cause because they could later read at their leisure every word spoken in their absence. "The reason I was opposed to Hansard is because parliament must be a debating society and people must be on the floor of the house to hear the debate, bang, bang, across the floor. That's parliament ... where everybody's in their chair wondering what the next guy is going to say ... The worst kind of parliament you can have is where a chap says I don't have to go in there today ... I won't miss anything 'cause I can read it all later in Hansard."

So, has our once vaunted oral question period been wasted and brought into disrepute by oppositions seeking verbal victories and governments offering vaudevillian replies? Were parliaments of the past more knowledgeable than the present? Do today's MLAs understand their own rules on questions "oral or written" that "they must not be ironical, rhetorical, offensive, or contain epithet, innuendo, satire or ridicule" and must never, heaven forbid "be trivial, vague or meaningless?"

And, what might this community of retired MLAs suggest to force question period participants to obey their self-made rules? Or should we all – MLAs and those who depend on MLAs for good governance and respectful debate – just calm down and carry on as though it doesn't matter how our elected officials behave? Re-read the preceding paragraph before responding.

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



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## We break German lines and begin "Canada's Hundred Days"

Early in 1918, the war with Germany was looking grim for the Allies. Germany began launching a series of major offensives in March that pushed the Allied lines back, advancing to within 70 kilometres of Paris. However, despite these successes, this was to be Germany's last major effort to win the war as they had over-extended their army and their resources of men and supplies were dwindling. Meanwhile, the Allied forces were being reinforced by American troops after the entry of the United States into the war in 1917. The Allies regrouped and stopped the advance, then set about to make their own major push to finally end the war.

As the war progressed, Canada's successes in battles like those at Vimy Ridge, France and Passchendaele, Belgium had earned its army the reputation for being the best-attacking Allied troops on the Western Front. When the Allies planned the offensives that would ultimately win the war, Canada's soldiers were given the responsibility of being at the forefront of the attacks.

The Canadian Corps' reputation was such that the mere presence of Canadians on a section of the front would warn the enemy that an attack was coming. This meant that great secrecy would be involved in their movements.

A large offensive was planned in France in August 1918 and Canadian troops were shifted north to Ypres, Belgium. This made the Germans think a major attack was coming there, before the Canadians secretly hurried back to the Amiens sector for the real attack. On August 8, Canada led the way in an offensive that saw them advance 20 kilometres in three days. This offensive was launched without a long preliminary artillery bombardment as was usually done (which also warned the enemy that an attack was coming) and the Germans were taken totally by surprise. This breakthrough was a remarkable development and dashed enemy morale, with the German high commander calling it "the black day of the German Army."

With Allied leaders' hopes now high for an end to the war, they kept up the pressure on the Germans. There would be little rest for the victorious Canadians. They were moved back north to the Arras sector and tasked with helping break the Hindenburg Line – now the enemy's main defensive line. After a week of fierce fighting against some of Germany's finest troops, in terrain that gave the enemy the advantage, the Canadians broke the Drocourt-Quéant Line in front of the Hindenburg Line by September 2.

Next up was the Canal du Nord, which formed part of the main Hindenburg Line. The partially-completed canal's earthworks made it a tough position to attack, but Canadian Corps commander Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie came up with a daring plan. His men, along with a British division, would cross a 2,500 metre-wide dry section of the canal. However, this was a bottleneck that could cause Allied troops and equipment to bunch up and become easy targets.



Canadian artillery in action 1918

To cover the advance, Currie unleashed the heaviest single-day bombardment of the entire war and the September 27 attack was a stunning success. The Canadians broke through three lines of German defence and pressed on to capture Broulon Wood. Combined with other successes along the British front, the Hindenburg Line was now breached.

The German army may have been retreating but that did not mean they stopped resisting. After further heavy fighting, Canadians helped capture the town of Cambrai and by October 11 the Corps had reached the Canal de la Sensée. This was the last action taken by the Corps as a whole, but the individual Canadian divisions continued to fight, overcoming stiff German resistance and helping capture Mont Houy and Valenciennes by the beginning of November.

With German resistance crumbling, the armistice was finally signed on November 11, 1918. Canadians fought to the very end with the war's last Canadian combat death – Private George Lawrence Price – happening just two minutes before the fighting officially ended. That day saw our soldiers in Mons, Belgium – a place of great symbolic meaning, as this was where the British Army had its first significant battle against the invading Germans in the summer of 1914.

The war was finally over. The Canadian Corps' accomplishments from August 8 to November 11 were truly impressive – more than 100,000 Canadians advanced 130 kilometres and captured approximately 32,000 prisoners and nearly 3,800 artillery pieces, machine guns and mortars.

