



Spring 2011

# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

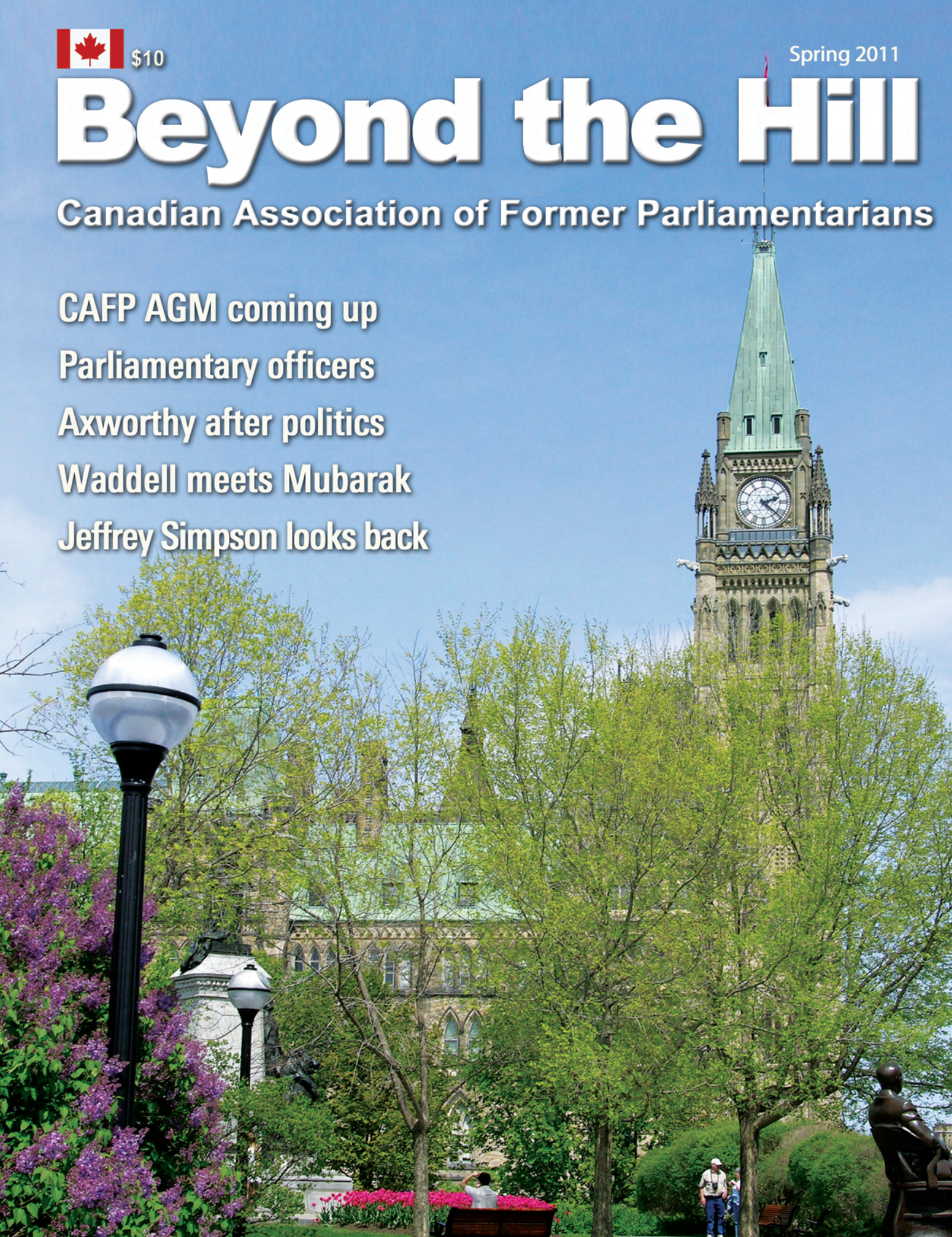
CAFP AGM coming up

Parliamentary officers

Axworthy after politics

Waddell meets Mubarak

Jeffrey Simpson looks back





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*A reception to mark the resumption of the parliamentary session*

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*The Hon. Peter Milliken, MP and Speaker of the House of Commons, with MP Ray Boughen, Francis LeBlanc and the Hon. Don Boudria.*



*The Hon. Francis Fox, Senator, and Raymonde Folco, MP.*



*The Hon. Lucie Pépin, Senator, and CAFP President Léo Duguay.*



*Céline Brazeau Fraser and Andrea Ozretic.*



*CAFP Director Jack Silverstone and Raymonde Folco, MP.*



*David Daubney, Francis LeBlanc, MP Bernard Patry, the Hon. Don Boudria and the Hon. Ted Menzies, MP and Minister of State (Finance).*



# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

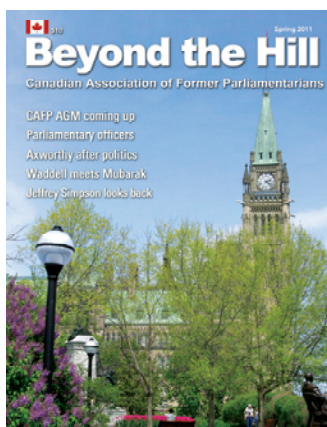
Volume 7, Issue No. 2

SPRING 2011

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Cover photo by Dorothy Dobbie.  
*Springtime on the Hill.*

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**ISSN**  
1920-8561

#### 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). *Beyond the Hill* is published four times a year.

## Letters

### Sackville myth debunked

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed Doug Rowland's article in *Beyond the Hill*. The Sackville looked pretty good for the fleet review and it is a great memorial.

Near to the end of the article I think you have inadvertently perpetuated the myth that the Sackville was in on the surrender of U889. (I know nothing of the surrender of U190 because I wasn't there.)

