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SUMMER 2021

# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

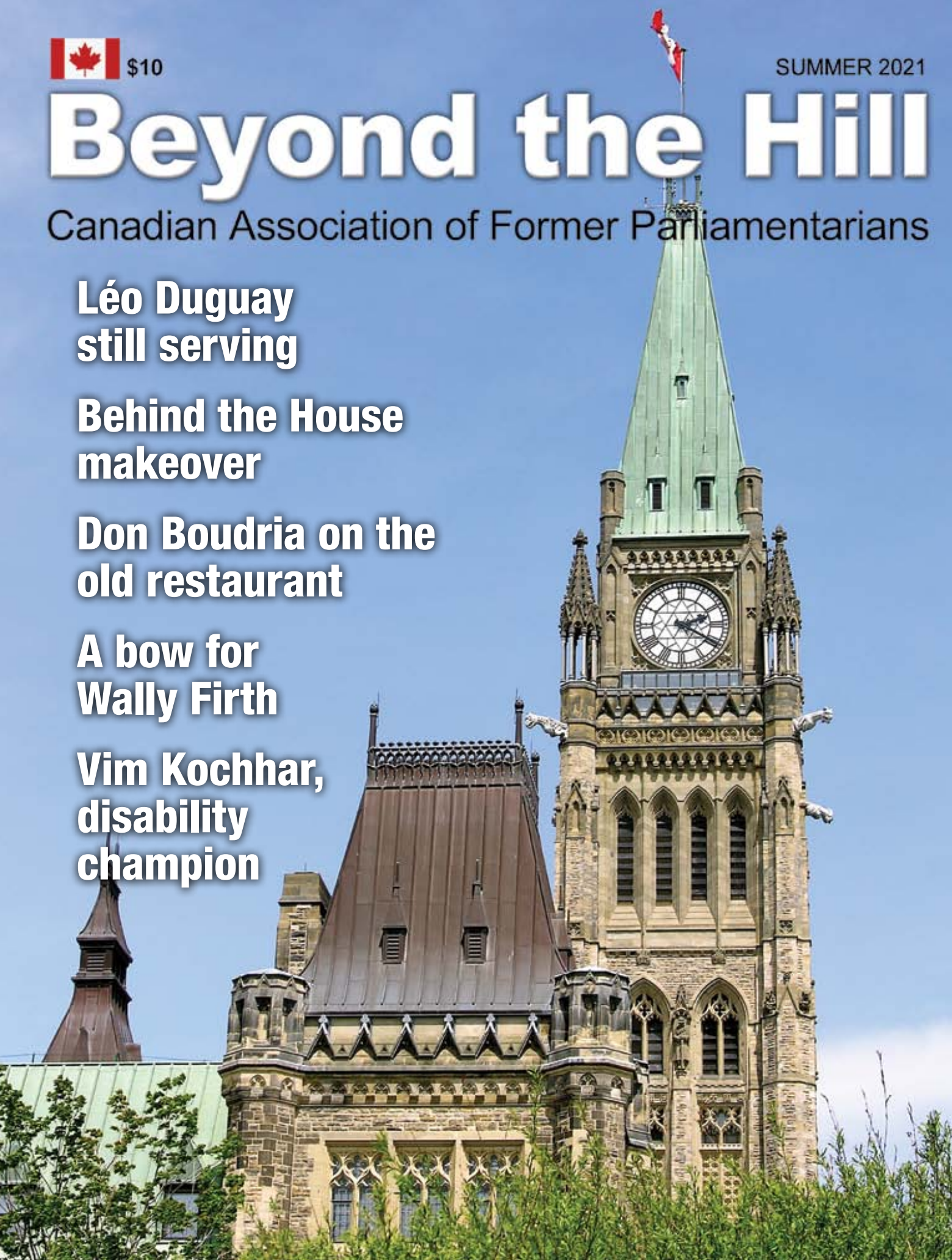
**Léo Duguay  
still serving**

**Behind the House  
makeover**

**Don Boudria on the  
old restaurant**

**A bow for  
Wally Firth**

**Vim Kochhar,  
disability  
champion**





Association européenne des anciens  
parlementaires des pays membres du  
Conseil de l'Europe

European association of former  
members of parliament of the mem-  
ber states of the Council of Europe



Anciens Membres du Congrès  
des États-Unis d'Amérique

Former Members of Congress of  
the United States of America



Association canadienne  
des ex-parlementaires

Canadian Association of  
Former Parliamentarians

## Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue

We, the FMC, Former Members of Congress of the United States of America, the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians are deeply concerned about recent attacks on democracy in America and dangerous tendencies in Europe.

Conspiracy theories, unprecedented baiting against the results of democratic elections, spread of fake news despite clear evidence, the misuse of fears of an invisible pandemic and the culmination through a brutal and violent mob put the fragile democracy at risk.

Our common democratic values are under threat. Democracy is an ideal as well as a goal, based on fundamental values shared by many open-minded peoples on the planet, regardless of cultural, political, social or economic differences.

It is the prerequisite for rule of law, the respect of human rights and the protection of the weak ones in our societies. It is the guarantor of inviolability of human dignity, freedom, gender equality, tolerance, freedom of religious belief, respect for minorities, cultural diversity, and peace.

We, former lawmakers from the USA, Canada and Europe are therefore forging an "Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue".

Democracy is our highest value. Democracy is not the rule of the majority over the minority; true democracy is based on dialogue.

We commit ourselves to defend democracy whenever and wherever it is at risk and to closely cooperate for this aim. We invite all associations of former parliamentarians to join the Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue.

The patrons of the Appeal will carefully watch the global development of democracy. Our task is to raise our warning voice if we will see dialogue diminishing and democracy at stake.

## Appel pour la Démocratie et la Dialogue

Nous, le FMC, les anciens membres du Congrès des États-Unis, l'Association européenne des anciens parlementaires des pays membres du Conseil de l'Europe et du Parlement européen et l'Association canadienne des ex-parlementaires sommes profondément préoccupés par les récentes attaques contre la démocratie en Amérique et par de dangereuses tendances en Europe.

Les théories du complot, l'incitation sans précédent à contester les résultats des élections démocratiques, la diffusion de fausses nouvelles malgré des preuves claires, l'abus des craintes d'une pandémie invisible et le point culminant d'une foule brutale et violente ont mis en danger la démocratie fragile.

Nos valeurs démocratiques communes sont menacées. La démocratie est à la fois un idéal et un objectif fondés sur des valeurs fondamentales partagées par bon nombre de peuples ouverts d'esprit de la planète, indépendamment des différences culturelles, politiques, sociales ou économiques.

C'est une condition préalable à l'état de droit, au respect des droits de l'homme et à la protection des faibles dans nos sociétés. Il garantit l'inviolabilité de la dignité humaine, la liberté, l'égalité des sexes, la tolérance, la liberté religieuse, le respect des minorités, la diversité culturelle et la paix.

Nous, anciens législateurs des États-Unis, du Canada et de l'Europe, formons une «Appel pour la démocratie et le dialogue».

La démocratie est notre plus grand atout. La démocratie n'est pas la règle de la majorité sur la minorité; La vraie démocratie est basée sur le dialogue.

Nous nous engageons à défendre la démocratie chaque fois et partout où elle est menacée et à travailler en étroite collaboration pour atteindre cet objectif. Nous invitons toutes les associations d'anciens parlementaires à se joindre à l'Appel pour la démocratie et le dialogue.

Ceux qui souscrivent à cet Appel suivront de près l'évolution de la démocratie à l'échelle mondiale. Notre travail consiste à élever nos voix d'avertissement lorsque le dialogue faiblit et que la démocratie est en jeu.

Paris, 29-01-2021

Rune Rydén  
PRESIDENT FP-AP

Washington, 05-02-2021

Dr. Charles Boustany  
PRESIDENT FMC

Ottawa, 05-02-2021

Dorothy Dobbie  
PRESIDENT CAFP/ACEP



# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Volume 17, Issue No. 1

Summer 2021

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*Dorothy Dobbie.*

## A word from your President

Life is certainly interesting these days. We are learning to live virtual lives whether we want to or not, thanks to the year of COVID-19.

People are adjusting gamely, even your Association as we organized the first ever virtual Memorial Service and Annual General Meeting this past December. It went well as you will learn in one of the articles inside. Due to this experience, it is our plan to offer virtual participation in the future to those who cannot make it to Ottawa.

More than that, however, is that we have begun using this tool to help our members adjust to digital living.

Thanks to the energy of our late Foundation president, Ian Waddell, who suddenly and shockingly passed away in March, we have been able to offer Zoom training to members who wanted it. Over 60 folks signed up to learn how to Zoom from Ian's friend, Shawn Hughes, ably assisted by committee members Paddy Torsney and Francis LeBlanc.

A key mandate of our Association is to preserve and protect democracy. Your experience and expertise are invaluable to a new generation of parliamentarians in helping them better understand how our parliamentary system, which is based on precedence modified by current conditions, really works. You can be a resource for new members and the public so they can appreciate the importance of history and how the past informs the future.

In response to this mandate, we mounted our first-ever virtual de-

mocracy discussion panel, starring the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, Hon. Irwin Cotler and Lynn McDonald, who discussed Freedom of Expression, its limits and opportunities. As a sign of the times and the new technological world, two of our panellists were out of the country; Kim was in Italy and Irwin was in Israel, while Lynn and the rest of us participated across Canada.

Although we had a live audience, the plan was to record the session and offer it on our website, but the recording got stuck in the House of Commons's system and we could not retrieve it. Luckily, clever Kim had recorded the audio and generously sent it on for our use. Thank you, Kim. You can listen to the discussion on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/exparl/>. It is my intention to produce additional panels in the coming months so if you have an idea for a topic, please contact me.

We are also reinstating the Parliament to Campus program, again with kudos to Ian Waddell, who worked with me on finding a new curator. Dr. Shannon Sampert, a political analyst, communications consultant, columnist, and professor of political science will be organizing the program. Shannon was previously "Director and Editor-in-chief of the Evidence Network, working with academics from across Canada to ensure their voices are heard in major media outlets" at the University of Winnipeg. She now offers a course in Canadian Studies at McGill. She has excellent contacts

across the country. If you are interested in speaking virtually over Zoom, at a University, about the Canadian political and parliamentary system, please send us an email at: [exparl@parl.gc.ca](mailto:exparl@parl.gc.ca).

We have made a few other changes and modernizations to our operation. Thanks to a suggestion from former president Léo Duguay, we now have online banking through RBC Express. This saves staff from having to chase members across the country to sign cheques.

Additionally, we have introduced automatic membership renewals and a choice of monthly payments for your convenience. This will make it easier for those who are in transit from Parliament to private life to get involved without the sticker shock of dues all in one lump sum. Several have already signed up for this option. For more information on membership payment, please check our website at: <https://exparl.ca/who-we-are/membership/>.

We are also seeing more usage of our Facebook page and Facebook group, by members who can paste their own news in the group and learn what is happening on a more current basis, by following us on Facebook.

The closed Facebook group's name is "CAFP/ACEP", which means that only CAFP members who join the group can see who is in the group and what has been posted. To stay in touch with your colleagues and to see photos of CAFP events, we encourage you to join by sending a request to ex-

parl@parl.gc.ca . Carina Legault-Meek, our part-time techie staffer, keeps an eye on this and will accept you as a member and will only accept requests from Former Parliamentarians.

The public Facebook page is under the name: Canadian Assoc Former Parliamentarians Assoc Canadienne ex-parlementaires.

This has been a trying year for Susan Simms and Céline Brazeau Fraser, our two full-time and long-time staff members. They have been forced to work from home, which makes it difficult to communicate and plan when we need to make things happen, especially given some of the logistical challenges of organizing an annual meeting and memorial service via long distance.

I am personally very grateful to Susan and Céline for all their hard work and perseverance. They are my constants in a continually changing world. We all stay in touch by digital communication, but it is not the same as a warm hug.

Thank you, also, to our Board of

Directors who are so willing to take on responsibility and who give me such wise advice. In these pages you will meet three new board members who are already tackling some of the workload. Former presidents Léo Duguay and Andy Mitchell are also a tremendous support.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the House of Commons staff who have been so helpful in assisting us. We want to wish Patrice Martin a very happy retirement and we welcome his replacement, Jubilee Jackson.

Finally, a personal word of tribute to Ian Waddell. We will miss his brilliant smile, his warmth and his boundless energy. He was very dear to us all and I am tremendously touched by Svend Robinson's comment that Ian considered me his favourite Tory. Likewise, Ian.

Thank you to vice-president of the Educational Foundation, Gerry Weiner, who has picked up the reins at the Foundation.

Thank you all,  
Dorothy Dobbie



*The Peace Tower.  
Photo by Dorothy Dobbie.*

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**Our Mission Statement**

*Beyond the Hill*, a magazine for former parliamentarians, is designed to engage, enlighten and inform its readers about each other, their Association and its Educational Foundation. Its aim is to encourage participation in the Association and to promote democracy. The views of the contributors to this publication do not necessarily represent those of CAFPP nor its Educational Foundation. *Beyond the Hill* welcomes letters to the editor, submissions and suggestions. P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen St., House of Commons Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0A6. Telephone 1-888-567-4764, Fax: 613-947-1764 E-mail: exparl@parl.gc.ca. Website: www.exparl.ca.

# Let us know . . .

By Dorothy Dobbie

**Magazine**

We have published *Beyond the Hill* for about 20 years. At a recent board meeting, the question arose about its value to you as members. Would you let us know your thoughts by sending us an email to exparl@parl.gc.ca.

1. Do you feel the magazine has value for you as a member?

2. Would you prefer to receive the magazine digitally rather than in print?

3. Would you prefer not to receive the magazine, but rather receive a periodic newsletter?

**Parliament to Campus**

As noted in my message, we have reinstated the Parliament to Campus program with Dr. Shannon Sampert as the manager of the program. She is looking for speakers who are willing to give an hour or two of their time to speak at various universities this summer and into next year. Please contact



*Dr. Shannon Sampert.*

*Photo by Cory Aronec Photography.*

the office with your name and any area you specialize in or would like to talk about.



# What has the CAFFP been up to?

By Gina Gill Hartmann



*The AGM was a virtual affair this year.*

Over the last year, people have seen quite a change in the workforce. For the Canadian Former Parliamentarian staff, it is no different. They have been connecting virtually and preparing for online events all from their new home offices.

CAFP staff is a small group of three who have been mainly focused on the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Memorial Service since they have started working virtually. They also maintain the website and CAFP's Facebook presence, prepare for meetings, take care of memberships and membership renewals and generally keep the wheels of administration rolling smoothly. If you are new to CAFP, our three staffers are Susan Simms, Céline Brazeau Fraser and part-timer Carina Legault-Meek who takes care of our Internet and so-

cial media posts among other duties.

"We are talking about how to keep the association alive and keep people interested and in the loop and our biggest concern was having an AGM and memorial. That was a challenge. This was a big memorial service and we had to deal with the process of getting it on Zoom and having French translation. It's a big job," explained Céline Brazeau Fraser, logistics officer. "We want to keep members connected, and usually we would have a regional tour or reception in a province, but this year we couldn't do that."

"It took a lot of energy and we are very thankful because the House of Commons staff really stepped up and helped support us," said Susan Simms, logistics officer.

The AGM and memorial took place online Dec. 15, something that has

never been done before. The staff worked hard to make both events as accessible and simple as possible for all members to attend. Eighty-five people tuned in and for those who could not attend, a link is provided below so everyone can remember former colleagues and friends.

The dual event was shorter than usual. Instead of running over a day and a half, it took place in a couple of hours, the memorial service itself was only 45 minutes. The preparation, however, took much longer than that. Firstly, President Dorothy Dobbie wrote short-form obituaries for each of the 53 members who had departed over the 18 months between the June 2019 service and Sept. 30. They then had to be translated. "We are very grateful for the help of the House of Commons staff in making this happen," said Dorothy. Jean Pierre

Blackburn was enlisted to read half the obituaries in French while Dorothy read the rest in English. Then each of them had to be recorded in their homes, and all this pieced together by the technical wizards at the House of Commons.

"We had planned to tape part of this service at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg," said Dorothy, "with a string quartet from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra playing the music. Unfortunately, Manitoba went into Code Red lockdown three days before the taping was to take place."

Susan and Céline quickly went into action in Ottawa and members of the Canadian Armed Forces Central Band were enlisted to provide the music. Senate Speaker George Furey was joined by Speaker of the House Anthony Rota in delivering words of condolence. Nancy Anctil, Chief of Protocol, was the Master of Ceremonies.

"It was a lovely service, after all," said Dorothy. "We hope the families enjoyed it and know how very much we will miss their loved ones."

"For the memorial tribute, it's not the same as having an in-person service. So, we hope we made it meaningful and reverent," expressed Susan.

The team is also trying to keep up with managing the office, which has been challenging when each of them are located offsite. When one of them returns to the office, special permission needs to be granted and restrictions need to be followed clearly for safety.

The transition was both an adjustment, as well as a welcomed surprise for some.

"I was shocked at first because it was so unexpected but to be honest, I really enjoy working from home because I was exhausted from the travel. I don't live that far, but because I am on the wrong side of the river, I had to deal with a lot of traffic going from Quebec into Ottawa," said Céline. "Not having to travel every day back and forth to work is a blessing. I live in the country, and I have a lot of windows. The downside is, because we are used to working together, we can't so easily share ideas and brainstorm. That is a bit more difficult because now we have to call one another."

On the other hand, Susan is not a huge fan of working from home.

"I find it a bit cumbersome. Because I live alone, I miss seeing people every day and going out to the office and that social interaction. We have found ways to work around it," she said. "I have to be mindful to go outside for a walk and structure my day, get up at the same time and stick to a schedule and walk away from work even though it's right here in my living/dining room."

Once some of the restrictions were lifted and the nicer weather came in the spring, staff tried to get together at least once a week to work face-to-face. Although they had never worked from home in the past, they took it as an opportunity to work in new ways. Zoom accounts were purchased for board and committee meetings, while staff worked on Microsoft Teams with others from the House of Commons. The phone systems were changed, needing some adaption.

Change never comes without its challenges. The last issue of *Beyond the Hill* had to get into members' hands, but new logistics had to be worked out in order for copies to be physically mailed.

"This time we had to have special arrangements and have them mailed from Winnipeg. Usually, they are printed there and then sent to Ottawa where we prepare them for mailing from the office."

"We had to think of ways that technology allows us to adapt and make changes. The big word is pivot. You have to always be anticipating, 'I want to do this, so now how am I going to do it?' instead of doing it the way you used to."

Though there are hoops to jump through: new home office setups, finding a routine and creating innovative ways to present meaningful events, the staff's main focus is keeping the members connected and to be there for them in the midst of all that is the new normal.

"People have thanked us for letting them know of the benefits of the association or letting them know who has passed and we keep our website and Facebook updated. Some people really miss the get-togethers," said Céline. "We want to keep people connected with each other and with what the association is doing."

