

AFMLABC banquet cancelled; AGM goes virtual

By Brian Kieran
From the Editor's Desk

Some months ago we learned that Government House would not be available for the annual Association banquet. Extensive renovations have closed the stately mansion to all public events. And, as you will read on Page 5 in an update from Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, the closure will likely continue well into 2021 because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial news that Government House was unavailable got AFMLABC Board Members discussing the merits of moving the feast to Vancouver this year. This idea quickly gained traction. However, as you will read in President Jeff's report on Page 3, COVID-19 has killed all thoughts of attempting a large gathering this fall. It would be completely out of step with the best advice of provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

As you know, the annual banquet follows the Annual General Meeting usually held in a committee room in the Legislature. The Executive has decided, out of an

abundance of caution, to conduct the AGM "virtually" this September via Zoom. The good news is that this arrangement will make it easy for any number of Association members to "attend" and participate in the agenda including the election of Board Members.

The "virtual" AGM will be held Saturday, September 26th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open Zoom (or type this address in your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/99479912182?pwd=RUhUWTlzTzZNcHc1UWRld3JuWINmdz09>) and follow the prompts. The meeting ID is 994 7991 2182 and the password is 583055. I will repeat all this in the September issue.

The Association welcomes nominations from members to join the Executive. There are several Board positions available. Please email President Jeff Bray at jeff.bray@shaw.ca to nominate yourself, someone else or to make enquires about the limited duties of being a Board Member.

BC's young parliamentarians adapt to COVID-19

By Ranil Prasad
Premier, BCYP



Much like any other legislative body or charity in the Western world, the British Columbia Youth Parliament has had to adapt to changing circumstances amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are forever indebted to members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC for their generous support through the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund and for their expertise in helping myself and our members run the BC Youth Parliament and Camp Phoenix.

Concerns around the virus have forced us to cancel Camp Phoenix and our remaining Regional Youth Parliaments for the remainder of our sessional year. Prior to the pandemic we had two successful Regional Youth Parliaments in Vancouver and Richmond, engaging over 100 high school age students in those regions. Despite this, we are disappointed that we were not able to engage with the rest of the province beyond the Lower Mainland.

*See **BCYP adapts**. Page 2*

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

Thank you to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, added a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter.

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Dave Laundry, Cobble Hill

Doug Symons, Vancouver

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

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

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Payment can be sent to the above address.

Continued from Page 1

BCYP adapts...

While we were also looking forward to hosting young people from around the country at the BC Legislature over the Victoria Day long weekend for the first Canada Youth Parliament, the pandemic also forced the cancellation of this event. While disappointing, it would have been irresponsible to have young people fly across the country (and the world!) to attend an event in Victoria in the midst of a global pandemic.

While there are many causes for sadness due to the cancellation of these events, we are excited to be replacing Camp Phoenix with Project Phoenix. Unlike camp, Project Phoenix will be a free drop-in day camp that will exceed the health regulations set by the Ministry of Health. We hope to run these across the province for essential workers who need a break, and most importantly, for kids who want to feel like kids again. We are canvassing our membership to see who would be willing to volunteer for such a project and we are moving through the planning stages.

The next session of the BC Youth Parliament is scheduled to begin at our regular meeting time, from December 27th to the 31st of 2020. While it would be impossible (and irresponsible) for 97 members to meet in Victoria, we are considering other options. The BC Legislature has successfully implemented hybrid sittings, with some members in the chamber, and others gathered across the province. While this model required significant effort on the part of Hansard, members, and (most importantly) the Office of the Clerk, this is certainly a possibility for BCYP. One option is an entirely virtual session done over Zoom, which would allow our membership to attend BCYP and learn about our parliamentary system from home.

Finally, we could have small groups of people meeting at central locations across the province and connect them together via Zoom. This would allow us to replicate the in-person feel of a BCYP session, but do so safely. As members would return home or billet with another member, this would allow for lower costs, and thus greater accessibility for more students.

Finally, I am excited to announce to members of the Association of Former MLAs BC that Adriana Thom will be taking over the position of Premier in September. She has held a variety of key portfolios within BCYP (the minister responsible for implementing the Canada Youth Parliament, most notably), so I can say with certainty that BCYP will have strong leadership to lead the organization through the continuing pandemic.

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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.

President's Report

At the time of writing this President's message, we are seeing a unique configuration in the BC Legislature. Parliament by Zoom! I commend all parties, and the Speaker's and Clerk's offices for creating the means by which all MLAs can again participate in debate. Although different, it is vital that our elected representatives be afforded the opportunity to represent their constituents and do the critical work of the Legislature.

We can take great pride in how BC has handled the COVID-19 pandemic. The leadership of Dr. Bonnie Henry and her staff and the leadership shown by the government and opposition over the last several months have been noticed globally. The fact that the BC Legislature is again sitting, and doing so in a safe fashion, is another example of this leadership.

The pandemic has changed much. To that end, your Executive has made the hard decision to cancel this fall's AFMLABC dinner. We were planning to host the event in Vancouver; however following Dr. Henry's guidance we have decided hosting the dinner would not be wise. Your executive will keep a close eye on the various protocols

from the public health officer and, when safe and appropriate to do so, we will host a dinner – most likely in mid to late 2021.

As we head into summer I ask that you, as former parliamentarians, consider sending Orders of the Day your observations of how COVID-19 has impacted your community or how you view the role of MLAs over the last few months.

Finally, the Executive of the AFMLABC extends heartfelt condolences to Dave Hayer, our Vice President, on the recent passing of his beloved mother.

