



THE LEGISLATURE IN GINGERBREAD ... how sweet!

This entry in Habitat Victoria's 2018/19 Gingerbread Showcase fundraiser has two faces, the Leg in front and the home of the Wizard of Oz behind. Those who have spent any time there will not find this strange at all ... rather quite appropriate. Go to Page 11 for the whole story.



BCYP “incubator for democracy warms my heart”

By Linda Reid
MLA Richmond South Centre
Former Premier of BCYP (1980)

In late December, it was a joy to look out upon the assembled young people attending the 90th Session of the British Columbia Youth Parliament and harken back more than four decades.

Susan Hunter and I are still amazed that the organization we now know as BCYP began as the Older Boys Parliament of British Columbia. Back then, we were told that meant no girls were allowed. I am happy to tell you that Susan was the first woman Premier of BCYP in 1977, and I was the second in 1980.

Seeing the organization as an incubator for democracy continues to warm my heart. It is about safeguarding democracy. We all need to teach our babies to be voters; to participate in building the kind of society we want.

BCYP is no ordinary youth parliament. The experience begins with debate, but it doesn't end there. Ninety-seven young people come together each Christmas in the Legislative Council Chamber in Victoria to debate their issues, and then go on to deliver the programs and projects they discussed so passionately. The largest and most ambitious project funded and managed by these young parliamentarians is Camp Phoenix, a five-day summer camp experience for children across BC who would not otherwise be able to attend.

BCYP fosters citizen engagement. I am grateful that the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund continues to send two parliamentarians each year to Victoria. Please consider making a donation to this fund through the Victoria Foundation or consider sponsoring a meal for one of these students. It will warm your heart and theirs.

(See Page 4 for more on the 90th Session of the British Columbia Youth Parliament. Details on how to contribute to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund can be found on Page 13.)

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

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

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

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

Or emailed to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com
or ootd@shaw.ca

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

Association Membership (former MLAs) dues are \$60.00 per year. Annual subscription rate is \$40.00 for those who are not Association Members.
Payment can be sent to the above address.

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

Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

Gerard Janssen, Qualicum Beach

Dennis MacKay, Smithers

Gerry Sauder, Victoria

Joan Sawicki, Vancouver

Moe Sihota, Victoria

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Jeff Bray President
Dave Hayer Vice President
Ken Jones Secretary
James Gorst Treasurer
Penny Priddy Past President

Directors

Anne Edwards	Cliff Serwa
Bill Goodacre	Tim Stevenson
Darlene Marzari	Doug Symons
Lorne Nicolson	Gillian Trumper
	Patrick Wong

Honourary Directors

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

Honourary Members

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

Honourary Life Members

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

Life Members

(The late) Hugh Curtis

From the Editor's Desk

Happy New Year readers.

Sadly, three pages of this issue are dedicated to tributes to five great souls well known to almost all of you. December and January have taken their toll. Normally, we restrict our obituary tributes to former MLAs who have answered the final bell. However, an exception this month is warranted.

From the ranks of journalism, we lost Barb McLintock, Billy Bachop, Angelo Iacobucci, and Jim Taylor. These four touched the lives of all of us and deserve our respect.

When I started my second shift at the Press Galley in the late 1980s for *The Province*, I was honoured to be McTick's winger, although much of the time I worked alone because she could not resist the siren call of a good crime story or the magnetic pull of a salacious court case. I swear that woman slept with a police scanner under her pillow.

Billy was one of a select club of respected journalists of the day who left the Fourth Estate for the Dark Side (service in government) and never sacrificed a shred of respect from his colleagues. Angelo was a cross we bore in the Gallery. From his 'NL radio room in Kamloops, he broke more political stories than all of us combined ... with a great deal of respect, we hated him. And, Jim? What can I say? I included him, in part, because he was the AFMLABC's annual dinner guest speaker in 2011.

Finally, a page for John Savage, a former Social Credit cabinet minister whose call to public service was lifelong. John died late last fall.

I am grateful to a number of contributors in this "Winter" issue: Linda Reid, Joan Sawicki, Ian Waddell and Dan Miller and several of my former journalism colleagues including Mike Smyth and Tom Hawthorn.

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

Welcome to 2019! I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

Well, in the world of politics, we are off to a roaring start in 2019! We have had the results of the electoral reform referendum here in BC. The Brexit Deal was soundly defeated in the British House of Commons (at the time I write this, the non-confidence vote had yet to be taken), and we have a partial government shutdown in the US. Phew! Makes one wonder what February will bring.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of the BC Youth Parliament, past and present, for their efforts to enhance the meaningful participation of BC's youth in the process of serving their communities and exploring the potential of collaborative governance.

Our newsletter is so well curated by our editor-in-chief Brian Kieran and produced so well by Rob Lee, but it shines brightest when it receives contributions from you – our members, subscribers and readers. So, don't be shy; if you have an idea for a story or article that would be of interest to our readers, feel free to contact Brian at ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com, and he will be happy to assist you.

I would also like to thank our advertisers who are vital to the success of Orders of the Day. To that end, we have a few spaces left for new advertisers, so if you or someone you know would like to support the Association and connect with an engaged audience, including former and current Members of the Legislative Assembly, then this is the right publication. Feel free to reach out to me at jeff.bray@shaw.ca for any further information.

By the time of our next publication, the by-election in Nanaimo will have occurred, and we will have had a Throne Speech, so I am sure there will be much to talk about in the world of politics!

Thank you for reading, being a subscriber and renewing your membership.