To keep up to date follow CAFP on their Facebook page and join the Facebook group at CAFP/ACEP. The latest news is also available on our website: [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca)

## Join the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians on Facebook

By Gina Gill Hartmann

**K**eep up to date on the latest news about former MPs and Senators by liking our Facebook page. We have news articles on what former members have been doing since they left the House. Stay informed on possible opportunities and collaborations with former members. Stories, projects, accomplishments, and more can easily be shared on the platform, so feel free to send us along any information you feel would be of interest – espe-

cially pictures!

Our general page is Canadian Assoc of Former Parliamentarians Assoc canadienne ex-parlementaires. <https://www.facebook.com/exparl>

Go to CAFP/ACEP for the group on Facebook where you can mount your own pictures or just make a comment.

As the world is transitioning to a more virtual space, those who cannot attend our meetings and

events can now join us online from the comfort of their own home. Engage and partake in the latest events with members of CAFP, by simply liking the page. The more people who join, the more news to share and the more engagement with old friends and new. The more members share, the more others will want to share.

Feel free to follow us on Twitter as well!

# Welcome to the Board!

By Gina Gill Hartmann



*Chungsen Leung.*



*Peter Braid. Photo by Alaa Taher.*



*Matt DeCoursey.*

CAFP is proud to introduce our new additions to the board of directors, who are replacing three members who stepped down due to re-election or illness. We look forward to working with each of them to continue supporting democracy in Canada and globally.

## **Chungsen Leung**

Chungsen Leung was born in Taipei, Taiwan. His parents fled to Taiwan after the civil war in China as refugees in 1949. He pursued his primary education in Taiwan, high school education in Japan and came to Canada in 1968 to continue with his university education.

This was when Chungsen first became interested in politics.

"I was tired that many of my university classes were interrupted by student protests and sit-ins against the establishment, school administration, gender inequality, race relationships and the Vietnam War. If one wishes to make a change it has to be done being at the table," recalled the former parliamentarian.

After completing an undergraduate degree in economics and commerce, Chungsen immigrated to Canada and apprenticed at one of the international accounting firms in Toronto.

In the late 1970s, he returned to Taiwan to get reacquainted with his Chinese roots, learn about the family business in electronic innovation,

product development and manufacturing of consumer products, and to be with his father, who had cancer.

"From my three years of working in Taiwan, I saw and appreciated how a war-torn third world economy could be turned around in just two decades with universal free education, enlightened government policies and sound investment strategies," said Chungsen. "I returned to North America in 1981 to first pursue graduate studies in engineering science at the University of Southern California and then returned to Canada."

Before politics, Chungsen was an entrepreneur. He has built disaster relief houses in the Caribbean, Middle East and Asia. He has done business in water treatment work in disaster zones and as an advisor to the Royal Malaysian Army Engineers in their UN missions in Bosnia and Somalia. He was the owner and chief executive officer of four Richmond Hill enterprises and past director and audit chair of the Xenos Group, a publicly listed software technology company.

With encouragement from retired Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Chungsen attempted his first election as a Progressive Conservative in 2000 and lost. After a few more unsuccessful attempts in 2004 and 2008 with the Conservative party, he finally won his seat as MP for Willowdale in 2011.

"I had the desire to be at the table to make changes and participate in

our democracy. There is no point in ranting and raving at sit-ins and effect changes on the inside," he said about his political experience. "In Parliament, I was the Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism, and I had a great four years working with the Minister of Multiculturalism, Jason Kenny. It gave me a good insight into the intricate workings of government, the day-to-day grind and the constant awareness of being politically correct."

Chungsen is looking forward to his position as Treasurer with the CAFP.

"I feel that former parliamentarians have an unique set of life experiences. I think we are the best group of people to promote democratic institutions internationally, whether through education or participating as international observers at other democratic elections. We should also be the group that is there to do some very hard forward-thinking for Canada, as a nation and how we could meet the challenges of the next century."

## **Peter Braid**

Peter Braid was a member of parliament for Kitchener-Waterloo from 2008 to 2015 representing the Conservative Party. He was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Communities from 2013 to 2015 by Prime Minister Harper.

Since leaving politics, Peter has



been serving as CEO of the Insurance Brokers Association of Canada (IBAC).

"I have some background in insurance, but this was a new role for me. I worked on the group benefits side of insurance before becoming an MP and while in the House, I was the inaugural chair of the insurance caucus. Waterloo is an important insurance centre in Canada, so it was a good fit," said the CEO.

Before entering politics, Peter had worked in the constituency office of former MP Walter McLean. He was also a director of operations at Sun Life Financial and an account manager with Quarry Integrated Communications in Waterloo.

As part of CAFR, Peter hopes to encourage non-polarizing politics and democracy.

"I look forward to supporting the important work of the association. I believe the association plays an important role in promoting and upholding the principles of democracy in Canada and around the world. It's also important for the association to continue to promote respectful political discourse in an increasingly polarized world," said the former MP. "We need to protect the more respectful nonpartisan approach that we take in Canada. All of those currently involved in politics have a role to play reinforcing the importance of respectful political discourse. It's central to the success of our democracy and the success of our country."

### Matt DeCoursey

When Matt DeCoursey was at St. Thomas University, he became connected with the Young Liberal Association in New Brunswick and from there got involved in Paul Martin's leadership campaign from 2002 to 2003. When he graduated, Matt had the opportunity to work with MP Andy Scott of Fredericton.

"I always had an interest since a very young age in current affairs, public debates, and the Canadian political system. Through my work with Andy Scott, I had the chance to work on the Hill as an assistant in my early twenties. I became enthralled with the entire system and also the excitement and energy of Parliament. At that point, I knew I would want to run for office and be an MP myself."

From there, Matt spent some time in the West African country of The Gambia working in health education including malaria prevention, children's rights, and conflict resolution. Through that opportunity, with a group of folks in The Gambia and Fredericton, he co-established a health initiative – a youth soccer tournament that serves as a platform to deliver health programs. It has run annually in The Gambia since 2013.

"We support it by hosting a parallel event in Fredericton and rallying a number of different funding groups to sponsor the tournament overseas. It's called the Wanderers Friendship Cup. I actually had the chance to go back as parliamentary secretary

to The Gambia and was in the area when the tournament was taking place in 2018," said Matt.

From The Gambia, Matt came back to Fredericton, settled in and took a job as the director of communications, education, and outreach with the New Brunswick provincial child and youth advocate. In 2014 he sought the competitive nomination and was successful in the 2015 election with the Liberal Party, representing Fredericton.

"I served for a term, I enjoyed it immensely, and the opportunity to serve the country. I was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. My time in Parliament was fascinating, I met my fiancée in Ottawa and she is still serving."

Since then, Matt has had the opportunity to work with the Minister of Finance rolling out the economic response to COVID-19 and since September 2020 he has been the senior advisor to the president at the University of New Brunswick.

Matt hopes to bring his experience and voice to the table with CAFR and is looking forward to hearing from the other members and learning from them in different capacities.

"What I was struck by in our first meeting was the pride the group of folks takes in ensuring Parliament and democracy are viewed in a positive light by Canadians, and I also understand the importance of sharing that view with our allies around the world."

## Inspire youth to serve

As the baby boomer generation moves into retirement, more people will be needed to serve the public and run for politics. In order to help encourage youth to get involved, Norm Letnick an MLA in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, is relying on former Parliamentarians to share their stories.

Norm believes bringing the personal experience of others to the table, will help attract the best candidates

to run for public office in the future. He is asking former parliamentarians to share their stories with him so he in turn share those experiences with Canadian youth.

Do you have a story from your time on the Hill that you believe will help inspire others to run for politics? Do you remember a time that will encourage others to work in public service?

"It is my hope that enough stories will come in from across the country

to publish and redistribute a book free of charge to all of BC's high schools along with eventually the creation of a companion website containing videos of submissions utilizing youth as storytellers," said Norm in a statement.

If you are interested, please send a quick note to Norm. He is aiming for a summer submission deadline.

**Norm Letnick**

**250-765-8516**

**[norm.letnick.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:norm.letnick.mla@leg.bc.ca)**

# Why former parliamentarians are drawn to community engagement after leaving the Hill

Former parliamentarians reflect on two Winnipeg-based community projects that have transcended parliamentary terms

By Wade Morris

A career in Parliament of any length requires a heavy amount of dedication to the public, and Parliamentarians deserve the rest that comes with becoming a former parliamentarian. Yet, so many continue to lead and encourage their communities after leaving the Hill. Does working in Parliament leave politicians with an eternal drive to support their communities, or does Parliament naturally attract those who are up to the task?

**Anita Neville**

For Anita Neville, community engagement comes naturally. After her time in office ended in 2011, she continued to look for opportunities for the stimulation she experienced in Parliament, though she had no idea how deeply she would fall in love with a special community project.

In April 2015, members of the Jewish community in Winnipeg – under the name Operation Ezra – came together with hopes to contribute to the relief rescue of the Yazidi community in Iraq. Yazidis have been targeted by ISIL in a genocide as recognized by the United Nations since 2014.

As a board member of her synagogue, Anita was approached about sponsoring two Yazidi families alongside Syrian families. They agreed, and from there, Operation Ezra expanded.

“It became a multi-faith project,” Anita explains. “It included synagogues, churches, schools, governments, and private agencies and businesses.”

They began fundraising, eventually raising over a million dollars to support private sponsorships of 11 families. Their efforts would include resettlement, English language training, and much more. As the resettlement



*Anita Neville.*

process unfolded, the Yazidi community and other Winnipeggers became closer as the two shared celebrations, soccer matches and sewing programs.

The combined group didn't just share celebrations, but resources too. Many of the refugees had farming experience, and a few community members in Winnipeg brought attention to the fact that they had spare acres of farm land. Together, they created a farming project involving what Anita says is called a “healing farm”.

“The objective of the project is to both provide food assistance and help with the healing of the trauma that the refugees experience,” she explains. She believes that they harvested over 20,000 pounds of onions, potatoes and beets that were distributed to families, sold at farmers' markets, and donated to city agencies.

Anita glows when recalling the story of a young Yazidi girl who caught her attention. “She spoke English beautifully,” Anita says. The girl had learned English by reading translation dictionaries and listening closely to English speakers. Her curiosity extended beyond language. During a community



*Joy Smith.*

bowling event, the girl approached Anita, and asked, “Is it true you sat in the Parliament of Canada? How did you get there?”

Anita later spoke to the girl in a more fitting environment, and saw a familiar drive within her. Since then, she says, the girl has volunteered on a political campaign.

Ultimately, the depth of Operation Ezra's work was not something Anita or many others could predict. From the farming projects to the interpersonal bonds made; each positive outcome came from taking advantage of opportunities that arose.

**Joy Smith**

One important cause caught Joy Smith's attention before she worked on Parliament Hill, and it became central to her work in and after Parliament. As a teacher, she began giving seminars on protecting children from internet predators – she learned of the horrors of child trafficking from her son, a police officer serving in the Integrated Child Exploitation Unit. She didn't abandon the issue of child trafficking when elected in Parliament years later. Instead, she fought to bring the issue



# Remembrance Day 2020

to her government's attention. As a politician, her work led to the passing of bills aimed at protecting victims of human trafficking.

After retiring in 2015, she still worked on the issue with her anti-trafficking organization, the Joy Smith Foundation. It would seem exhausting to work so long on an issue pertaining to such stark subject matter, but Joy is dedicated by principle.

"I am a woman of faith," she says, "and I put that faith into practice every day."

The foundation's work involves educating students, schools, and law enforcement on how human traffickers operate. The material is undeniably hard for some to digest, but the organization has still seen an impressive display of community action, Joy says.

Part of that success comes from the inviting approach the organization takes. For example, they participate in a nationwide event each autumn called Ride for Refuge. Canadians are encouraged to team up and bike to fundraise and raise awareness of human trafficking. Joy spoke confidently of the event's 2020 iteration. "I think we're going to exceed [our funds raised] from last year," she said, excitedly. The event bears accessibility in mind too, as Canadians who can't necessarily bike are allowed to join in through other means, like crafting.

Still, Joy's motivation doesn't just stem from seeing large gatherings of community members, but the individuals whose lives are changed as well.

"You get a lot of personal satisfaction from knowing you've made lives better," she says, referring to the many families and audience members who have learned, through the organization's resources, how human trafficking impacts lives.

*Anita Neville served as a Member of Parliament for the Winnipeg South Centre riding on behalf of the Liberal Party between 2000 and 2011.*

*Joy Smith served as a Member of Parliament for the Kildonan-St. Paul riding on behalf of the Conservative Party between 2004 and 2015.*



*Former Parliamentarian and former president of CAFR, Léo Duguay lays a wreath on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, 2020 at the National War Memorial on behalf of the association.*



# House of Commons renovation: In with the old and in with the new

Story by Gina Gill Hartmann, photos courtesy of the House of Commons



*Portraits of Canadian Prime Ministers hang at the West Block. Photo by Bernard Thibodeau.*

When John A. Pearson and Jean Omer Marchand designed Centre Block after the fire at Parliament in 1916, there is one thing Pearson considered for future generations: he purposely made a space with the intention of future growth and additions.

“When Pearson designed the building it was intended to be a work of art that would continue to evolve and be built up over time. There are many uncarved stone blocks in the building that were designed to be empty canvasses of sorts; a space future sculptors could design and create to be reflective of the next generations, making Centre Block even more significant to people at that particular moment,”

said Darrell de Grandmont, director for the Centre Block rehabilitation for the House of Commons. “We are at a really important milestone in the rehabilitation of the building where we have the opportunity to put that layer on which is reflective of today’s Canadian society and what we aspire to be as well.”

Centre Block is a heritage building and a lot of the efforts are concentrated on the rehabilitation and preservation of pieces. There are other areas within the space where there are opportunities for modernization and growth. The majority of these spaces have not been fully approved and are being discussed with MPs, but Darrell considers all potential areas a means to increase space.

“We have to ask ourselves: where are the areas within the building where we can grow and find additional space? One of the additions to the building that I think is important to note is the Parliament Welcome Centre. It is below ground, completely concealed to most from the exterior of the building. It will barely be noticeable, if at all. It is a significant addition to the building and was something lacking in the past.”

The Parliament Welcome Centre is located in front of Centre Block and new elevators and stairs will be added for visitors to travel from the welcome centre to other floors easily.

In December 2020, the House Board of Internal Economy (BOIE)





approved several renovations to Centre Block to help achieve a goal of a carbon-neutral building at the end of the project, including an infill over the exposed space above the Hall of Honour and the west court yard covered with a glass enclosure.

Other plans approved by the BOIE include expanding the lobbies on each side of the House of Commons into the western court ways. The lobbies will include stairs and elevators and the lower lobby will include gender-neutral washrooms between the government and opposition lobbies.

Modern day renovations that lead to more accessibility are being added. They include two family rooms and a quiet room south of the Chamber on the first floor. That area will also include two MP meeting rooms and a coat room with lockers.

Accessibility is one renovation piece that is high on the agenda, and something that members of Parliament are interested in seeing reflected in the renovated facility.

“As an architect, I have been driven by meeting codes and everything needed to make sure people have access to that building, but we are in a time right now where we are thinking beyond that and looking at inclusiv-



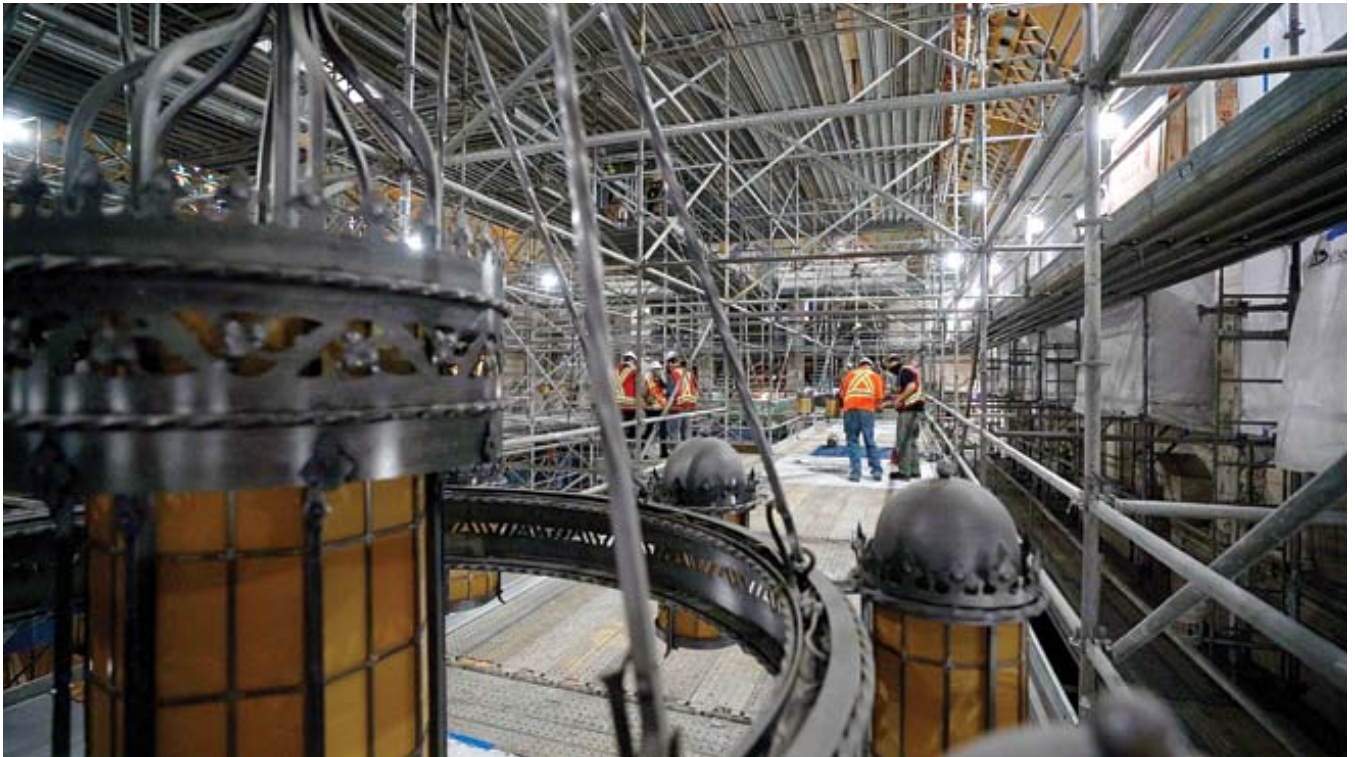
ity and being accessible to all,” said the director. “That includes being family-friendly, whether someone is in a wheelchair, walking with a cane or a woman is pregnant; all those things need to be considered when building doors, the amount of pressure needed to open a door, colours, sound; it all needs to come into play. I think these are some of the most exciting things for me to see implemented in the design.”