Have a safe and happy summer!



Jeff Bray,
President AFMLABC



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Ed Conroy served with kindness at every step

Longtime Kootenays MLA Ed Conroy passed away June 29th at the age of 73.

Premier John Horgan said: "I'm deeply saddened to learn of Ed Conroy's passing. I've known Ed for 30 years and had the honour of working with him during his time as an MLA and then as a minister.

"Ed was a truly kind and decent man. He'll be greatly missed by his all those who knew him. My thoughts and support are with his wife, my friend and colleague Katrine Conroy, and their extraordinary family."

Government Caucus Chair Jagrup Brar said: "Ed gave so much to the province and did so with kindness at every step. Our entire New Democrat caucus sends our condolences and love to Ed's wife Katrine, and their whole family."

Corky Evans started and finished his first run in office at the same time as Conroy, representing the Nelson-Creston riding from 1991 to 2001.

"We live about 30 kilometers from each other so I'd known Ed for a long time," Evans said. "And when we became MLAs we rented a tenement apartment together and so we had the same job, worked together for a decade and were roommates and friends."

Evans said Conroy was the kind of politician who was respected by everyone, even his opponents.

"He was not the kind of politician that we see so often," he said. "He was that kind of Canadian who represents the land, the people where he was born – Castlegar-West Kootenay. [Conroy] cared about the land, cared about the people."

Evans added he will remember Conroy as a brave and honest man. "Ed did the job for the value of the job, instead of some kind of interest in self-promotion. I think everybody in his area – even people who have voted against him – knew that Ed Conroy told the truth and said what he believed.

"Ed should be remembered as a person who lived up to the idea of public service that we want our children to believe in. We want our kids to participate and believe that there are honest people doing good work, and Ed was the example for those who follow."



The Conroys

Conroy was born in Rossland and raised in Castlegar. He was educated in Castlegar and at the University of Victoria. Before entering politics, Conroy worked on a towboat. He also raised purebred cattle.

Conroy represented Rossland-Trail in the Legislature and served as the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and the Minister Responsible for Rural Development from 2000 to 2001.

He was defeated in 2001 and his wife Katrine Conroy became an MLA in the region in 2005. She is currently the Minister for Children and Family Development.

The couple lived in Pass Creek where they ran a ranch breeding prize-winning Polled Hereford cattle. As well as serving in government, Ed had been a school trustee, school board vice-chair and helped create the Columbia Basin Trust. He was also the first BC vice president of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region from 1999 to 2001.

Ed is survived by his wife, four children, their spouses and nine grandchildren.

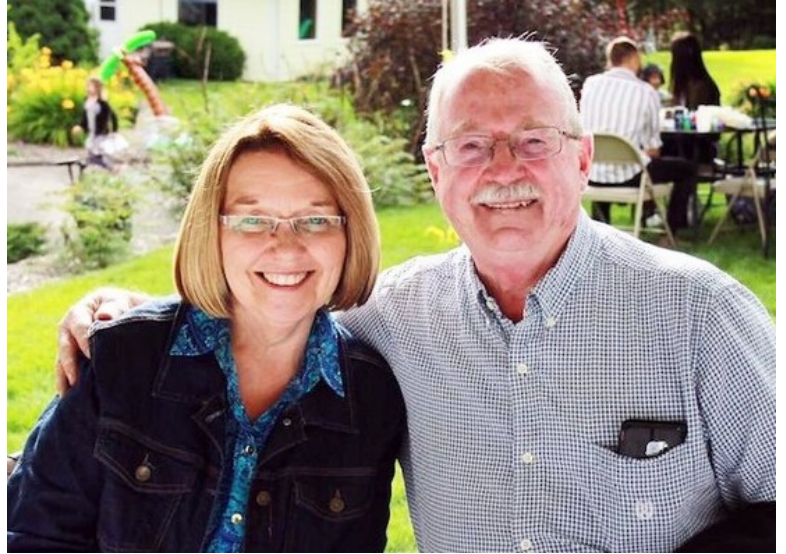
In honour of Ed, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary lowered flags to half-mast at its Trail and Grand Forks offices.

Diane Langman, RDKB Board Chair, said: "I want to express our condolences to Katrine Conroy, our provincial MLA for Kootenay West, and to her family."

Prince George MLA Shirley Bond loses Billy

Prince George has shown an outpouring of support for local MLA and former BC Liberal cabinet minister Shirley Bond after she announced the passing of her husband in a social media post.

"The time has come for me to share some news that has broken my heart," Bond wrote. "Some of you know that my husband Billy has been facing a series of health challenges during the last months. His heart, kidneys, crushed vertebrae, the list goes on. The final challenge was a massive left brain stroke that Billy just couldn't manage despite his courageous efforts. My beloved husband of more than 41 years passed away at St. Paul's Hospital in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. I struggle to imagine a world without Billy in it. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend. He was my life partner and best friend."



A note from BC Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin:

Summertime update from Government House

I am pleased to share that the grounds of Government House have returned to regular hours.

Thank you for your patience during our closure and subsequent limited hours due to COVID-19; you can now visit the Estate of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor every day of the week from dawn until dusk. And Tuesday through Friday, Rudi's Tea Room is open for business, serving take away lunches, refreshments and treats. You can also find house-made gifts, like Government House honey.

Some parking in close proximity to the House may be affected, but the large lower lot has plenty of space and will remain available. Outlying buildings, such as our seasonal Tea Room, will not be impacted.