With respect to the U889, she surrendered first to the RCAF and then to the escort group W6 consisting of The Oshawa, Rockcliffe, Dunvegan and the Saskatoon. At the time I was signals' officer on the Saskatoon and thus have a pretty good recall of the surrender. The best account that is on record is that by Hadley in *U-boats Against Canada* on pg 297.

In any case, Sackville went out to meet her but not to accept the surrender. I hope to see her in Halifax again this summer

**Hon. W.C. Winegard, P.C., O.C.**  
**Guelph-Wellington 1984-1993**

Mea Culpa. Against my training I relied on a single source for the U-889 story. Good to hear from someone who was there!

**Doug Rowland**

### Kudos to CAFP Educational Foundation

Thank you for your participation in our 14th annual Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, held October 31 to November 5, 2010.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) plays an important role in supporting our program through its bursary program for our participants and the presence of its members at our events. The attendance of your foundation's president, Francis LeBlanc, at the luncheon with the Parliamentary Librarian was much appreciated. The participants enjoyed the opportunity to speak to you, and your presence helped make the event truly memorable.

Your involvement this year has helped provide 87 teachers from across the country with a better knowledge and deeper appreciation of the work of Parliament and parliamentarians – something they will be able to share with hundreds of

Canadian students for years to come.

**William R. Young**  
**Parliamentary Librarian**

### More on QP

Unless and until the Speaker regains control of QP it cannot be reformed. Do away with the whip's list and bring on the supplementaries, but you would be critical of the Speaker and one must not bite the hand that feeds one.

You, Ms. Editor, must know this.

**J. A. McGrath**  
**St. John's East 1957-1984**

### Essay contest changes life

I want CAFP to know the difference that the Essay Contests have made. Since I have had numerous contacts with winners over the years, I am encouraged when some continue to connect with me. I thought that I would share this with you since you all had a major role to play in the rolling out of these previous contests.

**Laverne Lewycky**  
**Dauphin-Swan River 1980-1984**

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Lewycky,

I won third prize in the 2007 Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Annual Essay Competition and really enjoyed meeting you in Ottawa at that year's CAFP annual meeting.

I would like to tell you about how the Essay Competition changed my life. I was studying physics and math when I entered the competition, and although I still enjoy both mathematics and physics, I realized over my time at university that physics is not my true interest.

Thanks in part to the essay competition and my visit to Parliament, I became much more interested in economics, politics and law. I finished my science degree, but also obtained a minor in economics.

I then decided to follow my interests and study law and economics. I have just finished my first term at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, where I am studying for a joint JD/MA (Economics) degree. I have enjoyed my courses so far. I cannot say that I would be where I am today had I not entered the essay competition and visited Parliament.

**Eric Monkman, participant**  
**2007 Essay Competition**





## What's up at CAFP

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

The association is pleased to honour one of our own, Hon. Ed Lumley, with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will be presented on May 25th, in Toronto to recognize his remarkable contributions both during his time in politics and afterward.

### **Study Tours**

We are planning an educational tour to New Zealand and Australia for October and November 2011. Plans are well underway and details will be distributed as soon as they are finalized. We are also looking into connecting with former members from the United States and the European Union for this trip. We have long been looking forward to this opportunity to see first-hand how democracy works in other countries. It is also especially important that we show our solidarity with the people of New Zealand in the wake of the deadly earthquake in Christchurch. Our hearts also go out to the courageous people of a sister democracy, Japan, as it struggles with the enormity of the disaster of the earthquake and resultant tsunami.

### **Reception for the Resumption of the Parliamentary Session**

The reception put on by CAFP for the return of Parliament was well attended both by our members and current MPs. It was a great chance for current policy makers to talk with those who had preceded them and demonstrated the calibre of our association.

### **Funding for IEMI**

We were fortunate enough to negotiate prolonged funding from CIDA for the International Election Monitoring Institute and are thus able to carry out more election monitoring and democracy-building programs abroad. We had three members join a team to Kazakhstan. This provides us with an important opportunity to improve the way democracy is implemented throughout the world and teach others by our example.

### **Election 2011**

We extend best wishes to all candidates in the current election. They are to be commended for their participation in the democratic process. We also warmly invite those parliamentarians who will not be returning to the House to join us at CAFP. Our strength comes from our dedicated members.

Léo Duguay  
President





# Salute to a brave and modest nation

Canadians can proudly say of themselves that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces.

by Kevin Myers, *The Sunday Telegraph*, London  
Reprinted with permission

Until the deaths of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops are deployed in the region.

And as always, Canada will bury its dead, just as the rest of the world, as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does. It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored.

Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dancers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts.

For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved.

Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918

were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular memory as somehow or other the work of the 'British.'

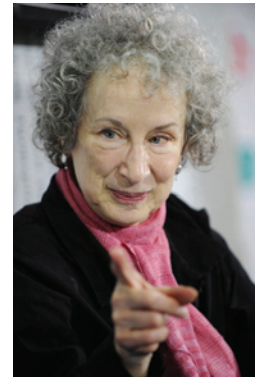
The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian Navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone.

Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth largest air force in the world. The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time.

Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated – a touching scrupulousness which, of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.

So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality – unless, that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Huston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter, Mike Weir and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British.

It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian, unless she is Margaret At-



*Margaret Atwood:  
Unshakably Canadian.*

wood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.

Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves – and are unheard by anyone else – that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces.

Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth – in 39 missions on UN mandates, and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.

Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular non-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace – a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan?

Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun. It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This past year more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.

*With thanks to Doug Rowland for passing on this heartwarming piece. –Ed.*





by Geoff Scott

# Invasion of the bats

Three conspirators release chaos in the House of Commons.