Have a healthy and happy 2019!

Jeff Bray, President, AFMLABC



TELUS PureFibre™ helps build better businesses.

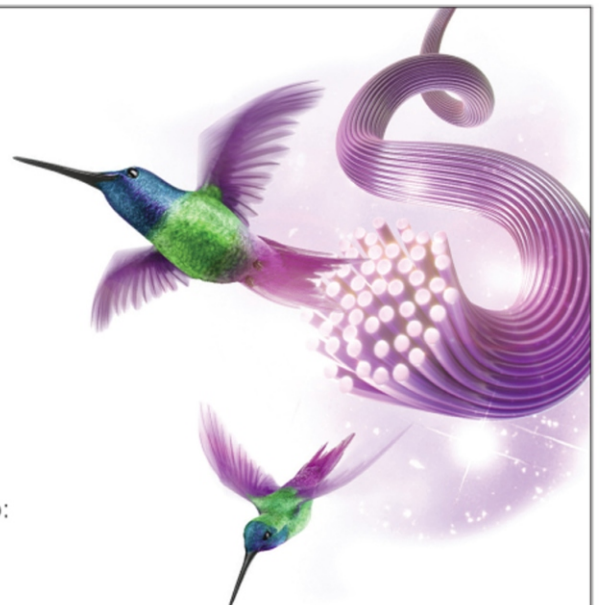
TELUS PureFibre is the #1 internet technology for speed and reliability¹.

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

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

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

To find more, visit telus.com/businessbenefits



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

BCYP #90 ... “a unique opportunity to learn and grow”

By Sheridan Hawes
Premier, 90th BCYP

Before celebrating the end of 2018, our 97 members of the British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) were celebrating our 90th Session. Coming from all over British Columbia, our members spent their days from December 27 to 31 in the Legislature debating bills, learning parliamentary procedure and forming friendships. For young people in BC ages 16 to 21, it's a unique opportunity to learn and grow.

At this year's session, members debated changes and additions to our legislation in bills presented by cabinet, including changing the roles of cabinet ministers and revamping our regional youth parliament system. Members also passed the act that sets into motion Camp Phoenix, a camp run by our members of BCYP for youth who would otherwise not have the chance to attend summer camp.

Members will spend the year fundraising and planning for Camp Phoenix, which will be held in Sooke. At Camp Phoenix, many members get the opportunity to serve as staff, stepping into the role of camp counsellor, cook, activity leader, or support staff for the week. Campers come mainly from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

This year, BCYP members also debated private members resolutions (PMRs) differently than in previous years, voting on the issues that matter most to them as the youth of BC prior to their session, then addressing these issues through PMRs. They debated and passed bills in support of expanding the BC high school curriculum to include financial responsibility

education, ride sharing, and changes to decrease food waste in grocery stores.

During their session, members heard greetings from many distinguished guests, including sitting MLAs, city counsellors, and BCYP alumni. Members also attended a panel with MLA Linda Reid, Acting Clerk of the Legislature Kate Ryan-Lloyd, and Rob Shaw, BC political journalist and co-author of the best-selling book, *A Matter of Confidence*. Members took the opportunity to ask numerous insightful questions ranging from career advice to philosophical ideas, and all were thrilled to have these three outstanding panellists there to answer.

Taking advantage of an opportunity to get out of the Legislature and learn more about BC's political institutions, members were honoured to be invited to a luncheon at Government House, where they heard from Her Honour Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of BC – an honorary patron of the BCYP. In addition to enjoying a delicious lunch and an inspiring speech including book recommendations from Her Honour, members spoke with Her Honour about their ideas and thoughts around democracy, social media, and politics as a whole.

Though the week flew by for most, the skills and experiences members gained from BCYP will be brought back to each of their communities. And, after celebrating our 90th Session, our work for the year's activities is just beginning.



It was a great gathering of 90th anniversary BCYP alumni. From left to right: Sarah Bonner, Brian Fraser, Paul Sacilotto, Jason Herbert, Colin Hanson, Susan Dent, James Fraser, Cathy Lew, Chris Green, Lynda Fraser, Carolyn Ronald, Nancy Peck, Chris Coulson, Geoffrey Glave, Linda Reid, Mackenzie Lockhart, Angus Lockhart, Bill Veenstra, Caroline Spence, Adam Basterfield, Rahim Meghji, Josh Hall, Melanie Gillespie, Susie da Silva with son Miguel and Dora Turje.



The 90th session BCYP cabinet: Front row – Rhett Mutschke, Astra Lund-Phillips, Sheridan Hawse, Charlotte White, and Semiah Marquard. Back row – Kishoore Ramanathan, Zara Herbert, William McDonough, Ranil Prasad, Shay Lynn Sampson, Adriana Thom, Victoria Ritchie, Callista Ryan, Gillian Smith, Lisa Ni, Sophie Sacilotto, Natalia Porro, Olivia Reid-Friesen, Aydin Rezazadeh, Sarina de Havelyn, Victoria Eaton, and Connor Coukel.



Left to right: Opposition Leader Alex Fraser, Deputy Speaker Brendan Liaw and Premier Sheridan Hawse



BCYP delegates go into committee to debate legislation critical to their 2019 programs like their annual summer project, Camp Phoenix in Sooke. Acacia Lee in the foreground and Kris Narayan is to her left.

Party affiliation and voter age determined the outcome

BC has decided that future elections will be conducted according to the current first past the post (FPTP) system. Elections BC reports that 61 per cent of ballots cast opted for the status quo and only 39 per cent opted for a change to proportional representation (PR).

