

## “Enter” the virtual world of the AFMLABC

By Brian Kieran  
OOTD editor

A growing number of AFMLABC members are crossing the great digital divide to partake in the virtual world of the Internet. With the help and guidance of the Legislature Library staff, the Association and OOTD now have a website to better help you get, and stay, plugged in and engaged.

We've come a long way since Hugh Curtis, bless him, left us to our own devices. Hugh was famous for penning OOTD by candlelight. That meant long nights for Rob Lee who had the job of converting Hugh's cursive inspirations into printer's type. Forget the advent of the computer age, to the end, Hugh clung to his conviction that typewriters were a passing fad and that the Internet was the devil's work.

Rob and I met recently with the Legislature's Technical Services Librarian Sheri Ostapovich and Library Systems Analyst Louise Boisvert to better understand the new website and its potential. I swear they will make half decent web administrators of us yet.

Here's a major bonus. You no longer need to mail in cheques to pay dues and buy dinner tickets. We have set up a payments page on the site so that association members, OOTD subscribers and annual dinner guests can make payments electronically. Just go to the “Payments” page in the navigation bar and follow the prompts. I bought my dinner tickets using this feature and it was a snap.



We have a capacity to load current information on the site, so check it regularly for items of interest. We have also just begun to upload past issues of Orders of the Day in the OOTD Archives section. Soon we will have a complete archives library of the past three years.

The site has several sections: News & Events, a Photo Gallery including pictures from the 2018 AFMLABC dinner at Government House, About Us including history related to the origins of the Association and information about the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund. There are also links to learn more about the BC Legislature.

Make [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com) a favourite on your bookmarks bar and stay plugged in.

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**Her Honour**

**The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC**

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

*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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*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.*

# Thank You and Miscellany

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# From the Editor's Desk

Something for everyone in this Summer issue of Orders of the Day with solid performances from three former MLAs – Richard Neufeld, Dave Hayer and Ian Waddell – and a column from our in-house scribe and historian, Jim Hume.

Richard Neufeld, saying farewell to his Senate colleagues, looks back on a stellar career spanning four decades and reminds us that, as a legislator, he “always believed in doing what is right, not what is popular.” You will find an edited version of his Senate address on Page 4.

Dave Hayer writes about his career in BC politics that began with the assassination of his father Tara Singh Hayer in Surrey in 1998. “I came to the realization that to influence change I had to be part of the decision-making process. Becoming MLA was the first step.” Page 13.

Ian Waddell has watched the convoluted Trans Mountain Pipeline process unfold at an agonizingly slow pace and argues that his mentor, Justice Tom Berger, did it better. “Berger was one of the first to struggle with competing claims of economic development, environmental protection and, in the case of First Nations, their traditional way of life.” Page 6.

Jim Hume combs through the archives to put political journalism in historical context. His column reminds me of a famous quote from British playwright George Bernard Shaw: “Newspapers are unable, seemingly, to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilization.”

We are fully engulfed, if not yet entirely engaged, in the federal election pre-writ hustle and bustle and I'm pleased to offer an inciteful article on Page 8 about the threats around political cyber manipulation in social media. Samantha Bradshaw, a senior fellow with the Canadian International Council, argues: “It is imperative that Canadians debate the norms, rules and guidelines that will inform how political parties will use social media platforms to reach voters.”

Finally, Pages 15 and 16 contain all the information you need to order dinner tickets for the Sept. 20 annual gathering of the AFMLABC clan at Government House. Don't put it off.

# President's Report

As you receive this, we will be in full summertime mode here in BC. We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful part of the world.

Our annual dinner Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at Government House in Victoria promises to be the event of the year! Intrepid long-time CKNW reporter George Garrett will be our guest speaker. September in Victoria is lovely, and there is no better setting for an autumn evening celebration of comradery than to be hosted by the Lieutenant Governor at Government House. Plan for a weekend getaway to the Island around this terrific dinner. Tickets are limited, so order yours soon to ensure a spot! We look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets are \$115. I should note earlier editions of Orders of the Day had the ticket price at \$105. Due to a rise in costs at Government House, the ticket price has gone up \$10. It is still a great deal for a splendid dinner in the elegant surroundings of Government House with many old friends gathered round.

As our Page 1 story states, you can now order dinner tickets online by going to [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com) and clicking on "Payments" in the navigation bar. There is also an order form in this edition and you can send us a cheque with the number of tickets you want to:

Association of Former MLAs of BC  
PO Box 31009  
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Victoria, BC V8N 6J3

We have a great Summer issue for you. Our best editions are those containing articles and input from former MLAs. We love to hear the different perspectives you provide; that is one of the reasons for this association. The breadth and depth of experience among our membership is extensive. We want to tap into that for the benefit of each other, as well as all our subscribers.