Darrell and his team ensure that the renovation will provide a functional space for Parliamentarians. He adds there was a tremendous amount learned through closing down the operations in Centre Block and moving to West Block for the time being.

“We have to question some of the ways we operated in the past. It’s not as simple as taking you out of one space and putting you back in another, it’s about looking at all of it and making sure operational needs are met prior to closure. We are thinking further ahead, and how it will work with Parliamentarians in the future.”

Some of the ceremonies and procedures need to continue to function wherever government is held and that had to be taken into consideration during the renovation. For example, The Peace Tower Carillon, and its importance to Canadians, is an activity that must continue even during the renovation, even while the government sits in West Block.

Darrell said the number of members in the chamber is another functionality to consider. The number of members equates to the number of seats in the chamber, as well as the number of offices, which is something the team has to try and project. At the moment,



his colleagues are looking at those numbers for him to properly design the chamber.

#### **Keeping the continuum through heritage pieces**

Though there are updates and environmentally sound renovations within the building, there are many pieces significant to the history of Parliament that have travelled to West Block or were put in storage but will happily return after the renovation to Centre Block.

Johanna Mizgala is the curator of the House of Commons and she is responsible for the heritage collection, which is comprised not only of art but artifacts, ceremonial objects, portraits of the speakers and prime ministers, and also the original furnishings designed by John A. Pearson.

“When we talk about heritage, we do not just mean old, we mean significant. If you are the prime minister, you sit at the desk where all the other prime ministers have sat before you. In the office of the clerk, the furnishings used are the same as for everyone who had that role before you. It’s part of this continuum. The House of Commons is based on precedent and tradition and it means something,” said Johanna.

When the House of Commons was sent to the West Block and the Senate was moved to the former central train station across from the Château Laurier, there was a whole process to ensure that all the pieces were properly moved to their new home or storage. The team tried to recreate a familiar setting in both temporary locations.

“We didn’t want the interim chamber to seem like a space where they were just biding their time. Everything that happens in West Block is as legitimate as everything that has happened in Centre Block beforehand. Using some of the same furnishings and creating a space that resembles their original home is important so that we have this continuum and it’s something we can trace all the way back to the fire.”

That continuum is evident throughout history. Even where there was nowhere tangible to meet, members came together. The day after the fire in 1916, members borrowed the mace from the Senate because the mace from the House had been destroyed in the fire.

“They didn’t stop the proceedings of the government because the building had been destroyed. They had to continue and carry on. These things

are important to us. No matter what is going on in our world, whether it’s a pandemic, renovation, or fire, we figure out a way to keep these things going,” said Johanna.

Original pieces of Parliament are intertwined within the history and its proceedings. Although original furnishing were lost in the fire, many of the portraits were saved because staff went back into the building while it was ablaze to save portraits of the prime ministers and speakers.

“Those portraits are still on the walls today. The beautiful ornate collar that the Sergeant-at-Arms wears called the Esses Collar (created in 1859 in England) was saved from the fire as well. There are all these little pieces that connect us back to that time. The fact that people had the presence of mind and considered these things as valuable in terms of history, that they were willing to go back into a burning building, is quite significant,” said the curator.

While Centre Block is being updated to meet some modern standards and accessible considerations, there are pieces of Parliament that will always remain consistent and represent an important continuum and meaning of government sessions, no matter where the chamber is held.





Dorothy Dobbie.

# Evolution, not revolution

By Dorothy Dobbie

With the passing of Prince Philip, many are sensing a changing of the guard. That is as it should be but, as this transition takes place, it is important to reference all that has happened over that past century, in some ways the most progressive in the history of the world. It was also a century of war, widespread suppression of human rights and the killing of millions in the name of so-called “ideals” from anti-Semitism to communism.

Indeed, when Prince Philip was born, the world was undergoing a revolution bought on by the experience of the Great War that had ended just seven years before. There was tremendous unrest across the planet and especially in Europe where so many had given their lives in recent battles. Men and women were asking themselves, why? Why had they come home broken and maimed if things were to remain the same? And so, a period of change followed as people looked for a better way to organize themselves.

The unrest made it possible for unusual ideas to take hold: Adolf Hitler had just become leader of the German Nazi Party. Lenin was still in charge in Russia where the Red Terror saw tens of thousands killed or interred in concentration camps. In China, 1921 saw the first National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party which would pave the way for the abusive reign of Mao Tse Tung.

This is not meant to be a history lesson but rather an opportunity for us to reflect on what happens when fervour obscures reason, and how easy it is for this to take place during periods of the “changing of the guard”.

Remember, our children and grandchildren grew up in a time of unprecedented wealth and freedom. They have no experience or understanding of what it means to live in real need,

let alone want. That makes them vulnerable to manipulative narratives that are meant to divide and create dissension, all in the name of apparently important “ideals”.

Remember Lenin’s counsel that, “A lie told often enough becomes the truth”. All it needs is for previously understood absurdities to be presented in the guise of changes supposedly designed to create a “better” world. Since by nature we all believe that things can be better – it is part of what keeps us progressing – it is natural for younger people to easily believe it when they are told that the world is filled with evil, that what their forefathers did had ill intent that requires redress, that those who succeeded did it by malicious means.

For those who have served in government and who understand the necessity of process and precedence to maintain stability and balance, now is a time to share your wisdom, to add a level of caution when extraordinary change is proposed. Preserving the tenet of democracy is indeed the very purpose of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

We know the world is not perfect. We know that no individual is without flaws, that we often fail despite the best intentions. We understand that 99.9 per cent of those who stand for office do so with the goal of doing good for the country. We know and appreciate that there are many shades of opinion about the best way of reaching our shared ideals and that discussing, arguing, and exchanging opinions is the best way of finding something close to a good solution. That is the very essence of democracy.

We also know that there are limits to our freedom of expression but that those limits have fuzzy edges and are tempered by context: we cannot promote hate or counsel violence against

a group or each other. That does not stop us from disagreeing with a group or each other. Respecting the opinions of others does not stop us from expressing our own opinions within the limits above. Nor are we responsible for the sensibilities of others. Each of us must deal with our “feelings” individually and personally.

It is okay to discuss the science of climate change and carbon tax and the best way to deal with COVID-19 or the social benefits of gun control and abortion and sexual identity and criminalisation of drugs and euthanasia and taxes and budgets and public health care and all the other things that can affect our sense of what makes a good world. What is not okay is to shut down debate on any of these topics.

There are no absolutes. To accept that there are creates opportunities for oppression. How can it not? The curious, the doubters, the creative thinkers will always be ready to dispute ideas presented as absolute. That too is part of our nature and our ability to survive and thrive as humans. To progress, we must question. Every scientific theory has been improved because someone questioned the accepted answers.

But in our quest for better answers, we need to remember what the “old guys” told me when I came to Parliament all feisty, full of fervour and ready to make change happen. “Dorothy, I know you are impatient. But it is important to go slow. When we don’t is when we make the biggest mistakes.”

I thought about that and ultimately understood that they were right. Evolution not revolution is how we keep our way of life intact.

Now it is our turn to pass that truth to the next generation of lawmakers.

Dorothy Dobbie was the Progressive Conservative MP for Winnipeg South, 1988-1993.

# The Hon. Anthony Rota, honorary chair of the CAFP

The function of government takes a village that never sleeps

By Gina Gill Hartmann



*Hon. Anthony Rota oversees the Virtual Parliament. Photo by Bernard Thibodeau.*

When the Hon. Anthony Rota first joined federal politics in 2004, he was surprised to find the most challenging aspect was being away from his wife, Chantal, and his daughter, Samantha.

Nowadays, the 37th Speaker of the House finds the distance a little more manageable.

“My wife is now retired, so she can come to Ottawa with me and I will see her in the evenings. My daughter is now 23 and has become independent. She is still living at home and I get to see her when I go back home. It works out fairly well,” said the Speaker. “I think that is the hardest part of any elected official’s job or anybody who works away from home.”

Rota, a five-time serving MP for Nipissing-Timiskaming was elected as Speaker of the House in December 2015. When Prime Minister Trudeau and former Conservative leader An-

drew Scheer first dragged Rota up to the well-crafted carved oak and ebony throne to take his seat as official Speaker, he never expected a portion of his job would be performed from the comforts of his own house, far away from the House of Commons.

“The unexpected challenge, or the elephant in the room, is COVID-19. What I had signed up for was a different job than what we had ended up doing. There were a lot of firsts: meetings that were virtual, first hybrid, the first vote that was hybrid,” he said. “It was certainly a challenge but very interesting. I have a great team here. The clerks and the staff and the IT team have all been amazing and have been bending over backwards and staying late hours trying to make sure everything works well.”

As the pandemic has presented new challenges and different forms of parliament, it is evident to Rota that the

function of government truly takes a village, “a village that never sleeps,” he said referring to all the dedicated staff behind the scenes helping roll out Parliament every day. As part of the response to the pandemic, the Speaker was appointed chair of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic which was created to meet the special circumstances and includes all members of the House.

Anthony Rota first entered politics as a city councillor for North Bay City Council and went on to federal politics in 2004. He regained his seat in 2006, lost in 2011, won it back in 2015 and again this past year.

No stranger to the Speaker’s traditional robe, as he wore one in the last Parliament as one of the assistant deputy Speakers, Rota’s new role comes with new expectations: the responsibility of overseeing the House, remaining fair, unbiased and non-

partisan. While it is difficult to shed a portion of one's partisan stripe, Rota is up for the task.

"I think it's a character trait more than anything else. I think historically if you look at my performance in the House, I am not an ultra-partisan person. I try to bring as many people together as possible. That is probably why I was chosen, because I try as much as possible to be objective and depending on the argument that is made, it's not that difficult. Most people come up with a solid argument and then it is just determining what is right and what is wrong, regardless of political stance."

Being able to read the room and ensuring that all members are respectful of the House can be a little more difficult online or in a hybrid Parliament, but Rota is learning how to adjust.

"It certainly is not the same as being all in the same room, it makes it a little bit more difficult. You can't really read the room. You get a sense of the feeling, whether it's virtual or in the chamber, you can guess where it is going, and you get ready and try to prepare for what is coming up. There is still a good number of people in the room in a hybrid system, out of 338 MPs, there are about 86 MPs and me in the chamber and it gives you a good feeling of where everything is going."

While the virtual sessions have created a different atmosphere, Rota sees the potential for Parliament to research some positive changes in the future in terms of technology and work-life balance.

"There has been talk of making Parliament more family-friendly, that is some of the discussions taking place right now. With COVID-19, we have had more opportunity to work at a distance from our riding," he said. "I am not saying we are going to eliminate coming to Ottawa, but there are going to be some circumstances that should be considered when looking at our system and how we approach it. Say a maternity leave, illness or special circumstances. This has allowed us to explore different opportunities whether it's a video conference, whether it's hybrid, it all comes together and will allow us to explore different venues."

The first Italian Canadian to become Speaker, a fact that made him



*House Speaker Hon. Anthony Rota. Photo by Ed Regan.*

choke up at his first speech as he briefly addressed the House in Italian, Rota also speaks three other languages: English, French, and Spanish. The multi-lingual member is not only able to work in many languages, he also likes to work with all the parties. His favourite part about being the Speaker is the ability to work with everyone and helping members from different parties come together outside of the House.

"One of the nice things about being a Speaker is meeting with the House Leaders and the Whips on a very regular basis. One of the things I try to do is to make sure we have some good chemistry going between all the parties," he said. "We started having dinners with about 15 to 20 MPs at a time so they could get to know each other. It was really going well up until COVID-19 made it difficult. What I have been doing

is meeting with the Whips, individually, and the House Leaders. If they are speaking to each other, it works out well."

Rota says it is important for elected officials to work together because "it's what Canadians elected them for," and he believes the ability of Canadians to work together is one of our strongest suits.

"The biggest thing that makes Canada what it is, is its people. We have a certain character that is very friendly and willing to work with everyone in the world. It is not just us, it's us plural: Canada and the world. That is something that makes us unique in who we are and that is something we should all be proud of."

*Hon. Anthony Rota is the 37th Speaker of the House. Both the Speaker of the House and the Senate are honorary Chairs of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.*



# Continuing service

Our fighting men and women who traded the mess hall for the House of Commons

By Matthieu Reekie



*Robert-Falcon Ouellette (right) with indigenous veterans Jerry Woodhouse (left) and Joseph Meconse, OM (Centre).*

Minister of Defence Harjit Sajjan, Leader of the Opposition Erin O'Toole, and the 20 other currently sitting Senators and Members of Parliament who have served, at one time or another, in the armed forces of Canada and other countries are only the latest in a proud tradition of dual service. The Library of Parliament lists 988 former parliamentarians in its database who can boast of military service on their Curriculum Vitae, with some enlistments

dating as far back as the 1830s.

"It's a vocation unlike any other," said Robert-Falcon Ouellette, former Liberal MP for Winnipeg Centre. Robert is currently a warrant officer in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, those Little Black Devils which today supply a battalion to the Canadian Army's primary reserve, but this is only his latest post in a military career which spans 24 years. Having been profoundly affected by experience in the cadets, the ability to keep doing what he

loved (and for a paycheque to boot!) was too tempting for him to pass up.

A military career might not quite have been what Christine Moore pictured for herself as she entered her collegiate studies. Without quite knowing what she was getting into, the former MP for Abitibi-Témiscamingue inquired about part-time opportunities with the 52nd Field Ambulance while she was attending CÉGEP. Only once she contacted their recruitment office did she re-

“Almost invariably, members who served in the armed forces are superb when there is a crisis to be solved. The vast majority of members of the Canadian Armed Forces have been put in harm’s way. Most civilians just can’t understand what that feels like.”

- Andrew Leslie, former Liberal MP for the riding of Orléans.

alize she was getting involved with the armed forces. Her curiosity had been piqued, and she would ultimately serve for three years in the reserve unit based in Sherbrooke.

Being a student in nursing, it complemented my studies and allowed me to work full time over the summer while furthering my training and giving me the tools I would need to succeed in my eventual career.”

This would be as true of her career in nursing as her career in politics, and it was as she awaited her discharge that she first began to contemplate political involvement.

“I called the NDP and explained that I would be leaving the armed forces ... and that I wanted to get a bit more involved in political activity,” she says. She found out they did not have a candidate in her riding, and she was offered the opportunity to run. “I was discharged in December, and I got right to campaigning. I campaigned through the holidays, in the dead of winter, in Abitibi,” she said with a chuckle.

But what did her career in the military ultimately mean to her political aspirations?

Christine credits her enlistment with helping her develop critical skills that would serve her well in her political life. She said the structure helped her: “The whole plan, the method, knowing in your head exactly where you are going, being organized and conducting your work in a very structured way. As an MP, total chaos can break out quite easily.”

Her sentiment is echoed enthusiastically by her peers. “Almost invariably, members who served in the armed forces are superb when there is a crisis to be solved,” explained Andrew Leslie, former Liberal MP



*Christine Moore inspects members of a reserve army regiment in Rouyn-Noranda in September 2013.*

for the riding of Orléans. “The vast majority of members of the Canadian Armed Forces have been put in harm’s way. Most civilians just can’t understand what that feels like,” he concluded.

Like Ouellette, Andrew’s decision to embark on a military career came naturally, though perhaps for different reasons.

“I grew up as an army brat, on army bases,” said the retired Lieutenant General. His martial ancestry predates confederation and famously includes General Andrew McNaughton, Canada’s top general at the outbreak of World War II. “I always knew I was going to be a soldier,” he proclaimed with a hint of pride.

Andrew firmly believes in the military’s ability to instill the values and skills required for success. “The Armed Forces is probably the best leadership factory in Canada,” he said, additionally listing skills in judgement, administration, and initiative as but a few of the many advantages bestowed by a career in the Armed Forces.

On the other hand, Andrew does acknowledge that there can be some difficulties in adjusting to the civilian milieu. “The trouble is finding that Rosetta stone that can translate

those military skills into terms that civilians can understand.”

Beyond simple skills and preparation, however, military experience can certainly open doors. According to Christine Moore, military experience can enhance one’s credibility as a candidate. Once elected, Christine was one of only three former servicemen and women in the 103-strong NDP caucus, and she credits her experience with the military as a reason for her appointment as a critic for Military Procurement, paving the way for future critic roles.

When asked if he experienced a similar effect, Robert-Falcon Ouellette answered only with a definitive “Yes!” As for Andrew Leslie, who was elected in a riding with a relatively high proportion of military households, the name recognition which came with his senior rank almost certainly contributed to a historical turnout in that riding, allowing him to unseat his Conservative rival.

There is no doubt that those parliamentarians who have served in uniform make distinguished contributions when they cross over into political life. Whether it be as a retired senior officer, an NCO of several decades experience, or a reservist technician whose military service was but one step along their career path, their contributions deserve to be recognized. For their service to their country, both in the House and in uniform, we thank them wholeheartedly.

*Christine Moore was the NDP MP for Abitibi-Témiscamingue from 2011-2019.*

*Robert-Falcon Ouellette was the Liberal MP for Winnipeg Center from 2015-2019.*

*Andrew Leslie was the Liberal MP for Orléans from 2015-2019.*



# Léo Duguay shows different ways to provide public service

By Gina Gill Hartmann



Léo Duguay started his career as a teacher and a semi-professional hockey player, but he always had an interest in public service.

"I ran and was elected to the Manitoba's Teacher's Society and then the Canadian Teacher's Federation. So public service wasn't an ideal I dreamt about, but something I aspired to do," said the former parliamentarian. "From high school on, in my opportunities, I sought to get elected because I saw things that I wanted to change and realized the best way to make changes is to get elected in posi-

tions where you have some authority over those changes."

After some time as a teacher, Léo had intended to fulfill a new dream of starting his own business. He was in the process of gaining his MBA when people started talking to him about the 1984 federal election and asked him about representing the Saint-Boniface riding with the Progressive Conservative Party. With a passion for public service, he decided to put his name on the ballot, and he won.

"It was in a riding that the Conservatives had never won, and I was

successful. All of a sudden, something that had not been planned as a career came true. Generally, people in my community would say I did a good job. I fully intended afterward to return to Manitoba and start a business, which the election in 1984 had interrupted."

Léo's grand plan to start his own business in his home province presented itself in 1988 after he left Parliament but, again, his intentions were interrupted. He received a phone call from former prime minister Joe Clark, who was serving as Minister



of Foreign Affairs at the time. That phone call marked a new path.

“He said he didn’t have a chief of staff and wondered if I would be interested. At first, I was a little bit reluctant but, on further thought, I realized working with Joe Clark was an incredible opportunity, so I took it,” he said. “Working with Joe Clark was a privilege. He is an incredible Canadian, that in itself and the opportunity to work in foreign affairs – to see the world and see how it works, the issues that matter to Canadians, all of those things were a reflection of my whole view of public life.”

Just like that Léo found himself back on the Hill working with the Conservatives and playing a different role in public life.