And – Angus Reid Institute exit polling tells us – the most significant factors influencing the vote during the November electoral reform referendum were political partisanship and resistance to change on the part of older residents.

More than seven-in-10 who voted for the governing New Democratic and Green parties in last year's election say they cast ballots for PR in this referendum. Among those who supported the BC Liberal Party in 2017, an even greater majority (84 per cent) say they voted for FPTP.

Key Findings:

PR voters believed changing the system will improve voter turnout, increase the choices available to voters, and improve trust in government overall. FPTP voters mostly expected turnout and voter choice to remain static under either system, but think PR would erode trust in government.

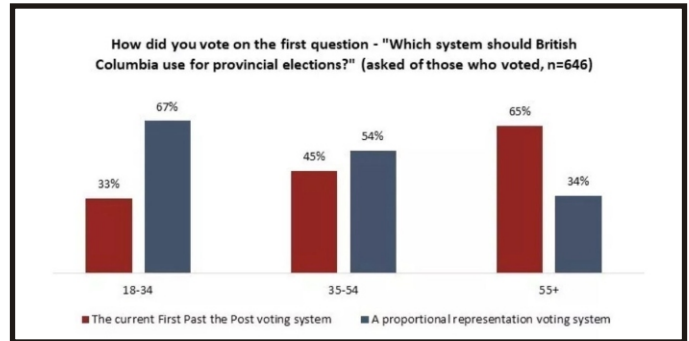
Older BC residents – who were more likely to vote overall, preferred FPTP by a nearly two-to-one margin. Younger voters chose PR by the same margin. Those in the middle age group were more divided, leaning slightly toward changing the system.

It's worth noting that the preference for proportional representation seems to have grown slightly as the campaign progressed. Those voters who knew how they would vote before the campaign started were more likely to be in the FPTP camp, while those who made up their mind later were more likely to vote for PR.

There was no shortage of discussion during the referendum period about the pros and cons of each electoral system. However, many residents would have liked to have heard more of the pros and cons during the televised debate between BC NDP leader John Horgan and BC Liberal Party leader Andrew Wilkinson.

The Angus Reid Institute asked both groups of respondents, those who supported proportional representation and those who supported first past the post, about their motivations.

For those who voted to change the electoral system and introduce proportional representation, there is a sense that their future votes would carry increased importance. Nearly four-in-five (78 per cent) say that this was a significant reason for their vote, and another 16 per cent say it was a



part of their decision making. Along a similar line, close to the same number (76 per cent) say that they believe the current system creates unfair results. A common complaint among critics of FPTP is that it can result in majority governments with lower than majority support, and make third and fourth party preference irrelevant.

Notably, two-thirds of PR supporters also say that a significant reason for their decision to vote this way is that it will force politicians to find common ground more often. Just one-in-five (19 per cent) say that they voted for this system because it was supported by the BC NDP and Green parties.

So-called false majority governments are less of a concern for those who voted for first past the post than they are for PR supporters. Indeed, two-thirds of those who voted to preserve the status quo (65 per cent) said they were motivated by a fear that PR would mean more minority or coalition governments and a belief that FPTP is the best system available.

There is also a significant element of comfort with the current system that motivated voters on its side. Nine-in-10 FPTP voters (88 per cent) say they saw no reason to change and 87 per cent say that the current system is much easier to understand than alternatives.

One of the notable points of disagreement between PR and FPTP supporters is whether or not the referendum was even necessary.

When first asked about the necessity of a referendum, in September of this year residents in the province were close to unanimous in saying that this was an important step to take before making any changes to the electoral system. This sentiment changed when the campaign had run its course.

Four-in-10 BC residents say that holding a referendum was ultimately a good idea, while an almost equal number disagree. People's opinion on the value of the referendum is correlated with the system they support. Seven-in-10 FPTP voters (69 per cent) say this was a bad idea, while three-quarters of PR voters (77 per cent) say it was a good one.

John Savage remembered for his tireless dedication

By Sandor Gyarmati
Delta Optimist

John Savage, a long time Ladner resident, Delta councillor, MLA and advocate for the farming community, died peacefully in his home in late 2018 at age 82.

Born in Qualicum Beach, Savage was a proud member of a Ladner pioneer farming family. He spent his farming career working with his father and brothers on their family farm, HR Savage & Sons Farm Equipment, located on Ladner Trunk Road.

Savage was involved with many local and agricultural associations over his lifetime including being president of the Delta Farmers' Institute. He was also a president of the Delta Chamber of Commerce and served on Delta municipal council. From 1986 to 1991, he was an MLA in the Social Credit government where he served as the minister of agriculture.

Savage represented the riding of Delta. He followed Walter Davidson and was succeeded by Fred Gingell.

Former premier Bill Vander Zalm, also a Ladner resident, said Savage was great to work with and did a great job as MLA. "He was highly respected and always worked hard. I think he did a terrific job and I enjoyed working with him. Our condolences to his family," he said.

Mayor Lois Jackson, who had run with Savage for Delta council, said he was dedicated to improving his community.

"He worked very, very hard and really contributed. When they wanted him to run for the province, I think he was somewhat torn, but I said to him he had to go where his heart is and where he thought he could do the most good. Of course, he became the agricultural minister, and he did a fine job. John was a great community person who always had a chuckle and a smile. He was a hard worker who'll really be missed."

Delta Farmers' Institute president David Ryall stated that Savage's passing is a real loss for the local agricultural community that benefited from his tireless work, even during what should have been his retirement years.