So please take 10-15 minutes to write and send in a small article on a subject that interests you; no doubt it will spark interest in others.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a safe and happy summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the September dinner!

Jeff Bray  
President



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*And many more!*

# Senator Richard Neufeld says farewell

Senator Richard Neufeld turns 75 in November and will retire from Canada's Red Chamber after nearly four decades of public service. In June he delivered his farewell remarks.

Neufeld was appointed to the Senate in 2009. Before that, Neufeld was the MLA for Peace River North from 1991 to 2008 and served as BC's energy minister for eight years. Neufeld is also a former councillor and mayor of Fort Nelson.

The following is an edited version of his speech in the Senate:

"Over the last 10 years, I have thought many times about how I would deal with the inevitable end of my political career here in the Senate. Sometimes I considered leaving quietly. Other times I thought I would put something on the record. I finally decided to do the latter, and I am sorry to take time away from the Senate's important business.

"A very special thank you goes to my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Politics isn't always easy and living with a politician has its challenges.

"To my kids, I hope you know that every decision, policy, proposal or vote I ever made was always with you in mind. I became a politician because I wanted, in some small way, to make our province and country a better place for you and future generations.

"With your indulgence, I would like to put on the record the names of my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They are: Chantel and Elly Chavez, their daughter Faye Horth and her sons Bryson and Rylan West; their son Jessy Ferguson and his son Javion; Nathan and Kendra Neufeld; Ryan and Jolene Currie and their sons Connor and Tristan; and Kathryn Hill and her son Grady, who is here in the gallery today, and daughter Darby.

"In particular, I want them – and all Canadians for that matter – to fully understand how important the Senate of Canada is to society as a whole and why we should all be thankful for it. I think it is a vital institution in our parliamentary system and an important part of our democracy.

"In October of 1991, I was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for Peace River North. I held that constituency until my appointment to the Senate in January of 2009. I spent the first 10 years in opposition as the NDP held government.



"During that period, I also defected to the BC Reform Party and later to the BC Liberals. For those of you who are unfamiliar with BC politics – and a lot of people are – the BC Liberals are essentially a coalition of left and right of centre members. Don't think for a minute I'm actually a federal Liberal. But I appreciate you very much.

"In 2001, I ran for the BC Liberals and, thanks to Premier Gordon Campbell's outstanding leadership, we formed government ... I was honoured to serve as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources from 2001 to 2008 and was the longest-serving minister in this portfolio in BC's history. I enjoyed managing this portfolio profoundly since I now had to manage the industry that I had worked in for most of my life. It was a challenging yet fulfilling position.

"The ministry accomplished a lot of things during my time in cabinet, particularly considering the fact that the world of energy was evolving at a rapid pace. I introduced two energy plans, one in 2002 and an updated plan in 2006. These were the first energy plans the province ever had. They were ambitious plans to invigorate the province's energy sector. To my knowledge, both of those energy plans are still in place and have not been changed. I strongly believe that under the leadership of Premier Campbell, much was accomplished in BC, and we are better off for it.

"Honourable senators, I honestly think that every politician has a shelf life, so after 18 years as MLA for Peace River North, I thought it was time for me to move on to something new and allow for some new blood to represent my region. When I made my decision, I was unsure what lay ahead for me but knew I needed a change of scenery and a change of pace. In September of 2008, I told my premier I would not run for re-election in the upcoming April 2009 election. Premier Campbell was understanding but asked me to stay on as minister until the election. I agreed I would.

"As many of you know, when a minister informs the leader of his or her intention not to run again, they are usually replaced by another member who is going to run again, in hopes of increasing their profile leading up to the election. I was surprised and, quite honestly, humbled that Premier Campbell asked me to stay on board.

"Then, to my surprise, I received a call from Prime Minister Harper in December of 2008, asking if I would serve as a senator for British Columbia. Many may not believe this, but it was the first time I had ever spoken to Mr. Harper. I was truly honoured to accept and am grateful to the Prime Minister for the trust he bestowed upon me. I want to thank him for that confidence. Little did I know that the work of a senator was as demanding as it is, particularly the travel to and from Ottawa and constantly living between three time zones.

"In fact, I signed my resignation letter as MLA the same day I signed my oath of allegiance as a senator. As far as I know, it was the first time in history that a BC senator actually came from anywhere other than the Lower Mainland or southern BC. I'm from northern BC and that reality has always influenced my work, whether as an MLA or a senator.

"Colleagues, as you can see, my road to the Senate has been a bit unusual. When I look back at my 16-year-old self who thought he had life all figured out, I can't help but think of my parents who I hope are looking down on me with pride. Fifty-eight years later, I can tell you now that I did not have life all figured out and still don't. But I did my best to uphold the values my parents instilled in me, which guided me through my personal and professional lives.

"In my view, the moral of my story is: If you set your mind to it, you can achieve great things. I want my kids, grandkids and great-grandkids always to remember that. You have to work hard in life. Things won't be handed to you on a silver platter.