“A legislature makes laws, while the executive branch executes laws, policies, and regulations and I went from a job where you think up which laws are appropriate to run a country to a job where you execute decisions that affect law, but more often affect regulations and the government’s policy. I very much enjoyed having the opportunity to do something about some of the things we talked about.”

As the Chief of Staff, Léo mostly enjoyed working in foreign affairs, an opportunity that gave him insights into the rest of the world and to hear about challenges other countries faced, as well as successes they had.

“Foreign affairs is one of those places where every morning you get up and something affecting your department is on the front page. It was a fascinating opportunity to see all the dynamics that affect the world: the UN, the G7, and I was fortunate to attend all those meetings in person and actually see what all those world leaders talked about and what they do. More importantly, I got to see firsthand how they acted and what issues were important to them, and how they worked together,” said the former chief of staff.

Even after his time in Joe Clark’s office, which he left in 1990, Léo didn’t stray too far from the Hill or public interest. He worked in the consulting business on a trial basis and after finding some success, finally pursued his dream of starting his own business consulting in government relations and advising how to resolve issues



*Léo Duguay.*

with the government. He eventually sold his business but remains in consulting. The Hill Times recognized him as one of Canada’s top 100 lobbyists.

Continuing his passion for public service, Léo also served as President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians for five years. The former president sees a lot of opportunity within the association, especially with more and more members leaving Parliament at a younger age.

“We have a lot of younger, vibrant members who still want to do things. We (CAFP) have been active in promoting democracy in Canada with younger adults and young former parliamentarians. It’s a wonderful thing to have experience in democracy and parliament that you share with others,” he said about the Association. “When you are partisan, you end up defending an issue. When you are a former member, you no longer have to defend a current issue. Our whole membership is much less partisan and more engaged in exchanges about solutions, rather than

promoting personal agendas.”

Léo recognizes that leaving the House, for some former members, can be a difficult transition period and even a traumatic experience and CAFP can be an opportunity for people to ease that transition, while also continuing to remain engaged in democracy.

CAFP is not the only place Léo finds himself: he was president of the Canadian Federation of Teachers, the Government Relations Institute of Canada, and his golf club. He served on the board of the Heart Institute and is the chair of the board of Tree Canada.

“Anytime there is something of public interest, I want to be a part of it because I think the world gets better, my country gets better, relationships and friends get better when everybody tries to contribute. I have lived a privileged life with the opportunity to do things that mattered to me and I would wish that for everyone.”

*Léo Duguay represented the Progressive Conservative Party and served the Saint Boniface riding from 1984 to 1988. He was the whip for the CPC from 1985-86.*

# Like father like son: Involvement in politics from parent to child

By Daniel Birru

As is common in many fields, such as sports and arts, politicians sometimes follow their relative's footsteps. They are inspired by their parents to pursue careers as politicians, and it is not rare for them to have the same ideological views as their parents or relatives that were formerly politicians.

In politics, we can notably think of personalities such as former prime minister Pierre Trudeau and his son, the current prime minister Justin Trudeau; former prime minister Brian Mulroney and his daughter, Caroline Mulroney, an Ontario MLA. Then there was Doug Ford Sr., who was an Ontario MLA, and his sons, Rob (former Mayor of Toronto), and Doug Ford, Jr. current premier of that province. Jack Layton, former leader of the NDP and his father, Bob Layton, who was a Progressive Conservative MP, are two more although the footsteps deviated between parties.

The Hon. Geoff Regan is a perfect example of this trend. Currently an MP for Halifax West as a member of the Liberal Party and a lawyer by profession, Geoff followed in his father's footsteps. The son of Gerald Regan, former premier of Nova Scotia from 1970 to 1978, Geoff has essentially served in federal politics throughout a career that has now spanned 27 years. He has served in the Canadian Parliament for Halifax West between 1993 and 1997 and since 2000.

Geoff learned a lot from his father's time as premier and has adopted an approach similar to his over the years. Sadly, Gerald passed away last year in November at the age of 91.

Like Geoff, most politicians adopt the same values as their parents or relatives for their paths into political careers. They are often part of the same party and adopt policies based upon the same values as their predecessors.

"I always viewed my father as

someone who was really involved and devoted to his community. He served as premier to the province of Nova Scotia with pride and leadership. He was very present in the community and understood the role and duties he had as premier. That has always really been my goal, for the people of Halifax West. To make sure I value them and represent them to the rest of Canada, with pride and leadership."

While Gerald represented Nova Scotia at both the provincial and federal levels, Geoff sees a clear distinction between provincial and federal politics, although in the end, the goal to serve the community is the same.

"At the federal level, I've been able to represent the interests of the people of Halifax West in all of Canada. This has been very important to me, as I've had the opportunity to speak to different people about the challenges we face as Nova Scotians. Talking about it has been very important as well. I think that in provincial politics, you are less exposed to that, but you can have a different, somewhat closer, relationship with the people you represent. It's two different perspectives, but the end goal is the same, to me."

Geoff Reagan also served as the Speaker of the House of Commons from 2015 to 2019, as well as the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans under Prime Minister Paul Martin, from 2003 to 2006.

In Quebec, Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe won a seat in the 2019 Canadian federal election in the riding of Lac-Saint-Jean, as a member of the Bloc Québécois. His father is the former leader of the Bloc Québécois, Gilles Duceppe, who led the party in seven different federal elections over a period of 15 years. A former MP for Laurier-Sainte-Marie in Montreal, Gilles was very involved in politics, especially for his home province and fought for many years to develop the ties between Canada and Quebec

on the federal scene. To date, in the 29 years of the party's history, he has been the longest serving leader, having led it for more than half of its history.

Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe has followed in his father's footsteps. He mentions the place politics always had in his family while growing up. "Every family dinner, we didn't talk about hockey, we were talking politics. I started having political discussions with friends and family at a very young age ... so it's always been present in me for as far as I can remember. And it's also been in the way I viewed (my dad), when he worked: I always understood he loved what he did, and he always put his heart into it," said Brunelle-Duceppe.

"When I started in this field, it was very important to me to have a name for myself. I didn't want to be known as Gilles Duceppe's son; I wanted to be known as Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe, MP for Lac-Saint-Jean! I needed to be able to prove myself, to work my way up and build myself a life of my own in politics, so that the people of my riding know who I am, and not just my name that they associated with my dad," he said.

Brunelle-Duceppe also understands what it means to have been elected to the House of Commons. Even though he has been MP for over a year now, he feels as though it has been two weeks. "My dad would often have people talk to him about what he did on the federal level for his work in immigration or employment insurance, for example. And when you see people being thankful for that, when you see the support he had in his riding (Laurier – Sainte-Marie) for the work he did as party leader, you understand you make people happy and make a difference in their lives. And that's something to be proud of. That's also what I'm aiming for."

# The allure of the Parliamentary Restaurant

By Wade Morris

A former MP reflects on why the Parliamentary Restaurant is the most sentimental corner of the Hill. Plus, the echo from the dining room's curved ceiling has a rich scientific history.

**T**hough downtown Ottawa is home to culturally rich pubs and lakefront views, no food location strikes memories like the Parliamentary Restaurant.

To parliamentarians, the restaurant has many meanings. Sure, it is a place to sit back and enjoy a meal with a stunning view of the country's capital. It is also a place to free yourself from the stress of daily parliamentary happenings and make bonds across party lines – even on the ugliest days.

Of course, there's value in having a restaurant on the Hill, former MP Don Boudria explains.

"Food service outlets in the workplace always serve a wider purpose," he says. "It's where people chat. There's an inherent social value."

It is not hard to see the value in keeping potential voters on the Hill, either. "If you're the whip, you love the restaurant. It's the one place you can always find MPs to fetch for votes," he says.

The restaurant is the setting for many of Don's fondest memories in Parliament. But before these memories were made, it was where he made a living washing dishes and clearing tables.

We all know Don's story: as a local musician working in the Parliamentary Restaurant as a busboy, Don knew he wanted to be a politician. The most politically engaged of his colleagues, he would rave about the idea of working in the House of Commons – probably much to the kitchen staff's chagrin.

"I would tell them, 'See those MPs? Someday I'll be one of them.' They thought that was just hilarious," he says, laughing. "When I wasn't there, I imagine they'd say, 'Did you see what the new guy said? He thinks he's going to be an MP and a minister – isn't that funny?'"

Don had the last laugh, getting three municipal terms, one provincial term, six federal terms, and five cabinet positions under his belt. This is, as many of us know, the titular trajec-

tory outlined in Don's 2005 memoir, *Busboy: From Kitchen to Cabinet*.

## The ceiling phenomenon explained

Parliamentarians may recall a strange phenomenon from the restaurant: guests could hear someone's conversation from across the room. It would lead to awkward scenarios in which secrets or private information were heard by the wrong person. In typical Canadian fashion, parliamentarians would often kindly inform the speaker of what they heard, as if it were an unwritten rule of sorts. But even then, one must wonder how the sheer force of a ceiling curve could be such a menace.

It turns out that echoes from curved ceilings have captured scientists' interest for centuries. The 17th century writer Athanasius Kircher had a keen interest in echoes, and he created diagrams that are still used today to explain how sound "rays" can essentially bounce off the ceiling.

Sound engineer Trevor Cox wrote about this in his 2014 book, *The Sound Book: The Science of the Sonic*. In it, he compares the circulation of sound to a pool table, with words bouncing off the ceiling the way a pool ball would.

The echo from curved ceilings has also been top of mind for many architects throughout history. In the 19th century, the U.S. Capitol in Washington was renovated to remove a similarly curved ceiling. While tourists enjoyed visiting the dome to experience the phenomenon for themselves, the building was, as Trevor writes, "...a poor place for the House of Representatives to hold debates."

Parliamentarians may have found that even their most quiet conversations would end up in the ears of faraway dining room guests. Theorists speculate that whispers travel in a particularly strong manner. Lord Rayleigh, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who wrote *The Theory of Sound* in the 19th century, revealed a possible explanation through analysis: whispers contain tones with a high

frequency, which allows them to "hug walls".

## How the restaurant was paid homage before its temporary move

Don spent decades in Parliament, but two of its spaces truly stick out to him as memorable: the chamber and the restaurant. While a visit to the chamber is, as Don describes, "the greatest honour a Canadian can have," the restaurant sets the scene for precious memories.

In the winter of 2019, the Hill prepared to begin its renovations, and the restaurant was moved to an underground portion of the West Block. Gone is the view of the Ottawa River, and the dining room is smaller, but it ultimately still serves its purpose.

Still, Don knew he wanted to honour the restaurant one last time before renovations. He organized a dinner event on Dec. 13, 2018, gathering former and sitting parliamentarians, cabinet ministers and friendly faces. He gave it a fitting title: "The Last Supper." In a speech that night, he joked about the origins of the cheeky name:

"(Renovations) will take 10 years – maybe 12 or 13. I'll be 82 the day it reopens! I called it 'the Last Supper' in case I'm busy that day."

For the post-renovation Hill, Don has one wish.

"I hope it's exactly the way they left it; the restaurant and the entire building. Keep the décor, the ambience, and the history, so when you walk in, you remember what happened where."

Don cites renovations on European buildings as hope. "When they renovate a building, they don't bulldoze it. It's restored."

Truthfully, we don't know when renovations will be completed, and we don't know what the restaurant will look like. By then, a new generation of former Parliamentarians will be born, and they will understand the value of settings like these.

*Don Boudria served six terms as an MP as a member of the Liberal Party, representing the Glengarry–Prescott–Russell riding from 1984 to 2006.*



# Learning from SARS: Putting public health back in the spotlight

By Matthieu Reekie



*A sign, posted on the front door of the Ottawa headquarters of the Public Health Agency of Canada, reminds us of the most important measures for mitigating the spread of infectious disease. “The single most important thing you can do...” urges McLellan “is wash your hands.” Photo by Matt Reekie.*

Late in the year rumours of a mysterious illness spreading in a sizable but little-known Chinese city began to emerge. A virus, believed to have originated in animals, made the zoonotic jump to humans in a live animal market. Before long, the virus crossed international borders with cases popping up in cities across Asia, Europe, and North America.

Sound familiar? This scenario may remind you of the emergence of COVID-19, first identified in the final days of 2019, but it just as well describes the SARS outbreak which took place in 2002-2003. Though the sheer magnitude of the present out-

break of COVID-19 has far surpassed that of SARS, one can't help but look at the two and see some similarities.

The index patient of Canada's SARS outbreak arrived in the country on Feb. 23, 2003. A woman who had travelled to Hong Kong unknowingly contracted the virus, and later died at home on March 5. The virus was then transmitted to staff and patients of the emergency department at the Grace Division of Scarborough Hospital through the index patient's son.

A silver lining to the outbreak was that it exposed the vulnerability of a highly globalized world to novel

infectious diseases. SARS startled governments and led to an increased awareness for the role of public health in preventing outbreaks of infectious disease, leaving us better equipped to handle more acute public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The level of preparedness in Canada for a pandemic event at the time of the SARS outbreak was low. “Governments at all levels had allowed their public health systems to be degraded,” said Anne McLellan, minister of health during the SARS outbreak. “Everybody was focused on getting more MRIs, more CT scans into their hospitals. Preventive public

health was not viewed as being a critical element of the health system.”

“There was no such thing as a National Pandemic Plan,” recalls Tony Clement, Ontario’s Minister of Health and Long Term Care during the SARS outbreak. “All the pandemic infrastructure that you see right now, including WHO responses, all of that was created after SARS.”

Clement carried his experience from the SARS outbreak into federal office, eventually becoming minister of health under Prime Minister Stephen Harper. His close call with the SARS outbreak in Toronto shaped his mandate, and he vowed to update Canada’s preparedness for the long term. “I spent a lot of time in 2006-2007 working with (Chief Public Health Officer) Dr. Butler-Jones. I insisted on making sure we had a top drawer, modern pandemic response plan,” he continued.

The National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health made several recommendations through the Learning from SARS report, some of which were carried out by McLellan, Clement, and others who transitioned through the health portfolio in the following years. Examples of steps taken include the creation of the Public Health Agency of Canada and a re-orientation of the National Emergency Stockpile System towards preparedness for large scale disease outbreaks.

The report also highlighted the necessity for effective crisis communication. A level of uncertainty permeated early preparations for potential SARS outbreaks in healthcare institutions. Early signs of an outbreak of a novel infectious disease in China were picked up at the federal level, but this information was not initially shared between federal and provincial agencies. In the early stages of the outbreak, officials from different levels of government did not always seem to be reading from the same page.

By comparison, messaging for the federal and provincial governments in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic appeared coordinated. Reassuring televised briefings by government officials were frequent, a strategy pioneered during the SARS



*The SARS outbreak evoked a strong interest in facemasks. With COVID-19, facemasks have become a standard element in the fight against its spread. Photo by Banej.*

scare. Though there were initial concerns about the availability of suitable equipment, no time was lost in providing hospitals, long-term care homes, and other healthcare facilities with guidelines on the effective use of PPE and other measures in case of an outbreak.

Other lessons were not so easily applied. Stockpiles of medical emergency supplies had been allowed to deteriorate, and a Globe and Mail investigation would later reveal that Canada’s world-class Global Public Health Intelligence Network, had been drastically scaled back just months before it might have detected early outbreaks of COVID-19 in Hubei. According to McLellan, the GPHIN demonstrated its usefulness during the SARS outbreak, providing precious information at a time when the Chinese government was not forthcoming with details.

Though there were fears of a greater contagion spreading from the initial Toronto outbreak, SARS was contained and would eventually fizzle out, leaving fewer than 800 dead worldwide. “We never found a vaccine for SARS...” McLellan reminds us. “We don’t know where the end is here.”

There are very few conclusions that can’t be summarized with a Churchillian quote. Drawing from that well of pugnacious wisdom: “Let’s not let this crisis go to waste”.

If there is one thing that we learned from the worst outbreak of infectious disease in a century, it’s that global infectious diseases are not going anywhere. What is important is that we carry forward the lessons learned from this crisis to the next.

*Anne McLellan served as Liberal MP for Edmonton Northwest, Edmonton West, and Edmonton Centre between October 1993 and February 2006. During her time in office, she served as Minister of Health, Minister of Justice, and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister by Jean Chrétien. She currently serves as an advisor for the Trudeau Government.*

*Tony Clement served as Conservative MPP for Brampton West-Mississauga between June 1995 and September 2003 and MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka between January 2006 and September 2019. During his time in office, he served as Minister of Health, Minister of Industry, and as President of the Treasury board.*



# Making a difference

Vim Kochhar and the CFPDP host their 37th Annual Great Valentine Gala

By Matthieu Reekie



*Senators Don Plett, Tobias Enverga, Chantal Petitclerc, Yonah Martin, Jim Munson, Wilfred Moore and former Senator Vim Kochhar at one of the annual Rolling Rampage on The Hill. Photo courtesy of Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.*

**T**he Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP), recently held its Great Valentine Gala, an event which it has hosted annually, uninterrupted, for 37 years. Though circumstances dictated some changes in format this year, the event was nevertheless a resounding success, with online participation causing attendance to triple. We spoke with the Hon. Vim Kochhar, founder and chair of the CFPDP's board, about this recent event, the great cause it supports, the adaptations which charitable organizations have had to make in this unprecedented environment, and his career in politics.

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**Mr. Kochhar, you have long been**

**a champion for the physically disabled in Canada. Where did your interest in the cause of the physically disabled come from?**

When we focus on diversity and inclusion, we always think about gender equality, we think about "Black Lives Matter," we talk about indigenous equality. But nobody ever talks about disabled equality, so what we are doing is going after diversity and inclusion and having a unique focus on the over 20 per cent of Canadians who are disabled.

**So, in your eyes, the physically disabled were an overlooked group of people in terms of inclusion?**

They are still being overlooked. The focus of most companies is not on disability, it is on race, gender, or

indigenous equality. But nobody is still really talking about disability.

**Your engagement with the cause of physical disability seems to focus on raising awareness within the business community. The CFPDP currently has an initiative called "A Seat at the Table," which aims to promote participation of the physically disabled on corporate boards, for example. How has the response been to this initiative?**

When we inducted [former prime minister] Brian Mulroney into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2018, he said: 'If you really want to bring the change, you have to start at the top.' And that is the origin of "A Seat at the Table," trying to put people with disabilities on corporate

boards in order to initiate change at the top of the business community.

That was our last project. What we are trying to do now is establish scholarship funds at Canadian universities for people with disabilities for higher studies, to provide them with the education and experience that would qualify them to participate in corporate boardrooms. Whether you are disabled, black or indigenous, a woman, or another gender minority, you have to have the qualification and education to sit on the board.

**Over the last year, with the lockdowns and the coronavirus, have you seen an impact in the ability to do fundraising and host awareness events?**

There is a whole lot of difference, but fortunately for us, we are doing better than before! Our expenses have gone down, but we have gotten more in donations than previous years, as online attendance enabled more people to watch the Valentine Gala. So, we are doing much much better than we were doing before.