During "Canada's Hundred Days," 30 Canadians and Newfoundlanders earned the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest award for military valour they could receive.

More than 6,800 Canadians and Newfoundlanders were killed and approximately 39,000 wounded during the last three months of fighting.

**(Source: Canada Remembers "The Last Hundred Days", Veteran Affairs Canada.)**

# Her Honour's summer has been packed with celebrations



**Royal Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive celebration** – Members of the Royal Lifesaving Society were Her Honour's guests this summer to focus attention on the Society's campaign to equip citizens with the skills necessary to survive an unexpected fall into water. The majority of people who drown had no intention of going into the water. The Society believes that in Canada's water-rich environment, minimum swimming ability is a required life skill for survival. Through the Swim to Survive program, the Society gives everyone the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves.



**Fraser Valley Children's Chorus "Sing Me a Song Awards"** – One of the signature initiatives of the Government House family has been the Sing Me a Song awards. The program was launched by the former LG Judith Guichon and is being sustained by Her Honour Janet Austin. Schools, community choirs and amateur musical groups are invited to write and sing an original song in the lead up to 2021 celebrations of the 150th anniversary of BC's entry into confederation. The program is an opportunity for musical groups of all ages and genres to write and sing an original song about what BC means to them or their community.



**The Friends of Government House Gardens Society BBQ** – Summer would not be complete without the Friends' BBQ. The society was formed in 1992 to undertake the restoration and maintenance of the grounds. The Friends restore and protect the Garry Oak woodlands and maintain the gardens. The Society has a membership of almost 500, the majority working year-round in the gardens and woodlands, and helping with non-gardening activities such as the seasonal tearoom, costume museum and greeting the public.



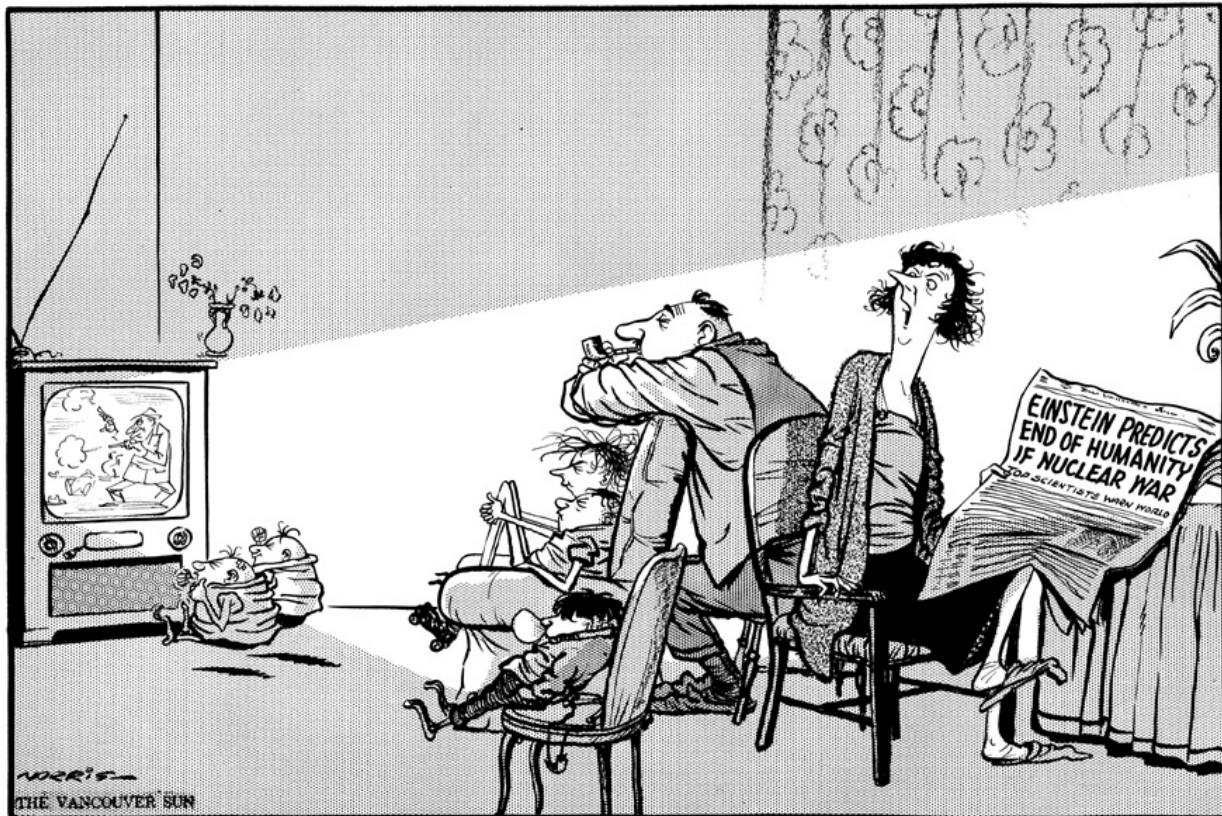
**Music on the Lawn** – Her Honour really got into the swing of things this summer at a series of "Music on the Lawn" concerts. These events are big draws of visitors to the grounds. At each concert as many as 1,000 local residents and visitors bring their blankets, chairs and picnics. It started July 5th with one of Victoria's best-known local bands, Rukus (pictured here), delivering classic rock favourites ranging from the Beatles to Elvis Presley. Then on July 12th Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues Band pleased their fans with their favourite blues. The series wrapped up July 19 with 5 Jacks and a Jill performing old faves and new hits.

