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WINTER 2015

# Beyond the Hill

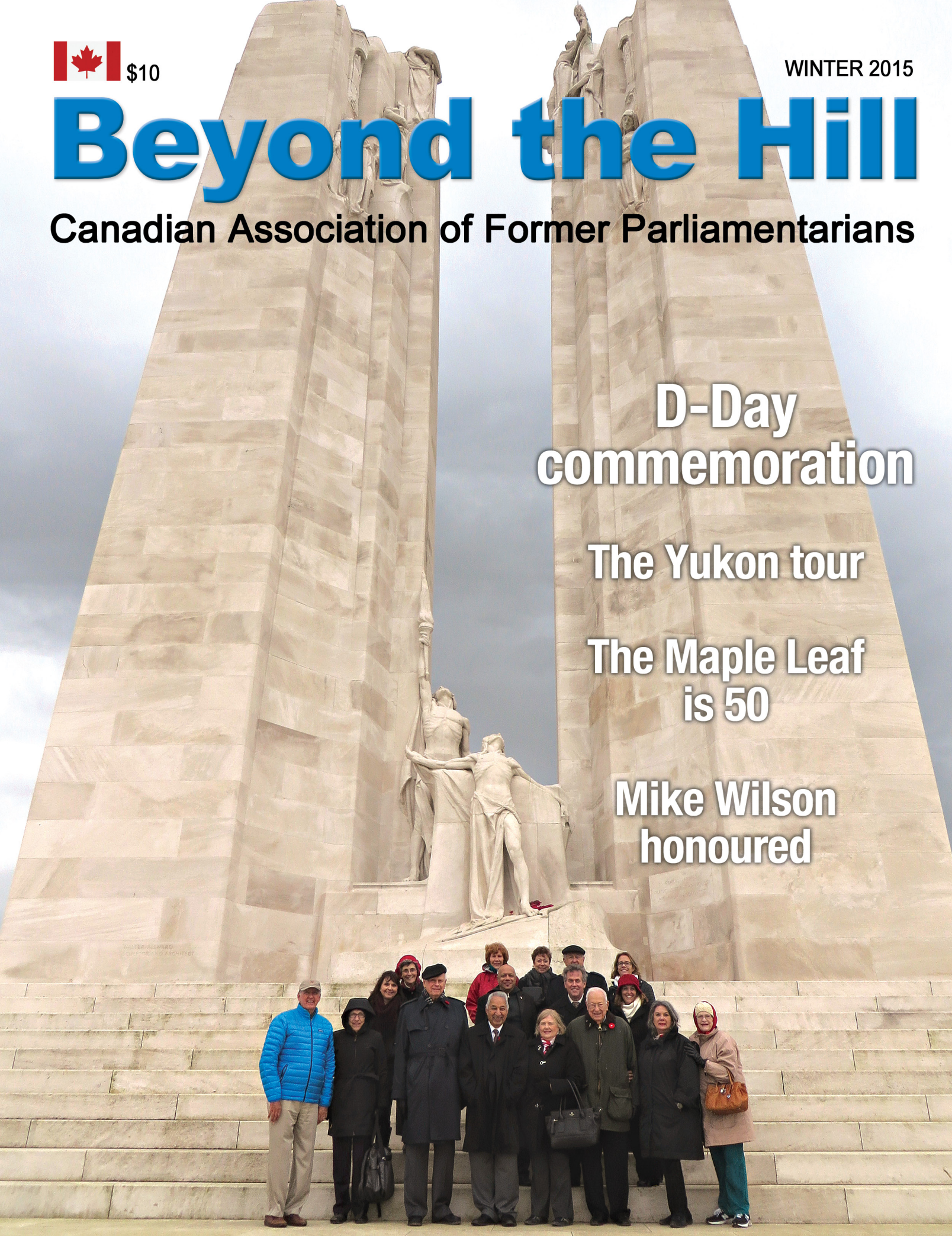
Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

D-Day  
commemoration

The Yukon tour

The Maple Leaf  
is 50

Mike Wilson  
honoured





# Study Tour in France

Photos by Céline Brazeau Fraser



*Marcia Frey, Kathy Gunter, Sydna Zeliff, Charlette Duguay, Glen McKinnon and Karen McKinnon at reception in Paris.*



*View of Canadian cemetery in Bénny-sur-Mer.*



*Glenda Miller, James Farnham and Hon. Raymond Setlakwe visit Mont St-Michel.*



*Léo Duguay and Charlette Duguay at American Cemetery.*



*Jack Silverstone and Glenda Miller at reception in Paris.*



*Royal Winnipeg Rifles Monument in Courseulles-sur-Mer.*



*CAFP Wreath laying ceremony in Bénny-sur-Mer.*



*Former MP, Francis LeBlanc and wife, Marlene Shepherd, embrace under the famous "Unconditional Surrender" statue in Caen.*

# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Volume 11, Issue No. 1

Winter 2015

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## ERRATA

1. In our previous issue, p. 24-25, we incorrectly stated that Mr. Greg Peters is Usher of the Black Rod "of the House of Commons". As we all know, he is, in fact Black Rod for the Senate of Canada, playing a vital role in the ceremonial events of the Parliament of Canada. Given this, the caption on p. 24 should read, "Greg Peters stands in his official uniform for his role as the Usher of the Black Rod in the Senate of Canada." On p. 25, the caption should read, "Although highly symbolic,

the Usher of the Black Rod plays a vital role in the ceremonial events of the Parliament of Canada." Furthermore, the photo on p. 25 should have been attributed to Deb Ransom, Office of the Prime Minister. *Beyond the Hill* apologizes for these errors.

2. In our previous issue, on p. 7, the subheading should have read, "The Douglas C. Frith Annual Dinner has raised over one million dollars in its 10 years." *Beyond the Hill* apologizes for this error.





Cover photo: Céline Brazeau Fraser captured the group, that went to France, in front of the Vimy Ridge monument.

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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 CAFP 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](mailto:exparl@parl.gc.ca). Website: [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca).

## New BTH interns



### Scott Hitchcox

Born and raised in the United States, Scott Hitchcox brings a fresh perspective on Canadian politics to the magazine, delusions of grandeur, and a vague conception of what a kilometre is. In his third year at University of Ottawa, Scott is completing a double major in criminology and political science and is a proud member of the school's track and cross-country teams. Though he hasn't quite found his skating legs, Scott loves the capital city, and is excited to continue exploring all aspects of Ottawa; from Rideau to Sussex. Despite his insistence on neglecting the "u" in words like "colour" and "favourite", and a refusal to measure the cold Ottawa winters in temperatures other than Fahrenheit, Scott hopes to be a worthy addition to the staff here at *Beyond the Hill*.

### Adella Khan

Born in Palmerston, Ontario, Adella Khan was raised between rural Ontario and the side of a hill in Trinidad. She is in her final year of study at Carleton University in journalism and women and gender studies. Although she has called Ottawa her home for the last five years, Khan says she feels lucky to have experienced different customs and countries.

Being immersed in different cultures has given her a voracity for telling people's stories and connecting them to the politics that affects their daily lives.

"Politics is so interesting because even when citizens are disengaged, the work MPs do is so impactful," she says. "Working with *Beyond the Hill* means I get to pursue political reporting and meet people who really affected the lives of Canadians." While her passion lies in journalism, Khan says she would be happy to have any kind of positive impact on the world. She adds that she is excited to hear about the passions of our readers and welcomes story suggestions.

## Hill Times offer

### Dear Former Parliamentarians;

With your experience you have a unique perspective to bring to the dialogue on Canadian federal politics.

We are offering a special exclusive discount on the print and digital editions of *The Hill Times* to members of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

With this offer you can receive the print newspaper at home, have the digital edition sent to your email address and have full access to the online news, opinion and photos. For research you will also have access to the online archives and the digital versions of the print editions from the last two decades.

Back To Parliament Exclusive Fall Offer \$125 for print and digital and \$99 for digital online. Email [circulation@hilltimes.com](mailto:circulation@hilltimes.com) or phone us: 613-688-8832. Be sure to mention the special offer for the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

Yours truly,  
*The Hill Times*.

### Harrison Lowman named Assistant Editor

We have had many wonderful senior interns at *Beyond the Hill* in the past, but Harrison Lowman has gone above and beyond in his service to the magazine. In view of this, we are thrilled to name him Assistant Editor in recognition of the time and care he devotes to *Beyond the Hill*. Thank you, Harrison, for a job well done.

### Manitoba MLAs honour Dorothy Dobbie

On Nov. 6, Dorothy was selected for the Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Former Manitoba MLAs. The award recognizes exceptional career contributions and achievements by former MLAs and MPs, and in particular demonstration of remarkable community service since leaving political office. It was the second such award given by the association.

In making the award, Association President Avis Gray announced: "Dorothy your gift is to see an injustice, an inadequacy or an opportunity for change, to make a better community, a better nation, a better world."





*The Hon. Andy Mitchell.*

# How the President Sees It

In my first message as president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, I want to use the occasion to express how honoured I am to have been given the opportunity to serve the members of our distinguished association. Each of you have contributed to our country in a special way and it is my sincere desire that the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians provides an opportunity for you to continue contributing to public life in our country.

## **Thanking predecessors**

I am fortunate in my role to have taken the reins after the excellent leadership provided over the past five years by our outgoing president, Léo Duguay. Léo worked tirelessly on our behalf. His efforts have resulted in a range of new programming that has raised the profile of the association both at home and abroad. He also provided services for members, and ensured the financial sustainability of the organization. It is my intention to build upon the great work Léo and his team have provided over the last five years.

I am pleased that I will be assisted in my role by Hon. Gerry Weiner, who has taken on the role of president of the Educational Foundation. Gerry's boundless energy and wealth of ideas will serve the foundation well as he builds on the success achieved by past president Francis Leblanc.

## **Without a hitch**

The association staged two very successful events last spring. Our Lifetime Achievement Award dinner in Toronto honouring our colleague Michael Wilson was attended by over 500 people, including many former parliamentarians. The dinner raised significant revenue for the association, which will be used to offer a robust range of programming for our members and support organizations that assist us in our mission of democracy building. Our AGM in Ottawa was also a success with our various events attended by almost 100 participants. Our tribute that honoured our colleagues who have passed was well received by family and friends; as we remembered and recognized their contributions.

## **Looking forward**

This fall, the association hosted three important events. In September our regional meeting was held in Whitehorse, Yukon. A host of special activities was planned that made for an interesting three days for those able to attend. Our tenth annual Douglas C. Frith dinner was planned for Ottawa on Oct. 22. The shooting on the Hill forced the cancellation of this event which will now be held March 31, 2015. In addition to raising money for programming undertaken by the foundation, the dinner provides an opportunity for both former and current parliamentarians to interact with guests interested in the public policy issues facing the country.

In November our association, in conjunction with the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, began our 2014 study tour to Belgium and France. Participants toured the Normandy beaches and participated in commemoration events recognizing the 70th anniversary of D-Day. We also visited a number of World War I battlefields, which began 100 years ago.

## **New Horizons**

As a new initiative, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians has begun sponsoring a series of regional receptions. These events are designed to bring members together in different parts of the country to network with each other, discuss the issues of the day, and to learn about and provide input regarding our activities. The first of these meetings took place in Vancouver in September. In November, there was a meeting held in Toronto. Two additional meetings will be held elsewhere in Canada in the first half of 2015.

In closing, let me once again express my appreciation for your support and I look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

**Hon. Andy Mitchell,  
President**





## Executive Director's Report

# More than a study tour . . . A lesson in history

Story by Jack Silverstone, photos by Céline Brazeau Fraser



*Canadian and American study tour participants at Utah Beach Museum.*

## The events of October 22

None of us in Ottawa, and indeed in the entire country, will forget the horrific events of October 22. We were all stunned by the violent attack on our capital. That Wednesday was the very date we had chosen for our 10th annual fund-raising dinner for our Educational Foundation. In light of what transpired, we had no choice but to postpone the event. After much deliberation, we have now rescheduled the dinner for Tuesday, 31 March, 2015. We are very pleased that our invited speaker, TVO's Steve Paikin, will be there at the same venue, the Château Laurier Hotel, on the new date. We have striven to keep everything the same, except for the date, so that our event will, in some small way, show those who advocate and commit violence that it will not deter us as Canadians from continuing our peaceful and democratic way of life. We look forward to seeing you at our re-scheduled gala dinner which is always an Ottawa highlight.

I express sincere appreciation to our generous presenting sponsor, our patrons and all our other many sponsors for their unflagging support and cooperation with us during and after the crisis of October 22. We extend gratitude to the courageous members of the police and security services who valiantly discharged their duties of protecting Canadians and our institutions on that fateful and tragic day.

## Study tour to Normandy and Belgium

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, we undertook a joint one-week study tour with our American colleagues at the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, to the D-Day beaches in Normandy in France and to the battlefields of the Great War. As a Canadian, I was riveted by the site of the memorial to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles on our first day's visit

to Juno Beach. My great sense of pride continued as we toured the modest but beautifully designed Juno Beach Centre, which told the story of Canadian heroism and military competence as our forces stormed ashore on June 6, 1944. I was astounded as the young Canadian guide took the group of more than 30 former Canadian and American legislators through the massive German fortifications and wondered how anyone could have overcome them.

Our appreciation is extended to the wonderful Canadian and local staff at the Juno Beach Centre, an institution very worthy of Canadian support. We were all enormously moved by our next visit to the geometrically perfect Canadian military cemetery at Bénny-sur-mer. As our guide pointed out, the well-tended cemetery is completely open and unfenced and held by the French people in the highest respect.

The next day, November 11, was spent at the impressive Omaha Beach Muse-





*Wreath laying ceremony at the Canadian Cemetery in Bény sur Mer.*

"... all Canadians, but especially young Canadians need to be made more aware of the sacrifices of our service personnel in the two world wars."



*Dorothy Price and Hon. Vim Kochhar at American cemetery.*

um and cemetery where so many brave young soldiers are laid to rest. We were honoured to be there during the wreath laying ceremony and then visit the massive and immaculate cemetery. Again, as we visited the beach defences, I was astounded at the heroism of the Allied Forces who overcame so many man-made and natural obstacles to achieve



*Flag presentation and wreath laying ceremony in Hallu.*



*Canadian and American study tour participants at Vimy Ridge.*

victory, albeit at enormous human cost. The same emotions and observations apply to our tour of the American landing site and Museum at Utah Beach and to the site of the airborne assault at Sainte-Mère-Église made famous in the epic movie "The Longest Day".

After a long bus ride from Normandy to eastern France, including a very mov-

ing and warm visit to the town of Hallu where the remains of Canadian soldiers from the First War were recently found (our immediate past president Léo Duquay, who led the Canadian component of the joint delegation, writes about this elsewhere in this edition), we reached Vimy. Nothing can adequately prepare you for the stark terrain. The ground



remains undulated with the craters of bombs and shells now covered with grass, but still clearly visible. Nor is one ready for the short distances between the trench lines of the opposing forces. One shudders to think of the horror and misery. Then the vision of the Canadian National Vimy Ridge Memorial looms into view in what seemed to be one of the saddest and most forlorn places on earth. The sheer size of the Memorial statue almost overwhelms the eye. Every Canadian should be familiar with it.

To close out the study tour, we had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres, on the Belgian side of the border, where every night for nearly 100 years, buglers have played The Last Post, and have told the story of one of the thousands of soldiers whose graves are unknown and to whom the monument is dedicated. Words cannot adequately describe the emotions that one inevitably feels at the ceremony. On the night we attended, there were literally thousands of people, many of them young students, lining the route, but everything proceeded smoothly thanks to the good work of the Last Post Association.

A few takeaways from this abbreviated travelogue: all Canadians, but especially young Canadians, need to be made more aware of the sacrifices of our service personnel in the two world wars; the Juno Beach Centre deserves more Canadian support; Canadians need to understand the level of appreciation and gratitude shown by the French and Belgians to Canada for freeing them from Nazi tyranny and oppression. They take commemoration and preservation of history very seriously indeed. We must seek to emulate that. Finally, cooperation with colleagues in the USA and Europe is always a good initiative.

### Toronto Reception

On Wednesday, November 26, we held the second of our president's receptions at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The first took place in Vancouver in September, with others planned for Montréal and Halifax in the near future. At the Toronto event, Mr. Tony Fell, O.C., was made an honorary member of the Association in appreciation for his extraordinary work in making our Lifetime Achievement Award event, held in March for the Hon. Michael Wilson, such a great success.