"He loved to work for the benefit of the agricultural community. The last really big item he did was making sure irrigation water was brought in when the South Fraser Perimeter Road came in. He and Robert Butler worked tirelessly on the project that spent somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20 million towards improving the irrigation for the Delta farmers. They went to meetings a few times a month for something like three or four years, many hours. For the last three or four summers, it's been drier than normal and what John helped accomplish has been a godsend to some of the farmers," said Ryall.

In the Legislature, Delta South MLA Ian Paton paid tribute to Savage, calling him a champion of agriculture who had an incredible and storied career.

Over the years, Savage also enjoyed pitching in the Ladner Men's Fast Pitch League, bowling, golfing, hunting, fishing, and travelling.

John was predeceased by his parents Harold and Veronica, brother-in-law George and sister-in-law Susan. He is survived by his wife Margaret, his daughters Kim, Pam and Lori, as well as grandchildren Chelsea, Steven and Dustin. He will be greatly missed by siblings Sharon, Robert, Diane and Ken, as well as many extended family members and friends.

A Press Gallery legend passes into history

Barb McLintock, a legendary legislative reporter for *The Province* and a respected BC coroner, died in December. She was 68.



McLintock, recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer, died in hospice surrounded by friends.

“She was a great reporter and a great person,” said Alan Perry, a talk-show host at CFX radio in Victoria and a longtime friend.

McLintock was born in Winnipeg and studied psychology and philosophy at the University of Winnipeg. Her father, Peter McLintock, was executive editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

“She headed west as soon as she graduated and quickly made a name for herself in newspapers,” Perry said.

McLintock worked briefly at the *Victoria Times Colonist* before being hired at age 22 by *The Province* as a legislative reporter. She covered BC politics for 30 years, including 21 years as the newspaper’s bureau chief at the legislature. She was a trailblazer for female journalists.

A hard-working reporter known for her photographic memory and quirky personal style, Barb often sat in the public gallery of the legislature, or the nearby Victoria courthouse, knitting or crocheting as she listened to proceedings.

“Politicians, lawyers, police officers — they all trusted her,” Perry said. “She always seemed to get the best quotes from them.”

“Her nickname was ‘McTick’ and her ability to recall quotes was uncanny,” said Global TV bureau chief Keith Baldrey.

“She was a consummate professional,” said *Vancouver Sun* columnist Vaughn Palmer. “Acute reporting skills. She could spot the loopholes in a government bill faster than anyone.”

McLintock spent years investigating sexual abuse of children at the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf, which led to survivors receiving financial compensation. She also exposed breaches of health and safety standards at Victoria’s Montreux Clinic for Eating Disorders, which was subsequently shut down.

In 1995, McLintock won the BC Newspaper Award for Best News Story of the Year, and the following year she won the Canadian Association of Journalists Award for Best Investigative Reporting.

Joining the BC Coroners Service in 2004, Barb investigated hundreds of deaths. In 2011, she became the service’s first Coroner of Strategic Programs, which included managing communications and media relations. “I cannot say enough about the credibility, professionalism and experience Barb brought to the coroner’s service,” said BC Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe.

Mike Smyth, *The Province*

Sports columnist Jim Taylor has left the arena

Sports columnist Jim Taylor, who was the AFMLABC’s annual dinner guest speaker in 2011, died Jan. 7th at his Shawnigan Lake home. He was 82.

On behalf of Harbour Publishing, Victoria author/journalist Tom Hawthorne posted the following tribute:

“Jim Taylor was one of Canada’s most entertaining sportswriters, with a writing career that spanned more than six decades. Name any memorable event, from Canada-Russia 1972 to Rick Hansen’s Man in Motion tour; or any famous name, from Wayne Gretzky to Muhammad Ali to the San Diego Chicken, and Jim Taylor was there giving his insightful, witty, and occasionally skeptical take on the subject.

“As Taylor wrote: ‘When sport makes instant millionaires out of kids who can hit a ball or a puck with a stick or stuff a leather balloon through a fishnet, what’s not to laugh?’

“Beginning his career at Victoria’s *Daily Colonist* as a high schooler, Jim Taylor produced some 7,500 sports columns, three times as many radio shows and more than a dozen books. His passion earned him membership in the CFL and BC Sports Halls of Fame and a lifetime achievement award from Sports Media Canada. He will be deeply missed by everyone at Harbour Publishing.”



Respected journalist Bill Bachop was Zalm's press secretary

Bill Bachop, known for his work in government communications and as Premier Bill Vander Zalm's press secretary, died in December at age 80.

The Edinburgh-born Bachop's career also included stints as a *Victoria Daily Times* city editor and a *Vancouver Sun* reporter and columnist. After leaving the *Times*, he moved in 1981 to the communications office at the Ministry of Highways and then to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

He became Vander Zalm's press secretary in 1986, serving until 1988.

Jim Hume, a long-time *Times Colonist* columnist, said he has fond memories of Bachop as a journalistic rival in the days when Victoria had two newspapers, the *Times* and *Daily Colonist*.

"Bill was good-natured, always seemed to be cheerful and never more so than when he'd beat you the day before on a story," Hume said. "Even after he left the ranks of 'we truth and justice Warriors of the Light' to join the army of government-information officers, he retained our professional respect."

Bachop is survived by his wife, Sylvia, children Stephen and Lisa, four grandchildren, and his sisters, Cilla and Ruthie.

Stephen Bachop said: "My dad was a very good soccer player. He was a goalie, and it seemed like the commanding officer had more of an interest in his particular regiment's team doing well in the inter-army tournaments than having the soldiers do parade drills."