**How must non-profit organizations adapt in this new business environment?**

Everyone has a challenge to come out with new ideas. If you want to do everything in the same old way, you will not be successful. You have to adapt to the circumstances. Switching to a virtual gala, your expenses are go-



*Vim Kochhar (pictured right) has long been a champion for the physically disabled. His lifetime of service was recognized in 2014, when he was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame by the Hon. David Crombie (pictured left).*

ing down, and if you keep your efforts at the same level as before, you will receive much more support than in past years.

The trouble is people get caught up in the circumstances and give up. They assume people will not donate anymore. In reality, people are more generous under these kinds of circumstances than under normal circumstances. People who make use of new opportunities do much better than people who don't avail themselves of these new opportunities.

**How did you first enter Canadian politics?**

I ran in 1985 for nomination [as a conservative candidate] in Toronto, and I didn't win because I was up against Barbara McDougall, who was a high-profile candidate, and I was a newcomer. I thought to myself, if you lose by one

vote, you lose the whole election, whereas in charity, if you raise a dollar, you are a winner, so I wanted to go on the winning side.

I gave up on politics then but was appointed by Harper to the Senate of Canada. That is how I became associated with the Conservative party, but I am not a typical politician. You should be able to make a difference if you choose to do something on a volunteer basis.

**It sounds like your interest in politics comes from a similar place as your interest in the cause of the disabled. Was participation in politics a lifelong interest of yours?**

My lifelong interest is to do something where you can make a difference. Whether in charity, or in politics, I don't believe in just doing things for the sake of doing them. You have to make a difference, so it really doesn't matter if it is in politics, helping people with disabilities or who may have other needs, mentoring people to help them get ahead. It doesn't matter what "category" they are; you should be able to make a difference in their life.

*Vim Kochhar was a Senator from Ontario for the Conservative Party from January 2010 to September 2011.*

## Celebrating gender parity in the Senate

By Matthieu Reekie

**O**n Dec. 8th, 2020, the Hon. Frances Lankin addressed the Senate to share a sudden realization of hers. At the time of her statement, there were 94 sitting senators, of which exactly half were men, and half were women. Indeed, according to Senator Lankin and her colleague, the Hon. Marilou McPhedran, the Senate of Canada is the first parliamentary institution in

Canada to reach gender parity, and possibly the first senate in the world to do so.

Though there may remain much to be achieved in the fight for the equality of women, this achievement represents another great step forward for the status of women in this country at a time when great progress is being made. Though composing less than one third of its total member-

ship, more women currently sit in the House of Commons than ever before, and we have also seen the appointment of a woman as Minister of Finance. "Even though [the Senate] is an appointed body, I want to say this is a major milestone," concludes Lankin, adding that she will continue to fight for improved representation of women at all levels of government.





Hon. John Reid.

# Political correctness

By Hon. John Reid

Traditionally, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are War, Famine, Pestilence and Death. These are the common disasters of humanity. They are the hinges on which humanity is forced to change. We have endured wars and we know how they have changed societies, as they force necessary change. If a population has to deal with Famine, it too must change to survive, by migration, new agricultural methods, etc. Looking at our world today, we can see that stress comes from so many sources: COVID-19, famine, mass migrations of populations because of changing climate, the stresses created by active wars, the new arms race, the increased development of cyber warfare, economic down turns, etc. The convergence of these ills is having a profound effect on humanity. Our societies are under great stress.

In many cases, what we are seeing in our societies now has resulted in the speedup of what was taking place before. Such changes expose our societies to ourselves because a lot of misery is well hidden in more “normal” times. The changes emerge from many places in our societies and as we absorb the changes we are enduring and observing, we are left wondering what tomorrow will bring. One thing we do know – even if we do not like to admit to it – is that what we thought was normal life and business before COVID-19 is unlikely to return. We are enduring new shifts in our societies, some which are and will be welcome and others which will be problematic.

Some of the changes have been with us for some time but their penetration into society has been speeded up by recent events. One of these is political correctness. This is best defined in two ways – one is the attempt to silence opinions with which you disagree; and the second is that you are forced to say things in



*“We should support individuals that speak plainly, even if they offend the mob,” counsels John Reid.*

such a way as to ensure that the meaning is obscured. These can be enforced socially, by the mob (think Twitter take-downs) by law and social fiat. There is no shortage of examples in the media. But there are dangerous consequences of these actions.

One problem with political correctness is that thinking becomes blurred. If you cannot use language to describe a matter because someone may be offended by the concept or is so opposed to the suggestion, then society’s ability to discuss problems and possibilities is curtailed. Students want to be warned when controversial ideas (to them) are raised. Ironically, political correctness appears to be at its most dubious in universities, the very organizations where freedom of speech, freedom to publish new ideas and where exacting debate is supposed to take place. Tenure for professors was designed to permit them to look at and debate new ideas. Invited speakers have been cancelled because groups of students and professors objected to the ideas they fear will be part

of a speaker’s presentation. The range of ideas discussed is curtailed; progress is impeded; and students and professors are confirmed in their biases. It used to be that much of this was confined to the social sciences but I note there are now examples dealing with scientific matters as well. There are few places to hide now!

In politics, political correctness creates the same problems, but adds other difficulties. For example, if you cannot describe a problem as it is without blurring it because of political correctness, without going through self-censorship, then you cannot properly communicate, you cannot debate sensibly, the real issues at hand. It is bad enough for politicians to avoid debating issues that are painful to society and to them, but to mess up those debates with political correctness is to compound the issue. This does not even deal with the stress that politicians face in the ordinary course of their lives, writing and speaking in an environment of self-censorship and pressured by the internet mobs, let alone

their political opponents.

The logical development of political correctness has been mob action, notably on Twitter, called “cancel culture”. The idea is to punish an individual for being outside the mob’s world view. This is when an item is published and everyone opposed jumps in to attack and label the victim. Often the technique is to find examples of what are considered incorrect views and/or remarks, and to attack the victim with them. Seldom is there a discussion of what was actually said and a debate. Context is everything but seldom considered in these cases. From a historical point of view, it is nonsense to take remarks out of context

to attack the living or the dead. In the future, others will have similar reactions to remarks and decisions made by us. For an example see: <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/bruce-pardy-a-shakespearean-sendoff-to-sir-john-a>

The impact of political correctness, the cancel culture and the “woke” culture has had a significant impact on writing and media in North America. It has created an atmosphere of self-censorship. In government, documents are not as clear as they might be. At present, we pussyfoot around issues because of our fear of offending the politically correct cancel and woke cultural mobs.

What can be done? As Shakespeare

wrote, “Aye, there’s the rub!” It is not easy to eliminate societal habits, especially when embedded in our social media systems. But there are actions that can be taken. First, we should support individuals that speak plainly, even if they offend the mob. Second, we should push for universities to support free speech and appropriate debate on issues. Third, we should condemn all attempts to put down ideas and suggestions by attacking the proponents instead of discussing the propositions. And not only should we do this as individuals, but also we should insist that these principles be accepted by organizations we belong to.

Hon. John Reid was the Liberal MP for Kenna-Rainy River from 1965 to 1984.

## Do you have a cool memory of your time in office?

Former president of CAFP Leo Duguay is looking for stories and anecdotes from your time in Parliament. We all had interesting, funny, inspiring experiences that are worth sharing with each other and future generations. Below is one from your president that will strike a note for those who knew Brian Mulroney, Don Mazankowski and Robert Stanfield – and which shows what a different world we live in from then.

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### Controlling the boys

Caucus meetings in the Brian Mulroney days were a work of art. He nearly always attended and there was a sort of natural seating order. All the members of the large Quebec caucus sat on the left, right in front of the podium and the rest of us sprawled across the large Railway Committee Room. At the front of the room, beside the podium was a long table where sat the caucus chair Bob Layton (yes, the father of late NDP leader Jack), Brian Mulroney and one or two others, generally someone who was there to make a presentation to bring us up to date on a government initiative. During this business portion, various members of the caucus would come forward to whisper a thought in the prime minister’s ear, and he would listen carefully, making a note or two. Then there would be questions and comments from the members, some quite aggressive.

Our MPs were not afraid to speak their minds.

Then it was Brian’s turn to speak, fluently, back and forth in two languages, touching on the comments that he had just heard from the floor, instructing a minister to look into something he had learned, praising individual members, mentioning accomplishments and thanking people, all the while telling personal anecdotes about his past week. One that comes to mind is his story of the visit from Gorbachev, who, as they drove to the airport for his departure, wondered if he could ask the prime minister a question. “What is it, Mikhail?” Brian responded.

“You have such a beautiful capital,” said the Russian. “But can you tell me why you allow all those hookers to stand around the doors of your Parliament Buildings?” Of course, he was referring to all the smokers who had recently been banned from smoking indoors. We all thought that was hilarious.

Brian was never ruffled or angry at us, although he did some good fist shaking about things he couldn’t control and, of course, the antics of the Opposition. Often, we had to deal with what were then very contentious issues: abortion, gay marriage, RCMP head gear – all things today that we take for granted, but that were ground breakers at the time.

One morning when one of our more

obstreperous MPs was taking issue with something, and there were heated words being exchanged between members, I was seated, as usual, in the front row and beside me was Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski. I made some worried mention about the dissension and Don laughed at me. “This is nothing,” he said. “Brian keeps a very tight ship. Back in the day when Bob Stanfield was leader, we used to get into fist fights. There weren’t as many women back then.”

“Oh, my goodness,” I said, shocked. “What did he do?”

“Oh, not much,” laughed Don. “The whole room would be brawling, and Bob would just stand there, waving his arms and saying, ‘Now boys. Now boys!’”

Nobody would ever have dared such a thing with Brian running the show. But I often wonder what he would have done if the boys had gotten out of control.

– Dorothy Dobbie

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*Submissions should be three paragraphs or less and include your name and years of service. Anonymous contributions are welcome but may not find their way to the final edit. Contributions can be submitted by email to [leoduguay@rothwellgroup.ca](mailto:leoduguay@rothwellgroup.ca) or through regular mail at: Léo Duguay, Past President CAFP, 41 Dunbarton Court, Ottawa, ON K1K 4L4*



# A bow for Wally Firth

85-year-old fiddler and former MP pulls at the heartstrings of paramedics

Katie DeRosa, former BTH Editorial Intern / Times Colonist

A team of paramedics who responded to a routine call about a senior who had fallen ended up striking up an unlikely friendship with a spry 85-year-old in need of a new bow for his fiddle.

The B.C. Emergency Health Services paramedics were called to the room of Wally Firth at the end of September after he fell while reaching for his bow.

When paramedics Daron McDonald and Gavin Aimoe and paramedic student Vihn Pham arrived at Firth's room in The Glenshiel seniors' residence, to find that Firth was not seriously injured, they learned the remarkable story of a man who has worked as a fur trader, a commercial pilot, a broadcaster, a member of Parliament, an indigenous-rights advocate and a music teacher.

After regaling them with a few life stories, Firth played some pieces on his fiddle for the paramedics. After one, he quipped: "I'm 85 years old and I still don't have a half-decent bow."

Firth told the paramedics that other than the fiddle and bow, he has few personal possessions in his room because in his Métis culture, he was taught to give to people in need. Firth's passion for music was palpable and the paramedics left wanting to help a man who, over the course of his life, had used music to spread joy to others.

McDonald said he and other paramedics visit care homes all the time, but because their call volume has increased so much, they often don't have time to sit and chat with patients. That can be hard for patients, who have limited visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

"It's not that we don't want to stay and chat – we just don't have time," said McDonald, who has been a paramedic for 11 years. "It just turned out this guy had an amazing life story. We had this instant connection with him."

Without using Firth's name, McDonald posted a few details about the encounter and his desire to get a new



*Wally Firth uses the bow paramedics gave to him at The Glenshiel seniors' residence after a fall. Photo by Darren Stone, Times Colonist.*

bow for a man who lived and breathed music.

David Symons, the educational representative for Long & McQuade Musical Instruments, saw the post and sent a message to McDonald that said: "Is this request for Wally Firth?"

Symons has known Firth for 12 years, about as long as Firth has been in Victoria. He was a regular customer at the music store, buying instruments mostly to donate to people in need, particularly to musicians in the Northwest Territories.

"He truly gets unnoticed considering what he's done for this country and everyone around him," said Symons, who arranged for the paramedics to pick up a nice bow to give to Firth.

Firth often calls Symons when he wants to donate high-quality guitars, often given to him as gifts, to schools around Greater Victoria. "I've given away a lot of instruments," Firth said.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, Symons had to tell Firth to

hang onto the guitars until Long & McQuade could resume its student music program.

Several years ago, Symons tapped Firth to speak at his son's career day at Spectrum Community School, knowing Firth's exciting resume would intrigue students.

Firth was the first indigenous politician from Canada's North to win a seat in the House of Commons. He was first elected in 1972 as an NDP member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories and was re-elected in 1974. The prime minister at the time was Pierre Elliott Trudeau and the NDP leader was David Lewis.

Symons said that, as a high school student in Ottawa, he would see Firth in the House of Commons on television, wearing a cowboy hat and standing out from the other predominantly white politicians in three-piece suits.

Born Walter Firth on Jan. 25, 1935, in Fort McPherson, N.W.T., Firth started out working as a fur trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, fol-

lowing in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He remembers beginning as an apprentice, then being promoted to manager and posted in Wrigley, N.W.T. "That was the best year I ever spent in my life," he said, noting he met amazing people in the fur trade.

He also worked as a radio host for the CBC in Yellowknife and as a commercial pilot.

"I owned three different airplanes at one time. I flew across Canada many times," said Firth, sitting outside his seniors' residence wearing a blue button-down shirt, a charcoal blazer and holding his violin and new bow. "I've had a crazy life."

Firth said sometimes he would fly himself to Ottawa when the House of Commons was in session. He said when he was an MP for the Northwest Territories, he represented the largest riding in the world at 1,350,000 square miles.

Firth has no children, calling himself "an old bachelor," and says he has been playing the fiddle for more than 70 years.

"It was a very important part of our culture," he said.

He was inspired by his father – both would often play at community dance halls where people would dance the country waltz. "His whole body would get into the music," Firth said of his father. "This style of music, you don't learn to read music, it gets in the way. You need to learn the tune."

Over the years, Firth has played the saxophone, piano and guitar, but said due to his age and sore limbs, the fiddle is the only instrument he still plays.

He was delighted when McDonald, Aimoe and three other paramedics showed up a few days after their first visit with the new bow. He played several songs for the paramedics and other residents in the seniors' home.

"Oh man, I was so amazed at what they did," he said. "Music has been very important to me all my life."

*Reprinted with the kind permission of the Times Colonist.*

<https://www.timescolonist.com/a-bow-for-wally-85-year-old-fiddler-pulls-at-the-heartstrings-of-paramedics-1.24239642>

# 2022 is the Year of the Garden

**O**n March 22, 2021, the Canadian Garden Council proclaimed 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden.

Developed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Canada's ornamental horticulture sector, this national celebration will become even more important and timely post COVID-19. Most Canadians admit to being stressed by the pandemic, economy, and climate change, and by how they affect their own quality of life and prosperity, and that of their families and communities. Studies found Canadians spent more time tending gardening for fun and general activity but also to mitigate mental health challenges from isolation. Nearly one in five began gardening for the first time during 2020.

The Year of the Garden 2022 will provide a simple yet effective way to improve quality of life during COVID-19 recovery. Its impact will be visible across Canada in front and back yards and on apartment balconies, ornamental and edible gardens, natural and botanical gardens, and in schools, communities and parks.

The Canadian Garden Council is asking the government to officially designate 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden. By commemorating horticulture's heritage and contribution to the development of Canada from the First Nations to today, inviting Canadians to "Add Garden to Life" to discover the connection between people and plants, and supporting sustainable "Living Green" garden activities, the Canadian government will be seen as an innovative leader by Canadians and around the world for being the first country to designate and support a Year of the Garden.

The Year of the Garden 2022 will impact the Government's commitment to fight climate change,



plant two billion trees, and reach sustainable development goals. Engaged Canadians will plant more gardens producing more oxygen, sequestering more carbon, and mitigating the heat island effect in urban areas.

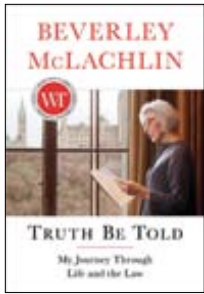
The causation between gardening and improved physical and mental health is high and well documented. The Year of the Garden 2022 will contribute to more healthy Canadians and reduction in health costs, foster youth garden education in schools, and spotlight Canada's healthy eating strategy.

The economic impact of a robust horticulture sector is enhanced by the recognized value of community development to attract residents, businesses, and visitors to garden-friendly municipalities. Additionally, public gardens will continue as major tourism drivers for national travel within, and international travel to Canada.

A passion for gardens has always been firmly rooted in Canadian reality. The Year of the Garden 2022 will reinforce Canada's inclusivity and reconciliation agenda as Michel Gauthier, Executive Director of the Canadian Garden Council asserts, "in the garden there are no differences, just plants, and people of all ages and cultures who love them".

*For more information please visit: [yearofthegarden.ca](http://yearofthegarden.ca)*





# Beverley McLachlin documents decades of Canadian justice in hearty memoir

Reviewed by Wade Morris

**Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life And The Law by Beverley McLachlin. Published 2019 by Simon and Schuster. 384 pages. \$39.99.**

The first female chief justice of Canada, Alberta-born Beverley McLachlin impressed Canadians with her determined approach to uniting the highest court in the country. Now, the retired court ruler reflects on her life and career in *Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law*.

In the 1960s, a young girl from Pincher Creek, Alberta, planned to get her master's degree and become a philosophy professor. Her plans changed when a friend, noting the girl's fixation with right and wrong, suggested she give some thought to a career in law.

The girl would one day become the chief justice of Canada, and a record-breaking one at that – you may know her better as Beverley McLachlin.

*Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law* tells the story of Beverley's life and impressive legal career, all in her own words.

In 2000, Beverley became Canada's 17th chief justice, meaning she would oversee the Supreme Court. She was the first woman to hold this position in Canada, and she would become the longest running, too. She retired in 2017. With such a lengthy career in such a prominent role, you would imagine Beverley has plenty to say. She had penned one book before: a fictional legal thriller called *Full Disclosure* in 2018 – but *Truth Be Told* is her first and only full-length personal reflection.

Don't let the book's title fool you, though: in *Truth Be Told*, Beverley doesn't expose Canada's legal system – she embraces it. The 384-page memoir illustrates her passionate approach to law with fair, loving words. For Beverley, there seems to be value in everything – celebrations, challenges, and grief.

For most readers, working as a justice

in the Supreme Court might be hard to imagine. How could one fathom the task of making sweeping decisions every day, covering controversial topics from all areas of life, and setting a precedent in stone? Only a superhuman could do the job – but that's not exactly true, as Beverley makes clear.