*Study tour participants at Juno Beach.*



*10 year-old Hallu resident, Guillaume, and Léo Duguay. (See story page 24.)*



*Sandra Hellyer, Hon. Paul Hellyer and Dorothy Price at reception in Paris.*



*Statue at Juno Beach.*



*Marlene Shepherd, John Creighton and Jennifer Birchall-Creighton at reception in Paris.*



# Taking a break from the fun

Story by Scott Hitchcox, photo by Dorothy Dobbie



*Your new Board members, from left to right: Francis LeBlanc, Ian Waddell, Hon. Don Boudria, Geoff Scott, David Daubney, newly elected president Hon. Andy Mitchell, Hon. David C. Walker, Marlene Catterall, Hon. Gerry Weiner, Hon. Audrey McLaughlin, Hon. Paul Dick, Hon. Vim Kochhar, Immediate past president, Léo Duguay, Hon. Karen Redman, Hon. Mary Collins and Hon. Sue Barnes.*

The Annual General Meeting, this year taking place on June 8th and 9th, was a chance for former MP's and their families to socialize, commemorate one another's accomplishments, and pay tribute to those friends and colleagues no longer with us. However, a break in the festivities was necessitated by the association's business meeting, which took place just after lunch on the second day in the main hall at the Library and Archives Building.

The first point in the itinerary was the introduction of guests and the approval of the proposed agenda, which was followed by the review of highlights from the past year. These included a continued growth in membership, productive regional meetings, as well as successful study tours that association members took to Peru and Chile. These trips allowed members to tour cultural and historic sites as well as meet the current and former legislators of both countries.

## New interns, Distinguished Service

Then, after the brief introduction of this year's extremely talented, good-looking, and humble interns, the association recognized excellence amongst its peers, presenting the Distinguished Service Award to former Liberal Senator the Honourable Michael Kirby. They also acknowledged the recent presentation of the Lifetime Achievement award to former Progressive Conservative MP, the Honourable Michael Wilson.

Once past achievements were recognized, the focus of the meeting shifted to the future of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, whose reputation for excellence and democratic promotion continues to grow with each passing year. Recent partnerships with a number of organizations, including the Parliamentary Centre, the Library of Parliament, and the U.S. Embassy, has expanded awareness of the association and the effectiveness of its engagements. This has led to successful ventures such as The Annual Douglas C. Frith Din-

ner, which has raised \$1.3 million since 2005, with proceeds going towards educational programs headed by CAFP and its partners.

## Democracy abroad

Finally, the association reviewed recent efforts as part of its objective to promote democracy abroad. As a member of the recently renamed Global Democracy Initiative, the association has worked with similar groups from established democratic countries to monitor and improve budding democracies worldwide. Also, as co-creator of the International Elections Monitors Institute, the association has observed elections in over twenty countries; including Uganda, Egypt, and Haiti.

Though business can oftentimes be a dry and tedious matter, this year's annual meeting served to accentuate the association's many accomplishments, its continuous growth, and its positive democratic impact worldwide. The coming year under a new executive and president, should be just as successful.





*The Hon. Jean Bazin presented Léo with a plaque recognizing his excellent service to CAFP.*

Throughout a stellar career, Léo Duguay has held many different titles. These include a career as a teacher, being a member of Parliament, serving as Chief of Staff to the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark when he was minister of Foreign Affairs, being named one of *The Hill Times*' top lobbyists in Canada, and even a period as a competitive hockey player.

A lifetime fan of the sport, Léo still plays up to three times a week with other, self-described "old-timers". He is no causal participant either; Léo is a member of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame, Class of 2007. As a member of the 1965 University of Manitoba Bisons, Léo's school team was the only one in Manitoba history to capture a Canadian University hockey title.

More recently, and perhaps more relevantly, Léo has served as president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, beginning his term in 2009 and passing the title onto the Hon. Andy Mitchell in June of 2014. A CAFP member since its creation, Léo previously served as a board member and as secretary, taking over as president after the tragic passing of the Hon. Doug Frith.

According to Léo, the role of the president is similar to that of most of the association's other executive positions, only the president has the additional responsibility for chairing the board of directors and acting "as a kind of chief executive officer" for the association.

#### **An impressive tenure**

After five years as president, Léo leaves behind a tenure that saw a large

increase in the services and programs that the CAFP offers, all with the purpose, he says, of "promoting democracy in Canada, particularly amongst young Canadians, and abroad amongst young parliaments".

Creating a solid financial foundation for CAFP has also been in an important thrust of Léo's term in office. Léo initiated the Lifetime Achievement Award. The first one, honouring the Rt. Hon. Don Mazankowski, was held in Calgary in 2010. Conceived as a fund-raiser, this dinner event has now been held four times and has raised around a half a million dollars to support the work of the Association.

Léo has created stronger ties with the election monitoring institutes. He has endeavoured, with some success, to strengthen the Global Democracy Initiative by working with the American and European association equivalents. He has also supported the activities undertaken by the Educational Foundation to have members visit and speak at high schools and universities.

Léo professionalized the office of executive director in the Association to take some of the burden of business direction off the shoulders of the elected members. He has been very grateful for the support of Jack Silverstone as the Association has moved ahead.

#### **A team effort**

When asked about his personal role as president throughout the Association's many recent accomplishments, the long-time hockey player in Léo really shows through.

"It's certainly a team effort. None of the objectives we set get done with one person; they get done with a lot of people pitching in," he says. "The Association is very fortunate; it has very good staff, and we've had a very dedicated board of directors the whole time."

Léo modestly credits the growth and expansion of CAFP to the efforts of an army of volunteer former MPs and sena-

tors, whom he describes as, "Giving up their time to promote democracy, and all of them an expert at what they do."

"He will be remembered for his brief, business-like meetings, his swift and sure decision-making abilities and his energy, warmth, and consideration for the members," says former colleague Dorothy Dobbie. "Léo left partisanship at the doorstep of his former office," she continued. "As president, he treated all members with fairness and respect and I know they appreciated this."

Although Léo's term as president has ended, his influence in the Association will certainly continue. As a past president, Léo says his responsibilities now lie in, "Cheering on the current president and the board." He is happy to help if called upon and hopes that future presidents will build on the progress made during his time.

#### **Looking ahead**

In regard to the future of the Association itself, despite its presence and programs, Léo still refers to it as a work in progress. While the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians draws support from an ever-increasing membership base, he would like to see more former members take advantage of the peer-to-peer support and friendship that the Association offers.

"Finding the resources and supporters to continue to do what we can, is critical to the future," says Léo. Thanks to his efforts, corporate sponsors and other outside bodies have begun to take note of what the Association is doing, providing growing opportunities to fulfill its democratic mission.

Léo is stepping down from the head of a dynamic organization, one that is certainly moving in the right direction.

If future presidents experience the same level of growth that the Association enjoyed under Léo Duguay, then there's no telling what else the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians can achieve.

# Léo's legacy

By Scott Hitchcox

Léo Duguay served as CAFP president for five years. His leadership and energy moved the Association a long way forward.



# The promise of Andy

Andy's reputation for fairness, dedication and integrity will serve CAFP well.

By Adella Rose Khan



*The Hon. Andy Mitchell takes up the gavel at the CAFP Annual General Meeting last June.*

**N**ow the new president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, the Hon. Andy Mitchell has built his life around hard work and public service.

Andy's first move towards public service can be traced to his migration from Montreal, Que., where he was born, to the nation's capital, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Carleton University.

Encouraged by his late friend and then Manitoulin Liberal MP, Maurice Foster, to run, Andy first came to office in 1993 as the MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka in a federal Liberal majority government.

He said that throughout his career and time in office, the task of making a positive impact in people's lives drove his ambitions.

"Although we do a lot of work in terms of legislation and the broad public issues," he said. "MPs deal on an ongoing basis with individual constituents and the challenges they face, and I think the most satisfying times as an MP are when you can help somebody out."

## **Contributions to country**

As Andy Mitchell focused on creating positive change in the lives of Canadians, he also worked as Secretary of State for Parks, Secretary of State for Rural Development, and Secretary of State for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario. He served as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods, and Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario. Andy also contributed to Canada's input in World Trade Organization agreements. He would ultimately sit in the

cabinets of both Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin.

One of Andy's most enduring contributions came under the lead of Chrétien, when the then-prime minister created a Secretary of State for Rural Development, helping fulfill Andy's goal of ensuring rural Canada was "front and centre" in Parliament.

"Although today we're very much an urban nation, our success depends on the strength of not just the cities, but also of the rural areas," he said.

Former prime minister, Paul Martin, praised Mitchell's expertise in not only rural and agricultural issues but said he wasn't one to be "pigeonholed". He added that what really marks Andy is his "overwhelming concern for people".

"The quality of people who run for Parliament and become MPs is absolutely crucial in the support for our democratic rights," the former prime minister said. "If I were to name the kinds of people I believe absolutely should be in Parliament or should have had a career at Parliament at one time or another in their lives, Andy Mitchell would certainly fit that picture."

Andy's career as a member of Parliament may have ended in 2006 but his dedication to community building certainly did not.

## **Outside of the House**

Since leaving office, Andy has stayed active in his passions, working in local politics in Selwyn and Peterborough, taking up teaching at Trent University, and heading the Greater Peterborough Economic Development Corporation.

While at Trent, he worked part-time under Julie Davis, vice president of external relations and advancement, helping the university build greater relationships with the community and government.

Davis said she never stopped learning from Andy, echoing Martin's sentiments that his work ethic in all aspects of his life is unparalleled.

"He doesn't sleep," she said. "I absolutely admired that he could always fit in time for running, even if it was just on his treadmill when I would be complaining about not being able to work out, yet I know that he was going for a run at one in the morning."

Davis also praised Andy's knowledge of the community and the ease with which he engages with everyone around him.

"It's hard to find anyone who would speak badly of Andy because he carries himself with such integrity that he has respect in all parts of the community," she said.

Andy has concluded his terms in municipal politics, as well as his contracts with Trent's government relation department. Davis said the department held a farewell for him. Many young people who the professor had given advice to as they started their careers attended the event.

"We had a little bit of a joke with him at the end about him being one of the original wise men and leading the new young folks through the desert," she said. "He just has so much experience and so much to contribute to every discussion. It was a real pleasure to work with him."



# Remembering those who have served

Story by Adella Rose Khan, photos by Denis Drever and Bernard Thibodeau



*Hon. Andy Mitchell and Francis LeBlanc*



*Family Members, former and current parliamentarians gather in Senate Chamber for the annual Memorial Service.*



The air was still and solemn as families, friends, and colleagues found their seats in the Senate Chamber on Monday June 9, 2014. The Canadian Forces Brass Quintet welcomed loved ones to the 15th annual Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Memorial Service.

On the Peace Tower, the Canadian flag flew at half-mast to celebrate the lives of the 23 former parliamentarians who passed away throughout the year. The 15th annual Memorial Service, organized by the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, honours parliamentarians that have passed away.

The dedication of each member of Parliament was felt in the warmth, respect, and love throughout the memorial.

The grandson of the late Honourable Fred J. Mifflin, A.J. Shewchuck, read from a speech by the Earl of Minto, Canada's eight governor general. The piece showed respect for those who have served in public office in the past and aimed to inspire a new generation of public service.

"Canadian men and women have made history and are still making it every day, but the present generation have more time than of the old to write and to read it," he read. "I hope they will do so over

and over again. They will find something to be proud of."

After hearing about the dedication of those being remembered and what it meant to Canada, the room listened as the Hon. Don Boudria announced the honour roll call. Families rose one by one in respect for their loved ones.

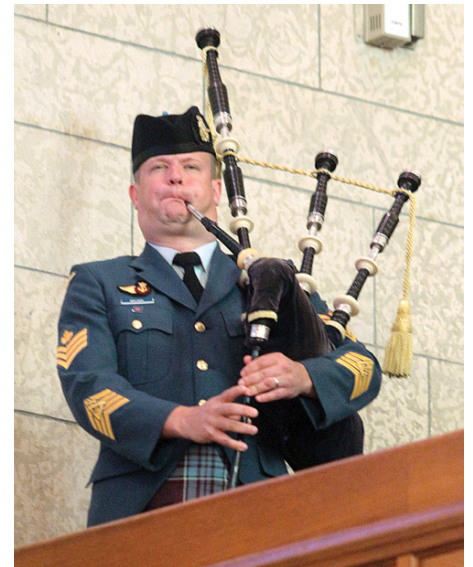
Following a minute of silence, the chamber filled with the sound of bagpipes from Sergeant Thomas Brown. A wreath was laid in honour of those departed.

Along with moving music and readings, each lost parliamentarian was honoured together and separately for their work for their country.





*Ottawa Police Chorus.*



*Sergeant Thomas Brown, Pipe Major.*



*Hon. Noël Kinsella and Hon. Andrew Scheer.*



*Family representatives.*



*Hon. Wayne Easter and Hon. Lisa Raitt.*



*Mr. A.J. Shewchuk, grandson of late MP, Hon. Fred J. Mifflin, P.C., and Mr. Pierre Isabelle, son of the late MP, Dr. Gaston Isabelle.*



# Four careers, quadruple victories

Story by Harrison Lowman, photos by George Pimentel and Jennifer Nehme



*Left to right: Chair Tony Fell, the Hon. Michael Wilson, Co-Chair Bob Rae and then CAFP President Léo Duguay with the Distinguished Service Award.*

In May, the Fairmont Royal York hotel was bursting at the seams, as the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians invited nearly 800 former MPs, Senators, and members of the business and mental health community to honour the lifetime achievements of the Hon. Michael Wilson.

In the historic hotel's sprawling Canadian Room, underneath a gigantic metal Canadian coat of arms, the former cabinet minister and MP, diplomat, investment banker, and community leader was awarded the CAFP's esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was established in 2010, and is presented to former parliamentarians, "who had a significant and positive influence on Canadian life and politics and who were models of service to their constituents and community." Michael Wilson is the fourth former member to be granted this honour.

## A trusted financier

Michael Wilson was born in Toronto in 1957. He attended Upper Canada College, Trinity College, and the University of Toronto, where he graduated in 1959. The young man had a passion for investment banking that took him to London and then to Canada's capital to train with the Department of Finance. In 1961, he joined a small investment firm called Harris and Partners.

"His hallmark was always the highest standard of ethics and integrity, and placing the interests of the clients first," said former Chairman and CEO of RBC Capital Markets Tony Fell, who chaired the event.

It was Tony Fell's office that Mike Wilson, then 42, walked into in 1979 to announce that he would be leaving the industry to seek the Conservative nomination in Etobicoke Centre.

Mike described how just about eve-

rybody in the firm thought he had no chance of being elected to Parliament, let alone win the nomination. They were wrong.

## A leader in Parliament

In February 1980, Michael Wilson became the Progressive Conservative MP for Etobicoke Centre. Four years later he was appointed Minister of Finance. In 1991, he became Minister of Industry and Minister of International Trade. While serving in these roles, he helped implement the GST and oversaw NAFTA negotiations.

"I knew him in Parliament, I sat on his cabinet committee for the GST. I got a chance to see how a great, intelligent and humane finance minister worked," said former Prime Minister Kim Campbell. "He did things for Canada that we're still proud of and I think that's important."

During his speech, Wilson praised





*The Hon. Michael Wilson speaks about the need for more focus on mental illness.*



*Tony Fell chaired the event and CAFP thanks him for the incredible job he did.*



*Honoured guests of the Hon. Michael Wilson.*



*Above: Doug, Jennifer and Susan Bassett.*

*Right: The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark and his wife, Maureen McTeer.*



*Below: A dinner guest, Julia Foster, the Hon. Michael Wilson, Hon. Brian Tobin, a dinner guest and the Hon. Ed Lumley.*

*Former Ontario Premier the Hon. Bob Rae, who co-chaired with Tony Fell and the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell.*







*Charlotte Duguay, Léo Duguay and Dorothy Dobbie.*



*Hon. Michael Wilson speaks with Hon. Brian Tobin.*



*Hon. Mary Collins with the Hon. Peter Van Loan.*



*Honoured guests with the Hon. Raymond Setlakwe (centre).*



*Friends of the Hon. Michael Wilson.*

former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. He said the Progressive Conservative leader demonstrated strategic and political skill, as well as the freedom and encouragement he needed to carry out his duties. The praise was not one sided.

"If a Prime Minister of Canada is really lucky, he gets to have a Michael Wilson in his cabinet," explained Brian Mulroney in a video message.

Michael Wilson retired from politics in 1993.