"By the time I retire, I will have served in this chamber for 10 years. I leave behind more than 37 years of public life having served – honourably, I hope – at all levels of government. It's hard to believe that the first time my name appeared on a ballot was almost four decades ago. It feels like it was just yesterday I started milking those cows and looking after cattle.

"It has truly been a privilege to serve British Columbians in Canada's upper chamber. The Senate of Canada is certainly an incredible place. I know we all feel a great sense of pride and responsibility serving in this chamber.

"As a legislator, I always believed in doing what is right, not what is popular. I did not get involved in politics to win a popularity contest; rather, I've always strived to provide the best leadership possible and defend the interests and rights of the Freds and Marthas across the country.

"I know I will miss my colleagues on all sides of the chamber, many of whom have become great friends. But don't get me wrong; I'm very much looking forward to being back home in beautiful northeastern British Columbia and spending quality time with my wife Montana, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and our many friends.

"Finally, to Montana – the apple of my eye – who is with us in the gallery today: I want to thank you for putting up with me during my journey in politics, most of which was spent away from home and leaving you with all the responsibilities. I am so looking forward to our time together – uninterrupted – going camping with our kids or riding our motorcycle across this beautiful country of ours.

"Thank you all very much. It has been an honour to serve."

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# Trans Mountain Pipeline ... we could have done better

By Ian Waddell

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the federal government approved the Trans Mountain Pipeline for the second time.

This was after contentious National Energy Board (NEB) hearings, demonstrations, and arrests, followed by the Federal Court of Canada overturning the NEB decision on the grounds of inadequate consultation with aboriginal people and failure to consider the danger to marine life. The future looks like more court challenges and demonstrations. Could we have done better? I think so.

Almost half a century ago, the Berger Inquiry examined a proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, which was to take Alaskan and Mackenzie Delta gas to southern U.S. markets. Thomas Berger conducted what became state-of-the-art consultations with the people who would be most impacted.

It took many years, but the result was a settlement of native land claims; two national parks in the Yukon to protect migrating caribou herds; and, yes, a pipeline approval that is ready to go forward when the market demands. It is a partnership of large oil companies and an aboriginal pipeline company.

Those who were going to throw themselves in front of the bulldozers were now partners. Berger showed that with patience and time, you consult by genuinely listening and then through shared understanding, can incorporate some of the ideas you heard.

Berger was one of the first to struggle with competing claims of economic development, environmental protection and, in the case of First Nations, their traditional way of life. Sound familiar?

It's too late to implement a Berger-style fix on Trans Mountain, but perhaps it's not too late to get a deal between the company (now the Government of Canada) and environmentalists (say, fewer tankers, a different terminal location or others changes.)

Impossible? Remember "the War in the Woods" a few decades ago on the BC coast? Protesters were arrested, Canadian lumber was boycotted in Europe, and lawsuits were drafted. Then sanity prevailed, and it started with a young North Vancouver student, Simon Jackson. Jackson promoted the white "Spirit Bear" which morphed into the "Great Bear Rainforest Project" where federal and provincial governments – together with Indigenous coastal nations, enlightened companies, and environmental groups, made a deal that preserved a vast amount of old growth forest while still allowing some logging with an aboriginal job component. BC timber once again sold in Europe (stamped appropriately). Tourists now flock to "The Great Bear Rainforest." So, it can be done.



*Judge Tom Berger's inquiry examined the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.*

There is, of course, a bigger question (and maybe a bigger deal).

Right now in Canada, province fights province; region is pitted against region; oil companies battle environmental groups. Floods and fires from climate change are apparent. Judge Berger used to say we Canadians are a "Northern people," implying we are smart and have learned to survive together. So, could we get an agreement between oil companies, First Nations, environmental groups, and all levels of government to switch from non-renewable to renewable energy that would enable us to meet the challenge of climate change we all know is coming – if not already here? The oil sands would be phased out and cleaned up, but safe pipelines with ocean access could continue for the near future, and today's oil workers could be looked after.

That would take real leadership from all of us, together.

**Ian Waddell is a former MP and minister of tourism, environment and intergovernmental affairs for the province of British Columbia and was special counsel to Judge Berger.**

(Editor's note: A study from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds that a majority of Canadians (56 per cent) side with the government in its decision to approve the pipeline twinning, versus 24 per cent who disagree. The highest levels of praise come from Alberta (85 per cent) and Saskatchewan (71 per cent). Three-in-10 in BC (30 per cent) say it was the wrong choice; that rises to 40 per cent in Quebec.)

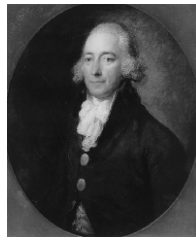
# A free press is essential, albeit sometimes a tad evil

By Jim Hume  
The Old Islander

“I think that those who report politics, and by and large that would be members of that group of journalists called the lobby (in England; the Press Gallery in Canada), I think they are a very inward-looking, very incestuous bunch of people, who are overly preoccupied with process rather than policies.”