*Truth Be Told* is divided into four parts, each of which covers a significant part of Beverley's life. The first of which is titled 'The Student', and it mostly covers Beverley's youth. The last three sections – 'The Lawyer', 'The Judge', and 'The Chief Justice' – chronicle Beverley's professional ascent in the Canadian legal system.

What is refreshing about the early chapters of *Truth Be Told* is McLachlin's sincerity. She writes with a youthful voice that emits that of a coming-of-age story – it is easy to forget that you are reading the words of an accomplished legal professional. McLachlin does not depict herself as a gifted prodigy destined for greatness; she is, all things considered, a normal, relatable young girl. Young Beverley is stubborn but well-meaning, curious, almost to a fault, and unafraid to complain.

These chapters have a hint of adventure, but they also show she developed the skills that would be central to her legal career.

For example, a charming early anecdote portrays McLachlin as a wide-eyed first grader, racing her best friend to finish their schoolwork. McLachlin is falsely accused of copying by her strict teacher and is hit with a ruler in front of the class. "It was my first taste of injustice," she writes, concluding that life would not always be fair. The book is full of similar lessons from beginning to end – and it is these simple human experiences on which McLachlin builds her approach to justice.

Overcoming the attitude towards women in her field would require a lot of patience from Beverley and her contem-

poraries. Women did not have a voice in law in the 1960s, Beverley explains, and having that kind of career was unthinkable for a woman like her. Even she did not think it was possible at first: "I knew there were women philosophers; I had never heard of female lawyers," she wrote of her decision to ditch a future in teaching philosophy.

Each time Beverley faces injustice in her personal life or career, she grows a better understanding of what justice should be. She also describes her approach to these hurdles without sensationalizing herself. Beverley has no superpowers: she is simply hardworking, empathetic, and curious.

In the book's later sections, Beverley unpacks her legal career with fine detail. She is well-versed and illustrates legal cases with pointed precision, but it is the human elements of each case that allow her writing to thrive.

Beverley's drive for unity made her an unlikely suspect for controversy. Readers may be curious about what she has to say about the closest thing Beverley had to a public feud. You may recall that, in 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper had accused her of wrongly interfering with one of his selections for appointment to the Supreme Court. Beverley dedicates one chapter to the dispute, offering a detailed retelling of the moment she found out about Harper's comments, and the storm that followed.

"What seemed indisputably clear to me ... was that the prime minister was deeply angry with me and wanted to launch a strike against me," she writes.

The chapter is less of an attempt at a last word in a petty feud, and more of a defense to Beverley's reputation. As she puts it, "There is nothing more precious to a judge than her reputation."

Readers looking for a dense strip down of Canadian law should look elsewhere – *Truth Be Told* is ultimately a story about a human with a strong desire to learn about and connect to other Canadians.

# Monuments recognizing former parliamentarians

By Gina Gill Hartmann, Matthieu Reekie and Wade Morris



*The Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney.  
Photo by Andrew Tolson / St. Francis Xavier University.*



*The Prime Minister's Office at Saint Francis University.  
Photo by Andrew Tolson / St. Francis Xavier University.*

Many former parliamentarians continue to make a mark on Canadian history long after they leave the Hill. Their service is often recognized through the naming of a significant monument in their honour. The monument could be a statue, a school or a park. Throughout Canada, commemorations of former members and senators are scattered in many towns

## **The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall**

Long before he was elected as prime minister, the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney attended St. Francis Xavier University. Just a few years ago, he returned to campus for the grand opening of The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall, a state-of-the-art facility featuring new public policy and governance programs.

At the grand opening in 2019, when the prime minister returned to his alma mater, he shared his fondness for the university and his experience there, while also looking forward to the great opportunities available at the new hall.

“Marking the opening not only of splendid new buildings at StFX, a place I love, but, more importantly, the beginning of grand new opportunities for young Canadians and others from around the globe to learn, lead and help build a better world for us all,” Mulroney stated at the opening.

A special space was added to the Hall in honour of the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney’s time on Parliament Hill: a replica of his office, including his papers, speeches and letters from world leaders.

The academic building will be an educational opportunity for future political leaders of all stripes.

“Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, Conservatives, Greens, NDP and others, will find a home here marked by fairness, objectivity and scholarship of the highest order,” said Mr. Mulroney.

## **Don Boudria Park**

When the development of a massive community park in Orléans, Ont. began, Ontario MPP Stephen Blais knew it would have to be named after someone special. He pushed for former MP and celebrated “Rat Pack” member, the

Hon. Don Boudria.

The massive park envelopes over 37,000 square metres. It includes a baseball diamond, a multi-purpose sporting court, a gazebo and a dog park.

“It’s important to ... honour those who have dedicated huge chunks of their life to community service,” Stephen said of his efforts to honour Don. The park opened in 2019.

*Don Boudria represented the riding of Glengarry–Prescott–Russell as a member of the Liberal Party between 1984 and 2006.*

## **École élémentaire catholique Jean-Robert Gauthier**

The École élémentaire catholique Jean-Robert Gauthier was opened in 1972 in the Barrhaven neighbourhood of Ottawa. It is named after the late Hon. Jean-Robert Gauthier, CM Ont., who was the MP for the ridings of Ottawa-East and Ottawa-Vanier between 1972 and 1994 and who was later a member of the Senate of Canada. During his time in politics, he was a staunch advocate for the rights of fran-



cophones in Canada, especially in the domain of education.

“It warms my heart to see new French language schools erected, particularly in areas of Ottawa where the francophone population forms a minority, such as Barrhaven,” said Gauthier upon the decision to grant his name to a francophone elementary school.

## John C. Crosbie Sealers Interpretation Centre

In 1914, Newfoundland and Labrador’s sealing community was struck by disaster. The SS Newfoundland, a sealing vessel, left the port in the small town of Elliston. Tragically, 132 sealers faced a blizzard. Stuck in ice floes, 78 of those men never returned home.

In honour of that historical loss, the town of Elliston erected the Home from the Sea, The John C. Crosbie Sealers Interpretation Centre in 2014. The facility features a museum and art gallery dedicated to the story of seal hunters in the province. On the seaside at Porter’s Point stands a memorial monument of father and son, Reuban and Albert John Crewe, who had been found frozen in one another’s arms after the SS Newfoundland disaster.

The facility is named after the late Hon. John Crosbie, the well-known



*Former Parliamentarian Don Boudria joins Cumberland City Councillor Stephen Blais, family members of Boudria, and members of Orléans Little League Baseball at the site of Don Boudria Park in 2019. Photo courtesy of Stephen Blais.*

Member of Parliament who served as Minister of Finance, Fisheries and Oceans, Justice, Transport and International Trade. He also served as the 12th Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

*John Crosbie represented St. John’s West representing Progressive Conservatives in the House of Commons from 1976 to 1993.*

## The Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel S. Sharpe, DSO, MP Courthouse

On Sept. 12, 2019, the Durham Region Courthouse located in Oshawa, Ont., was renamed the Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel S. Sharpe, DSO, MP Courthouse. Sharpe was a solicitor in the Durham region who was first elected federal office in 1908. In 1916, Sharpe went overseas to command a battalion in the First World War. He was re-elected in absentia while he was at the front in 1917. He was hospitalized early the next year and met a tragic end when he took his own life in May 1918.

In 2014, his story came to light thanks to the efforts of MP Erin O’Toole and Senator Roméo Dallaire who hosted the first annual Sam Sharp Veterans Mental Health Breakfast. By bringing attention to Sharpe’s story, the two veterans hope to raise awareness of the reality of psychological trauma experienced by soldiers and veterans. “These are honourable injuries,” says Dallaire. “No one should have to face such a tragic end as Lt. Col. Sharpe, but those who do must be counted among the casualties of war and never forgotten.”

## Parc Ron Duhamel Park

When the Winnipeg neighborhood of St. Boniface began the plans for a green space and playground, the coun-



*John C. Crosbie Sealers Interpretation Centre. Photo by Tyler Logan.*



*The Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel S. Sharpe, DSO, MP Courthouse.  
Photo by Tyler Logan.*



*École élémentaire catholique Jean-Robert Gauthier.  
Photo by Holly McSmythurs.*

cil recognized it as an opportunity to honour someone in their community. They named a park located in Sage Creek after the late Hon. Ron Duhamel. A green space located next to a school now holds the former minister and senator's name.

The council thought the space would honour Duhamel's time as a teacher, principal, professor and politician.

The park has a playground, with a large field for picnics and recreation. The field has also been used as a space to view fireworks when featured by the community.

The park features a basketball court, baseball diamond, winter toboggan slide and a large community playground

thanks to the Sage Creek Residents' Association's fundraising and volunteer efforts.

Ron Duhamel served the district of St. Boniface as an MP from 1988 to 2002. He received the Young Leadership of America Award and was made a Fellow of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He was also awarded the Lieutenant-Governor's medal of Excellence in Public Administration and made Grand Chevalier of the *International l'Ordre de la Pléiade*.

During his time in parliament, Duhamel was the Minister of Veteran Affairs, as well as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works (Public Works and Government Services), Par-

liamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board, Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification), and Secretary of State (Francophonie).

*The Hon. Ron Duhamel was elected as a Liberal candidate in the riding of Saint Boniface from 1988 to 2002 and then served as Senator for Manitoba in 2002.*

### **Gord Brown Memorial Canada 150 Rink**

When former Conservative MP Gord Brown passed away in 2018, he was honoured in a truly Canadian way: the town of Gananoque, Ont. voted to have an outdoor hockey rink named after him. Brown was known to be athletic, having competed internationally as a kayaker in the 1988 ICF World Marathon Championships. He was also an avid hockey fan and player – thus, it was fitting that the town that overlaps his former riding would honour him with a rink, officially called the Gord Brown Memorial Canada 150 Rink.

"It is very exciting to see the Canada 150 rink in its new home," Gord's wife, Claudine Courtois, said in a statement to the media. "Gord would be proud that so many in our community will benefit for years to come."

*Gord Brown represented the Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes riding (formerly Leeds-Grenville) as a member of the Conservative Party between 2004 and 2018.*



*A community effort brought the Canada 150 rink from Parliament Hill, to Gananoque, Ont., and the new rink was named after late MP Gord Brown.  
Photo courtesy of Canada 150.*



# Our tribute to those who have passed on

By Daniel Birru, Gina Gill Hartmann, Wade Morris and Matthieu Reekie

## Hon. James Abbott

**Aug. 18, 1942 – July 26, 2020**

The Hon. James Abbott, former Conservative MP for Kootenay–Columbia, passed away on July 26, 2020, at the age of 77.

Abbott was originally from the Toronto area but settled in Wasa Lake, B.C., where he travelled the Kootenays as a sales and marketing rep. He was first elected as MP for Kootenay East in 1993. In 1997, his riding was redistricted and was renamed to Kootenay–Columbia. He would serve as MP of the riding until 2011 as a member of the Reform, Canadian Alliance, and Conservative parties. During his time in the House of Commons, he sat on the Foreign Affairs and International Development Standing Committee and the Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan. He was also appointed as parliamentary secretary to the ministers of International Cooperation and Canadian Heritage.

During his time in Ottawa he put his constituency first, feeling compelled to serve all in his community regardless of political stripe. As a long-serving MP, Abbott was looked up to as a well of experience within his party. He was particularly adept in his dealings with the bureaucracy. “Jim ... knew how to stick handle” recalls David Wilks, who succeeded James as MP for Kootenay–Columbia. His mentorship would prove invaluable to Wilks as he adjusted to his new role.

Though he retired from politics in 2011, Abbott remained committed to serving his community. Among other appointments, he served on the boards of the College of the Rockies and the Kootenay Christian Academy, where his political acumen and background in marketing would help him expand the school’s outreach. He was also a dedicated supporter of archaeological discovery in the Burgess Shale, and



*Hon. James Abbott.*

chaired the board of directors of the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation. He maintained an interest in international affairs and offered his expertise on political relations in emerging economies to various private and non-governmental organisations.

James Abbott will be remembered as a man of conviction and faith who remained humble despite his achievements. He was always eager to put his skills to work in the service of a worthy cause and found immense joy in doing so. His loss will be felt by all those who witnessed his generosity and devotion to service. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanette, their two children, and seven grandchildren.

## Edna Anderson

**Nov. 9, 1922 – July 7, 2019**

Edna Anderson passed away on July 7, 2019 in Barrie, Ont. She was 96.

Edna represented the Simcoe Centre riding in the House of Commons as a member of the Conservative Party between 1988 and 1993. She is remembered for her iron will and her proactive approach to serving her community.

You may say that politics were always in the cards for Edna, as she had family in the House of Commons. She was the granddaughter of the Hon. James Dew Chaplin, a notable politician who represented the Lincoln riding in On-



*Edna Anderson.*

tario between 1917 and 1935.

Born in St. Catharines, Ont., Edna grew up with a connection to music and a love for entertaining others. She was a concert pianist, and graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, before beginning a career as a businesswoman.

Even before her time in Parliament began, Edna was a dedicated leader in her community. She had been involved with the St. Catharines chapter of the May Court Club, Canada’s oldest community service club for women. Edna valued her experience with the May Court Club so much that, in 1970, she co-founded the club’s chapter in Barrie. The chapter has gone on to raise over \$2,500,000 for the Barrie area, and has brought plenty of volunteers and community members together.

Before launching her own political campaign, she also worked in the constituency office of Ron Stewart, who represented the Simcoe South riding between 1979 and 1988. Ron complimented her dedication and co-operation, noting that “she was a hard-working lady.”

When she launched her political campaign, Edna brought a sense of passion and dedication to her riding right away. Her daughter, Liz Peacock-Anderson, told reporters that Edna campaigned tirelessly. Edna, who was 66 at the time, knocked on countless



*Hon. David Braley.*



*Hon. Aileen Carroll.*

doors to earn the trust of her community.

“She completely wore out a pair of shoes during the campaign,” Liz joked to a reporter.

We will remember Edna fondly, and we hope that other Parliamentarians are inspired by her sense of joy and passion for their communities. She was the beloved wife of the late Derek H. Anderson and will be remembered by her children, Norman Franks, Liz Anderson-Peacock and Carrie Anderson, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

#### **Hon. David Braley**

**May 31, 1941 – Oct. 26, 2020**

The Hon. David Braley passed away at his family’s home in Burlington, Ont. on Oct. 26, 2020. He was 79. In the political sphere, David is most remembered for his time in the Senate as a representative of Ontario for the Conservative Party.

David was appointed to the Senate in 2010 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper after prior senator Wilbert Keon retired. In a press release, Mr. Harper justified David’s appointment, citing that David “[had] shown a commitment to both his community and his country through his involvement in sport and philanthropy.”

David would serve three years in the position. In 2019, he was named an officer of the Order of Canada.

David was perhaps best known for the passionate leadership he brought to the Canadian Football League. Throughout his lengthy involvement with the league, he owned three teams: the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from 1987 to 1990, the B.C. Lions from 1997 to 2020, and the Toronto Argonauts from 2010 to 2015. He also owned the Vancouver 86ers soccer club from 1997 to 2000.

David’s feverish love of these sports translated into his leadership. Having moved to Hamilton, Ont. at a young age, David spent countless hours playing football and sitting in the stands of Tiger-Cats games.

“When I think over the history of the CFL, he’s right up there at the top,” Lions president Rick LeLacheur said of David. “He’s just done so much for the league. He always believed in the league. He always looked at what was best for the league.”

Lions receiver Marco Iannuzzi credits David for taking a modest and direct approach to leading the team.

“[David] wanted to get in there and do the work himself,” Marco said. “This team meant something to him.”

Before his involvement in sports team ownership began, David was a businessman whose success largely came from Orlick Industries – he purchased the small business in 1969, and transformed it into a leading auto parts manufacturer.

David will be remembered for his passionate approach to everything he did – politics, sports, or life itself.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, stepson and stepdaughter.

#### **Hon. Aileen Carroll**

**June 1, 1944 – April 19, 2020**

(Margaret) Aileen Carroll was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 1, 1944. She attended St. Mary’s University in her hometown and was the first woman to graduate from the university.

She gained a Bachelor of Education from York University in 1989 and later moved to Barrie.

Aileen first entered politics at the municipal level as a councillor with the city of Barrie, representing downtown Barrie ward. From there, she decided to enter federal politics with the Liberal Party and in 1997 she won the election to represent a new riding of Barrie–Simcoe–Bradford.

Aileen remained in the House of Commons until 2004 taking on many different portfolios in cabinet. She served as parliamentary secretary to the minister of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2003. Under Paul Martin’s leadership, Aileen was appointed as Minister for International Cooperation, responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency. She continued to hold that portfolio until her defeat to Patrick Brown in 2006.

“Saddened to hear of the passing of former Barrie MP Hon. Aileen Carroll. She was my predecessor as MP in Barrie. We fought two fierce elections against each other. I admired and respected her as an adversary. It is a sad day for Barrie. She was a devoted public servant,” tweeted Patrick Brown, who is now the Mayor of Brampton.

From the House of Commons straight to Queen’s Park, Aileen ran for MPP in the Barrie riding in 2007. Continuing with the Liberal party, she won the seat and was appointed to cabinet as Minister of Culture and as Minister Responsible for Seniors.

In a statement Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said: “I was saddened to learn of the death of Aileen Carroll, former Cabinet Minister and Member of Par-



liament for Barrie. Ms. Carroll had the privilege to serve the people of Barrie, Ontarians, and all Canadians with dedication and compassion. On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all her colleagues who are mourning her passing.”

Mayor of Barrie, John Lehman tweeted “Barrie is mourning the passing of the Hon. Aileen Carroll. I worked with her closely for years and always admired her integrity, thoughtfulness, and Maritime sense of community. Aileen was a fiery and very funny person and an inspiration to many. We’ve lost one of our most prominent citizens.”

Premier Doug Ford also stated, “My condolences to the family and friends of the Hon. Aileen Carroll. I join the people of Barrie in honouring her for being a strong champion for the region and strong voice for Canada.”

Before entering politics, Aileen was very involved in her community and ran a local business. By 2011, she had retired from public life to focus on family and charitable initiatives, which included: Habitat for Humanity, the Busby Centre and Barrie Library to name a few.

Aileen is survived by her husband, Kevin Carroll, brother Lt.-Col. (Ret) Paul F. O’Leary, sister Mary Susan Farrell (nee O’Leary), her two children and their spouses, Kevin Robinson, and Marie-France Chartrand, and her six grandchildren.

#### Harry Chadwick

**Nov. 23, 1927 – March 23, 2020**

Harry Chadwick passed away on March 23, 2020, at the age of 92. Harry represented the Brampton–Malton riding from 1988 to 1993 as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Harry is remembered for his leadership and strength.

Before launching a political career, Harry worked in the automobile industry, with experience as a receiver and warehouse worker. Eventually, Harry became a city alderman for Brampton’s city council, spending ten years in that role before earning a seat in Parliament.