#### **An exemplary ambassador**

Michael Wilson was soon called on yet again to represent the people of Canada. In February 2006 Prime Minister Stephen Harper nominated him as Canada's 22nd Ambassador to the United States. As a diplomat, some of the issues he honed in on were softwood lumber, oil, and Afghanistan. He left the post in 2009. In 2010 he was promoted to the Companion of the Order of Canada, having been appointed an officer of the Order of Canada in 2003.

#### **A mental health advocate**

Michael Wilson then returned to the private realm, becoming Chairman of Barclays Capital Canada. It was here that he utilized the experience and attention he gained in the public sphere to shed light on the challenges of those who remained out of sight.

"I think that in his post-parliamentary life, Michael and Margie showed us the way of how to continue to serve. How to turn the private challenges in our lives into something that's important for everyone," said former Liberal leader and co-chair Bob Rae. "How to make mental health the cause that becomes not only a private cause but a public cause."

"There's an old fashioned word and the word is duty," said former Prime Minister Joe Clark. "And Mike was raised to recognize and respect that he had a duty to his larger community and I think he exemplifies this in how he performs that."

As an MP, Mike was audience to a variety of constituents affected by mental health. At the time as a politician he did not know a single person who had volunteered in the field. Eventually mental health touched him personally. Mike Wilson's son Cameron suffered from mental illness, a fact that the young man was determined to keep in the shadows.

"He said to me, and I'll never forget this," explained Wilson. "Dad don't tell anyone what's wrong with me. If they



know I'll lose all my friends and never get a job again."

As Wilson described, his 29-year-old son took this burden with him to his death, taking his own life in 1995.

"This was a great loss to our family, but it opened my eyes to the terrible burden of stigma for those suffering from this illness," he explained.

Since then, Mike Wilson has spoken out about mental illness on countless occasions. He has been active in the Business and Economic Roundtable for Addiction and Mental Health, Brain Canada, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and the Canadian Institute of Health Research. This devotion to the cause has not gone unnoticed.

"Mike, let me take this opportunity to thank you and Margie in particular for tirelessly working on behalf of Canadians facing mental health challenges," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a video message. "Because you've courageously shared your own family's story and through your work with the University of Toronto, you're bringing hope to thousands of others."

"This is the best of the best," said Finance Minister Joe Oliver. "Someone who brings private sector experience and expertise involved in the public policy, and then goes on to devote himself to a cause that's important very broadly."

Michael Wilson insists that speaking publicly about how mental touched his life is not a courageous act, but a necessary one.

"How could I not speak out?" he said. "It was the best thing I could do to honour his life."

Mike says Canada is punching above its weight in terms of the attention it gives mental health. He points towards the promise of personalized medicine. However, he said, a fair amount of stigma remains.

### A man with many hats

During the night's celebrations, it was often mentioned that Michael Wilson was the man with four careers. The consensus was that within these careers, he had quadruple victories.

"I would say a hallmark of ethics and integrity, an investment banker par excellence, a strong political leader and cabinet minister, a skilled diplomat, a community minded philanthropist, a dedicated husband and family man, and finally, a great Canadian," said Tony Fell. "Actually, I think all of the above."



*Charlette Duguay, Maureen McTeer and Francis LeBlanc.*



*Friends of the Hon. Michael Wilson with Hon. Joe Oliver.*



*Hon. Joe Oliver with Hon. Barbara McDougall.*

*The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark with friends of the Hon. Michael Wilson.*





# Tony Fell named honorary member at regional reception

Story and photos by Harrison Lowman



*Left to right: The Hon. Vim Kochhar, Tony Fell, Hon. Michael Wilson, Ken Atkinson, and Léo Duguay.*

In late November, former members gathered at the elegant Fairmont Royal York Hotel for a regional reception of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

This event followed a similar reception held in Vancouver in September. CAFP is hoping to hold another event in Halifax and then in Montréal sometime next year as part of an ongoing series of such events to give former members an informal opportunity to meet.

During the reception, the association's new president, the Hon. Andy Mitchell, announced that Mr. Tony Fell, former Chairman and CEO of RBC Capital Markets, would become the 17th honorary member of the

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. Tony helped lead the organization of the event that awarded the Hon. Michael Wilson with CAFP's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

Tony's award reads, "In recognition of your contribution to and respect for the Parliament of Canada and your service to members of the Senate and House of Commons, we welcome you among us as an honorary member."

"You do worthwhile work and I was delighted to be part of it," said Fell during the ceremony, "not only because of the work that you do but because of Michael of course, who I have known for so long and who has made such a great contribution to our country."

*Geoff Scott with his wife Janette Scott.*







*Our new president, the Hon. Andy Mitchell speaks to former members.*



*Former members in attendance listen closely to Andy's speech.*



*Midge Philbrook stands alongside Peter Ittinuar.*



*The Hon. David MacDonald joins Lynn McDonald.*



*Left to right: Léo Duguay, Hon. Andy Mitchell, Hon. David Colletette, and Hon. David MacDonald.*



*Tony Fell and Michael Wilson have a chat.*

*The Hon. Vim Kochhar with Alan Tonks.*



*Left to right: Alan Tonks, Hon. Jean Augustine, Dr. Frank Philbrook, Midge Philbrook, and Hon. Peter Milliken.*



# We went to the Yukon

Story and photos by Dorothy Dobbie



*President, The Hon. Andy Mitchell poses in the lovely Yukon Legislature. Yukon speaker, the Hon. David Laxton, is at his chair.*

In mid-September, CAFP held a regional meeting in the Yukon, hosted by the Hon. Audrey McLaughlin. It was heartbreakingly lovely. All the birches and poplars were a brilliant gold, glowing against the dark green of the conifers under a bright blue sky. The hills in the distance turned to purple and pink at sunset. The daytime temperatures hovered around 22 degrees.

The people of Whitehorse have taken advantage of the green and gold colour scheme by painting many of their buildings a yellow-ochre colour to match the fall trees. Some of the buildings are trimmed with green. Touches of red show up here and there on the odd white or gray building.

The population of the city of Whitehorse is only about 30,000, but the citizens have everything they could want, including a local college that is doing



*Grand Chief Ruth Massie and Hon. Audrey McLaughlin take questions about Yukon land claims.*

some brilliant research into phytoremediation, the science of cleaning up heavy metals from groundwater using plants and even bacteria. At the college, they are also testing and creating

cold weather building products and, of course, testing methods to grow root vegetables in a short season. They spend a lot of time studying discontinuous permafrost and have to take this into consideration when they build.

The city is well planned and very clean. The roads are as smooth as glass and they have added little extra touches of flowers and other motifs stamped in odd places in the cement of their sidewalks and planters. Art is part of the city. In the middle of town, a quirky metal sculpture of a table with an inkwell and a chair, pays tribute to poet Robert Service. There are many murals featuring the history and wildlife of the Yukon.

Downtown Whitehorse is snuggled between the Yukon River and a ridge, so it is about eight blocks wide at its widest, making it seem very intimate,





*At the Beringia Interpretive Centre in front of the bones of an ancient mammoth.*

*Right: The Yukon Legislature is next door to the Tourism Centre. Note the colour of the building and how it matches the trees.*

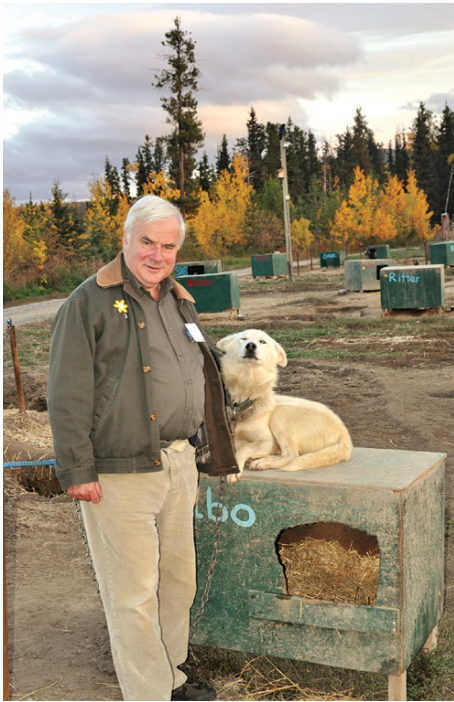
*Below: Hon. Andy Mitchell and Helen Rowland learn about the River Walk in Whitehorse.*



*Below left: Artwork detail at the Legislature. Centre: The Yukon River by the River Walk. Right: One of the charming denizens of the dog ranch.*







*Above: Hon. Peter Milliken poses with one of the stars of the dog ranch.*



*Downtown Whitehorse is full of art. Here, on a key corner, is a tribute to Robert Service.*



*Jack Silverstone looks at the Tiny Library on the river walk in Whitehorse.*



*Posing front of the lovely tapestry that dominates the chambers of the Yukon Legislature.*

*Below left: The McBride Museum of Yukon History. Centre: Walking back along the waterfront road. Right: The dog ranch kennels and dogs.*







*At the dog ranch, the group listens to Frank Turner talk about how he manages 150 dogs.*



*Above left: Artwork at the Legislature. Above: buildings are painted in harmony with the trees.*

although there are suburbs that now sprawl across the river.

The town is quite cosmopolitan; walking down the main streets you hear a lot of German and French being spoken. Young people come to the Yukon, fall in love with the place and stay. Audrey McLaughlin says the town just keeps growing and she can't figure out where they all work because there is so little industry outside of mining and government. But tourism has become big business with over 300,000 visitors a year. That means that retail is a big employer; the shops are locally owned and authentic.

A highlight of our stay was a visit to the "dog ranch" of Frank Turner, who runs Muktuk Adventures. Frank, heavily bearded as one would expect

from a dog musher, has run 14 Yukon Quest dogsled races from Whitehorse to Fairbanks, Alaska. He even won back in 1995. His kennel holds about 150 dogs which are treated like honoured guests at a dog hotel and his staff is an army of young people from all over to keep the dogs fed, exercised and interested.

In Whitehorse, out-of-doors is impossible to forget; it calls you. You want to be outside soaking up the colours and the fresh air that is so clear and clean it's like champagne in the lungs. Nature is omnipresent. Ravens rule the air and we saw a red fox walking across the college campus.

It was a lovely three day tour and a huge vote of thanks goes out to Audrey for her hospitality.





# CAFP honours soldiers found where they fell in France

By Léo Duguay



*Léo Duguay makes a presentation to the Mayor of Hallu, Mr. Patrice Vallée, while the Hon. Vim Kochhar looks on.*

My office in Ottawa looks out on the Cenotaph and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. My assistant, Lynn Marks, was an eyewitness to the brutal killing of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo on Oct. 22. We were locked down for nearly eight hours as our first responders put their lives in danger to secure ours.

It is more than cruel that Cpl. Cirillo was shot in the back while unarmed, standing on guard for the thousands of soldiers, many of whose graves have never been found, who fought for our freedom in two world wars.

I have often envisaged the pain of losing a son or daughter and, worse, never finding the closure that comes from knowing where the body is located.

Somehow even worse, is the death of a soldier standing unsuspecting of danger while on duty, but still heroic; doing what it takes to keep us safe.

As Churchill said:

"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."

While Churchill was likely referring to the Nazis as "those who would harm us", he might as well have been referring to ISIS.

## The Winnipeg connection

Business has taken me to live in Ottawa but my heart will always be in St. Boniface, where I grew up, and in Winnipeg, where I lived and worked. Although I have never been to war, as a young person I was a cadet in the

Provencher School, Winnipeg Grenadiers Corps #323. Here I underwent field training, learned to shoot and to dismantle a Bren gun and absorbed a little discipline. I was lucky enough to become an officer, where I took my first steps at leading a platoon.

## From Ottawa to France and WW1

These experiences link to another recent series of events.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, with colleagues from the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, planned a study tour of Normandy Beaches and Vimy Ridge in honour of the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. We were to visit Canadian and American



The death of Cpl. Cirillo and the bodies of the recently recovered unknown soldiers in France highlight the sacrifice made by our Armed Forces, whose members selflessly stand on guard for the freedoms we take for granted.



*Left to right: Lt. Clifford Neelands, Pte. Lachlan McKinnon, Pte. William Simms, Pte. Sidney Halliday, and Lance Sgt. John Lindell.*

sites (Juno, Omaha, Utah, Vimy Ridge, Menin Gate) and lay wreaths to honour our two countries' contributions to the Great Wars.

#### **A horrific discovery**

In 2006, 14-year-old Fabien De-meusere was digging in his back yard and found a bullet. Digging further he unearthed 42 kilograms of bullets, badges, collar pins, and hats of the Winnipeg 78th Battalion Grenadiers. Then he thought he struck a root only to find that it was a rib. He had unearthed the remains of eight soldiers buried in a shallow grave during the First World War. They were the remains of a battalion of Winnipeg Grenadiers which had been sent to capture Hallu on Aug. 11, 1918. In one day, 46 died and 54 went missing; 30 of them are missing still.

#### **The second Winnipeg connection**

In September 2014, a special department of Canada's forces that works with the DNA of relatives to try to identify all remains located in battlefields, identified four of the eight bodies found. A fifth was identified shortly thereafter. These young soldiers were acknowledged as being from the Winnipeg Grenadiers 78th Battalion; young men who fought a heroic struggle trying to take the village of Hallu.

Learning of this, we took a quick look at a map and determined that our tour would pass very near Hallu on its way from Caen to Vimy. We contacted the mayor of Hallu, Patrice Vallée, and

asked if we could stop and pay our respects. He was very gracious and obtained permission for us to actually visit the site where the soldiers were found. The Grenadiers from Winnipeg were Clifford Neelands, Lachlan McKinnon, William Simms, John Lindell and Sidney Halliday.

So there I am on Nov. 13, 2014 – at heart, still a little boy from St. Boniface, now in a small French village, wearing a Winnipeg Grenadier beret, holding a Canadian flag and a wreath, and paying tribute to a few of the 60,000 Canadians who died in the First World War in a small village in France.

I was overwhelmed as I said a few words and presented the mayor with Winnipeg and Canada symbols; I grieved the loss of the great expeditionary force now lying in this field in an unknown (to Canadians) part of the world. As Fabien's dad, Hubert, said, Hallu is recovering its history through this simple act of remembering Grenadiers who came from another continent to help save France.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, we laid a wreath on the burial site and left behind a Canadian flag for Fabien. I was honoured to present Mayor Vallée with a Winnipeg Grenadier beret for his office.

#### **Tremendous sacrifice**

In a really heartwarming moment, a 10-year-old Hallu resident by the name

of Guillaume approached and asked if I would sign his notebook. I inscribed a note remembering the Grenadiers and their sacrifice. I asked him to cherish the memory of their dying for his freedom with the hope that his generation would avoid war.

Before the war in 1914, Canada's military numbered 3,100. Six months later, it grew to 360,000, all volunteers. Of the 600,000 Canadians (nearly 14 per cent of Canada's adult male population) who served in the First World War, some 60,383 died and nearly 11,285 are buried in unmarked graves.

We say it so easily, "unmarked graves", but what of the families, mothers, fathers, brothers, aunts and uncles who know of the bravery of those fallen men but do not know where or how?

A while ago I spoke with a relative of William Simms, in Russell, Man. He knew of his uncle but did not know where he had died and where his remains lay. William Simms' brother also died in the war.

Mayor Vallée said it best. "I want to thank Canada and a generation of young Canadians who gave their lives to save France; we pray and thank them and their families every day."

I know Guillaume heard the mayor; I hope his generation gets it.

Léo Duguay is past president of CAFP. He served as the Progressive Conservative MP for St. Boniface from 1984 to 1988.



# D-Day: how Canada changed it and it changed Canada

Story and photos provided by Scott Hitchcox.

If you want to understand the battle, you have to walk the ground. According to Mike McNorgan, a military historian who has spent 39 years as a service member for the Canadian Forces, this military truism is meant to emphasize the importance of first-hand exposure and experience in really appreciating and honouring a historical event. This level of understanding is exactly what the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians wanted to achieve during their November trip to the beaches of Normandy in remembrance of the recent passing of the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

Nearly three-quarters of a century after the event, D-Day is still one of the most widely recognized military campaigns of recent history, and for good reason. As the largest ever amphibious assault, D-Day was the culmination of years of effort, planning, and manpower from several countries; all with the purpose of establishing an Allied foothold in Western Europe.

Although the event did not necessarily win the war, it nonetheless has become the focal date most often associated with the Second World War.

According to McNorgan, this perseverance can be attributed to a number of factors. "While it wasn't necessarily the decisive factor in the war, D-Day did represent a psychological turning point in WWII," he said. "The date itself, June 6, 1944, is easily remembered, and the story of the campaign itself is fascinating; full of interest, excitement, conflict, turmoil, personal egos, ambitious egos. Whatever you want, you can find it in there one place or another."