Stephen said his father lived for Hibs — Scotland's Hibernian soccer club — and looked upon the team's Easter Road home field as a shrine.

"He played semi-pro soccer when he moved to Canada, a team sponsored by Carling Brewery in Vancouver for a number of years," Stephen said. "They got to wear these nice green team jackets in the Carling Brewery colours and then, of course, free beer after the game."

Stephen said his father was an excellent writer who had a gift with words. "Even though he just had a high school education, he read voraciously. He read widely and over a whole bunch of different topics."

Stephen said his father's columns for the *Vancouver Sun* were "poignant observations on day-to-day life written in kind of a humorous, easy-to-follow manner."

Jeff Bell, *Times Colonist*

Kamloops' master of breaking news dead at 60

The BC media landscape has lost one of its signature voices. Radio NL reporter Angelo Iacobucci passed away in December. He was 60.

Iacobucci covered Kamloops city hall for decades and was well-known for having nearly unparalleled connections in the BC legislature.



Former Kamloops Mayor and MLA Terry Lake said: "I've known Angelo for 20 years and consider him a friend as well as a dogged reporter who always held me to account, whether it was as city councillor, mayor or MLA.

"Angelo was larger than life. When he walked into a room, you knew it. He was very to-the-point. He didn't waste time. He didn't suffer fools. He got the stuff he needed and would use it and reuse it. Often for weeks on end, you'd hear yourself in interviews you'd forgotten that you'd given because he used every bit of it," Lake added.

"He was just a character - but someone who treated you fairly. As a politician, he was fair in his reporting but certainly held people to account. We're all going to miss him terribly. My heart's with his wife and the rest of the people in Kamloops who knew him. It's going to be a big loss."

James Peters, CFJC News

Scotland's Burns made love, not war

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

It was 260 years ago, January 25, 1759, to be precise, that Scotland welcomed impoverished Robert Burns into the world. Little did they know that down through the ages, he would be celebrated around the globe as Scotland's foremost poet and grand seducer of women, rich or poor.

And before you fire up a magic telephone to correct my spelling of Burns – I already know the earliest official records show Burnes and/or Burness as the family name. The one I offer is the one most often used when referring to the almost saintly Robert – never “Rabbie” – Burns.

“Rabbie” is the Christian name rarely used by genuine lovers of two-thirds of his Scottish dialect verse. And, Burns always signed “Robert” once he moved beyond the bawdy verses that brought him early notoriety, and kept bread on his table until his classical love poems vaulted him to fame suitable for family consumption.

Between January 21 and 25, hundreds, maybe thousands, of Burn's Night dinners will be held around the world with his classic *Jo' Anderson My Jo'* highly polished for public display high on the list of favourites. A few “all male” or private club events may venture into *The Merry Muses of Caledonia* or Burns' *Bawdy Verse* – but they will be few.

As revised, they no longer show the full irreverence of Burns for authority – or his liking for four-letter words in rhymes he later destroyed or sanitized for family reading. He did keep a collection of his bawdier lines but, as he lay dying in the summer of 1796, he worried that if preserved they would be remembered above his other work.

At the time of Burns' final illness and death at Dumfries on July 21, 1796, his friend Allan Cunningham wrote: “As the day of life darkened down ... He remembered that he had written many matters, both in verse and prose, of a nature licentious as well as witty. He sought to redeem them, and in some instances succeeded.”

Burns' fans will know that he died as he was born, in less than rich circumstances. Although already acknowledged as a poet for the ages, he remained so poor that, as he lay dying, he had to ask a friend for the loan of five pounds to pay off a men's clothing merchant who was threatening him with court action.

Even as he begged for money to stay out of jail, he was offered 50 pounds for the publication rights to his works “of licentious nature.” He spurned the offer, which I think is a great pity because what I fondly call “robust” Burns, in the relatively few lines that survived, was gloriously descriptive and honest whether describing coupling or revelry – or both. But the higher echelon friends he had won with more acceptable verse didn't like his rougher dissertations and encouraged and assisted in the poetic cleansing.



The fans still holding him dear more than 200 years after his death remain loyal to his new or revised verses. Fortunately, the puritans missed, or didn't recognize, all of Burns' delightful lines, like the description of soldier and sweetheart on a last day of leave – “his doxy lay within his arms, wi' usquebar (whisky) and blanket warm” – and the wonderful, sexy, anti-war poem in which he renounced “I murder hate by flood or field,/ Tho' glory's name may screen us;/ In wars at home I'll spend my blood -/ Life-giving wars of Venus./ The deities that I adore/ Are social peace and plenty;/ I'm better pleased to make one more,/ Than be the death of twenty.”

The slogan “make love not war” was outspoken Burns and no more persuasive today than when first penned. And rarely, if ever, quoted today when Scots, and those who wish they were, gather to remember their Bard. Even ardent fans shy from his words written on a steamy tavern window “on the occasion of a national Thanksgiving for a Naval Victory.”

“Ye hypocrites! are these your pranks?/ To murder men and gie God thanks!/ For shame! Gie o'er, proceed no further/ God won't accept your thanks for murder.”

Ironically, Burns was buried with full military honours, “the street lined with the Angus-shire Fencibles and the Cinque Ports Cavalry and his body borne by the (Militia) Volunteers.”

“It was an impressive and mournful sight,” wrote Cunningham. “All was orderly and decorous (but) the measured steps, the military array, and the muffled drums – I thought then, and I think now – had no connection with a Pastoral Bard.”