At the end of last year, I shared information on significant refurbishments taking place at Government House during 2020. While renovations were initially meant to begin in January 2020, there has been a delay in the start date for this work. At this time, work is slated to begin on Government House this summer, with an estimated completion date sometime in fall 2021.



I want to share an update on our popular summer concert series, Music on the Lawn. Usually thousands of people join us over three nights for live music and dancing. This year, however, due to COVID-19, and in compliance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer on mass gatherings, which limits all public gatherings larger than 50 people, there will be no Music on the Lawn concerts this year. We will greatly miss hosting our friends and neighbours for this wonderful community event. I hope it can be revived in 2021.

Canada Day

“Up here, in Canada”

Former MLA Russ Fraser (Vancouver South, 1983–1991) sent along this Canada Day song to cheer us up.

<https://youtu.be/37nGeXn2K9c>



The “Up Here, in Canada” video features a clever Canadian song by BC musician, Clark W. According to the musician and The Okanagan Mixing Studio that created the video, it is “dedicated to all the good people in Canada and all the things that make us uniquely Canadian” covering pretty much everything that makes Canada the greatest country in the world.

“Up here, in Canada”

Verse 1

*Timmies and hockey, syrup and bacon
Molson and Mounties, Petro Can stations
Throwin' on some cheese and gravy on top of our
fries (that's a poutine)
And we wear our plaid sweaters when we walk
amongst the northern lights.*

Verse 2

*Rockies and prairies, oceans and lakes
Other than winter, the all seasons are great.
Brushin' off the snow a little longer than we'd like,
But you won't hear us complaining because that just
wouldn't be polite.*

Chorus

*Cuz up here, in Canada
The air's clear, the weather's adequate
We all cheer, we're pretty passionate
And everybody has a pet polar bear (and a moose)
Yah up here, in C A N A D A*

Russ says: “On Canada Day I thanked Sir John A, and all the Fathers of Confederation, for working so hard to create our beautiful country. We are all so lucky to live here.”

Canada Day ... very quiet, but the land speaks volumes

By Penny Priddy

A unique Canada Day, or Dominion Day as it once was. There were no children waving small maple leaf flags, no banners, no bands, no fireworks and no speeches. There was no strawberry short cake to serve to respected elders at the Annual Seniors' Tea. There were actually some speeches on the hundreds of virtual Canada Day celebrations.



On July 1st I thought about my experiences in our country. I have been “screeched in” in Newfoundland/Labrador, eaten whale meat in Nunavut, visited Anne of Green Gables farm in PEI. In Nova Scotia, I walked the streets of Africville where there was once a thriving Black Canadian community before it was demolished. In Quebec, I learned about the distinct history, language and culture that have shaped that province. Other provinces and territories had their own stories to tell me.

Admittedly I did not always ask whose land is this that I stand on? Who were the early peoples who lived on this land? I now know to always ask these questions.

I have learned from provinces and territories about the social, economic and geographical context that has helped to shape their lands. When I moved from Nova Scotia to BC, I drove across Canada. And, as I approached the foothills of the Rockies, crossed the Continental Divide and moved through the Fraser Valley, I became more aware than ever before that the history and future of our country is truly shaped by its geography.

Canada faces significant challenges as we look to the future. There need to be welcoming tables where respectful conversations can happen about what our country will be like for future Canada Day celebrations. We must ensure that there are places at the table for all of Canada's distinct voices. Bringing people together has always made us stronger.



Former MLA Susan Brice (Saanich South, 2001–2005) has walked the Gorge Tillicum annual parade in since 2001. “It was cancelled this year, so I went on a walk along the route and did the parade solo. I hope everyone at OOTD is doing well in these very difficult times.”







Former MLA Gerard Janssen (Alberni, 1988-2001), in the background, helped out at a Canada Day virtual Port Alberni Toy Run BBQ at Canal Beach. “Yes, the Canal and Alberni Inlet is clearing up. And the sulphur smell is gone,” he says. “No Toy Run this year because of COVID-19 so we are planning a drive through event, where you can drop off donations and toys. The Toy Run is in its 36th year and has raised almost \$2 million for the children of the Alberni Valley and the West Coast. It takes place on the 3rd Saturday in September and you're all invited.”

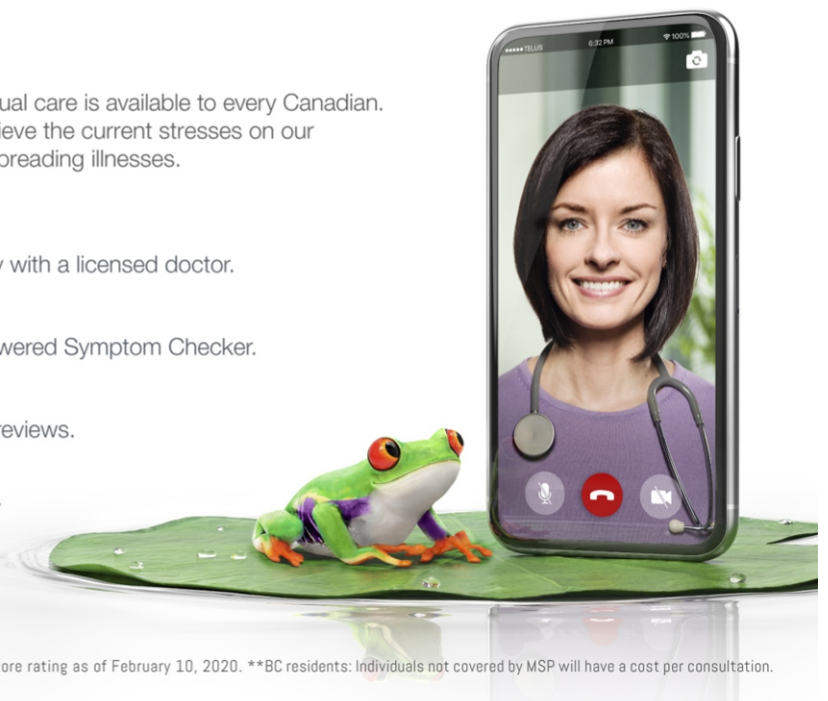
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Letters