It is something President Trump would like to say today, but his vocabulary can only get him as far as bleating: “Fake news.” It was the well-known British politician Peter Mandelson who voiced that razor-edged criticism in a parliamentary speech a few years back—and he was echoing William Windham, Minister of War in the UK in 1798, who had lamented the quality of press reporting on a war with France.

It was a time when parliamentary proceedings were not supposed to circulate beyond the walls of the debating chamber but were being “smuggled” out to unscrupulous publishers of news sheets.



*William Windham*

“Newspaper writers are not the best judges of political affairs,” said Windham. “Their reports are evil in nature” but are being believed as true “by a great mass of readers who are not the most discerning class of society ... newspapers are being carried everywhere, read everywhere by persons of very inferior capacities, and in common alehouses and places frequented chiefly by those who were least of all accustomed to reflection, to any great mental efforts ...”

Oh dear, oh dear, what a bad bunch my forefathers in the news writing business were, “scattering poison where they could, bringing virtue to discredit ... teaching the ignorant and credulous to despise every man and every measure that was respectable ...”

Windham said he could not look at a man “of low condition with a newspaper in his hand” without comparing him to “a man who was swallowing poison under the hope of improving his health.”

There are more than 200 years between Windham’s tirade (1798), Mandelson’s scalpel slice-and-dice (2002), and the childlike trumpeting of President Trump to please his base support. But the theme remains unchanged. The masses – the people – could never be expected to understand what politicians were doing or why. And reporters should never be trusted to properly explain a government’s thinking.

For a hundred years or more, the contents of parliamentary debate were confined to parliament. MPs could not publish their speeches without special permission of the House. It was resolved in 1641 that “no Member of the House shall either give a copy or publish in print anything that he shall speak here without leave of the House.”

Lord Digby was caught distributing a printed copy of one of his speeches and reprimanded. All copies of his speech were collected and ordered destroyed by “the public hangman” as gentle warning of what might have been.

A year later, Sir Edward Dearing had a collection of his speeches printed and in the process of distribution when he was apprehended, expelled from the House, and imprisoned in the Tower “for acting against the honour and privilege of the House.” His speeches were bundled and “the public hangman” ordered to arrange another bonfire.

But the need for the censorship created to keep the King from punishing MPs who spoke against him was diminishing. In 1660, parliament passed a licensing act for regulating printing and printing presses, though debate reporting was still not allowed.

It wasn’t until 1771, after riots, arrests, hasty trials, and imprisonments of printers in the Tower, that the Commons caved and parliamentary reporting as we know it today was established. The House of Lords followed in 1775.

It’s called one the great freedoms—freedom of the press, but one thing has never changed: the lingering suspicion that “the press” can’t really be trusted; that reporters, columnists and editorial writers are told what to write by never-seen editors and publishers.

It’s not a perfect arrangement, but as De Tocqueville wrote in defence of democracy and freedom of the press: “In order to enjoy the inestimable benefits that the liberties of the press ensures, it is necessary to submit to the inevitable evils that it creates.”

*(Andrew Sparrow’s *Obscure Scribblers – a history of Parliamentary Journalism*, is an entertaining read – if you can find a copy.)*

# Securing Canadian elections from social media manipulation

By Samantha Bradshaw  
Canadian International Council

The manipulation of public opinion over social media platforms is a critical concern of the 21st Century.

Around the world, state and non-state actors are leveraging social media to spread disinformation to voters at key moments during public life. While the cyber element of elections security has traditionally focused on securing ballot boxes or voter registration rolls, governments are increasingly concerned about the impact of harmful information on democratic outcomes.

During the 2019 elections, social media will be an important medium for campaigning. We can expect every political party to have a digital strategy. Thus, it is imperative that Canadians debate the norms, rules and guidelines that will inform how political parties will use social media platforms to reach voters.

We can also expect elements of foreign interference. Indeed, fake accounts, trolls, and political bots will be leveraged to sow discord and polarize Canadian voters. These campaigns will take place on a variety of platforms, not just Facebook and Twitter. Instagram, WhatsApp, and YouTube are increasingly popular platforms that citizens – especially young ones – are using to formulate their political identities. Tracking campaigns that seek to exploit social media will have to look beyond Facebook and Twitter and scrutinize a wide array of social media platforms that Canadians are using to connect, express, and participate.

Although there is quite a bit of energy around regulating social media companies, solving these complex and inter-connected issues in a technological environment that is constantly innovating is a challenge.