**I**t was the night Parliament literally went batty. To this day, Commons Security staff remember the nocturnal flying assault that three Members of Parliament created one wintry Tuesday evening in the early '80s.

It happened during a crucial vote in the House. It was a time when televised debates were in their infancy. The candle power for TV needed to be intensely bright to flood the subdued green chamber.

But first, rewind that Tuesday back 10 hours to an early morning scene which greeted MPs and staff on the sixth floor of the Confederation Building.

There, in the corridor outside the office of the Hon. Bill McKnight, three assistants were busily typing and answering phones at makeshift desks. Extension cords for lighting snaked across the floor to nearby offices.

The doors to the office were shut tight. The young ladies could only point over their shoulders and gasp, "Bats" (with an unspoken 'echh!'), in response to our questioning looks.

Apparently, during the long weekend, somebody had left the bathroom window open. Two bats had attached themselves at the upper reaches of the drapes in Bill's outer office.

The ladies were waiting for their boss to arrive to handle the invaders.

Moments later, into the frigid office walked the former Minister of Agriculture, Bill McKnight.

Our sixth floor neighbour, the Hon. Elmer MacKay, Defence Minister Peter's father, accompanied him.

"What in the hell is going on here?!" exclaimed the two gentlemen farmers.

After they had stopped laughing, they simultaneously grabbed chairs, then

reached for, snatched and pocketed the sleepy winged creatures.

## **The plot is hatched**

That's when they repaired to my office. And that's when I went, "Uh oh, there's that mischievous look on Elmer's face again."

He didn't disappoint. "Bill and Geoff," mused the former Solicitor General, "what do you suppose might happen during the vote tonight if these little fellows were released, and became discombobulated by the blinding klieg lights in the Commons?"

We now fast forward to the 8 p.m. vote with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and all his troops in place. Speaker Jeanne Sauvé in the chair. Front-benchers Bill McKnight at one end of the Official Opposition row; Elmer MacKay at the other end; your faithful correspondent in the third row, precisely mid-way between the two bat-carriers.

On my signal, just before Madame Speaker intoned, "All those in favour of the motion will please rise," well, I can tell you, more than the Prime Minister rose.

As both my arms jerked upward, the pocketed varmints flicked into the air at each end of the Commons chamber.

The person who became instantly aware of what was happening was Her Honour. One of the bats soared into the comforting darkness of the stately Speaker's Chair. Right alongside and fluttering above the courtly and magnificently coiffed Jeanne Sauvé.

She wasn't paying much attention to the vote. She was busy frantically messing up her silver hair. Nearby pages were astounded to hear distinctly unparliamentary language (en français) emanating from the by now quite disheveled

Madame Speaker.

Meanwhile, the second bat's odyssey was causing pandemonium in the Ladies Gallery at the opposite end of the chamber. Two Commons guards could be seen frantically pointing in all directions to something that was causing lady spectators to scream and scramble out of their seats for the exits.

## **The PM noticed**

Flash forward some 25 years or so. I was paying a courtesy call to my old haunts in the Confederation Building, when a member of the Commons security staff quietly called me over for a chat. Turns out he had been assigned to plain-clothes security detail for Prime Minister Trudeau. He asked, conspiratorially: "Geoff, the guys have been curious for a long time. Were you ever involved in that bizarre thing with the bats back in the '80s?"

Without implicating my colleagues, I ventured that I might have been.

The constable reported that, after the vote, the PM had inquired about the disturbance. Mr. Trudeau initially had been infuriated, and then was secretly delighted at the vote being so spectacularly disrupted. Laughing all the way up to his office, the PM had asked, "Was it Scott? Find out." But Trudeau suspected which Opposition MPs had hatched the batty prank anyway.

Incidentally, whenever you hear the phrase "bats in the belfry," it is an old American expression dating from 1889. It means that the winged mammals, which can be found in watch towers, church steeples, and the head and the brain, signify those who are crazy.

'Nuff said.

Geoff Scott was Progressive Conservative MP for Hamilton-Wentworth, 1978 to 1993.



# Roses among the ashes



by the Hon. Audrey McLaughlin

This past February, the Hon. Audrey McLaughlin went to Kabul. She shares her personal perspective on what she observed and felt.

*Everywhere there were small stands selling food, whole sheep, clothing and various products.*

In February 2011, I had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Kabul, working with women Members of Parliament and political parties. I had not been there before but had followed the situation: violent suicide bombings, the deaths of military and civilians, the debates about whether in fact there was any progress. I confess to having been totally confused. I knew the history relatively well, although the complexities of tribalism, invasions over centuries and the last thirty years of war made me cautious about ever assuming that I could really understand the nation.

## Kabul starting to rise again

I was in one small corner of the country, albeit the capital, where Parliament is based and where President Karzai governs. One could see, even though we were not able to walk about and had to drive around in armoured cars (and then only with security clearance) that Kabul must have been very beautiful. Surrounded by the Hindu Kush mountains, covered in snow, the Kabul River running through the centre, a zoo and parks; it is easy to see what was. What is, however, remains blighted by war: bombed out buildings and ruined infrastructure, all occasionally dotted by relatively new hotels and shopping centres. And everywhere there were small stands selling food, whole sheep, clothing and

various products. Rising proudly above this was a working ferris wheel.

Construction seems to be taking place everywhere. Drudging through six inches of snow, which quickly became rivers, workers strove to construct roads and buildings. There were never ending traffic jams. Traffic lights lay on the ground so it was a free-for-all with the odd beleaguered traffic police officer attempting to bring some semblance of organization to chaos.