Agreement is good, boring is beautiful

Dear Editor:

In your last edition you asked for thoughts. Here is one to consider. The greatest single problem in governance and policy discussions today (in my humble opinion) is the following:



With honourable exceptions, there are two classes of publicly influential comment. Those who know very little are featured a lot, while those who know a lot say very little and participate even less.

The reason for the dominance of the first type is obvious – because there is little competition from the knowledgeable for airtime and repetitive grievance is easier than complex constructive thought.

The reason for the quietude of the latter voice – the relative silence of the wise – needs more study, for within my life of 82 years it was not always thus. This matters in democracies, for the actions of politicians are governed by the views of the public, whether informed or not.

Of course, things will work out in the end – they always do after sufficient error and suffering over years or generations. (ie. gender and environment issues over the past few decades, and now racial discord). But it could be so much easier. In governance, agreement is good, boring is beautiful and we need more of both so that people can peaceably get on with their individual lives.

In a non-partisan forum like this, some former MLA wiser than me may give us ideas for systemic reform.

Respectfully,
Gordon Gibson
Liberal, North Vancouver-Capilano
1974–1979

Meech Lake Accord history brings back memories

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of OOTD, on your history page, you wrote about the death of the Meech Lake Accord. It brought back vivid memories to me because as a then MP, I bucked my party and voted against the Meech Lake Accord in the House of Commons. I did so because I thought it took too much power away from the federal government. I had spoken with people I admired before I gave the speech in the House, which I think was my best speech of my career. Those people included Tom Berger, Eugene Forsey and Pierre Trudeau. I literally locked myself up in a cabin in the Gatineau Hills to write, ironically, a couple of kilometers from Lac Meech itself.



Other people that I much admired, including Ed Broadbent and Bill Blaikie, took opposite positions. It was said that the defeat of the Meech Lake Accord led to a second Quebec referendum in which we almost lost Canada. I thought then, maybe I made a mistake, but on reflection, I never bought into Brian Mulroney's idea that Quebec had been left out of the constitution (even though I admire Mulroney). Pierre Trudeau told me that he won 74/75 seats in 1980 in Quebec and had always talked about a strong central government.

I was not against the "distinct society" for Quebec in Meech Lake (which was attacked in Western Canada). What I was against was tilting the delicate balance of Canadian federalism too much to the provinces. I note today that, even though health is a provincial matter, Canadians have looked for leadership by the federal government to get us through this pandemic crisis.

Anyway, the article brought back memories, and I'm sure your readers as former parliamentarians have wondered about certain votes they've made over their careers.

Best,
Ian Waddell
NDP MP 1979–1993
NDP MLA Vancouver-Fraserview, 1996–2001

Thanks from AFMLABC scholarship recipients

Dear AFMLABC:

I am writing this letter to thank you for the opportunity to receive an Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia scholarship. I was very excited and honored to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

Currently, I am a joint major in Political Science and International Studies. After graduation, I plan to apply for an internship with the BC Legislature and eventually go on to pursue a master's degree in public policy at the University of Calgary. My long-term goal is a career in government or the non-profit sector where I might gain a greater ability to effect change and help those who are struggling and/or disadvantaged.

Due to your generosity, I am able to continue pursuing this goal.

Outside of my classes, I work part time as a teaching assistant for my Japanese language professor. I have taken on the position of teaching assistant for the second-year Japanese language class in the hopes of improving my own Japanese language skills while also helping other students develop their own abilities and love for learning Japanese. In my free time, I enjoy taking my dog for walks along the Fraser River, playing online games with my friends, and trying out new recipes with my mother.

Thank you again for establishing this award. By awarding me the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia scholarship, you have given me the ability to continue pursuing my degree at the University of Northern British Columbia. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like yourself. In the future, I aspire to help other students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Hanna Hughes
Prince George, BC

Dear AFMLABC:

"This award has been incredibly helpful in alleviating the financial pressure that continuing my studies has been and will aid me in focusing on my educational growth and professional development.