Through the Canadian Election Integrity Initiative and various expenditures on combatting foreign interference and disinformation on social media, Canada has taken a number of steps to improve the health of its digital ecosystem, such as increasing spending to address cyber-related threats. However, democracy needs a broad cybersecurity strategy, and these initiatives could be complemented by the suggestions below to help address some of the remaining gaps in policy that, in conclusion, both foreign and domestic actors could leverage to erode the integrity of our elections in 2019.



**Strengthening Cyber Security Best-Practices to Prevent Data Breaches:** Investments in cybersecurity for elections should focus on continuous cyber-hygiene training. When it comes to data leaks and more traditional cyber security breaches that occur alongside disinformation campaigns, humans are often the weakest link in security. Leaked data often comes from spear phishing attempts that have unwitting users enter a username and password, or surrender other sensitive information. Individuals who work on political campaigns or in sensitive positions should receive continuous training about best practices for data protection and security. These issues should not simply be left to IT departments to manage, but instead should become a part of the organizational culture as solving security requires cooperation and effort on everyone's behalf.

**Improving Data Protection Laws at the Federal Level:** Canada needs data protection laws around how political parties use personal data for advertising. How political parties use personal data to tailor political advertisements can be a threat to democracy if there are little to no oversight mechanisms that ensure data is not being used to discriminate against voters and suppress political participation. Currently, no federal privacy legislation covers the activity of political parties with respect to voter data: the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act [PIPEDA] only applies to the commercial collection of personal data; in the Privacy Act, political parties are excluded in the definition of government institutions; and the Canadian



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Elections Act does not oversee data collection, analysis, use, or storage. In the past, the Liberal Party made a voluntary commitment to PIPEDA, and the New Democratic Party said it will honour the transparency aspect of the law. But beyond the privacy policies of the parties themselves, there are no legal or regulatory mechanisms in place to ensure that voter data is not being misused by politicians.

**Making Commitments to Advertising Transparency:**

Political parties should commit to transparent political advertising by creating publicly accessible databases of advertisements that run on social media. In the past, political advertising took the form of localized print materials or television commercials that were distributed in specific ridings or played on TV during specific hours, based on what campaign managers could generalize about these constituencies. As advertisements have the potential to become more individualized through social media data, political parties should create public records of their advertising campaigns that include an archive of ads placed on social media. Political parties in other countries have already used social media to send highly targeted advertisements to voters with messages designed to suppress political participation. These so-called “dark ads” are not conducive to a healthy democracy as there is no public record of the messages that individuals see. By creating a digital, public archive of political advertisements, citizens could hold political parties accountable to their campaign platforms and protect against some of the more dangerous effects of microtargeting voters. There are already civil society efforts to draw attention to these issues, such as the ProPublica program to track political advertisements on “Facebook.<sup>34</sup>” But more could be done at the regulatory level to demand parties archive these advertisements themselves.

**Leveraging Bots to Improve Political Participation:**

Bots and other forms of automation could be leveraged to spread high-quality information relevant to voters, such as the location of polling stations or get out and vote reminders. While political bots have often been

used to amplify fake news stories, these same techniques could be leveraged to improve democratic participation. Transparent bot accounts could be used to help draw attention to important information voters need to participate fully in a deliberative democracy. By automating information about voting day or the location of polling stations, technology could help increase voter turnout across the country.

**Limiting Opportunities for Foreign Interference:**

Cooperation between government agencies and the private sector are vital to limiting opportunities for foreign interference. Using social media and other technology to meddle with the democratic processes of other countries is a hard – if not impossible – issue to address. This is because the low barriers to entry and the ability to innovate quickly allow bad actors to find new holes and gaps to exploit. But governments and private companies have common goals when it comes to protecting the security and integrity of our information systems. Following the Snowden revelations, there has been a steady decline in public-private cooperation on security issues. But the Cambridge Analytica scandal has created a new willingness for Facebook, in particular, to work with government. (In 2018, Cambridge Analytica harvested the personal data of millions of people’s Facebook profiles without their consent and used it for political advertising purposes.)

In order to limit opportunities for foreign interference, there needs to be open dialogue between security institutions and social media platforms, so that private companies can identify risks earlier, and governments can develop a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the technology. The goal isn’t to completely eradicate disinformation; instead, there should be more cooperation between the public and private sector that will help increase the costs and limit the reach of social media manipulation.

**(Samantha Bradshaw is a Senior Fellow at the Canadian International Council and a researcher for the Computational Propaganda Project at Oxford University. The council is Canada’s independent foreign relations council.)**

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# A conversation with celebrated radio reporter George Garrett

He's been called "the Walter Cronkite of BC radio." George Garrett is Vancouver's most celebrated radio reporter. His 2019 memoir *George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter*, is selling like hotcakes and he will be the AFMLABC's guest speaker at our annual dinner Sept. 20 at Government House.