## Symbols of corruption

On less travelled streets, large villas called 'poppy houses' (also called 'narcotecture' – symbols of corruption in Kabul – ed.), were surrounded by fences and guarded by many men with guns. On several occasions we were able to go to a restaurant, with enticing names such as 'Le Bistro' and 'Red Hot Sizzler.' No restaurant had any sign advertising its delights. It was through some vague network that restaurants were found. Surrounded by corrugated fences, they were identical to every other building. A guard politely asked us whether we had guns and then let us through the entrance to the restaurant.

## Wonderful women

I stayed in one of the many compounds. It had two large houses, one where six staff lived and the other an office and training centre surrounded by

high fences and guards.

My housemates were from the United States, Indonesia, India, Slovenia and Britain. We each had a large room and cooked our own food. It was comfortable and much better than some of the other accommodations I have had in similar conflict countries. Our training was on-site with excellent translation services. Sixty-nine members of the 249 lower house of Parliament are women, the result of a quota, although some women had won through majority votes. While the election had been, and continues to be, controversial, these women were indeed roses as were many of the other Afghans and members of the international community whom I met.

Despite the restrictions on travel we did spend an evening with an Afghan couple. Both were born in Kabul, but she had lived in the US for several years, while he had been a senior mujahedeen (fighter against the Soviets). It was an evening of excellent food and an even more excellent history lesson.

## Canadians working everywhere

As always, the most impressive part of what is happening is the people who are shaping the new history of Afghanistan.

An art show, featuring works by women from the Kabul Art Institute, was hosted by the Canadian Embassy. There



I met a Brigadier General in the Canadian military, an engineer who took pride in her role in helping to rebuild the country. During a lunch at a small restaurant, we met the owner, an elegant woman from France. She and her husband run the café but also train hundreds of young Afghan women and men to cook, bake, and manage a business. Then there was the visit to the Circus School, funded by the Danish. The boys were learning acrobatics, while the girls, ranging from 5 to 12, were juggling and were eager to perform for the visitors as they prepared for their big public performance in the summer.

I didn't get to visit Skateistan, a skateboarding program started by two Australians to give young people an opportunity for fun, but apparently it is very popular.

A Canadian working for the United Nations talked about a training program he runs for young Afghans. Another Canadian and former Yukoner, Andy Tamas, is working on a project for improving civil administration. Another impressive Canadian, is working on a United Nations project to negotiate free transportation routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This could be a major contribution to economic development. She has been in Kabul for four years and sees some progress on economic issues.

Canada funds a number of community development projects and provides government support including the program in which I was involved. Our ambassador, William Crosbie, spoke to our group.

#### **Women who risk their lives to serve**

I have been asked if the women with whom I worked were serious about their role and indeed they are. Here are just a few of the stories of these brave women who too often risk their lives to serve their country.

Jamila is a second term MP who was forced into a marriage when she was nine years of age. Forced marriages are of great concern to the participants (a forced marriage is when young girls are given away to repay a debt or to settle a tribal dispute). Honour killings also



*"Poppy palaces" are the magnificent homes of drug lords and others who feed on the spoils of war in Kabul. Note streetscape contrast.*

continue and all of the women at the workshop were dedicated to ending this practice. Jamila had presented a bill in Parliament to raise the age of marriage but had not been successful and vowed to attempt again with the support of the other women.

Amina, attractive in her pink scarf, is also dedicated to improving the situation for women and girls. During the campaign, she had dressed as a man for security and, accompanied by her husband, visited the villages in her constituency. She had managed to take videos of some of the practices that affected women and girls and is committed to continuing to travel to the villages to try to change these traditional practices. As she said, "We are now in the 21st century, those times are past and our girls deserve a proper education and a dignified life."

Habiba is a rather formidable looking woman in her fifties. She identified her priority as dealing with drug addiction, which is endemic in both youth and adults. She is also committed to ensuring that the Afghan military are trained and professional, not surprisingly, as she herself is a General and an MP. During the visit of the Canadian Ambassador, she grilled him for a commitment that Canada would support this training.

#### **It's not easy for women**

Life for women MPs is difficult. Security concerns are foremost, and for women, security is a double challenge. There is the constant concern of suicide bombers and random attacks on both people and infrastructure. But also, as

women, there is the issue of personal security in the more traditional communities that may not accept that a woman can work with men or be seen publicly. Some have also experienced religious attacks. Malalai Joya, the youngest Member of Parliament, in the previous mandate criticized her fellow MPs as warlords and anti-women. Later, a fundamentalist mob came to her residence threatening her.

#### **Is there hope for Afghanistan?**

I have been asked if this trip made me hopeful about Afghanistan. I was only in one city for a short time and

cannot make any predictions. But on a personal level, having met such impressive Afghans and people from the international community, I can see that we must have hope. On my last day, Ambassador Crosbie invited me to a lunch with several Afghan MPs and NGO leaders. They agreed that this Parliament was less conservative than the last one, although there are concerns about President Karzai, not the least of which is his apparent lack of commitment to equality for women.

#### **Still, violence is a daily occurrence**

During the lunch, the Ambassador left briefly and I was sure that some incident had occurred. In fact two suicide bombers had entered a hotel and shopping centre, and it was unclear if people were still being held hostage or had been killed. The Embassy had offered to drive me to the airport and, insisting that we wear the bullet proof vests, we left, not certain whether the airline would be functioning as the crew of the airline stayed in the hotel which had been attacked. Apparently they had left shortly before the attack.

After such a short time, I am not qualified to say whether Canada's role in Afghanistan can make a difference, but I do know that beyond the violence, there are many Canadians working with Afghans and they are making a real difference as are many Afghan citizens who are dedicated to a secure future.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin was a NDP MP for Yukon, from 1987 to 1995.