## Canada's part

While accounts of D-Day tend to be dominated by the presence of the United States or Great Britain, the Canadian involvement in the campaign was, proportionally speaking, the greatest of any Allied force. With a population of only 11 million at the time, Canada supplied one million service members in uniform during the conflict, not including those



*Hitchcox with his father, Albert Dudley Hitchcox, who fought in France in WWI.*

people working back home to support the war effort.

On D-Day, Canadian Forces were responsible for 20 per cent of the assault, and despite enduring some of the most adverse battle conditions, their storming of Juno Beach was considered one of the most successful of the day. But, while Canada had a huge impact on WWII, so too did the war impact Canada in ways far beyond the realm of the military. These effects still resonate today. Thus, when remembering the event, it is important to expand appreciation past the battle.

## The trip back home

"Because of the Second World War, we are the way we are today" McNorgan said. "Almost every aspect of our national life was changed by the war, some in

good ways, others in bad ways."

Included in the good ways were doors that opened for soldiers when they returned home, explained McNorgan.

"WWII veterans were given generous allowances for the time, and because of that many were able to attend secondary school, learn trades and earn university degrees," he said. "When combined with the demands of wartime production, WWII represented a great spur to industrialization for Canada."

The association's trip focused on education just as much as commemoration. Throughout the eight-day adventure, members received guided visits to the beaches of Normandy, attended wreath-laying ceremonies, and explored the sites of historic battles.



The Great War, where we lost so many, brought Canada to emotional nationhood.



*Douglas Hitchcox outside of his plane. Hitchcox was a navigator who flew over 40 missions, and participated in the assault on D-Day.*



*Dr. Frank Philbrook's brother, James Philbrook, who died during the Battle of the Scheldt.*

For some former members of Parliament, such as Dr. Frank Philbrook, the trip was not just about remembering the sacrifices of that generation, but of their family as well. Frank's brother, James Philbrook, was killed in the Battle of the Scheldt, a campaign in Belgium. His brother-in-law, Douglas Hitchcox, was a navigator who flew on D-Day. (Beyond his role in WWII, Douglas Hitchcox is also this author's late grandfather. While I never had the honour of knowing him, his presence on and primarily off the battlefield has profoundly shaped every aspect of my life today.)

Almost all members of Douglas Philbrook's generation made personal sacrifices throughout WWII, and that is

why events such as D-Day still carry such profound meaning. However, as newer generations of Canadians begin to assume the responsibility of memorializing, it is unknown whether June 6 will retain the full weight of its historical significance.

#### **Preserving D-Day**

This is largely in part due to the lack of monuments dedicated to Canadian involvement in WWII. The Juno Beach Centre, founded in the 1990s by Canadian veterans and fittingly located within the site of Juno Beach, is one of the only memorials and was one of the sites visited by the association this November.

Back on home soil, the only official Canadian memorial commemorating

this country's contribution in WWII are the dates "39-45" inscribed on the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa. Outside of history books and personal experience, the Canadian role isn't easily accessible. How future generations decide to commemorate June 6 is impossible to predict, but optimists would say that an event that represents a point in history that shaped our country deserves to be recognized well past its 70th anniversary. They might add that it should be remembered not for its conflict and violence, but for the heroism and sacrifice surrounding it.

"Maps are fine, photographs are great, but ultimately this is about remembering and understanding people, their motivations, why they do things, and the price they were willing to pay, and sacrifices they were willing to make to involve themselves in something that so profoundly influenced history," explained McNorgan.

Where we've been as a country is exactly what the association explored in November. Much of our national identity can be traced back to the role that Canada played in WWII, and the post-war effects that impacted every level, from the personal, to the political, to the economic.

"There's many different ways of looking at these kinds of things, not all having to do with soldiers, uniforms and weapons," said McNorgan. "To block out things like war, because it's a very intense topic and very intense things happened, is really to blind yourself to the realities of life, and the realities of how your country evolved.





Dorothy Dobbie.

# Home grown terrorists

By Dorothy Dobbie

ISIS is a murderous group of thugs with the usual menu of self-serving goals.

Isis, sometimes called Isil, is terrifying the world with its determination and ruthless brutality. This is the latest group to say that they alone represent the religious ideal of Islam. In the name of their cause, which is to create an Islamic state according to their extreme views and to suppress all others, they are recruiting young people from apparently unlikely corners of the world.

At first glance, it is hard to understand the appeal of these groups to young people, mainly young men, although there are women involved also, who grew up in free and open societies. Yet, unlikely as it seems, the freedom and openness of our society may be partly at the root of their interest. Here is why.

## Independence is scary

Democracies are based on the survival of the fittest which implies an obligation to help those who are ill-equipped to help themselves. For the strong, the intelligent, the determined, this is an ideal system because it allows for unlimited self-expression and opportunity. But what if you are unsuited to that kind of competition as many are, yet you still have aspirations which you are sure you could achieve if only the world followed rules that make sense to you?

What if the illogic and confusingly nuanced rules of democracy and freedom were perplexing and worrisome, filling you with insecurity and fear, and leaving you wondering if life is worth living? And what if that insecurity was so extreme that it became mentally and physically debilitating? Wouldn't such a person be looking for some anchor, some sense of stability, some certainty to use as a life raft to hold on to in a world fraught with uncertainty?

Many young people are desperately looking for a purpose, for meaning in their lives. These are often people who are idealistic and intelligent but lack-

ing in some essential core philosophical element that allows them to accept the things that don't seem to make sense within the ideals they may have inherited or learned.

## Providing all the answers

Authoritarian, fundamentalist groups such as Isis offer purpose, peace and security to these people. They hold out a promise of absolute certainty that the path they follow is the right path and that life has meaning. It is a black and white world where there is only one right answer. There is no gray, no uncertainty, no need to question, only the imperative to follow a comforting code that removes all questions.

If that imperative offers the promise everlasting life, all the better. It is easy to shuck off your mortal cloak and kill the infidel when you know that this opens the door to eternal happiness on the other side.

## The believers and the sociopaths

The leaders of these extremist groups probably fall into two categories: those who came together because they believe in the path, and those who know how to exploit the believers. These leaders, as is often the case with leaders of fundamentalist and extremist groups, are often sociopaths whose existence depends on their ability to manage and manipulate others. Notice that it is not they who offer up to blow themselves up for the good of the collective.

These leaders are frequently charismatic and well versed in the habits, needs and motivations of their prey. They are very good communicators and employ propaganda effectively to intimidate their followers and their detractors, both. In the case of Isis and extremist Islamic groups, their story is that they have a better understanding of Islam than anyone else, that the reason life isn't perfect is that the law has been followed imperfectly. "Follow our noble

cause and all pain will disappear for the good of the world," they say. This is an illogical lie, but who can prove it?

## Truth is the ultimate weapon

These people fear only one thing: demonstrable truth. Since their world is built on a lie, the truth is their profound enemy. If their followers are exposed to the truth in a way that is clear and reasonable, the leaders lose their power.

Ironically, fear of the truth is a weapon they use to keep their followers in line. That their mantra is threatened causes mental and physical anguish to their followers who will kill to avoid it—think of someone going na-na-na-na-na and holding their hands over their ears because they don't want to hear what is about to be said. Even to the well balanced, the truth can sometimes hurt.

Among the fundamentalists will always be a scattering of the poor and disaffected, people who are just looking for a better life and are willing to believe the best offer they hear. These folks ultimately discover the truth, but by that time, it is too late. They are already under the brutal thumb of the budding regime, which has no more compunction about torturing and killing them than, they did about doing the same to the "enemy".

## Bomb the hell out of them

So what is to be done? How does modern society deal with this phenomenon? Can you "go in there and bomb the hell out of them," to solve the problem as Obama has suggested? It sounds simple and effective but it is neither. First of all, in today's world these movements spread like amoeba, so the targets are widely dispersed among populations and there are lots of leaders-in-waiting if we do manage to destroy the current one. Just like ant eradication, we may get the queen, but the colony will quickly nurture a new one.

The leaders are highly mobile, easily



Exposing their lies is the only way to deal with fundamentalist terrorists.

hidden in the crowd with communication access to their followers for whom they care not one iota. I would say to all the kids who think of joining one of these groups, that they actually hold you in contempt while exploiting your idealism and sincere desire to do good. These guys are cynical in the extreme – you are just fodder for the machine. Once they have you in their grip, the flattery and praise quickly disappear.

To government and the media, I would say that our best hope to discourage and ultimately destroy the power of these groups is to use their own weapon: propaganda. Tell the simple truth and back it up with evidence. Point out the obvious discrepancies, the double speak, the palpable lies in what they are claiming and saying.

#### And the truth will set you free

Call a spade a spade: they are murderers, thugs, criminals. Don't dignify what they do by using the names they claim for themselves because that is their way of asserting their legitimacy.

Stop using euphemisms for murder. A beheading is a murder, plain and simple. Stop celebrating their atrocities. Report a murder in the driest of language. Use words of contempt in speaking of their deeds, if they are to be spoken of at all.

They will attempt to outlaw access to any information that exposes their lies – it is up to us to make the truth ubiquitous. Meanwhile, continue to squeeze them by reducing their options.

The war against extremism will not be won easily and we can no longer rely on governments to do all the work. The leaders of Isis are exploiting the innocence of youth for their own purposes. It is up to all of us to help take the truth into schools and places where vulnerable youth live. There is no one-step gateway to the highest level of paradise.

Dorothy Dobbie was Progressive Conservative MP for Winnipeg south from 1988 to 1993.

## And they shall have dominion

By Hon. John Reid



*The Hon. John Reid.*

There has been a change in the name scientists call the present time. "The Holocene" has been the usual term for recent times, that is, the last 12,000 years. "We're changing the Earth. There is no question about that. I've seen it from space," reported eight-time spacewalking astronaut John Grunsfeld, now associate administrator for science at NASA. He said there was no place on the planet that did not have the mark of man.

However, we humans are a recent arrival on the earthly scene. The earliest fossils of anatomically modern humans are from the Middle Paleolithic, about 200,000 years ago. If you examine the life span of the dinosaurs, the current estimate is that they lasted about 135 million years, surviving through many significant climate changes before dying off. Birds are classified as part of the dinosaur family. As yet, there are no clear answers to why the larger dinosaurs died off, but in so doing, they left room for the rise of the mammals, of which we humans are the dominating species. As a relatively new force on the planet, the question is how long can we last? Can we survive as long as the dinosaurs?

We humans have great advantages in our quest for species survival. We are more intelligent than other species, we are ingenious tool makers, we are flexible, curious, social, and can work well in groups to common ends. However, we are not perfect and we are prone to significant error; we are strong in our beliefs, we find it difficult to look at problems objectively, we find it difficult to think logically all the time, we tend to opt for emotional actions, which cloud our better judgement. We have not yet worked out systems of social balance and governance which lead to appropriate identification of problems and possible solutions to them. The human species appears to be a collection of warring tribes with each focusing only on its own limited concerns. And of course, each group's communications

focuses on small, local issues excluding larger concerns.

Marshall McLuhan recognized early on that the world had shrunk and developed his concept of the "Global Village." "There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew," he remarked. If you examine our media, the world is full of problems, there is no escape from actions taking place elsewhere. We humans have not developed systems of governance and control to deal with disease on a world wide scale, for example. In Canada, we had the SARS epidemic, which fortunately came to a relatively quick end, the AIDS epidemic, and now Ebola. There will be more because humans are quite fragile, susceptible to a variety of deadly ailments.

In the Global Village, our problems are world-wide; but the political mantra everywhere is that "all politics is local." That may have been true once, but if the problems and solutions are not local, how are they to be addressed? Our economic problems are international and include climate change, disease control, war – the list could go on. Our international organizations are fragile and not trusted, while the problems become more and more irksome and dangerous. Our species finds it difficult to look outward long term, and to take actions on a world scale.

Will the human race last as long as the dinosaurs? We are very young, quite bright, capable of learning but still very tribal, suspicious of other humans, highly emotional, reluctant to cooperate in many ways and in some ways, very unobservant about our milieu. Andrew Knoll, Professor of Natural History at Harvard University, said, "Humans have become a geologic force on the planet."

We are living in the age of the "Anthropocene" and clearly, the jury is still out on the possibility of us surviving as long as the dinosaurs."

The Hon. John Reid was Liberal MP for Kenora-Rainy River from 1965 to 1984.



# How does “Beyond the Hill” get published?

By Dorothy Dobbie



*I donate my own time and that of my art director, Karl Thomsen, to preparing the magazine.*

Our new president, Andy Mitchell recently asked that question and it occurs to me that the answer, once so well known to all, has probably been lost in the mists of time.

Several years ago, way back when Doug Rowland was president and Keith Penner was the Editor-in-Chief of the newly created *Beyond the Hill*, they asked for my help. They did this because publishing magazines is what I do for a living and after struggling along for a year or two without any professional assistance, they were finding it very difficult to get the magazine out. At the time, it was printed by the House of Commons on matte paper and in black and white with a commercially printed colour cover.

I agreed to contribute my time and expertise. Shortly after this, Keith stepped down as editor and asked me to take over. I agreed if he would continue to write the back page, which he did for the next several years. A year ago, he asked that the back page be turned over to Geoff Scott, although Keith will contribute from time to time.

I have served as editor ever since with the help, each year, of three or four editorial interns who are paid a small stipend per issue. They do much of the writing and I encourage members to contribute editorial to the magazine as well.

## Production

Neither I nor my company receive any fees, but I am pleased to contribute my time to write, edit, provide photography, do or have my staff do

the actual layouts and to donate colour corrections and other technical work to prepare the files for the printer.

Once we have completed the layouts, the copy comes back to the CAFF office for proofreading and to ensure that the picture captions are correct. The office sends the material back to us for corrections, then the whole thing goes back to the House of Commons to do the translations for the French edition.

After translation, copy comes back to my company, Pegasus Publications Inc., again and my staff do the lay outs for the French edition, preparing both editions for the printer. The printer sends us a final proof and then it is printed. The copies of both editions are sent by truck back to the House of Commons by the printer for mailing to the list prepared by CAFF staff.

The only cost to the Association is for the actual paper and presswork by the outside printer. The printer invoices the Association directly. To have the magazine professionally printed in colour was a decision taken when Doug Frith was president.

## Editorial board

We have an editorial board consisting of dedicated former members including Bill Casey, the Hon. Betty Kennedy, Keith Penner, the Hon. John Reid and Geoff Scott.

The committee meets after every edition of the publication to offer the members' thoughts and opinions, post mortem, and to put forward ideas for stories for the upcoming edition. These ideas are massaged by the editorial crew and the stories are researched

and written and the whole process starts over again.

Once each year, in the springtime, we bring on a few new interns, as the young people move out into full-time employment. The magazine gives our interns a wonderful item to add to their resumé's and several have gone on the bigger and better things in journalism.

We have been very fortunate over the past two years to have Harrison Lowman interning with us and taking the lead role in that regard.

## Advertising

In the last two editions, you will have noticed a couple of commercial ads. These were carried as part of “contra” or in-trade arrangements for services provided to the Association.

While we at Pegasus Publications Inc. receive no monetary consideration for our part in producing the magazine, we are all very proud to be associated with *Beyond the Hill* and we hope that it does justice to the good work of CAFF.

## The role of the magazine for CAFF

For my part, I feel the magazine plays a role in helping to preserve the institutional memory of parliament through the memories, wisdom and experience of the former members. For that reason, I would like to see the distribution extended to libraries, selected media and universities.

Currently, the magazine goes to all former and current Parliamentarians.

We welcome your participation as former Parliamentarians: our number one rule is that material has to be non-partisan.



# CAFP has come a long way in 25 years!

By Scott Hitchcox

As one of the most successful and influential post-political organizations amongst developed democratic nations, it's difficult to believe that, as far as organizational lifespans go, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians is still in its youth. A mere 25 years ago the association was a fledgling group, operating without a budget and with limited manpower.

The notion of an organization comprised of former political men and women was first put into play in the United States with the 1970 founding of the U.S Association of Former Members of Congress.

The idea of implementing a similar group amongst Canadians was then conceived by the Hon. John Reid, who included the concept in a speech he gave in Toronto in the late 1970s. It surfaced again when his words were discovered by one of the parliamentary committees after the 1984 election. The committee was headed by the Hon. Jim McGrath, who would later become the Lt. Governor of Newfoundland.

"I was approached (having been defeated in 1984) to put the idea into effect, with the support of the committee and Speaker (of the House) John Bosley," recalls John Reid. "Later the Speaker of the Senate came on board.