NEWS 1130's John Ackermann had a conversation with Garrett recently. Here are some excerpts:

## **George, what goes through your mind when people call you things like the Walter Cronkite of BC radio?**

"Well, I'm a little bit embarrassed. To put me in the same category as Walter Cronkite is just not right. I think that quote came from a good friend of mine at the Pace Group, Norman Stowe, who told a lot of people during my early retirement years that I was the most trusted man in British Columbia in terms of reporting and he compared me to the Walter Cronkite of British Columbia. But it's a bit much!"

## **So many people have looked up to you and continue to look up to you, even two decades after your retirement. Who have you admired? Who do you admire?**

"Former CKNW News Director Warren Barker would be number one. He was my boss. He did a lot for me. He put me out as an investigative reporter, which meant that I didn't have to be on any particular assignment and it just made a world of difference so that I had the time to go and look at different things and spend quite a bit of time on one project. Some of my projects I spent a lot of time on fizzled out, just didn't amount to anything, but he never questioned what I was doing, never asked me 'How come you haven't had a story?' He gave me complete trust, which was really wonderful."

## **Let's go back to the beginning a bit. Where do you think your curiosity comes from?**

"From just being a kid I think, on the farm. I always wanted to know everything about just about everything I looked at, and one incident was the old farmer fixing his farm equipment in the backyard. His housekeeper was my aunt, and I was staying with her for a few days. I asked so many questions the old farmer called his housekeeper, and he said, 'Lucille, get this kid out of here! He asks too many questions!' That same aunt of mine did say that I talked a lot. She said: 'I think you're going to be a preacher because you talk so much!'"

## **What was your first big scoop? What would you say was that career-making story for you? Or do you think you built your reputation more over time and with a consistent body of work?**

"Well, I built trust with the police, which helped a lot when stories like the Clifford Olson murders came along. That's probably one of the bigger stories that I've covered because I did have a tip early on when Olson was still at large, and there was a lot of concern. I had approval from my boss, Warren Barker, to say that it might be a serial killing. I had some advice from veteran police that I knew that it sounded like a serial killer. I knew it would cause a lot of consternation in the community, a lot of alarm. But, at the same time, I thought we had an obligation to let the community know that there could indeed be a serial killer operating, and there was. So, we ran that, and it caused a lot of news magazines and television networks to attend news conferences that the RCMP were calling every day. On the third day, I think it was, I noticed there was something different about the body language of the superintendent, Bruce Northrup. I knew him very well. The way he answered a question made me think, 'He's holding something back.' So, I ran back to listen to the tape again to see what the question was. The question was: 'Could killers still be in this area?'"

Bruce's response led me to think that there's something up. So, I phoned my contact and I said: 'What's up? Another body or an arrest?' And he said: 'An arrest this morning on Vancouver Island.' I called Bruce Northrup again, the superintendent, who wouldn't quite confirm it, but I knew that we were on the right track. It turned out to be correct.

"There was one other element to that story. I got a tip that the RCMP were paying Olson \$10,000 to find bodies, which is anathema to any police officer. They really disliked Olson because he was smoking cigars and giving his lawyer instructions about how he wanted it done and so on. So, I held that story, but I verified it by phoning the prosecutor John Hall at home. I asked him about the \$10,000 and all he said was: 'George, I think I'd put that on the back burner for now.' Which means don't use it. We kept it until the Olson guilty plea came and John Hall walked by my desk in the courthouse, and he said: 'You can take that matter off the back burner now' meaning I could use it. So, that's an incident I think where trust really worked. I would consider that one of my better stories."

### Was there a favourite interview you've had?

"I had an incident down in Los Angeles that wasn't an interview. I started out doing a report for the Bill Good Show in the noon hour. I was approached by four guys who wanted the keys to my rental car, and I wouldn't give them up. So, they grabbed the phone and hung it up, and grabbed my microphone and tore the cord away from it. Then they forced me into a doorway and smacked me in the nose, and they broke my jaw. That was quite an experience and one I'll remember for a long time."

### And this was during the [Los Angeles] riots in 1992?

"Yes, the Rodney King riots in '92. And then I wanted to go back three years later for the verdict in the O.J. Simpson case and my then-boss, Gord Macdonald, said: 'You're not going because it's too dangerous.' But I already had my flight booked, and I had the arrangement to have a bulletproof vest from the Vancouver Police Department. I was alone and I was ready to go. He said: 'You're NOT going.' Then I found out that BCTV, as it then was, was going down. So, I said I'll go with them and I'll be safe. He



Back home from covering the L.A. riots, toothless George gives granddaughter Mary Paige Field a big hug.

said: 'As long as you give me your word that you won't abandon them; you have to stick with them all the time.' When I got down there, I ditched them, of course, and went to do interviews! It worked out okay, though."