# Len Norris



August 18, 1977

"Would you believe, I actually found an electric fan for sale! Then I remembered the energy crisis."



June 12, 1955

"Einstein finally comes up with a theory that everyone can understand ... and who's listening?..."

## Outdoor Office: Rhode Island governor holds beach party

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Rhode Island's governor says she's holding summer office hours at the beach.

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo held the first event at Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett. She was joined by members of her Office of Constituent Services to help connect residents with various services.



While there, she signed an executive order to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that can end up in the state's waters.

Raimondo says she looks forward to hosting office hours and hearing directly from residents at some of the state's most popular destinations. She also went to East Matunuck State Beach and Lincoln Woods State Park.

## Cat takes office as mayor of Michigan village

A Michigan village inaugurated its fourth-ever mayor to paw-ffice: A local cat named Sweet Tart.

The Village of Omena voted the 9-year-old feline, who previously served as the village's vice mayor, into office in an election that featured votes being cast via \$1 donations that went to the local historical society.



Officials said there were a record number of votes in the election, which featured a variety of animal candidates. The village has had an animal mayor for more than a decade.

State trooper Keith Disselkoen said there were about 7,000 votes cast, including several online.

"This is by far our largest total," Disselkoen told reporters. "We suspect that there were many votes coming from outside of the immediate area because of our internet reach and because of our publicity and because of the ability to receive votes from PayPal. It's really expanded the number of people that have participated."

Sweet Tart's opponents in the race, which included 13 dogs, a peacock, a goat, a chicken and another cat, were all awarded positions on the village council.

Sweet Tart will serve as mayor until the next election in 2021, officials said.

## British minister heckled by Siri in his iPhone

The British Parliament is known for its shouts and interruptions – and now even Siri is getting in on the act.

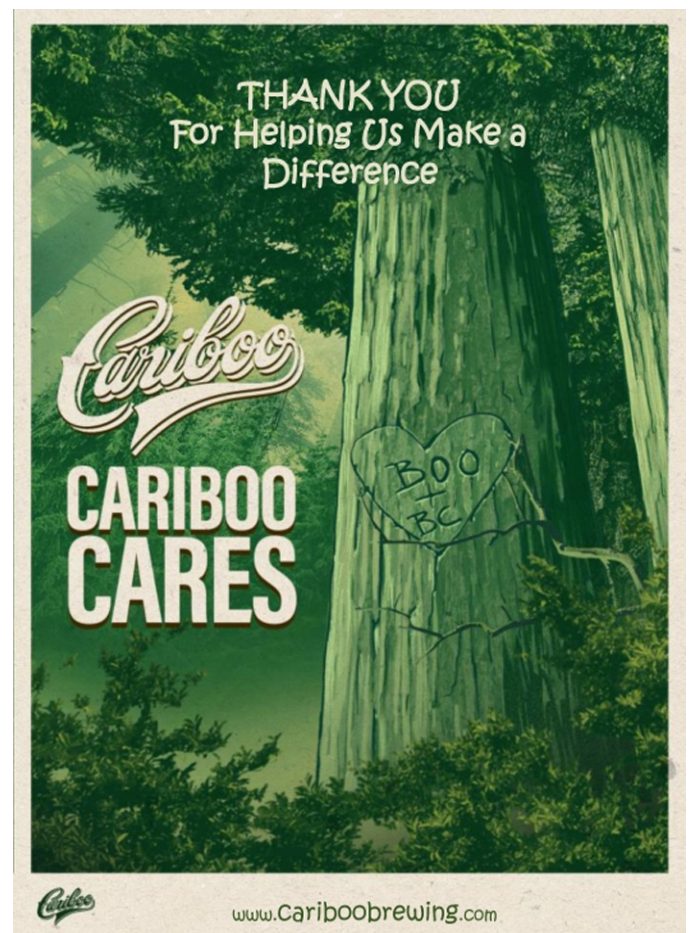
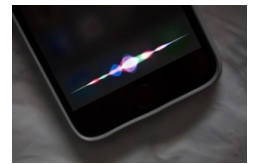
Apple's digital assistant interrupted a speech in the House of Commons by Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson. He was speaking about Islamic State terrorists in Syria when Siri – triggered by the country's name – chimed in.