# Should the UN and the UN Security Council still matter to Canadians?

by Rosella Chibambo



*Paul Heinbecker, Canada's former ambassador to the UN, was critical of Canada's non-involvement in the Congo.*

Canada's failure to secure a temporary seat at the United Nations Security Council sparked a bitter war of words among Canadian politicians of every stripe.

There was no love lost as Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon publicly chastised Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff for questioning whether the Canadian government had earned a seat at the Security Council. Nor was there anywhere, as Liberal and NDP foreign affairs critics slammed the Government for putting UN member states off with its foreign policy.

## **Some question relevance**

However, as the loss began to sink in, some writers and political pundits started suggesting that perhaps the defeat wasn't that stinging after all.

Former UN correspondent and long-

time international journalism professor David Van Praagh is one who expressed such an opinion.

Following Canada's retreat from the Security Council race, Mr. Van Praagh published a *Globe and Mail* opinion piece headlined, "Canada not on the Security Council? No need for dismay."

Though he maintains there is still a place for the UN in Canada's foreign policy plans, Mr. Van Praagh says the institution has increasingly demonstrated ineffectiveness in failing to live up to "the lofty ideals set out in its Charter in 1945 following the Second World War."

Mr. Van Praagh does acknowledge UN successes over the years, and writes that "Canada has often acted decisively at the world body for good causes."

But he maintains the UN has failed

to prevent "many more wars," and has "made a cruel mockery of human rights."

## **UN inaction shows poor leadership**

Indeed, there is no shortage of criticism over UN inaction throughout its lifespan. The range of critiques is broad, but Mr. Van Praagh says poor leadership is one factor that has plagued the UN for years.

Both the timidity and overzealousness of UN Secretaries General throughout the years have been subject to condemnation. Kofi Annan's reluctance to bolster UN involvement in the early days of the Rwandan genocide, well over a decade ago, will forever shadow his legacy.

Although the UN Security Council's failure to intervene in certain conflicts has aroused much international chagrin,



Former UN correspondent David Van Praagh says the UN has increasingly demonstrated its inability to live up to "the lofty ideals set out in its Charter in 1945 . . ."

Mr. Van Praagh says Canada's waning commitment to the institution is due, in part, to its unwillingness to go radical.

"Canada used to be involved, but at some point, we stopped . . . I think what happened is that Canada saw the UN trying to play too much of a one-sided political role . . . You saw the UN becoming more and more radicalized, and Western democracies resisting that," he says.

#### **Heinbecker criticizes Canada**

Mr. Van Praagh says that as Canada's solidarity with the UN has waned, so too has its international reputation as a leader on peacekeeping—former Canadian Ambassador to the UN Paul Heinbecker has criticised the Canadian government for denying the UN's invitation to provide leadership in current efforts to end conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. Van Praagh isn't kicking up a fuss over Canada's failed Security Council bid, but he has not dismissed the institution or Canada's chances of regaining a temporary Security Council seat altogether.

He says streamlining the UN's bureaucracy would help put actual international issues back on the main agenda at the international body.

Mr. Van Praagh says he sees little chance Canada will regain its clout at the UN until there's a shakeup on Parliament Hill. While the current government is in power, he says, there's little chance of regaining the international reputation Canada once enjoyed.

#### **It's not all bad news**

While his criticisms remain cutting, Mr. Van Praagh's acknowledgement that the UN has had successes is a reminder that the UN and Canada, as a member state, have made a positive impact globally. As Mr. Van Praagh and most others who weigh in on the subject will attest, there is still a role for Canada to play at the UN.

Joan Broughton, communications officer for the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC), highlights Canada's historical successes at the helm of several

important foreign policy initiatives.

Of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Ms. Broughton says, "That was being pursued in various countries before a light went on at the desk of Lloyd Axworthy. [This] Canadian initiative moved forward once somebody said we can do this."

The Nobel Peace Prize nomination honouring the former minister of foreign affairs and the "Ottawa Process" with which he secured the 1997 adoption of the Ottawa Convention banning the production, use, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, marked a gleaming success in Canadian foreign policy.

Though many are disillusioned with the United Nations and its Security Council, Ms. Broughton says Canadians themselves are somewhat disengaged from foreign policy issues. She says that through education about the UN, Canadian citizens and policy makers can help improve the institution.

#### **Canadians better informed**

Ms. Broughton says that while Canadians are perhaps better informed about Canada's role in foreign affairs than citizens of many other countries, it is still challenging to engage a nation so geographically large and diverse.

UNAC's mandate is not to encourage Canadians' unquestioning devotion to the UN, Ms. Broughton says. It is to explain what works and what doesn't within the institution in an effort to develop the public and foreign policy makers' critical understanding of how to navigate an organization that remains necessary in its capacity to bring diverse nations together to tackle important international issues.

She says her organization was predictably disappointed when Canada pulled its name out of the Security Council race. But she says it was not taken as an opportunity to blame, rather an opportunity to re-configure Canada's foreign policy compass, and to look at where we fit into an institution where Canadians have made a marked difference.

## The Hon. Edward Lumley Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner



*The Hon. Edward  
C. Lumley will be  
honoured in Toronto.*

There is still time to get tickets to the Hon. Edward C. Lumley Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner. Ed, who served for 10 years from 1974 to 1984 as the Liberal MP for Stormont-Dundas and was minister in several key portfolios, will be honoured on May 25, 2011 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The Lifetime Achievement Award dinners were initiated last year to help raise funds for the important activities of the Association. (See our Summer 2010 issue with a speech made by last year's recipient, the Rt. Hon. Don Mazankowski, at a dinner in Calgary, attended by several hundred former colleagues as well as a host of local dignitaries and members of the provincial legislature.)