– Juraj, grad student, Human & Social Development

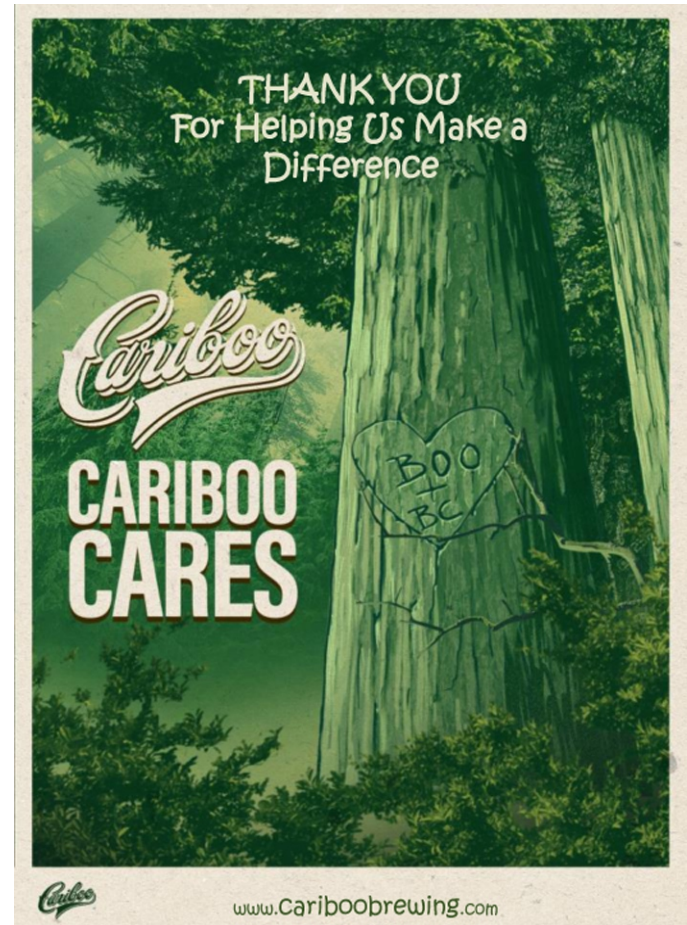
Thanks to the Association of Former MLAs of BC, students are able to focus more on their studies and research and work toward contributing positively to their field and the world.

UVic graduate programs continue to thrive and grow, in no small part due to your generosity. Student awards help us attract the best and brightest students and they in turn help UVic achieve great things. Know that graduate students are appreciative of the tremendous number of scholarships, bursaries, and awards and, as Juraj has stated above, because of your generosity, students are able to make their dreams a reality.

We are pleased to inform you that the following students received \$768 Association of Former MLAs of BC Student Scholarship: Ashley McKay, Irene Huse, Jennifer McKay and Jia Chen Zhu.

Your gift allows these students to focus on what is important, their studies. Thank you. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 250-721-8965 or email at agree@uvic.ca.

Kind Regards
Heather Gropp
Donor Relations Agreement Officer
University of Victoria



Tiny French town celebrates Canada Day in September

By Jim Hume, The Old Islander

It was a strange sight deep in the heart of rural France. Barely fluttering from a tall weather-beaten flagpole was an immaculately laundered Canadian flag. In September 1976 – our flag being a mere 11 years old – it was a wonderful sight to see and it wasn't even close to Canada Day.

I almost missed it as we pulled out of Chaumousey, one of the many colourful villages scattered across the Vosges range in eastern France. During the Second World War it was on the direct route as the Allies – the United States Fifth Army and the French First Army – drove across France to cross the River Rhine and penetrate into the heart of Hitler's Germany.

The cemetery at Chaumousey was postage stamp size, a final resting place for generations of villagers, but, they found room for the graves of six members of the crew of Lancaster bomber III PB253 UL-A2 of Royal Air Force Squadron 576. They lie side by side in one special manicured grave, placed there by the villagers on July 29, 1944, when their aircraft was shot down by German night fighters. Only the pilot, Flying Officer Jimmy Archibald, of the New Zealand Air Force, survived the mid-air explosion that blew him through the flight deck windows leaving him with just enough instinct to pull his parachute rip cord.

He was later found hanging in a tree, with multiple fractures and internal injuries. He was rescued by German troops, taken to a German hospital and eventually returned to England after liberation by U.S. troops.

The six dead were left for the people of Chaumousey to bury. Five were English; one was Flying Officer Peter Joseph Biollo, a 20 year old from Edmonton and the lone Canadian in the crew.

The Maple Leaf flew for him the day I drove by in 1976. For reasons village historians cannot explain, it is the only foreign flag to ever fly over the grave site. In Chaumousey, it remains where “the Canadian bomber crashed and where the Canadian airman is buried.”

A letter written in September 1945 by Abbe Albert Mercier, parish priest of Chaumousey, provided details of the July 31, 1944 funeral service for the crew: “A very large ... number of people formed the funeral procession



Flying Officer Peter Joseph Biollo

of these heroes whose caskets were covered with flowers and, in spite of the interdiction of the Germans, the big crowd went to the cemetery and joined in the final prayers at the graves.”

Today, I wonder if Chaumousey still holds memorial services for the crew of PB253 and still flies the Maple Leaf as it was so proudly continuing to do in 1976 “for the Canadian” when we paused so briefly in awe and respect.

In Nanton, Alberta, they have an aircraft museum boasting a fully re-built Lancaster bomber. Inscribed on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall are a few words from Father J.P. Lardie, Chaplain 419/428 Squadron RCAF.

“Three thousand miles across a hunted ocean they came, wearing on the shoulder of their tunics the treasured name – Canada – telling the world their origin. Young men and women they were, some still in their teens, fashioned by their Maker to love, not to kill, but proud and earnest in their mission to stand, and if it had to be, to die, for their country and for freedom ...”

The old folk of Chaumousey would say “amen” to that and let their children tell the story of why for a few days in late September the Maple Leaf flies high and proud over “their” Canadian grave.

continued next page

The “Lanc” – of dambuster fame – delivered a “Grand Slam”

During the Second World War the Lancaster was the most successful bomber used by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The Lanc had speed, ceiling, and lifting power that no other aircraft of the day could match. Weighing 36,900 pounds empty, the Lancaster was capable of taking off with an additional 33,100 pounds of fuel and bombs; in other words it could almost carry its own weight again. The Lancaster carried 64 per cent of the tonnage dropped by the RAF and RCAF during the war.