"From the beginning, there was support from the House of Commons, for example, the use of the Speaker's frank for postage. They also provided us with the mailing addresses of ex-MPs who were receiving pensions (not available today, and we could probably not have been able to put it together without that information).

"We got some informal assistance from the parties but mostly from their old staffers (both those still working and those retired) who did a lot of work finding ex-MPs for us.

"Eventually, with the support from the Speaker of the House and the Speaker of the Senate, we were given access to working space and access to parlia-

mentary operations when required. The biggest problem was getting lists of former parliamentarians and making them aware of the organization. In those days, we had no methods of getting the message out. We were essentially a hand-to-mouth organization with no particular revenue and no efficient way of recruitment," Reid remembers.

Though it would not be formally recognized through legislation until 1996, the association was up and running by the mid-80s. It has grown considerably in the last decade.

The association now boasts over 350 paid-up members, a budget, a website, and an external publication in *Beyond the Hill*. Membership is offered to all former MPs and senators regardless of the length of their tenure, and members can enjoy a wealth of services provided by the association. This includes participation in international study tours, regional meetings, and memorial services for colleagues and friends.

Our meteoric growth in membership and influence eclipses what John Reid had initially foreseen as the destiny of the organization, which now has an international influence on new and established democracies alike. But, despite the role of CAFP on the global stage, according to John, the association's most important contributions lie in the realm of education.

"The association has gotten itself into the education of young people wherever possible, to help them understand how political systems operate. It's important for young Canadians to understand what a member of parliament actually does, how they do it, and what their opportunities and constraints are," he says. "Not only does the association benefit past parliamentarians, but such educational initiatives will provide generations of future parliamentarians the tools and knowledge to participate effectively in a democratic Canada, at least until they become members themselves."

## The honour roll

### CAFP Presidents

1987-1990 Hon. John M. Reid  
1990-1992 Mr. William H. Clarke  
1992-1994 Mr. Jack R. Ellis  
1994-1995 Mr. J. Roland Comtois  
1995-2003 Mr. J. Barry Turner  
2003-2008 Mr. Douglas C. Rowland  
2008-2009 Hon. Douglas C. Frith  
2009-2014 Mr. Léo Duguay  
2014 Hon. Andy Mitchell

### Distinguished Service Award

1999 Hon. John Ross Matheson  
2000 Mr. Stan Darling  
2001 Mr. Douglas M. Fisher  
2002 Hon. John M. Reid  
2003 Ms. Aileen Nicholson  
2004 Dr. Bruce Halliday  
2005 Mr. J. Roland Comtois  
2006 Mr. Wilton Littlechild  
2007 Hon. Jacques Hébert  
2008 Hon. Sheila Finestone  
2009 Hon. Douglas Roche  
2010 Mr. Keith Penner  
2011 Mr. Jim Hawkes  
2012 Hon. Rev. Walter McLean  
2013 Hon. Bill Blaikie  
2014 Hon. Michael Kirby

### Lifetime Achievement Award

2010 Rt. Hon. Don Mazankowski  
2011 Hon. Ed Lumley  
2012 Ms. Alexa McDonough  
2014 Hon. Michael Wilson

### Douglas C. Frith Fundraising Dinner

2005 Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin  
2006 Hon. Michael Wilson  
2007 Mr. Derek Burney  
2008 Mr. Ralph Klein  
2009 Mr. Don Newman  
2010 Mr. John Furlong  
2011 Ms. Amanda Lang  
2012 Mr. Mark Cohon  
2013 Mr. Pat Cox



# The great flag debate

## In search of our identity

By Harrison Lowman

**I**ts acclaim comes from its simplicity. A singular crimson maple leaf sits atop a pearl white heraldic pale, nestled between a pair of red bars.

Once it was merely tacked to a peeling stucco wall inside a dimly lit committee room. Today, it is raised on front lawns, sewed to backpacks, pinned to lapels, and covers coffins. Last year, Canada celebrated the 50th anniversary of the great debate that determined our country's flag. This year will mark five decades since the banner's inauguration.

### The shifting sands of 1964

Previous prime ministers tried and failed to start a new conversation about a national flag for Canada, which had been informally using the British Red Ensign since the late 1860s. In 1925 and again in 1946, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King assembled committees to recommend a national flag design; capitalizing on a wave of patriotism following world war victories. However, on both occasions the decision making process was cut short.

The mid-1960s would prove to be the most fertile soil for planting the maple leaf's seed. In 1961, Liberal Leader Lester Pearson deployed Liberal MP and heraldic expert the Hon. John Ross Matheson to start quietly researching what it would take to establish a Canadian flag. The 1963 election brought Prime Minister Pearson a shaky minority government. Out on the hustings, the former diplomat promised the country it would have a new flag.

According to former senator and daughter-in-law to Prime Minister Pearson, the Hon. Landon Pearson, the Liberal leader was responding to the shifting tectonic plates within Canadian society. Hierarchies were changing. The decade would feature both the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism and the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

"The veneer that sort of covered over



*A look at the flag committee room during the selection process. Photo by Cliff Buckman.*

North American society at that time was cracking," she says. "You felt these real pressures for change."

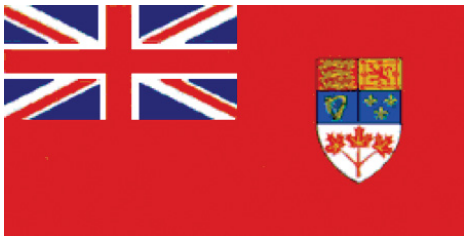
It was with this urgency that Prime Minister Pearson had his rarely worn WWI medals fastened to his lapel by Matheson and stepped onto a Winnipeg stage in front of 1,250 members of the Royal Canadian Legion on May 17, 1964. He told them the Red Ensign

they had fought under needed to be replaced. He was met by a slew of insults and heckles.

The Hon. Landon Pearson, whose husband was one of the Prime Minister's most trusted advisors, says her father-in-law intentionally chose the 20th Royal Canadian Legion Convention as the pulpit to launch the flag debate. She says he wanted to go, "right into the



It was a heated debate that ended with a sigh.



*The Red Ensign. Courtesy of the Government of Canada.*



fire.” Pearson ultimately put forth his choice for the country’s flag. The “Pearson Pennant” featured three red maple leaves joined by stems, guarded on either side by blue bars. His submission would kick start a fierce conversation that would breach the doors of Parliament and enter Canadian homes from Calgary to Halifax.

“It was one of the most memorable fire and brimstone debates in Canadian

history,” recalls former MP Geoff Scott, who covered the debate closely as a television journalist.

#### **Steadfast opposition**

It was the mission of then Progressive Conservative Leader of the Official Opposition John Diefenbaker to ensure the concerns of the veterans that voiced their displeasure in Winnipeg, and others who valued Canada’s historical symbols (both English and French), were heard. Diefenbaker wanted nothing more than for the Red Ensign to remain atop Canada’s flagpoles, and he was offended by anything else. According to Geoff, the Chief’s mind was made up.

“This was the finale of a Liberal plot,” he explains. “It was symbolic of the flagrant violation of cherished British and Canadian traditions.”

“As Leader of the Opposition he could speak for unlimited time. And he did,” describes former Speaker of the House and Peter Milliken. As a young man and first cousin to Matheson, Peter

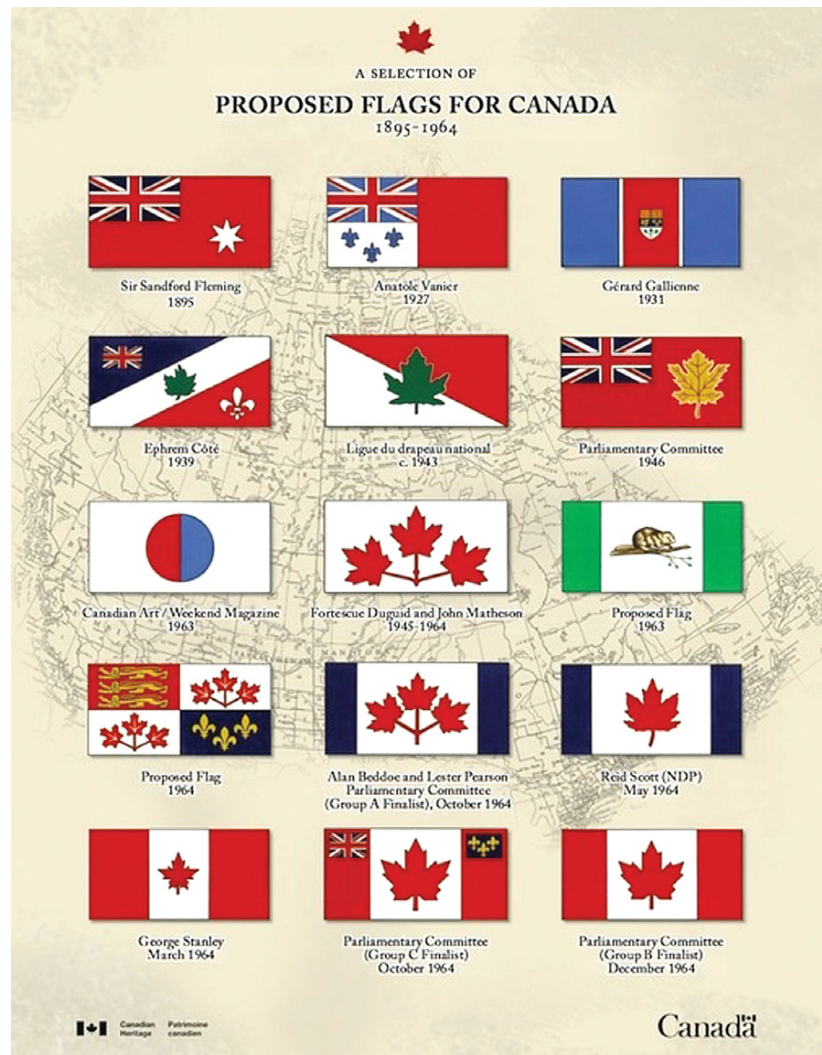
would make the trip up to Ottawa to watch the debate play out on the floor. “He was a guy who could stand up and go on for three hours no problem.”

Diefenbaker expressed his frustration through filibusters, pushing the debate into the summer months. In an attempt to appease all groups involved, Pearson responded by striking a special flag committee in September.

#### **The Committee is Struck**

The 15-member committee was headed by the Hon. John Ross Matheson. It consisted of seven Liberals, five Progressive Conservatives, and one member from the New Democratic Party, Social Credit Party, and the Ralliement créditiste. During the next six weeks, the group met on 35 occasions, often gathering multiple times in a day.

Furthering participation, the government put out a call to Canadians across the country to submit designs. Each morning, upon entering the committee room, another 400 or so submis-



*Courtesy of the Government of Canada.*





*Members of Parliament stand alongside Canada's new flag. Library & Archives Canada photo.*

sions would be waiting for the members. According to Marcel Lessard, a former Social Credit MP who sat on the committee, some 7,000 flag designs were brought before them. They came on tissue paper, cardboard and cloth. These suggestions were then pinned to the walls of the committee room for consideration.

"There were so many," explains former Liberal MP Jean-Eudes Dubé, who also sat on the committee. "The walls were full of flags."

Dubé says that while the House of Commons heard insults lobbed back and forth over the flag, the committee room was a civil environment. According to some, the pleasant atmosphere was because of the presence of the committee's only woman, Liberal MP Margaret Konantz. There was a lady in their midst and they felt they had to be on their best behaviour.

The committee meetings followed a similar pattern, according to Marcel Lessard. Flags were separated into three categories: "Those stupid bad ones", symbols of British or French colonial existence, and those that featured the maple leaf. The committee's secretary would then point towards a flag. If members

did not stand up or raise their hand, the flag was tossed to the floor. The group also met with prominent Canadians such as artist A.Y. Jackson, who described the physical features of the country whose emblem they were selecting.

According to Robert Harper, chair of the 50 Years of Our Flag Committee, who spent over 1,000 hours interviewing John Ross Matheson before his death in 2013, Matheson worked tirelessly behind the scenes to modify the designs being considered and satisfy the various parties. In March, he met with historian George Stanely on the parade grounds of the Royal Military College, where the academic pushed the idea the flag should include the thick red bars of the school's banner, but with a maple leaf in the centre. Matheson also met with former NDP committee member Reid Scott to encourage alterations to the NDP's recommendation, which featured a single maple leaf flanked by smaller blue bars, which are not Canada's official colours of red and white.

Eventually, the committee was left with three finalists – the Pearson Penant, a 13-pointed red maple leaf with red stripes, and the same flag accompanied by a Union Jack on the left red bar,

and a trio of fleur-de-lis on the right red bar. On October 22, 1964, the committee reached a unanimous 14-0 decision that the single maple leaf between two red bars should be Canada's flag.

"And the red maple leaf on the white background and the two red on both sides, it looked very striking," declares Jean-Eudes Dubé. "Nothing can be more peaceful than a maple leaf. You don't get slapped in the face by a maple leaf."

"I am very proud to have been a member of those few members in the House of Commons, that sat for six bloody long weeks," adds Marcel Lessard. "It was difficult, but I think we have achieved a great job."

### **Back to the Commons**

Nevertheless, the job was not over yet. When the committee's modified decision arrived in the House it was met by further filibustering by the Progressive Conservatives. Diefenbaker was convinced the choice looked like the Peruvian flag. Debate dragged on until it was recommended by MPs from multiple parties that closure be applied, bringing debate to a close.

The final vote took place on December 15, where the committee's recommendation was accepted 163-78. The flag debate had consumed 37 sitting days, which included 210 speeches by the PCs and 50 from the Liberals.

### **Raising the decision**

The Canadian flag's eventual inauguration on February 15, 1965 was a more solemn affair than one might imagine. At the time of the flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill, some division still lingered. Landon Pearson watched from her stepfather's office window as the Red Ensign was lowered and the new flag was raised. Then television journalist Geoff Scott stood next to Prime Minister Pearson, who donned his black homburg for the overcast and cool February morning.

"He [the flag raiser] quietly took the rolled up flag from an aid and he began tugging on the lanyard and up she went, unfolding in a gentle breeze," recalls Geoff. "What struck me about the whole thing was it was no fanfare, no band or musical accompaniment of any kind, no formal pomp and ceremony. Just a mild round of applause from a small knot of spectators."

Prime Minister Pearson did not give a speech. "He just said sort of to no one in particular something along the lines of, 'Well that's that.'"



# Rallying round the Maple Leaf

By Harrison Lowman



**M**ore than 50 years after the great flag debate, voices that reject Canada's flag have all but faded into the background. The red maple leaf nestled between two red bands has been welcomed with open arms by our country's ten provinces and three territories, as well as countries abroad.

## A unified Canada

Some even thank the flag for the survival of Canada. Shortly before the 1995 Quebec referendum vote, an estimated 100,000 Canadians from within and outside of Quebec filled the streets of Montreal to take part in the "Unity Rally". In taking part in what some have called Canada's largest political rally, participants waved hundreds of Canadian flags. According to former Progressive Conservative MP and television journalist Geoff Scott, it was Prime Minister Pearson's acknowledgement of the early rumbling of the Quiet Revolution that spurred him to develop a "made in Canada" flag. The Canadian flags at the Unity Rally did not harken back to a colonial past. Crowds instead gathered around the maple leaf.

"That's the symbol. That's the image," insists former Liberal MP Mau-

rice Harquail. "Let's all sing O Canada. Let's all stay together here."

## An envied Canada

Others point to the modern flag's ability to represent a collective that is envied abroad. Marcel Lessard, former Social Credit MP and member of the flag committee recalls giving his daughter a Canadian flag sticker to put on her bag as she travelled Europe. Soon, he was getting requests from her American friends who were being refused entry into hostels. Former Liberal MP Jesse Flis remembers travelling around the world with his family, learning from non-Canadian hitchhikers you are far more likely to get a ride with a maple leaf sewed to your knapsack.

## A Canada that Remembers

In Parliament, Jesse Flis lobbied the Liberal caucus tirelessly for the creation of the National Flag Day of Canada, held every February 15, to commemorate the inauguration of the flag. He reached his goal in 1996.

"In my opinion, Canadians knew so little about the history of the flag," says Jesse. "I figured let's at least have it on the calendars, let's wake people up. The way the Americans do."