Nor, I venture to say, do most Burns' Nights at which Robbie wouldn't recognize himself.

(Historical and dialect usage from Cunningham's *Complete Works of Robert Burns. The Merry Muses of Caledonia* and/or Burns *Bawdy Verse* can be Googled)

Leg becomes Oz at Habitat for Humanity fundraiser

The theme at Victoria Habitat for Humanity's 10th Annual Gingerbread Showcase was "There's No Place Like Home," and that inspired the Victoria gingerbread team of Veronica and Alyssa Norman to turn BC's Legislature into Oz.

"We thought of doing a twist on the Oz story where Dorothy ends up in Victoria. It's where we'd want to end up if we got stuck in Oz," the Normans told the event judges. Their creation earned the Normans the award for "Best First Impression."

The event, Habitat Victoria's premier fundraising initiative, ran from Nov. 17 to Jan. 6, and was presented by the Victoria Real Estate Board and hosted at the Parkside Hotel & Spa. The Showcase brings together professional and amateur bakers from Vancouver Island and highlights their creativity while supporting the work of Habitat Victoria.

The Legislature building as Oz took the Norman team 100 hours to make. The figurines were their biggest challenge, their first attempt at sculpting. The gingerbread house features the Legislature au naturel on one side and the Legislature as Oz on the other.

There were 24 creations on display at the event, ranging from the Fisgard Lighthouse to Harry Potter's Burrow. Amateur and professional bakers were encouraged to let their creativity flow, which they did, using only edible ingredients. More than 14,000 votes were cast, and a new fundraising record – \$93,000 – was achieved.

Joanna Verano, Director of Fund Development and Communications, says: "This year we are directing all the revenue from this event to our single-family home that is being built in Central Saanich. It started as a gingerbread fundraiser with gingerbread cookies, and then the idea just got greater and more elaborate over the years.

"We cannot thank The Parkside Hotel & Spa enough for hosting the Gingerbread Showcase. They, along with our key sponsors, the Victoria Real Estate Board and Revera Living, and thousands of individual donors, pushed our fundraiser over \$90,000." Last year, Habitat raised \$51,000.

Habitat for Humanity Victoria is a charity that helps families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. Founded in 1990, it has built 22 homes locally and served 26 families.



**INVESTING
WHERE
WE LIVE.**

**WE ARE COMMITTED
TO CONTINUOUSLY
IMPROVING OUR
PRINCE GEORGE BREWERY
TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADES
MEAN QUALITY PRODUCTS
THAT TASTE BETTER
& STAY FRESH LONGER**

**PACIFIC
WESTERN
BREWING**

PWBREWING.NET



Serving Every Community

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



ibabc.org

Under India's PM Modi, religion has been weaponized

By Ujjal Dosanjh
ujjaldosanjh.org

In the pantheon of India's Prime Ministers, something about Narendra Modi makes him an exceptional Prime Minister.



Understanding his uniqueness requires a review of the regime he has given India. In 2014, Modi burst upon the national political scene like a tornado promising what he presented as a new way of doing

government, economy and politics encapsulated in his slogan of "Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas" (collective efforts, inclusive growth). With his skilled oratory, use of modern technology and the emphasis on economic development, India's 21st Century needs seemed to have met their match in him.

Four years into his regime, PM Modi has not proven to be much different from his predecessors excluding Nehru and Shastri, the first and second Prime Ministers of India. Other than in his art of the bombast and over the top promises, he has been quite like several of the previous prime ministers.

In the 20th Century, one often heard it said and saw it written that India was a rich country of poor people. Given the country's bountiful natural resources, human capital, and grinding poverty, it had been easy to agree with that view at the dawn of independence, and at least, for sometime thereafter. But, the sheer optimism of the early years of independence led us to believe the conditions would change and that India would grow into a more socially just, economically prosperous, and egalitarian country. Indians were reaffirmed in that hope by their massive rejection of Indira Gandhi's Emergency Rule with its injustices and constrained freedoms.

Though social and economic inequalities and poverty still abound in the country, the economic changes and progress unleashed in the late 1980s, early '90s, and since, have given Indians reason for a modicum of pride and joy. India is now one of the major economies of the world and growing fast; at times faster than any other economy. But, the rewards of economic progress aren't yet available to the vast majority of people.

Some argue the rising tide of economic development will eventually lift all lives. While quite a few have been lifted, many more have been just marginally touched or

improved by the much-touted economic miracle. The middle class isn't as large as some had hoped. In fact, a significant part of the population has been further impoverished; the gap between the rich and the poor has only widened. Despite his and his acolytes' extolling of his accomplishments in terms of the economy and job creation, Modi's regime has been quite a disappointment and a relative failure in this regard.

That India's is still an underdeveloped economy is undeniably the cumulative effect of the successive governments' inability and or unwillingness to govern India in a way that would have enabled all Indians to realize their full potential. The governments have failed to ensure that all Indians fairly benefitted from any economic progress in the country. In economic development and employment growth, the Modi regime, like its many predecessors, has fallen far below its own stated goals. The chasm between the promised and the delivered reality has been substantial, and it may seem unusually large because of Modi's excessive proclivity to over promise – promise the moon, so to say.

The corruption in government began to take significant root during the Indira Gandhi regime. Since then, all central governments have talked a good line on corruption while conveniently looking the other way, particularly when their own friends, supporters, MLAs, MPs or ministers were at the trough – in countless cases illegitimately amassing untold wealth belonging to the people of the country. The Modi government has been no different in this regard.