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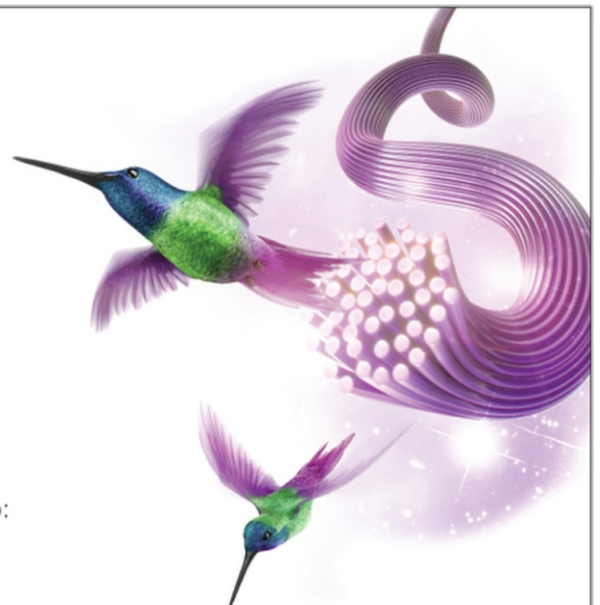
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## Major typo Down Under proves costly

SYDNEY (Reuters) – Millions of A\$50 (\$35) banknotes in Australia have an embarrassing typographical error that was overlooked by the country's central bank before they were printed and circulated.

The goof first became known when a radio listener sent the station a magnified photo of the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) new A\$50 note highlighting the word "responsibility" misspelt as "responsibility" three times.

The A\$50 currency is the most widely circulated in the country and sports a head-shot of Edith Cowan, who served as the first woman elected to an



Australian legislature from 1921 to 1924. The typo appears in an excerpt of Cowan's maiden speech to Western Australia's parliament. "It is a great responsibility (sic) to be the only woman here, and I want to emphasize the necessity which exists for other women being here."

## A snippet from the Pope

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – Pope Francis has often warned against gossiping among friends and neighbours, but now he says it should also be avoided in those modern temples of cheap talk ... beauty parlours and hair salons.

The pope exhorted some 230 Italian Catholic hair cutters, stylists and beauticians – on a group pilgrimage to Rome – to "avoid falling into the temptation of gossip that is easily associated with your work."



Instead, they should pursue their profession "with Christian style, treating clients with gentleness and courtesy, offering them always a good word and encouragement," he said.

## Coffee trouble brews in the Alps

ZURICH (Reuters) – Switzerland has announced plans to abolish the nation's emergency stockpile of coffee, in place for decades, after declaring the beans not vital for human survival. Opposition to the proposal is brewing.

Nestle, the maker of instant coffee, and other importers, roasters and retailers are required by Swiss law to store bags of raw coffee. The country stockpiles other staples, too, such as sugar, rice, edible oils and animal feed.

This system of emergency reserves was established between World War I and World War II as Switzerland prepared for any potential shortages in case of war, natural disaster or epidemics.



# 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?

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 Dave Hayer, the Liberal MLA for Surrey-Tynehead from 2001 to 2013. He served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism and Immigration from 2005 to 2011.



### What prompted you to seek public office?

The assassination of my father Tara Singh Hayer in Surrey in 1998 prompted me to seek public office as MLA for Surrey-Tynehead. I came to the realization that to influence change I had to be part of the decision-making process. Becoming MLA for Surrey-Tynehead was the first step in that process.

I was encouraged by many community members to seek public office. I knew from my personal experience working at the Indo-Canadian Times Newspaper, our family newspaper business, that politicians don't enjoy very much personal privacy, but I was willing to sacrifice privacy to advocate and lend my voice to issues that I thought were extremely important. My dad used to say, if you don't like something, don't just complain, get involved and be part of the conversation; that is the only way to change the narrative.

### Which political figure most influenced you?

It would be unfair to name just one. I will say that one of my most cherished experiences is that for more than 12 years I had the privilege to work with an excellent team, especially in my city of Surrey – from mayors and councillors to MPs, to my MLA colleagues, all of whom worked extremely hard to make sure that our beautiful city was made better.

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

When I entered politics, I had the support of my family and close friends, so when I decided not to seek re-election, they fully supported my decision. Political involvement is not the only way to effect change. I continue to be an advocate through my involvement with organizations such as the Rotary International and many other community-based organizations.

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

Many community members continue to seek my help and advice. I meet with former constituents at their request on a weekly basis regarding issues that cross all levels of government. After serving as an MLA, you realize that you will never really have complete privacy as many people in the community still recognize you when you are out in the community. However, helping people is what I enjoy and serving my community is in my blood.

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

If you want to achieve something positive for your city and your community, then don't give up; keep advocating until you get it. If you stay steadfast to your principles and values, you will succeed.

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

My wife Isabelle Martinez Hayer and I work as mortgage brokers. Although I love my work, my passion is volunteering. Isabelle and I will be serving as Co-Presidents of the Rotary Club of Surrey. I also continue to advocate through the Surrey Board of Trade, the Cloverdale Chamber and many other community organizations.