Even after his time as an elected of-



Harry Chadwick.

ficial ended, Harry continued to be a supportive community member. During a 2002 appointment to join the council of the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario, Harry said, “In my political life I was proud of my community and country as I watched and participated with my colleagues of different political stripes, all dedicated and hard-working, to achieve the best for their people.”

Harry explained that he lived, worked, and raised his family in Brampton, as he watched it grow from a relatively small town into a mini-metropolis. He became involved in the Chinguacousy Health Services Board, which played a large hand in the development of the Brampton Civic Hospital that would open years later.

Harry was also particularly proud of his role as the president of the Canadian Auto Workers Union in his area. Speaking about his role, “It taught me that there are so many social problems when you deal with people. When you find yourself in somewhat better circumstances than some, then you feel it rather incumbent to help out in some way. The experience was important for me to understand how people in a number of ways are fragile and count on you. If you can help, then so you should.”

Harry eventually retired to Wasaga Beach, but still remained keenly interested in politics.

As a symbol of appreciation for Harry’s dedication, the City of Brampton flew its flags at half-mast shortly after Harry’s passing.



Hon. Andrée Champagne.

#### Hon. Andrée Champagne

**July 17, 1939 – June 6, 2020**

The Canadian political world mourns the loss of the Hon. Andrée Champagne who passed away on June 6, 2020. She was 80 years old.

Andrée Champagne was an MP for her hometown of Saint-Hyacinthe–Bagot for nine years with the Conservative party. She served in the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. She was also a senator for Grandville, QC from 2005 to 2014, nominated by Prime Minister Paul Martin.

While she served as an MP, Andrée Champagne was minister of State for Youth from 1984 to 1986, as well as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons from 1990 to 1993. She was also the Assistant Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House from 1986 to 1990 and then became Deputy Speaker of the House.

Before turning to politics, Andrée was a well-known actress and singer in her home province of Quebec. She had a long career in radio, theatre and television, and was best known for her character Donald in the series *Les belles histoires des pays d’en haut* in the 1960s, which she portrayed for 15 years. After the series ended, she opened her own casting agency and she remained a performer. At this point she became more involved in cultural issues, serving on the board of directors of *l’Institut québécois du cinéma* and on the executive of *l’Union des artistes*. Andrée also helped create a retirement home for artists, named *Le Chez-nous des artistes*, the first residence of its kind. Located

*Bernard Cleary.**Hon. Ralph Ferguson.**Murray Dorin.*

in Montreal, the residence has nearly 80 apartments.

On the radio, Andrée hosted the opening ceremonies of Expo '67 and the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

In a tribute to the former Senator, Hon. Jim Munson said, "I had the pleasure of working with Senator Andrée Champagne in committee. It was a rewarding collaborative experience. She was always a lively and curious ray of sunshine. It was a joy to work with her." He also said that he believes Andrée "is having a little smile and chuckle at my beautiful speaking of the French language," used during his speech.

She leaves behind her partner André Sébastien Savoie, and her children, Liliane and Patrick. Patrick also threw his hat into the ring and ran in federal elections a few times but without success.

### **Bernard Cleary**

**May 8, 1937 – July 27, 2020**

Former MP Bernard Cleary passed away on July 27, 2020 at the age of 83. From June 2004 until January 2006, he served as the representative for the riding of Louis-Saint-Laurent in the Capitale Nationale region of Quebec as a member of the Bloc Québécois.

Before his entry into politics, Bernard had been involved in journalism, launching his career at *Le Soleil*, a Quebec City-based newspaper. He would later become director of information at *Télé-Capitale* and would teach journalism at the Université de Laval.

Cleary's greatest legacy will without a doubt be as the first indigenous MP from the province of Quebec, and as the first Innu in Canadian history to be elected to federal office. Cleary

was originally from the Mashteuiatsh reservation and a member of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation. During his time in Parliament, he was appointed as Bloc critic for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and was a staunch advocate for the negotiation of a new relationship between indigenous peoples and governments at all levels. He was not afraid of speaking truth to power and calling out what he saw as a persistent failure on the part of the federal government to live up to its word on indigenous issues.

Cleary will be remembered as a staunch advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples and for his efforts at raising awareness for indigenous issues. "As an educator and a member of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation, it was very important to M. Cleary to help understand the fundamentals of negotiations for the establishment of a foundation for a new relationship between indigenous peoples and governments at all levels, said Clifford Moar, Chief of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh band council. "We will remember him for his engagement as well as the ease and passion with which he communicated to increase awareness for First Nations issues."

Bernard Cleary passed peacefully surrounded by his loved ones following a lengthy struggle with Alzheimers. He is survived by his wife Lise White, their two children, two grandchildren and numerous brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

### **Murray Dorin**

**May 21, 1954 – Apr. 11, 2020**

Murray William Dorin passed away

on April 11, 2020, at his home in Edmonton at the age of 65.

Murray would serve two terms as a Member of Parliament for the Conservative party. He ran his first successful election campaign in 1984, winning in the Edmonton West riding. He would win again in the Edmonton Northwest riding in 1988. Murray was an eager politician, serving on multiple legislative committees and standing committees while elected. He served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Chair of the Subcommittee on Tax Matters of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Born in Viking, Alta., you could say that a political career was always in the cards for Murray; the nurse on duty during his birth was married to Don Mazankowski, an eventual Deputy Prime Minister. In his youth, Murray was a bright student with interests in commerce and curling. He was a chartered accountant before working for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. With encouragement from Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, Murray began his political career in the 1980s.

After he left Parliament, Murray remained a dedicated member of his party. Despite battling health issues in the early 1990s, he never turned his back on politics or the party he cared deeply about. He went on to become a mentor for many Alberta-based candidates in the 1997 federal election, including Scott Thorkelson and Jim Hawkes. He would also go on to work as a controller for various companies in Alberta. In his later years, he enjoyed travelling and gathering with friends and fellow former parliamentarians.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney offered his condolences in a statement, praising Murray for representing Edmonton in the House of Commons and for his work as on the Finance Committee "at a critical time." Murray will be remembered for his wit, independence, and hard-working spirit.

### **Hon. Ralph Ferguson**

**Sept. 13, 1929 – Aug. 30, 2020**

The Hon. Ralph Ferguson passed away on Aug. 30, at the age of 90.

Originally from Mosa Township



in southwestern Ontario, Ferguson worked on a family farm growing up. He farmed most of his life in Brooke Township and later farmed on his grandparents' home. He was the co-founder of the Lambton Pork Producers Association. In the late 1950s, he was chairman of the Lambton County Egg Producers. He was also very active on several farm associations in his native Ontario before entering politics. He was a charter member of the National Farm Products Marketing Council in Ottawa from 1972 to 1976. While in the House of Commons, he worked a lot with farmers of his region to promote clean burning ethanol and blending fuels.

He served as MP for Lambton-Middlesex for two non-consecutive terms, from 1980 to 1984, and then from 1988 to 1993. Under Prime Minister John Turner, Ferguson served as the minister of agriculture until his defeat in the 1984 federal election, as well as Deputy Government Whip from 1982 to 1984. He also served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministers of Small Business and Finance. One of the highlights of his career in government was to accompany Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on a trip to Asia for a trade mission in 1983.

Ralph Ferguson was remembered as someone who was proud of his community and dedicated to the well-being of the people he served.

"He was absolutely dedicated to doing what he could to make the lot of the farmer better," said David Hewett, a former Petrolia mayor who was president of the Lambton-Middlesex Liberal Association for several years. "I think he did some of his best work when he was in opposition."

The Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame stated, "As the Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Ralph Ferguson was in a good position to assess the ebb and flow of farm gate prices and to make some very interesting observations."

Ralph Ferguson will be missed by his wife Dolores and their four children.

#### **Michel Gauthier**

**Feb. 18, 1950 – May 30, 2020**



*Michel Gauthier.*

It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of Michel Gauthier on May 30, 2020 at the age of 70.

Michel was born in Quebec City. He is best known for having led the Bloc Québécois for 13 months between 1996 and 1997, between two stints by long-time leader Gilles Duceppe, at which time he was the leader of the Official Opposition of Canada.

Duceppe remembered Michel in *The Canadian Press*: "He was a go-getter, it's sad to lose him so soon. I had great moments by his side. Beyond the differences we could have, we wanted, both of us, that Quebec move forward."

He served as a member of Parliament for Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean from 1994 to 2007 and was the Bloc Québécois House Leader from 1997 to 2007. He eventually left the Bloc and became a member of the Conservative Party of Canada in 2018.

Michel was also part of the provincial Parti Québécois from 1981 to 1988. He represented the riding of Roberval and was parliamentary secretary to the finance minister from 1983 to 1985. He resigned to become the director-general of the Roberval school board.

"On behalf of myself and Bloc Québécois MPs, I extend my sincere condolences to the many friends and relatives of Michel Gauthier. I wish them the courage that he has shown in his fight against the disease [lung cancer]," stated Current Bloc Quebecois Leader Yves-Francois Blanchet on Twitter in French.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated, "For decades, Michel Gauthier was



*Hon. George Henderson.*

a passionate advocate and fierce champion for the people of Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean and Quebec. My thoughts are with his family, friends, and former colleagues as they mourn his passing."

He leaves behind his wife Anne Allard, and children Alexandre and Isabelle.

#### **Hon. George Henderson**

**Nov. 10, 1935 – May 5, 2020**

The Hon. George Henderson died peacefully at his home in Freeland, Prince Edward Island, on May 5, 2020. He was 85.

George Henderson began his political career as a school board trustee. He then entered provincial politics in PEI, representing the riding of 2nd Prince in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island from 1974 to 1980 as a Liberal. He served in the province's Executive Council from 1974 to 1978 as Minister of Fisheries and Minister of Labour and from 1978 to 1980 as Minister of Highways and Minister of Public Works.

George Henderson left provincial politics in Charlottetown to enter the federal scene in Ottawa. He served as MP in the Canadian Parliament for Egmont from 1980 to 1988. During his time, he occupied the role of parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and afterwards, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Defence. After 1988 election, he did not return to federal politics.

George Henderson attended Prince of Wales College as a youth and after graduation worked as an Electrician



*Laverne Lewcky.*



*Rt. Hon. Donald Mazankowski.*

and then a Shellfish Technician, and the president of Malpeque Oyster Cultures Inc., “becoming a pioneer in the shellfish industry by developing ‘Malpeque Oyster Cultures,’ an innovative oyster production facility in Freeland,” stated his obituary.

After politics, he worked as DVA pension commissioner and ACOA board advisor and ran a small tourism cottage operation with his wife, Brenda.

He was a “passionate Islander with a deep love for his family and community,” said Premier Dennis King in a statement. “He will long be remembered for his contributions to our province, and his resolve for public service lives on through his children, including his son Robert who currently serves as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.”

He is survived by his wife Brenda and their children, Robert and Holly. Robert Henderson is a current MLA in PEI for O’Leary-Inverness, and is serving as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **Laverne Lewcky**

**Feb. 12, 1946 – Aug. 3, 2020**

It is with sorrow that we learned of the passing of Laverne Lewcky on Aug. 3rd, 2020 at the age of 74. He leaves behind his wife Lois, after 37 years of marriage.

Originally from Dauphin, Man., Laverne served as an MP for his home riding of Dauphin from 1980 to 1984 on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Canada. He served on the Special Parliamentary Committee on

the Participation of Visible Minorities in Canadian Society, which authored Equality Now! He also served as a consultant for the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism that produced Multiculturalism: Building the Canadian Mosaic.

He was very much involved in his community during the course of his political career.

Laverne graduated from Dauphin Collegiate & Technical Institute (DCTI) and then received a BA and MA degrees from the University of Manitoba. He also had done doctoral studies at McGill University, Carleton University, and Providence Seminary.

He was also a well-known university and college professor, having taught across different provinces in Canada. He focused his teaching in the communications field, and held various positions as a communication consultant. He also served as a distinguished toastmaster (DTM) in Manitoba and helped many across the country achieve public speaking success. He was a Dale Carnegie Leadership Course Instructor, and Supervisor of Manitobans with Disabilities.

Outside of politics and education, Laverne was an ordained minister. He provided leadership in Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick churches and was involved in the mid-week Parliamentary Prayer Breakfasts on Parliament Hill.

He will be remembered by his loving wife of 37 years, Lois, as well as his brothers, sisters and their respective families: Dave (Rose), Orest (Delores) and Aaron; sisters: Virginia (Larry) de

Vries and Bernice (Barry) Boyechko.

#### **Rt. Hon. Donald Mazankowski** **July 27, 1935 – Oct. 27, 2020**

Born in Viking, Alberta in 1935, the Rt. Hon. Donald “Don” Mazankowski dedicated 25 years to federal politics, serving as MP of Vegreville, Alta. He successfully contested a total of seven general elections.

Don served as Minister of Transport under the Clark government and continued that file when the Conservatives returned to power in 1984 under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. In 1986, he was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Government House Leader, which he served until his retirement in 1993. In 1991, he became Finance Minister. He was an advocate for the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

“While Canadians knew him as Canada’s 4th Deputy Prime Minister, and a long-time federal cabinet minister, to his friends and colleagues he was known as simply ‘Maz,’” read a statement from Mazankowski’s family. “However, first and foremost he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, a legacy that he shared with his partner in life, his wife Lorraine.”

Don helped develop the Farm Income Protection Act and the Western Diversification Program. After his retirement, he served as chair of Alberta Premier’s Advisory Council on Health in 2001 to review ways of reforming the province’s health care system. After putting forward recommendations in 2002, the Alberta government accepted all of them. He also served on the board of the University of Alberta, and saw the Donald Mazankowski Heart Institute at the university become established.

“Don Mazankowski was a truly great Albertan who loved and served his community and country without reserve. At the heart of his public service was a belief that Western Canada needed strong voices to defend its economic and political interests in the Canadian federation. Maz was such a voice for decades. For that and for all that he did, Albertans are deeply grate-



ful. In the words of Scripture, it can be said of Don “well done good and faithful servant,” said Premier of Alberta, Jason Kenney in a statement.

Don will be remembered by his loving family: his wife Lorraine, sons Greg (Cheryl), Roger (Sheryi), Don Jr. (Lisa); his brother Emil; his grandchildren Matthew (Haylee), Dillon, Megan, Morgan, Mackenzie, Frank and Leo; and his great-grandchildren Asher and Lily.

### John Patrick Nowlan

**Nov. 10, 1931 – April 25, 2020**

John Patrick “Pat” Nowlan, former Progressive Conservative MP, passed away at the age of 88 on April 25, 2020. Nowlan had represented the Nova Scotia ridings of Digby-Annapolis-Kings, Annapolis Valley, and Annapolis Valley-Hants between Nov. 1965 and Oct. 1993, just shy of 28 years.

Originally born in Wolfville, N.S., Nowlan attended Acadia University before studying Law at Dalhousie University. In 1957, he packed up with his wife and baby daughter to move to Vancouver, where he would practice law at Guild Yule.

Politics was something of a family affair for Nowlan, whose father, George Clyde Nowlan, had served as Minister of Finance under Prime Minister Diefenbaker. Pat would follow in his father’s footsteps, moving back to Nova Scotia and running in his father’s former district. He would be elected for eight consecutive terms.

During his time in Parliament, Nowlan sat on several committees and chaired the 33rd Parliament’s Standing Committee on Transport. To serve the public was Nowlan’s true calling, and he took great pride in making sure his constituents’ voices were heard. He would eventually fall out with the Conservative caucus over the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax and serve out the rest of his final term as an independent.

After retiring from politics, Nowlan shared his time between Nova Scotia, his wife’s native California, and his cabin on Pasley Island, B.C. “He was larger than life in every possible way,”



*John Patrick Nowlan.*



*Marke Raines.*



*Hon. Brenda Robertson.*

says Clara Jefferson, Nowlan’s sister. “In stature, in brilliance, but most of all, in caring for each and every constituent regardless of their political affiliation, their education, or their status.” He will be sorely missed by those closest to him, and his former constituents who he served faithfully throughout his time in Parliament.

Pat will be missed by his loving wife of 64 years, Cynthia, and their children, Nancy, Linda (Jim), John (Nuket), and James; his six grandchildren; his sister, Clara and brother, Mike; his extended family; and many friends.

### Marke Raines

**Jan. 18, 1927 – Apr. 10, 2020**

Marke Raines passed away on April 10, 2020 at his home in Toronto. He was 93. Born in Calgary, Marke would have an impressive career in broadcast journalism before going on to serve as a Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party. He represented the Burnaby-Seymour riding in Vancouver between 1974 and 1979. While serving as an MP, Marke was a member of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts and was a parliamentary delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

Before embarking on a political career, Marke served with the 52 City of Calgary Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets during World War II. Most notably, he was an ambitious radio broadcaster and television reporter. In his youth, Marke once said, he trained himself to develop a voice that would translate smoothly on the air, believing a lisp and nasally tone would hinder his success.

He would go on to create an impressive catalogue of work, which ranged from comedic to politically-minded. As a journalist, he was bold – he drove his news cruiser over the Port Mann Bridge two years before the bridge was opened to the public. He even had the opportunity to interview Elvis Presley at the rock-and-roll legend’s Vancouver concert in 1957. Across his broadcasting career, he would host a handful of popular programs on the airwaves. These included “Just For Fun,” a weekend comedy show hosted alongside Warren Barker, “Pipeline,” an open-line public affairs show, and “Night Beat,” a daily news program.

After moving to Vancouver in 1951, he met his future wife Eunice Raines (née Hoffman), who also worked at a radio station. They would remain married until her passing in 2019.

Two years after leaving his position as an MP, Marke was appointed a member of the CRTC for a five-year term.

Marke will be remembered for his ambition, sense of humour, and dedication to fairness.

### The Hon. Brenda Robertson

**May 23, 1929 – Sept. 23, 2020**

The Hon. Brenda Robertson passed away at home in Riverview, N.B., on Sept. 23, 2020. She served as MLA for the districts of Albert and Riverview from 1967 to 1984 as a member of the Progressive Conservative party before her nomination to the Senate by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. She served in the Senate for nearly 20 years before retiring in May 2004.

During her time in the Legislative



*Romuald Rodrigue.*



*Stanley Schumacher.*

Assembly of New Brunswick, Brenda served variously as the Minister of Youth, of Social Services, of Health, and for Social Reform. Without a doubt, her greatest political legacy is the Extra-Mural program, a home healthcare service that received wide bi-partisan support at the time and remains a critical part of the New Brunswick health infrastructure to this day.

Brenda would blaze a trail for all women aspiring to a career in politics and public service in her province. She was the first woman to be elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, and subsequently its first woman minister. Emblematic of the difficulties faced by women entering politics at that time was the lack of a women's bathroom in the members' lounge.

In the Senate, she chaired the Standing Committee on Privileges, Standing Rules and Orders, as well as the Fisheries Committee. She also served as vice-chair of the Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, and Social Affairs, Science and Technology committees. In that latter capacity, she participated in the Kirby Committee which published a series of reports, titled "The Health of Canadians—The Federal Role."