Major institutions of government have not escaped the caustic effects of partisan and corrupt politics. Beginning with the Indira Gandhi regime, government institutions such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate have abused the opposition and its supporters. The Modi regime has broken new ground. It has politicized the Reserve Bank of India and is undermining its independence.

But, at least in one very significant respect, Narendra Modi does stand tallest among the prime ministers of independent India. It is in the crass weaponizing of religion in aid of partisan politics that Modi and his regime have no peers. In the annals of post-independence India, Modi as PM and his government have been exceptional in this regard.

He has turned the weaponization of religion into a fine and efficient art. For instance, of all the cow vigilante (so-called "cow protection") incidents since 1947, over 95 per cent of them have taken place since 2014 under the Modi regime.

The outfits such as the Bajrang Dal, some of Narendra Modi's ministers and Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs and MLAs have not shied away from stoking the fires of communal hatred. This deliberate weaponization of religion has targeted Muslims for various trumped up reasons such as allegedly eating or possessing beef or for allegedly transporting cows to slaughter. Dalits, rationalists and dissenting scholars too have been killed.

According to the National News Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms, as of April 2018, as many as 27 BJP MPs and MLA's had outstanding criminal cases of hate speech registered against them. Included among them is Uma Bharti, facing seven criminal hate speech charges, and currently a proud member of Modi's cabinet.

Quite recently another BJP MLA, Vikram Saini, fanned the flames of sectarian hate saying "those who say they feel unsafe and threatened in India should be bombed.

Give me a ministry and I will bomb all such people. Not even one will be spared." His remarks were directed at the veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah who had expressed fears about the plight of his sons in the event of a mob ever asking them about their religion since they wouldn't know how to answer the question; they had not been raised with any particular religion. He had been speaking about the cow vigilante violence in Bulandshahr which had taken the life of a policeman doing his duty to keep the peace.

Naseeruddin had bravely lamented India's sad but stark truth under Modi: "In many places, the death of a cow is given more importance than the killing of a policeman."

The most profound obligation of the Prime Minister of India is to ensure that, at any cost and without fail, India's borders and its domestic peace and harmony are fiercely preserved and defended. The office of the Prime Minister bestows, even upon its ordinary occupants, the gravitas to lead in that endeavour. Sadly, PM Modi's actions and omissions have allowed the many members and fronts of the BJP to push India into the worst communal quagmire since 1947.

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.

Online: The Victoria Foundation's mechanism for online donations is [CanadaHelps](#) and the steps are:

Go to www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

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.

There are several privacy permissions available. If you choose to include your name and address in the information which is sent to the Victoria Foundation, the Association will be pleased to acknowledge your gift.

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

Member News

Please send news about your activities to 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 Dan Miller, who represented the North Coast for the NDP from 1986 to 2001. He served in the cabinets of premiers Mike Harcourt and Glen Clark in a variety of ministries including Minister of Forests and Minister for Energy and Mines. In 1992, he became deputy premier. He served as the 32nd

Premier of British Columbia for six months from August 1999 to February 2000 following the resignation of Glen Clark.

What prompted you to seek public office?

As a young man, I had become active in my pulp mill trade union, joined the NDP, and had worked in numerous federal, provincial, and municipal campaigns. When my MLA, Graham Lea, was appointed to cabinet in Dave Barrett's government in 1973, he hired me as his executive assistant where I worked until the government was defeated in 1975. I returned to Prince Rupert, my job at the pulp mill, ran successfully for city council three times, and when Graham Lea retired in 1986, I won the nomination for my party and the subsequent provincial election. I didn't start with the conscious thought of running for public office, but with the experience I had gained, it was a natural evolution.

Which political figure most influenced you?

Without question, it was Dave Barrett who, in my opinion, was one of the most consequential premiers ever to govern British Columbia.

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

Given my history of political involvement, it was not a difficult transition.

What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

Apart from the fact that, after more than 30 years in political life which had gotten into my blood, it was finding a job. When your party is defeated, it doesn't make you that marketable, but I did OK.

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

That major public policy issues can be incredibly complex, particularly in the resource sector, and that the general public often has no appreciation of the value that resource development brings to every British Columbian.

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

I try to keep up with issues here in BC, across Canada, and around the world. My monthly lunch with a group of retired senior civil servants provides an opportunity for intelligent debate on issues of importance, both domestic and international. I recently took a contract with the province to try to assist in the forestry sector, which I greatly enjoyed, but it has confirmed in my mind that I ought to stay truly retired.

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

I keep thinking that there is a better golfer inside me; however, the results do not confirm this. I love the game and walking the course three times a week is good for me. I think I've only missed one MLAs' dinner and my conversations there remind me that regardless of party, most MLAs are not driven by rigid ideology, but rather a desire to do the right thing for their constituency and the province. I do miss my conversations with Hugh Curtis.

Letters

Networks spoil Ian Waddell's chance at CFL "fame"

(Editor's note: Ian sent us this excerpt from his just-published memoir *Take the Torch*. It is a humorous, self-deprecating look back at Grey Cup 1998 when the "tiny perfect minister" was punted to the sidelines by the TV networks.)