The “Grand Slam”, a 22,000 pound special purpose bomb designed to penetrate concrete and explode below the surface to create an earthquake effect, could only be delivered by the Lancaster and the Lancaster was thus chosen for special operations such as the “Dambusters” raid and the attack which sunk the German Battleship Tirpitz.

Lancasters were built to accomplish their specific purpose and crew comfort and security was clearly a secondary consideration. Generally flying under the cover of darkness, the Lancaster had virtually no defensive armour. The front, mid-upper, and rear gun turrets were hydraulically powered and carried a total of eight .303 calibre machine guns for defence against enemy aircraft.

The crew worked in cramped conditions, particularly the air gunners who remained at their posts for the entire flight. Some had to place their flight boots into the turrets before climbing in, and then put their boots on. At night and at 20,000 feet the temperature in the turrets frequently fell to



minus forty degrees and frostbite was not uncommon. Air gunners manned the rear and mid-upper gun turrets. A pilot, flight engineer, navigator, wireless operator, and bomb aimer/front gunner completed the crew of seven.

The Lanc's massive bomb bay stretched for 33 feet and, unlike other bombers, was one continuous uninterrupted space. Partly for this reason, the Lanc had the versatility to undertake raids with large, specialized weapons. However, this meant that the main wing spars became obstacles to movement within the aircraft, particularly for airmen wearing heavy clothing and flight boots.

Of the total of 7,377 Lancasters built – 430 of them in Canada – 3,932 were lost in action. During the war Lancasters flew a total of 156,308 sorties and dropped 608,612 tons of bombs and placed over 12,000 mines in enemy waters.

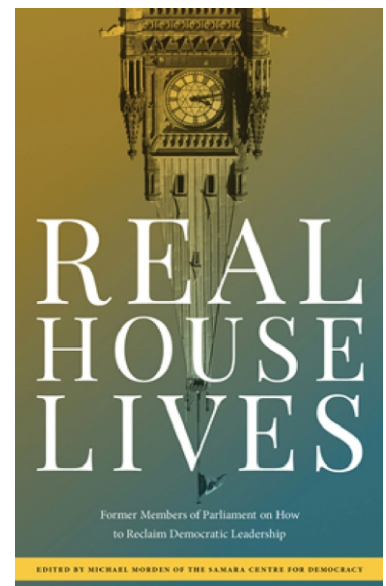
(Source: The Bomber Command Museum of Canada)

“Real House Lives” ... ex-parliamentarians tell tales

Democracy's future has become uncertain. Politicians are viewed with deep cynicism. Political parties have lost touch with mass society. Citizens' expectations of what their democracy should do have outstripped what their institutions can provide. All of this is feeding a wave of polarization, populism, and anxiety, with Canadians much more likely to say their democracy is becoming weaker rather than stronger.

Written by researchers at the Samara Centre for Democracy, Real House Lives uses the stories and experiences of former parliamentarians to understand what's going wrong with our national politics, and to put forward a vision of democratic representation that is independent, thoughtful, engaged, and empowered. It follows MPs through their lives and work, exploring how this vision of political leadership can be realized through a stronger Parliament, better local democratic engagement, and healthier parties. This may be an ambitious view, but Canadian democracy requires ambition, especially in a public climate of increasing partisanship, cynicism, and distrust.

This book is for anyone who has ever imagined offering their career and life to public service. It's a how-to guide, an inspirational account, and perhaps a warning.



Petter leaves SFU presidency; a legacy of engagement endures

By Richard Littlemore

After 10 years as President and Vice-Chancellor of Simon Fraser University, Andrew Petter, former MLA and 'minister of everything,' says his hopes for SFU tomorrow are just as they were when he assumed the presidency: a university that is more publicly engaged and generates more social and economic benefit each day.

Petter is stepping down at the end of August after two widely heralded terms. He is planning to return to his home in Victoria during a research leave, but he remains an SFU professor and you can bet he will stay engaged. Indeed, a deep sense of engagement has defined his tenure and, now more than ever, defines SFU.

Petter says he was attracted to SFU in 2010 because of the university's record as a community builder. Despite being established in 1965 on a remote mountaintop, Petter says that SFU was never going to be "an insular citadel." Its faculty and students were famously activist, and SFU reached out physically to establish vibrant campuses in Vancouver in 1989 and in Surrey in 2002. And, being unable to move its Burnaby campus down to the community, SFU instead built a community on the mountain: UniverCity, that now boasts more than 5,500 residents.

Still, Petter says, SFU's tendency for engagement lacked "strategic focus." That changed in 2012 after he initiated one of the most extensive consultation processes ever undertaken by a Canadian university – resulting in a vision to make SFU Canada's "engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement."

The success of that effort was validated last year by Times Higher Education, which placed SFU 19th out of 766 universities worldwide for its societal impact – and first in the world for its contribution to sustainable cities and communities. At the same time, the university has maintained or improved upon its record of academic and research excellence. Maclean's named SFU the country's top comprehensive university for nine of Petter's 10 years, while SFU's research income rose at a faster rate than at any other Canadian university.

SFU also expanded all three campuses and added innovative programs in areas such as Indigenous Business Leadership, Environmental Management, and Big Data. In Surrey, it created a new Sustainable Energy Engineering building and program that will help position BC as a leader in clean technology and sustainable energy.