"I found something on the web for Syria," Siri said as Williamson began looking around in surprise.

"What a very rum business that is," Speaker John Bercow interjected to laughs, using a Britishism for "odd."

"It is very rare that you're heckled by your own mobile phone." Williamson replied as he apologized.

Later, he fired off a tweet about the incident: "One of the pitfalls of having a new iPhone ... I must ask my 13-year-old daughter how to use it! #NewiPhone #Siri."



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# Letters

## Former parliamentarians to meet in Toronto

Dear Inter-Provincial Colleagues:

The Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians is pleased to host the next meeting of provincial and territorial associations of former parliamentarians in October 2018. We are happy to welcome you to our province and to share news, thoughts, challenges, and achievements with you during your visit with us.

We have planned an event-filled time while we are your hosts. For the first time, our very special "Distinguished Service Award" ceremony will be combined with the Annual General Meeting of our Association and the gathering of representatives of other Provincial Associations of Former Parliamentarians.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, will host a reception to welcome you and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions to Ontario and to Canada of Hon. Roy McMurtry, who will be the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

There will be unique opportunities for our inter-provincial guests to savour some of Ontario's treats: A visit to the Niagara Wine District and a leading vineyard for a VIP tour; a special dinner at the CN Tower with panoramic views of the vibrant city of Toronto from its revolving restaurant; and an optional dinner at one of Toronto's special places.

One of the important sessions for all Interprovincial colleagues is scheduled for the morning of October 17th, when we will gather for reports and discussions relating to our activities and undertakings; an opportunity to learn

from each other about our organizational aspirations, successes, and failures. This session will, without doubt, help us to shape our own strategic plans as we move forward. If you would like to submit a written report in advance of the meeting, you can do that by sending it to [oaafp@ontla.ola.org](mailto:oaafp@ontla.ola.org). Progress and setbacks are learning opportunities. We anticipate a lively exchange.

To assist us with our planning, we would appreciate your registration at your earliest convenience. We'd also like to know when/how you will arrive, your accommodation, and any guests who will be joining you. For the most part, expenses for activities on the agenda for our Interprovincial colleagues will be covered by the OAFP; however, we regretfully are not able to subsidize expenses for the guests as well as for beer, wine or liquor at meals that are included on the agenda (e.g. CN Tower, October 16th). The optional dinner October 17th, for which we will need a reservation, will not be covered.

The short visit to the Niagara wine district will provide an opportunity to see changes from the decline of heavy manufacturing industries to the rise of technological sectors as they become dominant in our economic growth.

We thank you and look forward to seeing you.

David Warner (Former Speaker)  
Chair, Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians

**(Editor's note: We have a draft programme for the interprovincial gathering and the registration forms. We can arrange to email or snail mail them to interested AFMLABC members.)**

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Dear Editor:

Suzanne and I will be putting a cheque in the mail for our Orders of the Day subscription (plus a top up) and we do plan to attend the Association Annual Dinner on September 21, 2018, along with at least several guests or more perhaps some yet to be finalized.

I would like to thank you all for your good work on the magazine maintaining the high standard set by our beloved former editor the Honourable Hugh.

Suzanne and I look forward to another winter and spring hiking in Joshua Tree Park (some spent with kids and grandkids) and although the business of James R Craven is a bit quieter and no longer permits us the pleasure of placing an advertisement in Orders of the Day, we still are doing recruiting work for Chief Administrative Officers and Engineers and Planners from Kitimat to Fernie, and Nanaimo RD to Zeballos and Cache Creek long after we ever expected.

Best to all  
Jim Craven



# The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

## **Association Annual Dinner**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

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

Time and place at the Legislative Buildings to be announced

### **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.

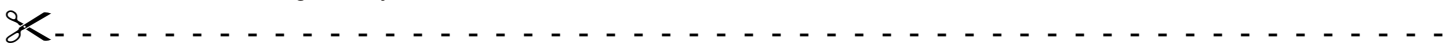
Baldrey joined *The Vancouver Sun* in 1984, and moved to *The Sun’s* legislature bureau in 1986, becoming *The Sun’s* legislature bureau chief in 1989. He joined *BCTV* (now *Global TV*) in 1995.

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**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____