This year's honorary patrons are the Hon. Jim Flaherty, PC, MP and the Hon. John Manley, PC. Honorary chairs include former U.S. Ambassador Gordon Giffin, the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, the Hon. Judy Erola, the Hon. Jim Prentice, the Hon. Belinda Stronach and the Hon. Michael Wilson. Included on the events committee are the Hon. Nathan Nurgitz, Mr. Léo Duguay, Mr. Douglas Rowland, Mr. Francis LeBlanc and Mrs. Dorothy Dobbie. Bell is the dinner sponsor.

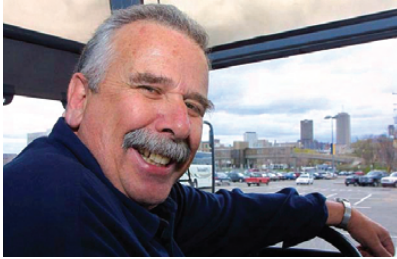
Ed was mayor of Cornwall, before his time in Parliament. After his distinguished political career, he spent much of his life in business, serving as Chairman of the Noranda Manufacturing Group Inc. from 1986 to 1991. He has been vice chairman of BMO Nesbitt Burns since 1994.

Tickets are \$500 per person or \$5000 for a table of 10. Special consideration will be given to the first 50 CAFP members to register. Contact Susan Elliot at [susan.elliott@spotlightstrategies.com](mailto:susan.elliott@spotlightstrategies.com) for more information.



# All by yourself

Sitting as an Independent in the House of Commons is often a lonely and frustrating exercise with lots of work and little opportunity.



by Ada Wasiak

*MPs such as André Arthur take a leap into loneliness when they decide to sit as an Independent.*



While most media coverage focuses on the intense battles between the governing party and opposition, there are other members who are far removed from this squabble. There are currently two Independent members in the House and two in the Senate.

An Independent is a Member of Parliament who is not affiliated with any political party. Most of the time, Independents are elected as part of a party and then leave the caucus, either because they disagree with the party philosophy and leave in protest or because they no longer conform to what party membership requires of them.

Bill Casey was expelled from the Conservative Party for voting against the 2007 Federal Budget. He then ran as an independent in the 2008 election, easily retaining his seat.

"The one thing that surprised me as an Independent was that I had to decide how I was going to vote on every bill. It was a lot of work, but I really enjoyed the challenge of looking at the details of each bill," he says.

From the outside, Casey was able to get another perspective on party members. He says that the extent the parties dictated to MPs surprised him.

"I remember sitting between the two parties one day before Question Period as they were being briefed on how they were to vote on all the bills. There was one that they still hadn't chosen their stance on and they were simply told to 'follow the leader.' I guess I really can't

criticize though, because I did that myself for so long," he says.

André Bachand chose to become an Independent when the Progressive Conservative Party merged with the Canadian Alliance to become the new Conservative Party at the end of 2003. He saw the merger as a takeover by the Canadian Alliance and he believed it was 'anti-Quebec,' which he did not support. He left politics in 2004. His attempt to come back in 2008 as a Conservative Party candidate was unsuccessful.

André Arthur was elected in 2006 as Independent Member of Parliament for the Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier district of Quebec. He was the first truly independent candidate to be elected to the House of Commons since Tony Roman won an Ontario riding in 1984. The other Independents in the House at the time worked to keep each other informed of votes and bills that were coming up.

One of these members was Louise Thibault. Thibault was elected in 2004 as a member of the Bloc Québécois but after a few months realized that it didn't live up to her expectations.

"While I thought it would be the most democratic party ever, that was not the case unfortunately," says Thibault. "I realized that the opinion of the people close to Gilles Duceppe was always more important than mine and that he ruled the party with an iron fist."

In 2007, she decided to leave the party and sit as an Independent.

"For me it was impossible to remain because for me it was not the way a party should work," she says.

Though being an Independent gives a member the freedom to vote however they choose without having to appease a party leader, there are also challenges.

"A good challenge is that the only thing an Independent member has to think about is the constituents. There's no party regrouping that you have to attend. You don't waste any time. One hundred per cent of your time belongs to your constituents," says Thibault.

Which after all, she says, is what democracy is supposed to be about.

Thibault adds that you have to become somewhat of a jack-of-all-trades. "You have no support except that of your immediate staff. No advance knowledge of what will be discussed, what day will be an opposition day and what motions will be passed."

This meant she had to be well-read and ready to stay late for a vote even though she may have only found out about it a few hours earlier. Independents are also the last to speak in the House and only get the chance to do so if there are no further questions from party members.

However, when they do speak they often call into question the flaws of a bill or point out a perspective that hadn't been examined – adding to the political process in a unique way.

Casey says, "I think everyone should do a stint as an Independent. It would probably change a lot of things in the House of Commons."

# When MPs resign

by Ada Wasiak



*British MP Kate Hoey on the day of Michael Martin's resignation as Speaker of the House of Commons. Resignations are rare but they often hurt. Photo by Steve Punter.*

Although rare, Members of Parliament have been known to resign their seats. Sometimes it's because of the effect political life has on their families. Sometimes negative press and the public spotlight make the pressure of political life too much. Sometimes it's for health reasons.

More often, members resign or are expelled from their party caucus, crossing the floor or sitting as Independents, at least until the next election.

However, Members of Parliament are elected representatives. Shouldn't they have an obligation to remain in their seats until the next election?

In January of this year, Hilary Benn challenged the rules for MP resignation in Britain. The Shadow Leader of the House of Commons asked for a change to the constitution to make it possible for MPs to resign by letter. But the House conceded that the old rules should stand.

In Canada, resignation is a rather simple process. Members simply notify the Speaker in writing that they wish to resign. If the Speaker isn't available, they can submit their letter of resignation to two other MPs.