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

My city of Surrey is the fastest growing city in the province, and education, healthcare and transportation are fundamental to its continued growth. I continue to advocate for more funding for these key issues from all levels of government. We need an expanded Surrey Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University. We need the expansion of the SkyTrain rapid transit along our busy corridors. Transportation infrastructure is critical considering our rapid population growth. The expansion of health care funding for the fastest growing city in BC is also essential as our population will exceed Vancouver's.

There is real value to remaining involved with the AFMLABC because at our core are the values of helping to make our province better. We are non-partisan and have the common goal of working for a better democracy. The annual dinner hosted by the association is a great way to reach all of my colleagues, past and present, MLAs from different political parties, share stories, and stay connected.

## The Eagle landed 50 years ago

# Neil and Buzz take a walk on the moon

The historic launch of the Apollo 11 mission carried three astronauts toward the moon. Two of them would set foot on the lunar surface for the first time in human history as millions of people around the world followed their steps on television.

The crew of Apollo 11 were all experienced astronauts who had been to space before. Cmdr. Neil Armstrong had piloted Gemini 8; that mission was the first time two vehicles docked in space. Col. Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin was the first astronaut with a doctorate to fly in space. For Apollo 11, he served as the lunar module pilot. The command module pilot, Lt. Col. Michael Collins, piloted Gemini 10 in July 1966 and spent almost one and a half hours outside the craft on a spacewalk.

Mission planners at NASA studied the lunar surface for two years, searching for the best place to make the historic landing. They examined the best high-resolution photographs available at the time from the Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor programs and considered the number of craters and boulders, cliffs and hills at each prospective landing site, and how easy it would be for the astronauts to land given their fuel and time requirements. All this helped the planners narrow down the initial 30 site candidates to three.

Apollo 11 launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 9:32 a.m. Eastern time on July 16, 1969. While in flight, the crew made two televised broadcasts from the interior of the ship, and a third transmission as they drew closer to the moon, revealing the lunar surface and the intended approach path.

On July 20, Armstrong and Aldrin entered the lunar module, nicknamed the "Eagle" and separated from the Command Service Module – the "Columbia" – and headed toward the lunar surface. The lunar module touched down on the moon's Sea of Tranquility, a large basaltic region, at 4:17 p.m. Eastern time. Armstrong notified Houston with the historic words, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

Immediately after landing on the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin prepared the Eagle for liftoff as a contingency measure. Following the meal, a scheduled sleep period was postponed at the astronauts' request, and the astronauts began preparations for descent to the lunar surface.

Astronaut Armstrong emerged from the spacecraft first. While descending, he released the Modularized Equipment Stowage Assembly (MESA) on which the surface television camera was stowed, and the camera recorded humankind's first step on the moon. A sample of lunar surface material was



collected and stowed to assure that if a contingency required an early end to the planned surface activities, samples of lunar surface material would be returned to Earth. Astronaut Aldrin subsequently descended to the lunar surface.

The astronauts carried out the planned sequence of activities that included deployment of a Solar Wind Composition (SWC) experiment, collection of a larger sample of lunar material, panoramic photographs of the region near the landing site and the lunar horizon, closeup photographs of in-place lunar surface material, deployment of a Laser-Ranging Retroreflector (LRRR) and a Passive Seismic Experiment Package (PSEP), and collection of two core-tube samples of the lunar surface.

Approximately two and a quarter hours after descending to the surface, the astronauts began preparations to re-enter the Eagle, after which the astronauts slept. The ascent from the lunar surface began 21 hours and 36 minutes after the lunar landing. The Columbia entered the atmosphere of the Earth with a velocity of 36,194 feet per second (11,032 meters per second) and landed in the Pacific Ocean. In "trans-earth coast," only one of four planned midcourse corrections was required.

(Sources: Space.com and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.)



# 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 20, 2019  
Government House, Victoria**

***With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Janet Austin  
you and your guests are invited to our 2019 Dinner.***

- Time: 6 p.m. for 7 p.m.
- Dress: Business attire please
- Cost: \$115 per person, taxes included
- Special Guest: **George Garrett**  
*Author and former CKNW reporter*

**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, 2019). Sorry, no refunds after that date. If you have already reserved, thank you!

Dinner guests can also purchase tickets electronically by going to our website [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com). Go to the Payments page in the navigation bar and follow the prompts. Be sure to let us know the names of all the persons attending by including them in the Comments section on the payments page and/or by email to [ootd@shaw.ca](mailto:ootd@shaw.ca).

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

I/we plan on attending Dinner at Government House on Friday, September 20, 2019.

My cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$115 is enclosed. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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# The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

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

## **Official Notice of 2019 Annual General Meeting** **Friday, September 20, 2019**

Time and place at the Legislative Buildings to be announced



### **Additional guest names**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____