In recognition of her status as a "pioneer for women in politics," her "tremendous work ethic," and her "commitment to serve New Brunswickers and her country," Brenda was made a member of the Order of New Brunswick in 2004 and of the Order of Canada in 2008. She will be remembered by colleagues and those closest to her as an incredible role model who

was always willing to offer her experience and expertise in the service of others, and who never asked for anything but to be given a fair chance and be treated as an equal among her peers.

Premier of New Brunswick, Blaine Higgs said in a statement, "As the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick and the first woman to become a cabinet minister in the province, Brenda broke down barriers and served as a role model for generations of women. She was a dedicated and respected leader, not just in our province, but across Canada, serving 20 years in the Senate."

Brenda is predeceased by her husband Wilmont "Willie" Robertson. She is missed by her children Douglas (Katherine), Leslie (Ken Wood), and Tracy (Ross) as well as grandchildren.

### **Romuald Rodrigue**

**June 5, 1929 to April 19, 2020**

Romuald Rodrigue passed away just shy of his 91st birthday on April 19, 2020 in his hometown of Saint-Georges, Quebec.

Romuald represented the Social Credit Party and served in the House of Commons for one term from 1968 to 1972. He represented Saint-Georges de Beauce. The Social Credit party was initially known as Ralliement créditiste until 1971.

Outside of Parliament, Romuald was an accountant, administrator and manager throughout his career.

He is predeceased by his wife, Huguette Gilbert. He is survived by his daughter, Annie Rodrigue (Érick Bilo-deau); his granddaughters Marianne and Virginie Bilodeau and his girl-

friend, Lisa Gilbert and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

### **Stanley Schumacher**

**June 12, 1933 – Oct. 10, 2020**

Stanley Schumacher passed away on Oct. 10, 2020 at the age of 87, at his home in Calgary, from complications of dementia.

Born in Hanna, Alta., Stanley entered the Canadian Officers' Training Corps in 1954 while attending university and served as a commissioned second lieutenant in the Royal Armoured Corps until 1958. His military service ended in 1962. He was one of only four selected across Canada to go to Germany, serving with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, as part of the British Army of the Rhine.

Stanley graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Commerce (1958) and a Bachelor of Law (1959). He practiced law before entering politics.

After graduation, he returned to Drumheller, Alta. where he first pursued politics. The majority of his career was spent working in federal politics as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. He most notably served as an MP in the Canadian Parliament representing Pallister, from 1968 to 1979, until the abolition of the riding. During that time, he chaired the Alberta Progressive Conservative caucus and was the Secretary of the National Caucus for one year.

He wound up running as an Independent MP in the 1979 election following the redistribution of seats which led Pallister to merge into Bow River. He lost in Bow River that year, to Conservative candidate Gordon Taylor.

Stanley spent the latter part of his career in provincial politics, in Alberta. He was an MLA in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Drumheller, from 1986 to 1997. He served as Deputy Speaker for four years and in 1993, he was elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the province, which he served for four years.

At the end of his political career, he founded a law firm in Alberta and served on the Alberta Surface Rights



and Land Compensation boards and became the Chairman in 2001. He was also a long-standing member of the Masonic Lodge in Camrose and Drumheller and he joined the Shriners in 1966.

In Nov. 2012, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition for his public service contributions and dedication to Albertans and Canadians for over 45 years.

In a statement posted on social media, Premier of Alberta Jason Kenney said, “Stan was an Albertan through and through. His father was an Alberta Wheat Pool agent, and throughout his life Stan lived in rural communities like Hanna, Camrose, and Drumheller. Much of his life was dedicated to being a voice for rural Albertans and their values, both in Parliament and Alberta’s Legislature.”

Stanley is survived by his wife of 52 years, Virginia, his children David and Sandra and four grandchildren.

**Hon. Raymond G. Squires**  
**Feb. 6, 1926 – Oct. 8, 2019**

The Hon. Raymond G. Squires passed away on Oct. 8, 2019. Raymond was born in St. Anthony, Nfld. where he served as a councillor and mayor for many years. He also owned a gas and automobile service station, as well as a motel in the area. During his time on council, he led the town’s infrastructure development, resulting in improvements in water, sanitation services and paved roads.

He was very dedicated to his community and supported his church, minor hockey and the fire department for many years.

In 1997, he was awarded the Order of Canada for “lifelong commitment to the social welfare of his fellow citizens through his contributions as a businessman, philanthropist and municipal politician.”

In 2000, he was summoned to the Senate to represent Newfoundland and Labrador by Adrienne Clarkson as advised by Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien. He served until his 75th birthday on Feb. 6, 2001.

He is remembered by his children: Rev’d Eric Squires (Judy), Rexton



*Hon. Raymond Squires.*

Squires (Daisy), Sharon McGee (Bill), Kevin Squires (Joyce), Raymond Squires Jr. (Debbie), Vicky Lewis (David), and Daughter-in-law, Ruth; his 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Raymond was predeceased by his two loving wives: Emma Caroline Johnson (1994) and Linda Grace Pardy (2019), as well as his beloved son Maitland Squires (2014).

**Suzanne Tremblay**  
**Jan. 24, 1937 – Sept. 26, 2020**

Former MP for the Bloc Québécois Suzanne Tremblay passed away on Sept. 26, 2020 from cancer, at the age of 83.

Suzanne Tremblay has represented the riding of Rimouski-Neigette-et-la Mitis from 1993 to 2004 (named Remouski-Mitis from 1997 to 2000, and named Remouski-Témiscouata from 1993 to 1997) mostly under leaders Lucien Bouchard and Gilles Duceppe.

She also served as the Opposition House Leader while the Bloc Québécois was the Official Opposition of Canada, for several months in 1997. She was the first woman to hold that title.

Aside from politics, the former MP worked in education and was a professor at l’Université du Québec à Rimouski where she was honoured with a gold medal for her commitment to rural communities and contribution to regional development.

She has been a highly controversial political figure in Quebec after making remarks on different topics. However, she will be remembered by many for having fought for the rights



*Suzanne Tremblay.*

to regions of Quebec to have access to more resources, most notably for the Bas-Saint-Laurent region in the eastern part of the province.

Bloc leader Yves-Francois Blanchet said he would like to pay tribute to a fighter and a woman devoted to her convictions.

Current Bloc MP for Suzanne Tremblay’s riding, Maxime Blanchette-Jones said that it is not only the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent that is saddened by the news, but all of Quebec. He said she will be remembered for being outspoken, her fighting spirit, and among many other things, her great contribution to cultural issues.

After her time in Parliament, Suzanne was a municipal councillor in St. Faven and shared the Bas-Saint-Laurent-Rural Emergency Coalition for many years.

**Rt. Hon. John Turner**  
**June 7, 1929 – Sept. 19, 2020**

It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of our former prime minister, the Rt. Hon. John Turner, at the age of 91, on Sept. 19, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Geills Kilgour.

Born in England in 1929, John Turner moved to Canada with his family in 1932. Upon his arrival, he resided in Ottawa and in 1945 settled in Vancouver. He studied at the University of British Columbia and Magdalen College at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

A lawyer by profession, John Turner entered politics for the first time in 1962, and was elected MP for the St. Lawrence-St. George riding in Montreal, a position he held for six



Rt. Hon. John Turner.



Georges Villeneuve.

years in the cabinet of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. He then served as MP for Ottawa–Carleton, from 1968 to 1976, under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, during which he also held several ministries.

John Turner was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada by Pierre Trudeau in 1968, until 1972. He was also Solicitor General of Canada in 1968, and served as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs from 1967 to 1968. He became Minister of Finance from 1972 to 1975. His political career was, however, interrupted by a return in law in 1975, with the McMillan Binch firm. He only re-entered politics in 1984, when Pierre Trudeau announced he would resign as prime minister.

John Turner entered the Liberal Party leadership race in 1984 to replace Trudeau, and defeated Jean Chrétien to become the 17th Prime Minister of Canada. He entered an electoral campaign on July 9, 1984 before being defeated on Sept. 4 by the Conservative Party led by Brian Mulroney. After being defeated, Turner held on to his leadership of the Liberal Party and of the Official Opposition of Canada through another electoral defeat to Mulroney in 1988, and ultimately stepped down in 1990. From 1984 to 1993, he was also MP for Vancouver Quadra.

The former Prime Minister was awarded numerous awards including an appointment to the Order of Canada in 1995 and received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee for Canada in 2012.

David Kilgour, author and human rights activist who served as MP in

the Canadian Parliament from 1979 to 2006 in South-East Edmonton, was the brother-in-law of John Turner. In the *Toronto Sun*, he paid tribute to Turner, remembering his well-known affection for young people.

“Many memories surface from the almost 60 years we knew each other, including our first late supper meeting in Montreal in mid-1962. He was then in the midst of his first race for Parliament in the city – aided in data management by my sister, Jill – yet was the soul of courtesy on learning that the visitor from Prairie Canada was an active Progressive Conservative. Fortunately, the romance continued; they married the following year.”

“(After his political career was over), he actively continued his dedication to democracy and the engagement of citizens in their institutions,” David Kilgour continued. “... In short, as a gentleman statesman, he was without equal.”

Mr. Kilgour also recalls a good quote from John Turner, which he said at his 90th birthday party last year: “We don’t inherit this country; we borrow it from our children ... (with young people) as the stewards of Canada’s future, she is in good hands!”

In a statement Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said John Turner was “a gifted politician, lawyer, and athlete, Mr. Turner became Canada’s 17th Prime Minister after having served in numerous other capacities, including as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Minister of Finance, and also served as the Leader of the Opposition. He

was deeply committed to the law and democratic process, bringing about much needed reforms to the Criminal Code. Mr. Turner was a humble man with a strong social conscience.”

He will be deeply missed by the entire Canadian political world.

### Georges Villeneuve

Feb. 20, 1922 – Feb. 17, 2020

Georges Villeneuve, former MP for Roberval, passed away on Feb. 17, 2020, just days shy of his 98th birthday. He represented the riding as a member of the Liberal party from 1953 to 1958 under the government of Louis St. Laurent.

Prior to his entry into politics, Villeneuve studied law at Université Laval and became a prominent notary in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean area. Following his exit from federal politics, “le notaire Villeneuve,” as he came to be known, would prove to be a driving force for the development of his community over the coming decades.

Throughout his life, Villeneuve would involve himself in a variety of local community institutions, such as the Mistassini chamber of commerce, which he participated in founding, or the *Centre hospitalier de Dolbeau*, over which he presided. From 1961 to 1969, he was elected as mayor of the town of Mistassini. As mayor, he put forward several initiatives to revitalise and reinvigorate his constituency. Most notable among these is the famous “Festival du bleuets,” which he co-founded in 1961 in an attempt to put Mistassini on the map. Nearly 80 years later, the festival remains a staple of the region’s cultural scene and is acknowledged as the oldest festival in Quebec. Through all this, he continued to maintain his notarial practice until his retirement in 1985.

Villeneuve undoubtedly left his stamp on his community. As MP, Mayor, and local prominent, his leadership and support for local initiatives played a great role in shaping his community. He will be remembered as a proud native of the Lac Saint-Jean region who tirelessly worked for the betterment of his community.

Political Passages continued on page 47.



*Geoff Scott.*

# The incident of the jammed saw

By Geoff Scott

## Wherein Rich Little and Geoff get the formidable Mayor Charlotte Whitton out of a jam!

Anybody who lived or worked in the City of Ottawa in the 1950s and early '60s would not believe this story. One of the unbelievable participants herself noted that staff at Ottawa City Hall, or on Parliament Hill, could not possibly think it was true.

But we swear it happened, one sunny Sunday morning 68 years ago, and the memory is as vivid as if it occurred last weekend.

As previously mentioned in this space, my lifelong friend is comedian impressionist Rich Little. We were inseparable teenagers at my parent's cottage on McGregor Lake in Quebec's Gatineau Hills. One of our Sunday morning duties was to take the 7 1/2 hp boat down to the end of the lake, a scenic three-mile ride, to pick up supplies. Of the lake's more prominent cottagers (CBC President Charles Jennings and his broadcaster son Peter; future Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson) none was more notable than then Mayor of Ottawa, the indomitable Charlotte Whitton. She usually gave Rich and me a cheery wave from her dock as we putted by.

Not this Sunday morning back in 1953. Her Worship's greeting was anything but cheery; she was out at the end of the dock in her gray jumpsuit, both arms frantically waving us in and yelling to us over the outboard's noise. After quizzical exchanges, we cut the engine and Rich called out, "Charlotte! What's wrong?" (We didn't stand on ceremony up at the lake.) The obviously distressed Mayor of Ottawa cried out: "Geoff! Rich!

Thank God you boys came along. I'm horribly embarrassed to show you the stupid thing I've done, but I desperately need your help!" (Un-Whitton-like Statement # 1.) She led us up the path to her familiar, bungalow-style, circa 100-year-old log cabin cottage, before which stood a giant, decaying pine tree. Wedged about three feet into the trunk was a cross-cut saw. The Mayor continued: "I was starting to cut the tree down without thinking which way she would fall." (Un-Whitton-like Statement #2). It was obvious that the slightest rogue breeze would topple the tree (a) northward to do serious damage to the cottage; (b) lakeside to wipe out her wharves; or (c) to the right, thereby demolishing her boathouse.

Rich, a senior in the Boy Scout movement, didn't waste time. In what was the most improbable order a 15-year-old teenager ever gave the Mayor of Ottawa, Rich shouted, "Charlotte! Quick! Run down to the boathouse and get me a rope!"

Whereupon the scene we'll never forget was that of this buntzy-looking motion in grey, charging down the well-manicured path to the boathouse, emerging a couple of minutes later with a coil of rope, almost obscuring her, and asking Rich, breathlessly, "Will this do?" Rich grabbed the rope and fashioned a crude lasso. He went to the left side of the tree, where it would fall up the rocky hill. He then looped the rope to snag one of the lower branches.

"Now, Charlotte, you come up here on the rock and hold the rope tight." She did.

Meantime, Rich and I went to the pine tree's base, and Rich called out, "Now, Charlotte, when I yell pull! you yank on the rope while we push." The tree creaked ominously as we pushed, the crosscut saw popped out, and Rich yelled, "OK, pull!!!"

We both jumped back as the tree groaned, then toppled up the rocky hill, missing the porch overhang by no more than two feet. Somewhere up the hill to the left, Her Worship could be seen diving into some bushes to avoid the top of the pine crashing down.

"I can't thank you boys enough for saving my cottage," said a relieved Charlotte Whitton. But then the renowned feminist and first female mayor in Canada's history, made a request: "I feel so embarrassed about my tree-felling attempt, boys, that I would prefer if you keep this between ourselves for a while. They'll never believe it down at City Hall."

Charlotte Whitton was Mayor of Ottawa from 1951 to 1956. She was re-elected for another seismic shift in Ottawa's political landscape from 1960 to 1964. She died in Ottawa in 1975.

Oh, and yes, we honored Her Worship's request to keep the "jammed saw incident" quiet for some time – until I heard a hilarious, almost unrecognizable version of the story back from one of Charlotte's closest Progressive Conservative friends, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

Geoff Scott served as a Progressive Conservative MP for the riding of Hamilton–Wentworth, Ontario from 1978-1993.

Political Passages continued from page 45.

# Passing the torch: Remembering Ian Waddell

President of the CAFP Educational Foundation dies in office

By Svend Robinson

**Ian Waddell**

**Nov. 21, 1942 - March 15, 2021**

**T**he death of Ian Waddell, peacefully at home in Vancouver on March 15, 2021 came as a terrible shock. Somehow Ian seemed immortal, larger than life itself, unthinkable that his boundless energy would ever be dimmed, his cheerful, kindly, irreverent voice ever silenced. Ian was a bright, sparkling beacon of light in a world too often pandemic dark. Predeceased by his father Jack and beloved soulmate and mother Isabel, survived by brother Alistair, cousin Beverly Whyfon, special friend Sharon Olsen and her family, and friends around the world, Ian's journey both personally and politically was truly remarkable, and touched the lives of so many. Those who were fortunate enough to have shared his love know what a rare, precious gift that was.

Ian was born in Glasgow on Nov. 21, 1942, and emigrated to Canada as a young boy, his family moving to Toronto where he attended school and university, graduating from law school, and then LSE. His first political foray was in Toronto as a Liberal, driving Lester Pearson to campaign events. Ian then moved out to British Columbia to head up the

VCLAS community law office established by Mike Harcourt in the Downtown East Side. From there he went on to serve as Special Counsel to Judge Tom Berger, head of the historic Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry. That experience was to have a profound impact on Ian and shaped his determination to fight for indigenous rights and title. That fight led him to play a key role in the adoption of the landmark section 35 of the 1981 Constitution recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights, Ian's proudest accomplishment. Ian was elected to Parliament in 1979, in the caucus led by Ed Broadbent and including lifelong friends Jim Fulton, Svend Robinson, Bob Rae, Bill Blaikie and others. He served as the NDP MP for Vancouver Kingsway and then Port Moody Coquitlam for 14 years. In 1989, Ian ran for the federal NDP leadership. In 1996, Ian was elected as the MLA for Vancouver Fraserview, and after chairing the committee reviewing the landmark Nisga'a Treaty, he was appointed by Premier Glen Clark as Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture. Ian loved this job, having been a lifelong supporter of the arts and theatre, including long service on the Arts Club of Vancouver Board. He played a key role in Vancouver's winning bid for

the 2010 Olympics and in establishing BC as a home for a thriving film industry. Ian was later appointed by Premier Ujjal Dosanjh as Environment Minister.

Following his service in elected office in 2001, Ian went back to his first love, the law, and was appointed Queens Counsel in 2013, the highest honour for a member of the B.C. legal profession. He wrote a memoir, *Take the Torch*, to share his story and inspire young people to get involved in politics, and made an award-winning film with the same goal. He was a leader in the associations of former federal and provincial elected representatives, and is deeply missed by colleagues from all parties, having always engaged in politics in a spirit of non-partisan love for his province and his country. Premier John Horgan, who along with now Health Minister Adrian Dix, met Ian as a young staffer on Parliament Hill in the early 1980s, in an eloquent eulogy in the BC Legislature, described Ian as "relentlessly optimistic, never negative." Ian was very proud of his Scottish heritage, and loved Robert Burns, especially his poem *For a Thatch and a That*: "The rank is but the guinea's stamp: The man's the gowd for a' that". RIP dear friend.

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*Mark your calendars!*

The **2021 CAFP Memorial Service & AGM** will take place on Zoom, **Tuesday, September 14, 2021.**

Join virtually with colleagues as we pay tribute to the parliamentary service of those who have passed and make plans for our future during the business meeting.

Despite these difficult times, let's stay connected! We sincerely hope that you will join us as it will be nice to see familiar faces, share stories, ideas, and some good laughs.

Find us at [exparl.ca](http://exparl.ca) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter @exparl

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