Members of the UK House of Commons cannot resign. The rationale behind this rule is that the public has chosen them for this job and therefore their role is one of public service. However, there are loopholes – two offices which actually don't exist are handed out to any member who applies for them. Members who wish to resign their seat are

Members sometimes cross the floor and occasionally ministers are forced to step down, but rarely do MPs resign their seats mid-term.

alternately appointed to either Crown Steward and Bailiff of Her Majesty's Three Chiltern Hundreds of Stoke, Desborough and Burnham or Steward and Bailiff of the Manor of Northstead.

This tradition dates back to 1624 when MPs were often elected to serve against their will. The last appointment to this office was February 8 of this year, when Eric Illsley asked for it before he was due to be sentenced on three counts of false accounting.

Though the formalities are different, "in reality there is little difference between your system and ours," says Richard Balfe, former Member of the European Parliament and currently the Chairman of the European Parliament Members Pension Fund. "In theory, an MP cannot resign but if he/she accepts 'an office of Profit under the Crown' then he/she is disqualified from continuing to serve."

"It has never been known for an application to be turned down so, really, it is just like resigning."

There are many difficulties a resigning MP has to consider, no matter what the country. "Even if an MP doesn't resign, but chooses not to seek re-election, they often still have to deal with negative reaction from their peers and constituents," says Keith Penner, who did not seek re-election in 1988.

He says that he had to deal with a lot of disappointment on the part of John Turner, Leader of the Liberal Party at the time. "On the few occasions I've met him since, it's been a rather chilly meeting," says Penner.

MPs also have to explain their decisions to the constituents who elected them. This often isn't easy – especially when the reason is personal.

"It was Shawn [O'Sullivan] who told me privately that he was diagnosed with leukemia and he was leaving Parliament to enter the priesthood," says Geoff Scott, who replaced him in a by-election.

Since 1867, just over 150 Ministers have submitted their resignation while Parliament was in session. Recently, Bev Oda was urged to step down as Minister due to an outcry over her handling of documents, but that didn't mean she would have had to resign her seat as an MP as well.

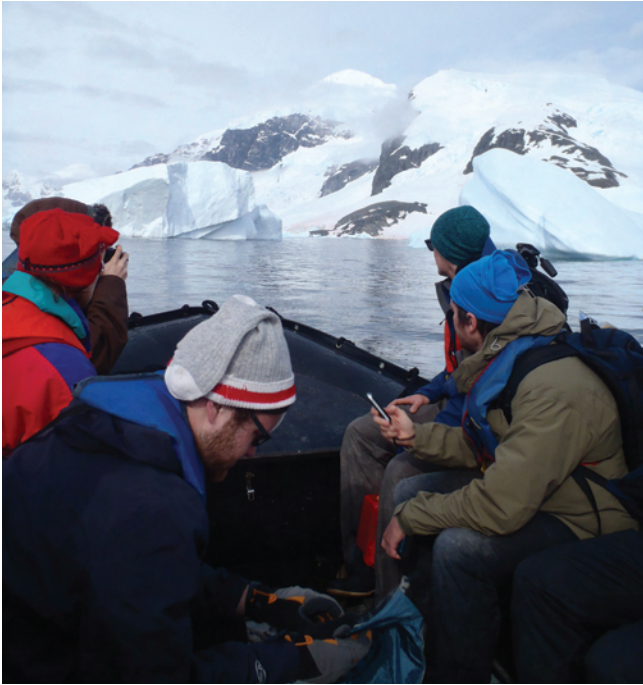
Geoff Scott says that, in his experience, resignation from a seat is very rare. "I don't remember anyone just up and resigning his or her seat in a fit of pique. If anything, they just crossed the floor," he says.

Though the times when they do are often highly publicized, it seems that for the most part those who are elected are pretty happy to stay there. After all, as Scott jokes, "A lot of us, even if we did become disillusioned with our party – felt that we've got it really good here, all the money and the friends. Everyone would wonder why anyone would give up such a secure, high paying job."



# Does Canada have an obligation to Antarctica?

by the Hon. Peter Adams



*Left: The Hon. Peter Adams, former MP, with a Students on Ice (SOI) expedition to Antarctica. SOI is one example of an internationally admired Canadian organization working in Antarctica. For more than 10 years, it has provided field experience in the Arctic and Antarctic for high school and university students. Right: Peter poses with one of the students.*

Antarctica is the world's most pristine continent. It is by far our largest reservoir of freshwater. Its oceans directly influence all the other oceans of the globe. It is the world's last really large (larger than all of Canada) wilderness, a continent free of people. Antarctica is a treasure that should be nurtured by all nations of the world. However, it is especially the responsibility of nations that have a direct interest in and experience of the management of cold regions, including, in my view, Canada.

## **The Antarctic Treaty**

Antarctica is governed through the Antarctic Treaty, which came into force in 1961, signed by 12 nations. Under the Treaty, national territorial claims on the continent were put on hold for the lifetime of the Treaty and Antarctica was set aside for peaceful purposes

and (cooperative) research. A provision for mutual inspection was especially valuable in ensuring the "peace" aspect of the Treaty. This agreement worked throughout the Cold War during which the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. continued to talk in Antarctica. It also worked during the Falklands War, when Argentina and Britain maintained reasonable relations there.

## **The Antarctic Treaty System**

Over the years, the Antarctic Treaty has developed through a series of formal protocols and agreements setting out rules for, among other things, the protection of Antarctic seals, marine life and environment. A 50-year moratorium has been placed on mining. There is a permanent committee which promotes cooperation and information sharing between nations that maintain research bases in Antarctica.