Before leaving the House of Com-

mons in 1997, Jesse issued a challenge to Canadians to come up with a pledge for the flag, and received limited feedback. Given that 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag's inauguration, he feels this year will be the perfect time to come up with a pledge that embodies our country. According to Len Westerberg, a spokesperson for the Department of Heritage Canada, "This anniversary is a key milestone on the list of Road to 2017 commemorations. Activities to mark the day will be announced in due course."

## Worth the Squabbles

The great flag debate consumed Parliament and pitted cultural groups head to head. Nevertheless, the majority would argue that the result nullified the bitterness of the process. An adolescent Canada's growing pains has produced a flag the country is proud to stand behind.

In the end, the Hon. Landon Pearson, former Liberal Senator and daughter-in-law to Prime Minister Pearson, tells us to be happy the debate happened over 50 years ago and not today.

"Goodness knows what would have happened to the flag debate in the era of social media," she says. "Facebook would have been so full of flags, they'd have been flying off the screens."





*Group at the end of a day's building work (Peter, far right).*

# Your chocolate bars at work in Guatemala and Kamloops

Story by the Hon. Peter Adams, photos by Joanne Simpson

Every MP has bought chocolate bars or taken part in other fund-raising activities for school trips. Increasingly nowadays, in a shrinking world, high schools are organizing trips overseas, often with some charitable purpose. This is certainly true in our home, Peterborough, where our Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School recently undertook a mission to Honduras.

We were very happy to receive an invitation to join a team of Grade 11 and 12 students from Sa-Hali Secondary School, Kamloops, B.C., on a working trip to Guatemala. For a number of years, Sa-Hali has been working with Developing World Connections (a registered Canadian charitable organization, based in Kamloops that sponsors volunteer work in 10 developing countries) in Honduras, on projects connected with a learning center called the Open Windows Foundation in the village of San Miguel Duenas. The U.S. NGO provides 2,600 children in the community with learning services and other aid.



*Keegan Marchand and Shelby Kieper working on concrete blocks.*

As a former parliamentarian, I was intrigued by the fact that one of the students involved, Keegan, was the grandson of retired MP and Senator Len Marchand, the first Status Indian to serve as a Member of Parliament and the second Aboriginal to be appointed to the Senate. I later discovered that Keegan was following in the footsteps of his elder brothers, Miles and Noah

who had been on the Sa-Hali teams of 2010 and 2012.

## Our Mission

In this case, the team's mission included building two houses, working with children in the village learning centre and delivering donations in kind (several suitcases full) collected in Kamloops and Peterborough.

The two houses were to be new homes for families who were on-site, as keen observers, during construction. They were made of concrete blocks and rebar reinforcing, with a corrugated iron roof and concrete floor. There was no hydro or water on-site. A local mason did the technical work and directed our labours. Our team's main functions was hauling blocks and fill, making metal ties and using them to assemble double rod rebar and filling the vertical gaps between blocks (the horizontal gaps were too important for us to handle!) with mortar.

Jill and I were impressed by the fact that on this project, the houses were so small (100 square feet) that our team could build them from start to finish. This is much more satisfying than help-





*Jill Adams learning to make tortillas with a mother of Guatemalan family.*



*Peter and Danielle with a child wearing clothing donated by Dorothy O'Brian and Joanne Walker (from Peterborough).*



*Sarah teaching a group of children to finger-knit at the Learning Centre.*

ing build part of a larger structure like a school. We left more or less complete homes for our families.

The learning centre in San Miguel Duenas, just outside the city of Antigua, Guatemala, has a modest library and computer centre. In Guatemala, education is free up to Grade 6, thereafter it costs the equivalent of \$500 Canadian dollars per year, a large sum. The center provides scholarships for bright students who cannot afford to stay in school. However, its main function is a drop-in centre for more than a hundred younger students. These come after school in order to do homework and read books until they go home – activities that may be almost impossible otherwise. Each child received a vitamin pill and soup.

The centre serves as base for visiting

volunteers like us, including medical teams, and for the distribution, of donations in kind delivered by teams such as ours.

The Sa-Hali students spent some of their time working with children at the centre. They also visited poorer parts of the village and a camp for the families of migrant farm workers, delivering aid packages prepared in Kamloops.

#### **Our Lesson**

By the end of their stay, our students had a good grasp of the living conditions of the region, had witnessed extreme poverty and had a taste of hard physical labour in the sun. They had also climbed a live volcano, and narrowly lost (5:4) in a full-length (90 minute) soccer game against a local girls and boys team. They had lived and worked

together in strange, often difficult, surroundings.

As is so often the case with youthful aid teams like this, students come home deeply disturbed by the overwhelming needs of children in developing countries, although with a feeling of having done something to help. Interestingly, they also come back with a conviction that they have gained more than the people they were trying to help.

We believe that this last point is very important. These students are now motivated Canadians, sensitized to problems of the world and to the strengths and weaknesses of Canada. They will be better citizens for their experience. They deserve great credit for their efforts.

Peter Adams was the Liberal member of Parliament for Peterborough 1993 to 2006.



# Staying in touch

By Harrison Lowman and Scott Hitchcox

**Hon. Herb Breau**  
(Liberal MP, 1968-1984)

**Q. Describe what your riding was like when you were an MP.**

My constituency was Gloucester, New Brunswick. It's now called Acadie-Bathurst. At the time, in 68' when I first ran, I would say the economic activity was about a third the fishery, a third in forestry, and the rest in mining or construction. I was born in the riding, in Upper Sheila, New Brunswick.

**Q. What were your aspirations when you were a child?**

My father was a forester and trucker in the forest industry. He said he would make sure I could go to college or university. I thought I would be in business, I thought I would be a lawyer, I thought about the priesthood. I went to college and university and I graduated in 66' and I ran for Parliament in 68'.

**Q. What did you go into politics wanting to accomplish?**

I was educated by the Holy Cross Fathers, which had a real strong social, moral and political base. The basis of the education was that you belong to the community and that you have to serve the community. My area, north-eastern New Brunswick, still is an area in dire need of development. But in that day it was really bad. I saw people living in houses with no floors, with just a stove pipe and a little stove to heat their homes. The federal government had just started thinking about regional development. They had signed a huge agreement with the province of New Brunswick. I thought that, being a graduate of business administration, there was something for me to do there. I was an idealist and I thought we could affect some change.

At the same time it was the time of the Royal Commission on Official Languages. I'm a Francophone, an Acadian. It was a time of hope. It was difficult, but we thought things were going to get better.

**Q. When you got to the House, did you find you were able to bring forward these issues?**

I found in the various departments people I could work with. I learned very quickly because of some good mentor-

ing from people who were there with experience, that the way to get things done was not necessarily to make a big issue to a minister, it's to learn what the departments are thinking about, learn what the priorities are in the departments within a policy that has already been approved.

**Q. What was your most memorable experience during your political career?**

I was a minister in 84'. And because I was a minister from New Brunswick I received Pope John Paul II at the Moncton airport. When he came down the stairs of the plane he shook my hand. He said, "Mr. Breau we have met before." I said, "Yes we did Your Highness." And then he went to my wife and gave her two gifts for our children and said, "You have two children, I bless this for your children." And he touched my wife and said, "I bless you too."

My most fulfilling time as an MP, policy-wise, was when I chaired the fiscal arrangement task force in 1981. Fiscal Federalism in Canada, which was the title of our report, is still being referred to today as a basis for fiscal policy.

**Hon. Mary Collins**  
(Progressive Conservative MP,  
1984-1993)

**Q. What was behind your desire to enter politics?**

Public service and wanting to have more women involved. I had been involved in the party and promoting women.

**Q. How would you describe your riding of Capilano-Howe Sound, British Columbia?**

There's seniors, Aborigines, there's a lot of immigration. During my years, there were a lot of people wanting to bring over family members. That was a big issue.

**Q. What issues did you want to address when you became a politician?**

It was economic issues and then ultimately free trade which we did in 88', to expand the economy. I went on to be a minister in my second term of five different portfolios, so I was involved in a whole range of issues during those years.

We started the first panel on domestic

violence. I think it raised the recognition and understanding of the issue. I was associate minister of national defence and we opened up all the trades and occupations to women. I did a number of things in the health portfolio, which were firsts and have kind of established precedents for years to come.

**Q. What's it like to reconvene with old friends?**

Even in B.C. I run into people who were Members of Parliament at various events and things. And yes, party doesn't really matter anymore.

**Hon. Raymond Setlakwe**  
(Liberal Senator, 2000-2003)

**Q. How did it feel when you were appointed?**

I didn't expect it. I was very happy where I was. And the prime minister appointed me president of the Clarity Act. And I was appointed on the same day as Betty Kennedy. We've been and remain close friends ever since.

**Q. What were you hoping to accomplish in regards to the Clarity Act?**

A majority vote in the Senate in favour of the Clarity Act, which wasn't a given at that time.

The Parti Québécois recently suffered defeat in Quebec. What was your response when you saw the results?

I was overwhelmed with delight. But I don't think the sovereignty issue is buried yet. I think it takes more time and more reflection on the part of all Quebecers, but I think it's a possibility for the future.

**Q. What did you like most about the Senate?**

The committees. Where we were told by experts that testified before us that they much preferred testifying before a Senate committee than a Commons committee because of the expertise of the Senate.

**Q. What was your expertise?**

I'm a lawyer and a businessman, and a poet.

**Q. Now that you're out of the Senate are you writing more poetry?**

I never write it, I just recite it. The romantic poets- Dennison, Wordsworth, Keith. And Shakespeare of course is the greatest of them all.





Hon. Herb Breau.



Hon. Mary Collins.



Hon. Raymond Setlakwe.



Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral.



Hon. Michael Meighen.

**Q. When you left the Upper House, what did you hope to accomplish having left public life?**

Continue participating in my businesses, which I hope to do until I retire ten years from now when I'll be 96.

**Q. Describe what is like to reconvene with old colleagues.**

I have a lot of political adversaries, but I don't have a single political enemy. This is a typical example of the type of politics we adhere to in Canada; which is what makes us such a great country.

**Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral  
(Bloc Québécois MP, 1993-2004)**

**Q. What have you been up to since your time as a Member of Parliament?**

One of my main objectives has been to become a more involved grandmother and get to know my grandchildren better. I have also been involved in various organizations and investments with the Laval division of the Canadian Writer's Society, which gives both aspiring and established authors opportunities to share their art and ideas with one another. I have also been very involved with the Association Québécois's recent adoption of measures concerning end of life care; helping with record keeping and proper documentation. Beyond that, I love theatre art exhibitions and travelling. I recently took a trip to Europe! Overall I've been very busy.

**Q. Do you still have strong connections with the riding you represented as a Member of Parliament (Laval Centre)?**

Oui, bien sur! Unfortunately, the riding no longer exists as it was redistributed between the ridings of Laval and Marc-Aurèle-Fortin in 2003. But I remain very involved with my community. I am connected with some of the constituents, and I try to help and contribute wherever I can.

**Q. What was your proudest accomplishment as a Member of Parliament?**

I introduced Bill M-380, which proposed official recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Canadian House of Commons. This was something I was very passionate about, and when it was passed in 2004 I was very proud. This meant that the Canadian government officially acknowledged the breaches of human rights that had occurred in Turkey in the early 1900s.

**Q. What do you think is the most important role of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians?**

I think the association serves a number of important roles, among them the promotion of democracy and the representation of various demographics throughout Canada. However, I also believe that, as an association, we can do more to organize debates and discussions on important issues.

*\*Note: these answers have been translated from French.*

**Hon. Michael Meighen  
(Conservative Senator,  
1990-2012)**

**Q. What have you been up to since your time as a Senator?**

Since I've stepped down, I've been busy with finishing up my time as Chancellor of the University of Kings College in Halifax, and wrapping up the McGill Capital Campaign, of which I was a co-chair. I also have one for-profit board that I sit on, and I'm chairman of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, a conservation organization based in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Along with its sister organization in the United States we work to try to preserve the habitats and lands of the Atlantic Salmon. So that takes up a fair bit of time.

I've been doing some travelling with my wife; we've been to Indonesia, New Zealand, and Italy. I suppose when you're not as busy as you used to be, you worry that work stands to fill the time you have available. I don't seem to

have time hanging on my hands. When I do, I enjoy fishing, golf and skiing.

**Q. Do you miss the activities, atmosphere, and responsibilities that came with working on the Hill?**

Not really. I enjoyed my 21 years on the Hill, especially the committee work. I miss the people, but many of those with whom I was closely associated are no longer sitting in the Senate, and certainly recent events in the Senate are not ones I would have wanted to be involved in. So my timing was, out of sheer dumb luck, quite exquisite.

**Q. What would you consider to be your most notable accomplishment on the Hill?**

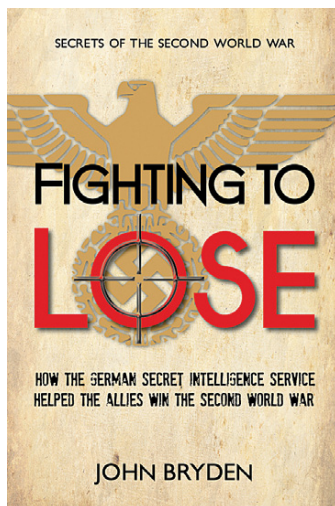
One of them was securing recognition of those Canadians who served in Bomber Command during WWII, and also our efforts on the banking committee. We didn't have any chairs, or huge events, but I think the board did good work. I enjoyed my time in National Security and Defense Committee and on the Committee on Veterans Affairs, of course. Visits we made to Afghanistan on the defense committee, and to France and Italy on the veterans committee, and also the work we did on trying to secure the treatment for veterans were all things I was happy with. I don't know if we were entirely successful, there's still much work to be done, but I think we made progress.

**Q. What don't people understand about what it's like to be a politician?**

I'd like to reiterate that I think sometimes people are overly critical of parliamentarians. There are an awful lot of hardworking, talented people that do good work. I still believe very strongly that politics is a public service and a noble calling. I hope the trend I'm seeing, that of cynicism towards political life and activities, is a passing one. I hope we can get back to a more appreciative kind of stance, and I hope we can keep our democracy vibrant.



## The intriguing story of how German Intelligence helped us win the war



**Fighting to Lose: How the German Secret Intelligence Service Helped the Allies Win the Second World War.** By John Bryden. Dundurn April 19, 2014. 416 pages. ISBN 978-1459719590. Reviewed by Carl Christie.

Thoughtful and thought-provoking, John Bryden's *Fighting to Lose: How the German Secret Intelligence Service Helped the Allies Win the Second World War*, can and probably should be read by anyone with even a mild interest in the Second World War. You may not always agree with the author's views. You undoubtedly will want to commend him for his diligent, imaginative, and indefatigable research; not to mention his use of sources hitherto not utilized by previous authors writing about the mid-20th century global conflict, that so radically reshaped our world, leaving legacies of transcendent importance for the following century.

A prominent Canadian military historian once made the rather flippant comment that the nature of Intelligence, the way in which its business is conducted in secret, followed by the extremely restricted way in which its records are kept, make any attempt to write its history a fruitless exercise. We should not, therefore, waste our time doing intelligence history. I would argue the opposite. The high degree secrecy, at the time and afterwards, makes it essential that the historian tackle this crucial aspect of

human affairs, particularly with respect to conflict. We cannot shy away because we expect the job to prove too difficult. John Bryden, in two previous books (*Best Kept Secret: Canadian Secret Intelligence in the Second World War* and *Deadly Allies: Canada's Secret War 1937-1947*), showed us that dogged and imaginative research by a knowledgeable and persistent author can peel away many of the layers of secrecy to reveal what governments kept from their citizenry during the war.

We must thank John Bryden for turning his considerable talents to the study of the German secret intelligence service during the Second World War. Read *Fighting to Lose*, but pick up the book prepared to have your take on the war challenged. You may find yourself wrestling with your own mind as long-held views are challenged by so many of this author's new findings. You should also consider Bryden's advice, that you should read his historical retrospective in the appendix prior to beginning chapter one. It helps put everything into a larger context, and therefore makes things a little more understandable to the layman. Besides, this essay is a brilliant piece of writing in its own right, compressing and making comprehensible a few hundred years of conflict and intelligence.

John Bryden is a former Liberal MP, representing the riding of Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot (1993-2004). Carl Christie is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Defence and Security Studies.

## Searching for Camelot



**Morgan Le Fay** by G.F. McCauley, Friesen Press. June 3, 2013, Canada. 272 pages. ISBN 978-1460212219. Reviewed by Richard Cameron.

Some people who review books are elitists. They claim to get inside the heads of authors and divine their intentions, their plots, their writing styles, their very darkest and deepest motivations.