As minister of small business, tourism, and culture, I was responsible for the government's involvement in sport. When the Canadian Football League's Grey Cup championship game was played at Vancouver's BC Place in 1998, Maria Ciarniello told me that the sitting minister was always invited to kick the first football, but she warned me that the minister usually didn't accept the invitation. The reason: the crowd would boo me! Well, I thought, they won't boo this "tiny perfect minister" (the tribute my staff had printed on my coffee cup). I wanted to do the ceremonial kick-off; I thought it would be a lot of fun. I also thought I was smart enough to avoid the boos. My brilliant plan was to get four balls to kick: one by a small boy, another by a young girl, the third by legendary BC Lions kicker Lui Passaglia, and the last one by me, the minister.

The noise at ground level in BC Place during a normal game is deafening; at the Grey Cup it's almost overwhelming. My plan seemed to work as the boy and girl were introduced (small applause), then Lui (huge applause), then me. That's when I heard the boos. To top it off, as we all kicked, the boy and girl did exceptionally well. Passaglia boomed the ball about fifty yards, and my kick dripped off my foot. (It had worked well at practice that morning, but I stupidly changed my shoes.) "Never mind," I later told Maria. "It doesn't hurt to get on national television with that huge audience."

"Sorry to disappoint you, Minister," she said. "The networks broke to commercial just before they introduced you."

Ian Waddell QC

Former Speaker Sawicki has a worthy suggestion

Happy New Year Orders of the Day!

I made a New Year's resolution to pay my membership dues in January, so I'm not left wondering in March whether I have done it or not. I enclosed a note on this "idea" in with the cheque, but the envelope has been sitting on the counter for a few days now, and I realize, by the time I decide to make the trek to town and the mail truck actually takes it out, it could be a couple of weeks before you receive it. I ripped open the envelope and decided to send you this email letter instead.

Based on the snippets of information in the media thus far, it's really hard to know what to make of the Clerk/Sergeant at Arms issue in the Legislature – even for a former Speaker perhaps able to read between the lines better than most.

Speakers live in such a tenuous and lonely world – sort of a bubble within a bubble. They don't really have anywhere to turn for help, other than their Clerk or other Speakers in other jurisdictions. I suspect few MLAs – let alone the public – ever think – let alone understand – the various roles the Speaker has and the fine line he/she needs to (should) walk.

It might be a timely and teachable moment for someone to write a 'generic' piece for OOTD on the complexity of the Speaker's role in our parliamentary democracy. Who knows – some former Speakers (and other former MLAs) might be persuaded to weigh in with feedback. Now that would be very interesting ... and we formers and OOTD could play a much-needed role in educating the current inhabitants of that 'Place' on an aspect of their work too often ignored.

Just a thought. I will do my part and contribute something in response to something – but am not inclined to start the conversation.

As always, thank you, Esteemed Editor, for your work on our behalf.

Joan Sawicki, Hagensborg, BC
30th Speaker of the BC Legislature
MLA for Burnaby-Willingdon (1991-2001)



(Editor's note: Joan's suggestion is excellent and is top of the list for the March issue.)

Official Languages Act turns 50 this year

Fifty years ago, the Official Languages Act was one of the cornerstones of the government of then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The law was an attempt to implement some of the policy objectives outlined by the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, which had been established in 1963 to investigate and report on the inequitable manner in which Canada's English-speaking and French-speaking populations were treated by the federal administration.

At that time, only nine per cent of jobs within the federal public service were occupied by Francophones, even though French-speakers formed a quarter of the Canadian population. The proportion of jobs designated bilingual grew to 14 per cent in 1978, and 25 per cent in 2004.

One of the most significant features of the 1969 act was to ensure that federal government services would be provided in both official languages, wherever population size warranted it.

Adoption of the new law was anything but harmonious even though it was adopted with all-party support in the House of Commons. The premiers of the three Prairie provinces requested, early in 1969, that the Official Languages Bill be referred to the Supreme Court of Canada to determine its constitutionality.

They maintained, along with J. T. Thorson, the former president of the Exchequer Court of Canada, that the bill was outside the powers of the Parliament of Canada. The reference to the court was never made, but the legal question was resolved in 1974 when the Supreme Court ruled, in *Jones v. Attorney General of New Brunswick*, that the subject matter of the bill was within federal jurisdiction.

Across Canada, the response from provincial governments to the example set by the federal government was mixed. Quebec, which is home to an English-speaking minority of over half a million, had traditionally been the only province generous in its treatment of its minority-language population, and for this reason, was cited by the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism as the model to be emulated by other provinces.

Ontario, home to Canada's largest French-speaking minority, opted to enact a law which provides for services of the provincial government to be made available in designated regions, but which does not give the French



language either a symbolic or an authoritative status as an equal "official" language of the province. New Brunswick, which is home to Canada's second largest French-speaking minority population, adopted the federal government policy and soon after, its own Official Languages Act. Manitoba, home to Canada's third-largest French-speaking minority, refused to overturn its ban on the use of French in both the provincial legislature and its courts until it was forced to do so in 1985.

In 1988, a new Official Languages Act was enacted to achieve two objectives. First, it was necessary to update the 1969 law to take into account the new language-related obligations that the federal government had undertaken under Sections 16-23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which had been enacted in 1982.

For example, Section 20 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right of the Canadian public to communicate in English and French with any central government office or with regional offices where there is "a significant demand for communication with and services from that office." Significant demand is not defined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. One of the purposes of the Official Languages Act of 1988 was to remedy this omission.

Second, the new law included provisions for the promotion by the government of Canada of Quebec's English-speaking minority and of the French-speaking minorities in the rest of the country. Programs that fall under the "promotion" umbrella are often designed to encourage each provincial government to offer services to its official-language minority community and contain a mechanism for transferring funds to the provincial governments to finance a part of these programs.