Photo credit: SFU Peak

Even post-COVID-19, Peter is bullish about SFU's future. Though most classes will remain online this fall, Petter says he expects in-person education to bounce back "better," as the university makes the most of lessons learned responding to the pandemic.

Petter has always had an activist's inclination and commitment to social and political engagement. He served as Executive Assistant to Housing Minister Lorne Nicolson in the Barrett government of the 1970s, before earning law degrees at the University of Victoria (BC Gold Medalist) and University of Cambridge (First Class Honours). In the 1980s, he worked as a lawyer in Saskatchewan, and then as a law professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and at the University of Victoria.

Petter entered politics in 1991, serving 10 years as MLA for Saanich South, and as minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Forests, Health, Finance, Intergovernmental Relations, Advanced Education, and as Attorney-General. In 2001, he returned to UVic, where he became the first alumnus to serve as Dean of Law.

Petter was recently appointed to the Order of Canada and received the Public Policy Forum's Peter Lougheed Award for Leadership in Public Policy. He has also been elected to an Honorary Fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and granted an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

(Richard Littlemore is a veteran Vancouver-based journalist who writes frequently for SFU.)

Dosanjh wants Canada to confront India over CAA

Former BC MLA and premier and avowed secularist Ujjal Dosanjh wants Canada to stand up against a discriminatory law passed by the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in New Delhi.

Dosanjh told the Straight newspaper recently that India's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) violates international conventions on refugees. He pointed out that since Canada and India claim to be allies who share common values, it is time that Ottawa should take this up with India.

OOTD asked Ujjal if he had any indications from Ottawa that the government is taking a position regarding the CAA. He said: "None. But they should or rather must."

The BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently adopted the CAA. The legislation discriminates against Muslim refugees coming from neighbouring countries – including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh – on the pretext of giving shelter to non-Muslims facing religious persecution in those countries.

This has caused outrage as it goes against the principles of secularism and religious equality enshrined in the Indian constitution. The BJP aims to transform India into a Hindu theocracy – and opponents of the CAA believe that the law is a step forward in that direction. Recent protests against the act in New Delhi have left more than 50 people dead. The victims are mostly Muslims.

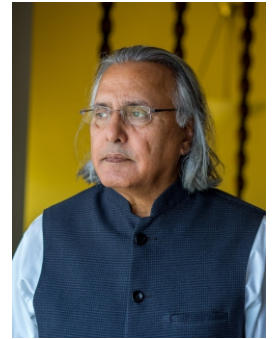
The violence was triggered by BJP supporters, with the help of police, against peaceful demonstrators.

Dosanjh, who recently returned from a trip to India, raised his concerns with the Indian press as well.

Dosanjh said that CAA is a "deliberate destruction of the fabric of India." He noted that what the Modi government is doing goes against the spirit of inclusion that was cherished by participants of the country's freedom movement during the British colonial era.

Dosanjh told Northern India's Tribune News Service that the present situation in India was responsible for creating inequality and division among different strata of society. "Their intention is to divert people's attention from basic issues, whereas the need of the hour is to create equality, prosperity and enhance religious amity and friendship.

"If you create emphasis on one particular religion ... you make people believe that they are lesser than us. That is how fascism begins and people must raise their voice against it," he said.



India was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention, "but it clearly states that if someone is a refugee, you don't discriminate against him or her on the basis of race, caste, creed, religion or nationality. You accept them on the basis of whether they are persecuted or not."

In ancient India, Parsis and Jews came from all over the world and India is home to the oldest synagogue in Kochi. "Refugees should be given asylum on the basis of the Geneva Convention and not on the basis of religion, caste, creed or race," he said.

"My great grandfather – Moola Singh Bahawal – was hanged by the British in the Lahore conspiracy case in March 1916. I learnt values from the founders of the country. I have no political interests, but as a kid born and raised in India and as someone whose family had made sacrifices for the country, I just want to see India thrive and provide social and economic justice and equality to all," he said.

Dosanjh also see similarities between the Continuous Journey Regulation (CJR) in Canada in the early 20th century and the CAA.

The CJR was a racist law introduced by the Canadian government to prevent South Asian immigrants from coming to Canada in 1908. The Komagata Maru ship carrying more than 350 Indian passengers was expelled from Vancouver's harbour in 1914 and forced to return to British-ruled India under the CJR.

(With files from *The Straight* and *Northern India's Tribune News Service*.)

The Red Shark ... Waddell's ride through five elections

By Alyn Edwards

Ian Waddell pulls up to Vancouver's Jericho Beach Park with the top down in his 1964 Plymouth Valiant convertible. It's making a creaking sound from one of the front wheels, the carpets are worn and the paint is chipped. But the radio and power convertible top still function and the faithful slant six engine runs like new.

The former Vancouver storefront lawyer, advocate for the disadvantaged, four-term federal MP, one-term member of the BC Legislative Assembly and former minister of Tourism in Glen Clark's NDP government has run many campaigns in his striking red convertible.

"Ed Broadbent campaigned in this car," he says proudly, speaking of the former NDP leader with whom he served. "So did then Mayor and later Premier Mike Harcourt. Everybody remembers this car from the elections in East Vancouver."

He calls his car The Red Shark, derived from legendary gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson who named his rented 1971 Chevrolet Caprice convertible the Red Shark and made it a central character in his book *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

He points out that the Plymouth Valiant was introduced in 1960 as a compact car as he cranks the car into a narrow West Side Vancouver coffee shop parking spot. The Red Shark has been a faithful servant for more than 40 years for Ian.