But I am not one of them; I am not an elitist. I am already inside the head of author G. F. McCauley because I grew up in the same small Ontario town he did, around the same time he did and I share many of the swirling bits of grey matter that coalesce in the Big Bang creation of his ideas.

So, in a very real sense, I have met Sanford Berkett McDougal, the Sandy who is the Knight Errant of Morgan Le Fay, McCauley's story of desire, delight and despair; the sexcapade artist who is setting out on his own personal crusade for a not-so-holy grail.

His grail is the bewitching Morgan O'Halloran, and she is not hidden in the sands of the Holy Land. She is resident on New Zealand's South Island. But like any grail shrouded in the mists of time, she poses a lot of questions for Sandy, she represents a lot of the loose ends in his life, all those unfulfilled moments we all wish we could recoup, redo and remember.

Morgan O'Halloran is the Morgan Le Fay of the story, as in the Morgan Le Fay of the Arthurian legend, a powerful sorceress, the antagonist of King Arthur (she is his half-sister, as legend would have it) and Queen Guinevere. She is the Fay, or magician, who beguiles Sandy McDougal. He has come to realize he doesn't



She knows things  
that Sandy has never  
dreamed of . . .

know if she is friend or foe, supportive or deceptive, evil or angelic. But like any sorceress, she holds deep, dark secrets about him and their relationship.

Let me pause here and say I am not going to recount the details of Sandy's crusade, except to say that G. F. McCauley has come into his own as a great storyteller. This is not a formula book, full of angst and anger. In formula writing the reader knows right away where the plot is going. Think of that Harley-Davidson motorcycle doing 90 miles an hour down a dead-end street. You, the reader, know where this storyline is going.

Morgan Le Fay is a deeply moving telling of a man's hunt for his own personal Camelot and his own Guinevere. He sets out full of sardonic brio and comes up short. Is he speeding a one-way street? Has he set off on a wrong road again?

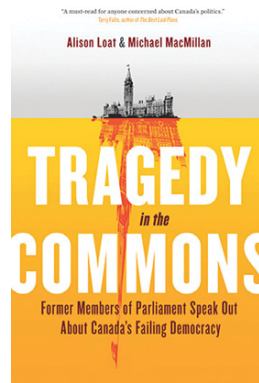
Morgan is both an idealized lover and an antagonist. She knows things that Sandy has never dreamed of, and she connives Sandy into a heroic act of love that he could never have imagined, something the Dutch and Swiss have inculcated into their societies in the name of human dignity.

Sandy is learning as much about himself as he is learning about Morgan. His despair deepens as the story deepens. He is surrounded by loss.

Only when he returns to his hometown of Lowvert and can give the one-finger salute to his school chum that Sandy comes into the presence of his own understanding.

Camelot is not somewhere out there. It is always part of you.

Gary McCauley is a former Liberal MP from Moncton, N.B. (1979-1984). Reviewer Richard Cameron is the retired publisher of the *Georgetown Herald*.



**Tragedy in the Commons: Former Members of Parliament Speak Out About Canada's Failing Democracy.** By Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan. Random House Canada. April 15 2014. Canada. 274 pages. ISBN 978-0307361295. Reviewed by Harrison Lowman.

In 1968, ecologist Garrett Hardin penned an essay entitled "The Tragedy of the Commons", which illustrated how a shared pasture is eventually completely exploited by farmers who, in the short term, have no incentive to safeguard the community's resource. In *Tragedy in the Commons*, authors Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan bring this economic concept under the roof of the House of Commons.

Loat and MacMillan are co-founders of Samara, a think tank dedicated to improving political participation in Canada since 2009. According to research they performed in 2012, only 55 per cent of Canadians are satisfied with the state of their democracy. The authors conclude that democracy is at stake, writing that MPs and their parties must realize they, "...are approaching the point where citizens view them as nearly irrelevant."

In a search for reasons behind this dissatisfaction, Samara travelled across the country performing exit interviews with 80 former MPs about their time in office. The group represented all five parties who sat in Parliament from 2004 to 2011.

*Tragedy in the Commons* interviews describe how reluctant community leaders often find themselves thrust into the ambiguous role of member of Parliament. Once on the Hill, these men and women, the authors contend, are left to fend for themselves in an environment with strict partisan boundaries dictated by the leader's office.

## Canadian democracy from the dark side

A beetle-browed view of what it is like to be a member of Parliament these days.

### Trouble Defining

Loat and MacMillan highlight the need to define "member of Parliament" in order to address the public's aversion to a position that once held such respect. According to them, healing can begin when former MPs start to defend their profession, their desire to enter it, and why politics matters. Samara's interviews showcase a large number of former parliamentarians that are reluctant to admit they had any plans to pursue political office; characterizing themselves as outsiders. The authors write, "Many portrayed themselves as having to be almost dragged, kicking and screaming, into the job." Numerous former MPs also appeared reluctant to admit they were once regular politicians who engaged in the system themselves; eager to present themselves as concerned Canadians on the outside looking in at the flawed system.

The authors also point to the dense fog surrounding the duties of an MP. Many Canadians are confused by what MPs do. According to Samara, many former MPs also presented conflicting job descriptions. They described the contention between acting as a "trustee" – a representative who follows their own judgment, and a "delegate" – who believes they should be led by the desires of their constituents.

Within this, Loat and MacMillan describe how about a quarter of the interviewees viewed their service to constituents as the best part about being an MP. The pair nonetheless criticizes how, "MPs are devoting substantial time and office resources acting as customer service representatives for the federal bureaucracy." Undoubtedly many parliamentarians feel the most satisfying and engaging moment in their careers included looking into the eyes of new Canadians, having nudged along their



immigration claims. However, in support of the authors, is tending to various bureaucracy brush fires really the job of a member of Parliament or a member of the civil service?

#### Party disregard and expectations

Part of the reason MPs enjoy navigating their constituents through this bureaucracy is because the safe haven of their constituency offices seems to be only place where they are free from party marching orders. The interviews reveal that upon reaching Ottawa, many rookie MPs are met with a bare bones orientation and veterans who are protective of their knowledge, to prevent ladder climbing. Instead of nurturing, MPs seem to be greeted by a wave of partisan expectations. These expectations are dictated to MPs from all-powerful leadership offices that increasingly circumvent MPs to interact with constituents directly, and value and reward loyalty above all else.

The authors write that parties, "... showed themselves to be apathetic about how the newcomers fared in nearly all aspects of their jobs. Except for one: how they vote." This extends to committee appointments, where there seems to be little thought given to where each MP's

knowledge would be best used. Many will agree that it is unfair for parties to perform extensive research into candidates and vocalize their positive attributes and specialties, only to ignore them altogether once signs are taken out of the ground.

Having been kicked from the nest following their election, MPs are expected to devote public appearances, specifically in Question Period, to insulting one another to score points in front of the media. According to the majority of those interviewed, some of the best and most productive work in Parliament took place in committees and caucuses. The authors conclude that this is detrimental to the system, in that Parliament's most important work, the only settings where MPs can disagree with their parties, are outside of the public's sight line. Then again, what makes QP entertaining is its theatrics. Is there a way to alter committee proceedings that would make Canadians want to actually watch them?

#### Planting the seeds of Change

Tragedy in the Commons leaves readers with the description of a flawed Canadian democracy at a standstill, and a call to MPs themselves to invoke change.

The former MPs who were interviewed are considered victims of the tragedy of the commons, fearful of the political repercussions they would face if they spoke up against the flaws they now highlight. Today, the tragedy persists.

Loat and MacMillan seem to put the responsibility for the tragedy on the shoulders of MPs. Samara admits that shirking blame for these problems was a constant during the interviews; where former MPs blamed parties, staffers, leaders, the media, and Ottawa culture. They conclude, "But at its root, any parliamentary problem exists because the members of Parliament allow it to exist." They stress that we should not wait for institutional or constitutional reform, which could take decades to introduce. Instead, they put their faith in MPs currently sitting in the House who want to shake up the system and encourage them to start now. This is a tall order, given it would require individual MPs to step out from underneath their well-established political banners and instead fight under the more ambiguous flag of democracy. Nevertheless, a wise man once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

## Stop bashing Question Period!



Keith Penner.

By Keith Penner

**F**ulminating against Question Period (QP) has become the default position for most parliamentary observers. Please cease and desist. There is nothing that is fundamentally wrong with our QP. In my view, only one small modification is needed.

At Westminster, it was the notable speech or speeches that served to mark those with a political future. So it was for Robert Peel, W.E. Gladstone, Benjamin Disraeli, and Winston Churchill.

In Canada, QP provides a screening mechanism for determining who are the effective MPs and ministers. Those who are able to pose penetrating, relevant questions on national issues pass

the test. Those who, without notes and looking the minister squarely in the face, can fire verbal missiles across the aisle are our parliamentary stars. Ministers who can intercept these volleys and hurl them back with little damage done, are the government's shield and strong defenders.

When the Speaker calls for questions, a hornets' nest is dropped into the Chamber. The loosened predators dive, swoop, buzz and sometimes sting. Able ministers swat these pests aside with finesse. Those who fail to do so let the government down.

In a past parliament, a new minister, on his own volition, decided to provide fulsome and detailed answers to questions that came his way. Quickly, he became an object of derision and all queries to him ended.

QP is not a forum meant for information gathering. It is designed to score political points, just as a formulae one

racer is fashioned for speed. An Opposition House leader was asked what one had to do to get on the list. He replied, "Can you draw blood or get ink?"

Is there any aspect of QP that can easily and swiftly be improved? The answer is yes. It pertains to those who have failed to make the cut and become parliamentary hecklers.

Heckling is an art, which needs to be developed and encouraged. Every party needs a cadre of these proficient probers. Quality of voice and perfect timing are vital. The problem in QP lies with the less able and the inarticulate, who simply make rude gestures, or worse, create disturbing background noise. QP needs to be open for really good hecklers to perform. As for the others, let them be still and find their worth as MPs elsewhere.

There is an excess of QP bashing. With this one small change, let the status quo prevail.



# Our tribute to those who have passed on

By Harrison Lowman



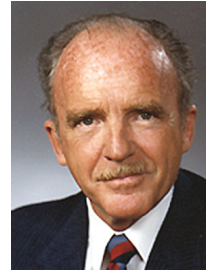
*John Browne.*



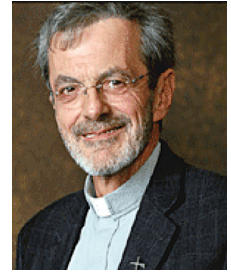
*Norval Horner.*



*Ronald McLelland.*



*Hon. William M. Kelly.*



*Father Raymond Gravel.*

## **John Browne (Fergie)**

Former Progressive Conservative MP John Browne passed away peacefully at the Vancouver General Hospital on June 9, 2014. He was 94.

John began his life in Regina, Sask. When war broke out in Europe, the young man answered his country's call. John served in the Canadian Army during WW2; the conflict took him to England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. For his bravery he was awarded the France and Germany Star, the 1939-45 Star, the War Medal, the Defence Medal, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Overseas Clasp.

John was first elected to the House of Commons in 1958, representing the riding of Vancouver Kingsway. In 1962, he was defeated. Before entering the political fray, John had been a traffic manager.

John was predeceased by his loving wife Margaret in 2006. He leaves behind his sons Doug (Margaret) and Stephen (Rayna) and nieces Judy, Carol, Donna and Wendy and nephews Wayne, Larry, Robert, Allen and Walter.

## **Norval Horner**

Norval Horner passed away on April 3, 2014 in his new home in Nanaimo, B.C. He was 83.

Norval was born on August 21, 1930 in Blaine Lake, Sask., the seventh child in a family of nine.

He earned engineering and teaching degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. He was a farmer, businessman and a principal with the Sturgeon School Division. In his retirement he ran a golf course in Sunnybrook, Alta. with his brother Jack. The hours that remained in the day were spent with the Edmonton bridge community.

Norval came from a long list of Horner politicians. His father, Ralph

Horner, ran for office and eventually served in the Senate. His brother, Hugh Horner, was a former federal MP and provincial MPP. His brother, Jack, and cousin, Albert, were federal MPs. His nephew, Doug Horner, is currently Alberta's finance minister.

Norval was first elected to the House of Commons in the 1972 federal election, becoming the Progressive Conservative MP for Battleford-Kindersley. He was defeated two years later by 85 votes.

He leaves behind 8 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

## **Ronald McLelland**

An athlete, farmer, and community man, former Progressive Conservative MP Ronald David McLelland died in hospital February 1, 2014 at 88. A farmer through and through, Ron worked at farming his entire life until he became ill after the 2011 harvest.

Born March 27, 1926 in Loreborn, Sask., Ron was a prairie boy at heart. He played hockey with the Loreborn Tigers and later played three seasons with the Lucknow Sepoys. It was in Lucknow that he met his wife Agnes Conley. The couple married in March 1951 during a break in a playoff series. Ron also played baseball with the Cranes, who were later inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame.

Always an active member of his community, Ron was involved in many organizations. Among them, he served on the Loreburn Town Council, School Board, Curling Club, Hockey League, Loreburn/Hawarden Pastoral charge, Board of Stewards of the United Church of Canada, the Outlook Hospital Board, Wheat Pool, and the Saskatchewan River Development. He was a part of Lions International throughout his life and was a founding member and charter president of the Loreburn Lions Club.

He was also involved in the Masonic Fraternity for almost six decades.

In 1965, the Diefenbaker follower was elected to represent the constituency of Rosetown-Biggart, a post he would hold for four years. He was later honoured with the Centennial Medal as well as the 125th Anniversary medal in recognition of significant service and contribution to his community and Canada. John is survived by his wife Agnes, son Cameron (Eileen), daughter Marlene, grandchildren Chrysten, Kristyanne (Chun), and sister Marion.

## **Hon. William M. Kelly**

After a lifetime of service, The Honourable William McDonough Kelly passed away November 16, 2013 at the age of 88.

Born July 21, 1925, the former Progressive Conservative Senator was a gentleman and described by his family as a "big kid at heart." Though Bill had a professional demeanor, he was passionately opinionated and had a great sense of humour that he never lost.

Bill worked in the energy industry as a consultant, with a background in civil engineering. When war broke out in Europe, Bill served as a lieutenant in the Second Field Engineer Regiment. Later in life he served as Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel for the same regiment.

In politics, he acted as an strategist aligned with the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario in the 1970s and 1980s. He was appointed to Senate by Pierre Trudeau in 1982, in what the late Honourable John Lynch-Staunton (former Progressive Conservative Senator) described as "a flash of genius."

Over his 18-year term as a senator, Bill was a part of several committees and served as Whip and caucus chairman. He is most known for serving as Chair of the Special Senate Committee on Security and Intelligence and the



Special Senate Committee on Terrorism and the Public Safety. In the late 1990s, Bill brought forward a procedural intervention that ended a filibuster, eventually passing the GST (Goods and Services Tax).

Upon retiring from the Senate, Bill was commended by his colleagues for his fierce disapproval of partisanship.

"He is, and I say this in the most objective sense, of the old school, that diminishing one which believes that sober second thought, harmony, goodwill and collegiality should be the hallmark of this place...", said Lynch-Stauton in the Senate, shortly before Bill's retirement.

"As we say goodbye to a very fine senator and friend, I think of words like "calm" and "dignity" and the traditional very fine attributes of a true Canadian gentleman," added former Liberal Senator The Honourable Alasdair Graham.

Outside of politics, Bill was director of the Council on Drug Abuse, chairman of the Board of Governors at Ryerson Polytechnic University and co-chairman of a 1984 task force on Crown corporations.

Bill was father to Ann Kelly Walsh (Larry) and Paddy Kelly Parr (Brian). He was grandfather to Michael Walsh (Vera Roncon), Stephen Walsh (Pauline), Braden Parr (Lyssa), and Liza Parr-Swale (Luke).

#### Father Raymond Gravel

Raymond Gravel died at 61-years-old from lung cancer Aug. 11, 2014 at the *Centre hospitalier régional de Lanaudière*, northeast of Montreal. Raymond served both as a Bloc-Québécois MP and a Catholic priest.

Raymond was born in St-Damien-de-Brandon, Que. Leaving home at 16, Raymond's early life intersected with a world of drugs and sex trade. He soon worked in two gay bars in Montreal's Village. When the 1980s came around, Raymond found the Roman Catholic Church. He joined the seminary in 1982, and became a priest.

Raymond was a spirited social activist and MP for the riding of Repentigny from 2006 to 2008. He was granted special permission from the Pope to run. While sitting, he acted as the Bloc's critic for senior issues.

Raymond's progressive views often clashed with the Church and were reflected in his politics. Raymond won with the Bloc by a strong margin and most notably went on to oppose the failed Bill C-484, which would have



Hon. Marcel Masse.



Hon. Pierre Bussières.



Andrew Chatwood.

recognized injuring a fetus as a separate crime from injuring its mother. He later showed his support for Dr. Henry Morgentaler when he was awarded the Order of Canada. He was always in strong support of same-sex marriage.

After the Vatican asked that Raymond leave politics or the priesthood, he returned to the Church in 2008 but remained politically conscious. He criticized the Parti Québécois government's proposed values charter in a public letter as "worthy of a dictatorship" and more recently voiced his support for Quebec's right-to-die legislation.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent his condolences on Twitter, as did NDP leader Thomas Mulcair and Liberal leader Justin Trudeau.

"Laureen and I offer our condolences to the family of Raymond Gravel," the prime minister's Twitter account read. "Raymond was a former colleague of mine from the HoC & will be missed."

Former PQ cabinet minister Véronique Hivon, said Raymond was never afraid to counter the Church's positions and said his support helped to advance her work with Quebec's right-to-die legislation.

"He added a voice of wisdom, humanity, and compassion to the debate," she said.

#### Hon. Marcel Masse

On August 25, 2014 former Progressive Conservative Marcel Masse passed away at the age of 78.

Marcel was born in Quebec's Lanaudière region. He attended the Université de Montréal. Marcel went on to work as a history teacher active in many causes.

In 1966, he became Union Nationale MNA for Montcalm in Quebec's National Assembly, serving as a minister. He was re-elected in 1970. Marcel parted with politics in 1973 and joined the Lavalin Group, acting as there vice-president of marketing and development.

In 1984, he was elected with Mulroney's Progressive Conservative, becoming an MP for the riding of Frontenac. In the House of Commons, he worked in Communications, Mines and Resources, Energy, and National Defence. In 1993 he resigned from cabinet and did not run in the federal election. He was also president of *Conseil de la langue française du Québec*, Quebec's delegate-general in Paris and chair of *la Commission des biens culturels du Québec*.

Marcel's love of history intertwined with his passion for the French language and culture. He helped to develop le *Festival international de Lanaudière*, la *Commission franco-québécoise sur les lieux de mémoire communs*, la *Société du patrimoine politique du Québec*, l'*Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l'Amérique française* and l'*Encyclopédie du patrimoine politique du Québec*. In 1995 he was made an Officer of the National Order of Quebec.

"He was very reserved in many ways, soft-spoken in private although he was a great speaker at political meetings," Mulroney told The Canadian Press. "He'd make his case and if he didn't win, he would leave with his head up high and a smile on his face and move on to something else."

"My condolences to the friends and family of Marcel Masse. He was devoted to serving his fellow citizens," read Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Twitter account, after Marcel's passing.

Marcel leaves behind his son Jean-Martin (Marie-Claude Cossette), his daughter Marie-Hélène (Christophe Virondaud), his beloved grandchildren: Mathieu, Catherine, Louis-Éric Thomas, Cléa, Paul, his brother Jean-Michel (Solange Trudeau), his sister Maria Pia, his brothers and sisters Michel Gallay (late Céline Masse), Madeleine Martin (late Marcel Sansregret), Germain Villeneuve (late Agnès Martin), Colette Martin (Fernando Villeneuve), Monique Martin Sarrazin (Denis Bérubé),





Dr. Harry Harley.



The Hon. Archie H. Johnstone.

Jacques Martin (Colette Ducharme), and Peter Martin (Yvette Allaire).

#### **Hon. Pierre Bussières**

Former Liberal MP Hon. Pierre Bussières passed away on August 15, 2014. He was 75. Before stepping foot into the world of elected politics, Pierre worked as an executive assistant.

In 1974, he was elected to the House of Commons as MP for the constituency of Charlesbourg, Que. He would hold this post for 10 years. While in office, Pierre served as Minister of National Revenue, Minister of State, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Science and Technology.

He is survived by Mrs. Gertrude Cloutier and his children Denis (Guilande) and Marie-Pierre, his grandchildren Gervais, Woopi and Derek, sisters Annick (Lucille) and Odile (Pierre-Andre Cusson).

#### **Andrew Chatwood**

Former Liberal MP Andrew Chatwood left us on August 3, 2014, following an eight-week battle with heart failure at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, B.C. He was 83. Andrew's loving wife of 59 years Leona (nee Butt) was at his bedside.

Andrew was born in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador on July 3, 1932, to loving parents the late Jessie (nee Wilson) and Albert Chatwood.

He was elected to the House of Commons, as the Member of Parliament for Grand Falls-White-Bay-Labrador on September 19, 1966, during a by-election. While in Parliament, Andrew sat on the Standing Committee on Industry, Research and Energy Development, the Standing Committee on Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, and the Special Joint Committee on the National and Royal Anthems. Andrew lost his seat during the federal election of 1968, to the Pro-

gressive Conservative's Ambrose Peddle, now deceased. Mainly an administrative supervisor and sales manager by trade, Andrew was also a veteran civil servant with Transport Canada and Veterans Affairs. Outside of government, he was a naval cadet and a Hudson's Bay Boy. The various hats Andrew wore took him across the country. His family planted their roots in St. John's and North West River Nfld., Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., Ottawa, Ont., and Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Those close to Andrew emphasized that his thoughtfulness and genuine kindness never faltered. Those around him often played audience to his uplifting quotes and tales. He will be commemorated by a bench plaque alongside Burnaby B.C.'s Fraser River; a location frequented by Andrew and his canine companions, Chip and Molly.

Andrew is survived by his wife Leona and children, Andrew Chatwood (Kendra Simmons) and their children Andrew, Lawrence and Edward of Cobourg, Ont., Elizabeth Chatwood of Vancouver, B.C., John Chatwood (Kim nee Thrush), and their children Emily, Daniel and Samuel of Smiths Falls, Ont., and Susan Chatwood (Ewan Affleck) and their children Alexander and Anika of Yellowknife, N.W.T. He is predeceased by his siblings Philippa Chatwood, Ann Abraham, and Albert Chatwood.

#### **Dr. Harry Harley**

Former Liberal MP Harry Cruickshank Harley passed away on September 27, 2014 at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. He was 88.

Born on June 4, 1926, Harry would go on to operate his own medical practice and hold positions at Crown Life Canada, and the Salvation Army's Grace Hospital. Those close to him said Harry loved to challenge himself.

During WW2, Harry answered his country's call, becoming a soldier. From 1944 to 1945, he was a leading aircraftman in the Royal Canadian Air Force. In the 1950s, Harry served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. He was first a Captain and then promoted to Major in 1956. Harry also served abroad in Europe with NATO.

During the 1962 general election, Harry became MP for the riding of Halton, Ontario. He was subsequently re-elected in 1963 and 1965. In 1968, Harry chose to leave politics, having served in the House for six years.

Harry leaves behind his sons Bruce (Shelley), Doug and daughter Janet (Dan), as well as his beloved grandchildren Cassandra, Holly (Lane), Caitlin, Ty, and great-granddaughters Danielle and Lillian. Harry was predeceased by Marg, his lovely wife of 64 years.

#### **The Hon. Archie H. Johnstone**

Former Liberal Senator the Honourable Archie H. Johnstone C.D. passed away peacefully in his home in Kensington, P.E.I. on Sat., Nov. 8, 201. He was in his 91st year.

Archie was born June 12, 1924 in Burlington, P.E.I. In 1954, he was granted the prestigious Nuffield Scholarship, allowing him to voyage abroad to study Britain's agricultural practices.

In P.E.I., Archie worked with his father to build Woodleigh Replicas, a park that housed miniature reconstructions of famous landmarks in the U.K. In 1963, he developed the amusement park, Rainbow Valley. Later, he worked with his own son Ronald to develop tourist attractions. He was president of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture and director of the Island Tourism Association.

During the Second World War, Archie was a tail gunner in a four-engine Halifax bomber.

During the war, he crossed paths with fellow Islander and future Senate colleague, the late Senator Orville Phillips, who also served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. They would go on to sit on the Senate sub-committee of Veteran Affairs; Orville as chair, Archie as deputy chair. They spent months crisscrossing the country, visiting more than 70 per cent of Canada's institutionalized veterans, learning how the government could improve treatment. In 1998, Archie was summoned to the Senate by then prime minister, Jean Chrétien. He retired at the age of 75 in 1999. Archie then launched his writing and publishing career and penned seven books after his 80th birthday.

"I was privileged to serve with Archie in the Senate, where his warm personal qualities and dedication earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow senators," retired Liberal P.E.I. Senator and former Premier of P.E.I. Catherine Callbeck said. Archie leaves behind his beloved wife Phelicia; just this year they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. He also leaves behind his three sons, and one daughter.

Continued on Inside Back Cover.





Geoff Scott.

# Abortion. Religion. Confrontation. Election. Sound Familiar?

By Geoff Scott

A quarter century has passed since both the Supreme Court of Canada, and those of us in the House of Commons, weighed in on the cantankerous abortion debate. Drenched in emotional rhetoric on all sides, Canada's highest court ruled in 1988 that the abortion provision in the Criminal Code of Canada was "unconstitutional"; that it violated a woman's Charter Right to, "life, liberty and security of person". While all abortions were illegal throughout Canada's early history, abortion today is not limited by criminal law, but by the Canada Health Act. In 1989-90, Bill C-43 narrowly passed in the House, but became deadlocked in the Senate. Since then, Canada has had no criminal laws governing the subject. Abortion is a decision made by a woman and her doctor. And so, 25 years ago, we members of Parliament truly believed, rightly or wrongly, that we had put the deeply divisive and politically explosive issue to bed. But no.

On the eve of our nation's intense electioneering season, abortion may once again emerge as a mainstream political issue. To borrow a phrase from novelist Stuart Woods, reigniting the debate is like tossing a live hand grenade into a pond covered with a layer of gasoline. The pond has been simmering now for more than two decades.

The grenade, it seems, has been tossed by federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau. He decreed, in effect, that you're not welcome under the Big Red Tent unless you share his pro-choice views on abortion. Mr. Trudeau steadfastly holds onto his father Pierre Elliott Trudeau's social beliefs: "...[M]y father had no problem legalizing divorce, decriminalizing homosexuality, and moving in ways that recognized the

basic rights of the people," he said in an email to supporters.

The Liberal Leader clearly underestimated the push back within his own party to his rigid policy: "I initially thought it was a bozo eruption; and he didn't actually think about what he said," said Liberal MP John McKay in a private venue. Soon, Trudeau received a letter from former Liberal MPs, calling the leader's decision undemocratic and asking him to revoke it.

Trudeau's response to the backlash following his decision: "The days when old men get to decide what a woman does with her body are long gone. Times have changed for the better. #LPC [Liberal Party of Canada] defends rights," he said in a tweet.

## Archaic church and state involvement?

"It is worth noting that if Pope Francis, as a young man, instead of seeking to serve in the priesthood in Argentina, had moved to Canada and sought to serve in the noble vocation of politics, he would have been ineligible to be a candidate for your party, if your policy were in effect."

Enter His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, who made those remarks. In an open letter, he warned Justin Trudeau that there are two million members in his Toronto-area archdiocese. "I encourage all of them, of whatever party, to serve the community not only by voting but by active engagement in political life as candidates. It is not right that they be excluded by any party for being faithful to their conscience," he wrote. "I urge you to reconsider your position," he concluded.

The Cardinal's comments will be very troublesome for devout Catholics with strong convictions. Will they, once

again, be faced with an election-booth choice: Church or Party? When it comes to a subject like abortion, where religion and politics collide, you still have as toxic a mix in the 21st century. In a Toronto Star article, Heather Mallick writes: "Fighting over personal matters like abortion is a political sinkhole." She then quotes Conservative MP Gordon O'Connor: "Abortion is and always will be part of society...It cannot be eliminated."

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's old Reform Party colleagues won't keep quiet about social issues, the Prime Minister recoils from the very mention of abortion like the political hot flame it is. Mr. Harper has repeatedly said he has no interest in addressing the issue head-on: "As long as I am prime minister, we are not opening the abortion debate," he said in 2011. "...[A]ny such legislation that is brought forward will be defeated as long as I am prime minister."

(Parenthetically, in his maternal care package, and with his international reputation for championing oppressed women around the world, the Prime Minister stops short of family planning, even though many thousands of women die from unsafe, illegal abortions.) The Prime Minister's silence may well be in tune with public opinion. While abortion has troubled Canadian society for several decades, polls repeatedly show that, in 2014, the vast majority of Canadians don't want to be talking about abortion right now.

## My Worst Moments as MP

Still, the issue is festering for anti-abortion sympathizers. There are the same tensions over abortion today as there were three decades ago. From the mid-1980s, through the '88 elec-



Passages continued . . .



Hon. Richard Stanbury.



Honourary Member, Erik Spicer.

### Hon. Richard Stanbury

Former Liberal Senator Richard Stanbury, better known as Dick, passed away on July 21, 2014 at the age of 91. He was devoted to his community, his country, his friends, and family. He helped to shape and revitalize the Liberal Party of Canada in the 1960s and 70s, and served as its President from 1968 to 1973.

The Rt. Hon. Lester Pearson summoned Dick to the Senate at the age of 44 where he served for 30 years, 2 months and 20 days! As a Senator, he chaired many committees and led trade missions across the globe.

Upon retirement Dick served on the Board of Directors of the CAFP. He was predeceased by his loving wife Margie, with whom he spent many winters in Naples, Florida and summers at their cottage on Shadow Lake in Coboconk.

Dick was a wonderful person who will be missed greatly by those left behind; especially his sister Elaine, brother Bob, daughters: Jane (Gordon) and Sally, grandchildren: Jen (Jeff), Jackie (Charlie), Kelsey and David, and great grandson Tyler.

### Honourary Member, Erik Spicer

Erik Spicer, former Parliamentary Librarian of Canada passed away Sept. 27, 2014. He was 88 years old.

Erik was appointed by then Prime Minister, Diefenbaker, in 1960 and spent 34 years at the Library of Parliament. He was credited with developing its research branch and bringing in new technology.

One of his projects was the reconstitution of House and Senate debates, before the birth of Hansard, which was completed this year.

Erik retired in 1994. He became a Member of the Order of Canada and was also presented with the Canadian Library Association's Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award.

Erik leaves behind his wife Helen, his children John Spicer (Patricia Trott), Erika Scott (Andrew) and his granddaughters Elizabeth, Katherine (Bradley Boehringer), Caroline Scott, and Gabriella Spicer.

tion campaign, and until the May 1990 vote in Parliament, I experienced my most anguished period as a member of Parliament, thanks to this one awful issue. My sprawling riding of Hamilton-Wentworth was half urban, half agricultural. The farmers and other folks in small rural towns and villages were vehemently anti-abortion, promoters of "Save the Storks-type" protest movements, and highly vocal members of the "baby-killer" chorus. In the larger centres, like Dundas (a bedroom community of Hamilton's McMaster University) and on Hamilton Mountain itself, there resided equally well organized abortion rights advocates.

Demonstrations outside my constituency offices happened frequently, but the all-candidates' debates brought out Hamilton-Wentworth Police to keep a watchful eye. The pro-choice crowd and the pro-life movement numbered 100 or more, each side armed with bullhorns and placards; half for, half against.

After much agonizing (the vote was

an individual conscience matter, except for cabinet ministers), I supported Bill C-43. My own publicly stated view 25 years ago, and it holds today, is that I have always believed life begins at the moment of conception. Nothing should interrupt or interfere with that life, short of a medical emergency or major health concern. That concern then becomes strictly a matter between a woman and her doctor. I am not equipped to play God when it concerns a woman's fundamental right to choose.

Now, as I did back then, I realize that no matter what stance you take on abortion, you are going to end up on the wrong side of someone! With people holding such deeply held, personal views, it will never be over. Maybe it will all come down to the classic Canadian compromise: abortion if necessary, but not necessarily abortion.

Geoff Scott was Progressive Conservative member for Hamilton-Wentworth 1978 to 1993. He is a former journalist with many years of covering politics.

## CAFP around the world

# Election oversight in Ukraine



*Flashback to a less turbulent time in Ukraine: A group of former parliamentarians went to Kiev in October, 2012. Left to right, former Canadian MPs Darryl Gray (PC-Quebec), Pierrette Venne (PC, BQ, Ind-Quebec), Jim Hart (Ref-BC) and Hon. Roger Simmons (Lib-Newfoundland). The four former parliamentarians were in Kiev as members of the OSCE's election observation mission to the Ukraine 2012 parliamentary elections.*



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