He found the correct service manual for the car in an Australian thrift store and he says the car has given him no trouble over the years and is extremely reliable.

"The secret is to put it away before winter and bring it out in the spring," he says. The red-on-red Valiant convertible attracts a lot of attention wherever he drives it. "I used to have one of those," a senior walking along the beach says after stopping to look at the car. "That was a long time ago. Is it the slant six engine?"

Photos of the car are featured in Waddell's political memoir titled *Take the Torch*. On one page, his Scottish immigrant mother beams from the passenger seat of the Valiant. Another photo shows Waddell being driven through his Vancouver-Kingsway riding by his election campaign manager.



The Plymouth Valiant has been there through the years and has become part of his persona. "I had a golden retriever that loved to ride in the car with the top down. When she did, people looked at me like I was a movie star," he recalls.

As head of Vancouver's Storefront Lawyers (VCLAS), Waddell brought forward and won Canada's first class-action lawsuit. While in politics, he drafted the native rights amendments to the repatriated Canadian constitution, implemented the BC film tax credit to foster a multi-billion-dollar industry and led the charge to beat out Calgary and Montreal for the successful Vancouver-Whistler bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Once out of politics, he produced a documentary along with actor Dylan Playfair and young director Kyle McCachan – a film on why young people don't vote which won a best producer award at the Beverly Hills Film festival.

These days, Waddell has some time on his hands to really enjoy his old car. His focus is on keeping his old Valiant convertible running for another summer with plans to upgrade the car before storing it away for winter. "The old girl needs a little spiffing up," he says. "Then she'll be good for many summers to come."

(Alyn Edwards is a classic car enthusiast and partner in Peak Communicators, a Vancouver-based public relations company.)

Len Norris



August 18, 1977

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

An invitation to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

The Victoria Foundation looks forward to receiving donations to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund from all of Hugh's well wishers and friends.

By phone: Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly via the Victoria Foundation.

By cheque: Send cheques to the Victoria Foundation at #109 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G2. Please ensure they are made out to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

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- Click on the [Make a Donation](#) button and then on the "Online" link and then the [CanadaHelps](#) link which will take you to the Foundation's page on the CanadaHelps web site.
- Click to indicate whether you want to donate now or monthly and you will be taken through the steps to make your donation.
- In the section for designation of your gift, click on the drop down menu to select the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.
- You may pay with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Interac or through a PayPal account.
- After you pay for your gift, CanadaHelps.org will send you an online receipt.
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If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca

70 years ago

Canada in South Korea ... “a war of patriots”

It was August 1950 when Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent created the Canadian Army Special Force to fight in the Korean War. The three-year conflict broke out on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea.

The war's combat phase lasted until an armistice was signed in July 1953. As part of a United Nations (UN) force consisting of 16 countries, 26,791 Canadian military personnel served in the Korean War during both the combat phase and as peacekeepers afterward. The last Canadian soldiers left Korea in 1957. After the two world wars, Korea remains Canada's third-bloodiest overseas conflict, taking the lives of 516 Canadians and wounding more than 1,200. The two Koreas remain technically at war today.

Late in the Second World War, the Japanese-held Korean peninsula was liberated by both Soviet and American armed forces. Soviet troops occupied the country north of the 38th parallel, with the Americans to the south. After the war, the Soviets, Americans, and their Korean supporters could not agree on the country's government. The United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, which included Canadian members, oversaw elections in May 1948, but the Soviets forbid these elections in the north. The pro-West Republic of Korea (ROK) was then founded in the south and not long after, the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea was declared in the north. Both governments sought to unify all of Korea and civil war broke out in the country in the late 1940s.

Meanwhile, in late 1949, the Chinese Civil War ended with the establishment of the communist People's Republic of China. Communist Chinese and Soviet leaders believed that North Korea could unify Korea by force, without Western interference. The communists were emboldened by the American decision to limit assistance to the non-communist nationalist Chinese regime on the island of Formosa (Taiwan). In late June 1950, with Chinese and Soviet-supplied weapons and equipment, the North Korean Army invaded the ROK.

The United States led the decision to help the ROK through the UN. In June 1950, Lester B. Pearson, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, encouraged a Canadian response through the UN.



Initially, Canada contributed three Royal Canadian Navy destroyers (HMCS Athabaskan, HMCS Cayuga, and HMCS Sioux) and a Royal Canadian Air Force transport squadron, No. 426 “Thunderbird” Squadron.

In November 1950, the Canadian Army brigade's 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment, was sent overseas and landed in Korea in December. In May 1951, the rest of the Canadian brigade arrived. For the army, the Korean War became largely a “war of patrols” in rough, mountainous terrain, but infantry, tank, and artillery units were also involved in heavy fighting at the battles of Kapyong, Hill 355 and Hill 187, among many other actions. Eight Canadian warships took turns in Korean waters protecting UN aircraft carriers, busting enemy trains along the coasts, and helping other onshore operations.

In mid-1951 the front lines became static near the 38th parallel. Until the war ended the fighting took place along these lines, mostly consisting of patrols and raids against hilltop trench positions across the area in-between UN and enemy lines, known as “No Man's Land.”

During the two years that followed the 1953 armistice, Canadians continued to serve in Korea; many were troops who guarded and patrolled the ROK's side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which continues to separate the two Koreas. All Canadian armed forces personnel who served in Korea from 1950 to 1957 are considered Korean War veterans.

(The Canadian Encyclopedia)