The original 12 Treaty participants have expanded to 29 nations, each of which has committed to "substantial scientific activity" on the continent.

These Consultative (first class) Treaty members work together by consensus. These are the nations that manage day to day activities in Antarctica and control its future. There are another 20 nations that are Non Consultative (second class) members of the Treaty. These can participate in all discussions but final decisions are made by the Consultative group.

## **Canada and the Antarctic Treaty**

It may surprise you to know that, even after all these years, Canada is only a Non Consultative, second class, member of the Treaty, even though we are active in most aspects of the Antarctic Treaty System. For example, in 2003, we signed the Environmental Protocol (the "Madrid Protocol") to the Treaty



*Does Canada have an obligation to help preserve this pristine landscape?*

under which we take full responsibility for all activity undertaken in Antarctica by Canadians and Canada-based organizations.

Canadians have been involved in Antarctica since the first expedition wintered there at the beginning of the 20th century. When you go to Antarctica, you cannot help but notice Canadian aircraft and pilots, snowmobiles, mukluks, parkas, construction techniques, and polar satellite technology. Canadian firms are active and respected in Antarctic tourism. Canadian researchers and students take part in the research programs of virtually all of the nations that maintain bases there.

Canadians are prominent and well-respected in Antarctica because we have expertise in cold weather science and technology, and in the management of high latitude territory.

Yet Canada, as a nation, has never taken the final step of becoming a full member of the Antarctic Treaty. Apart from Iceland, we are the only member of the Arctic Council (the body that oversees the north polar regions) which does not participate fully in the Antarctic Treaty.

In the past, the requirement that a full Treaty member commit to "substantial scientific activity" meant that a nation had to maintain a base there. I suspect

that nowadays, a firm commitment to long term cooperation with a nation that already has bases plus, say, occasional use of our research icebreaker, the Amundsen, as a research platform in Antarctic waters, might be enough to qualify for full membership.

Antarctica has become a huge focus for cooperative cold weather science and technology. Its main export is knowledge and expertise which is more directly applicable in Canada, especially our Arctic, than it is in most other countries. I believe that we cannot afford not to be a full member of this powerhouse of cold weather research.

#### **A moral obligation?**

But I also believe that, as a rich nation with special experience in cold weather and high latitude matters, we have a moral obligation to make a full contribution to the nurturing of Antarctica. For me, this is a much more telling argument than the direct benefits that we clearly gain from participation in the Treaty. The Antarctic is a global treasure that we are particularly well qualified to help manage.

The time has come for Canada to become a full member of the Antarctic Treaty.

Further information is available from the Canadian Polar Commission ([www.polarcom.gc.ca](http://www.polarcom.gc.ca)) and in its newsletter *Meridian/Le bulletin Méridien*.

The Hon. Peter Adams was the Liberal MP for Peterborough from 1993-2006. His background before politics was in glaciology. He currently works with Students On Ice.

## National Tree Day proclaimed



*Sugar maple leaves.*

For years, Canada has limped along behind the United States in celebrating its trees – even though our national symbol, the maple leaf, is a tree emblem. But this past month, we have suddenly come of age in the tree world.

With the support and encouragement of Tree Canada, the House of Commons passed a motion declaring that the Wednesday falling within Forestry Week in September every year will be called National Tree Day.

Royal Galipeau, a Conservative MP from Ontario (Ottawa-Orléans), tabled the private member's motion, which was passed with enthusiasm and almost unanimous accord in the House of Commons on March 2. Only three members voted against it.

In tabling the motion, Galipeau declared, "Canadians will dedicate trees, plant trees, learn about trees and appreciate the historical impact the tree has had on Canada's economic success as a nation." The United Nations had declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

The forest industry in Canada is worth \$50 billion and employs 600,000 people. But National Tree Day focuses on trees where people live: in cities and towns and on farms and along roadways.

Tree Canada (formerly the Tree Canada Foundation) is chaired by former MP, Dorothy Dobbie. It was founded in 1992 by the Hon. Frank Oberle, Sr., then Minister of Forestry in the Mulroney government.

To date, the organization has been responsible for planting over 77 million trees and greening 450 schoolyards.



# Hon. Lloyd Axworthy building dreams

by Dorothy Dobbie



*Lloyd Axworthy in his University of Winnipeg office overlooking the snow-covered construction site for his next big capital project. "I got the city to build a garden there, too," he says with glee.*

One thing the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy learned early in life: you can never have too many smart, young people around you. It was the key to his success in politics and it remains the key to his success as one of Canada's top university presidents.

"They have the energy and the ideas," Lloyd said of the bright youth with whom he surrounds himself. Energy and ideas have helped to take the University of Winnipeg into the list of the top ten universities in Canada, as ranked by both *Maclean's* and the *Globe and Mail*.

Living in the world of ideas is what Dr. Lloyd Axworthy is all about. After taking his BA at the University of Winnipeg, he went on to earn his MA and PhD from Princeton University. He followed this up with a long and successful political career in Ottawa.

Lloyd is a laid-back kind of guy, one reason why he has been able to inspire young people. He is open to ideas and has a well-developed sense of who he is. He has always had a passion for people and their well-being and this is being

translated into action with his vision of a community-based campus that is the centre of life and learning in downtown Winnipeg. Trite though that sounds, it is a true reflection of what he sees and what he has been building.

## A new career

Not that he ended his 27-year political life with a career as a university president in mind. He had planned for retirement from politics at 60, so the transition from public to private life wasn't as traumatic for him as it is for some, but it wasn't until his wife Denise read line 18 on his pay-sheet that the real facts of post-political life came home to him: the much ballyhooed parliamentary pension was not what he thought it would be. "What are we going to do?" asked Denise.

It took him four years to "recalibrate". He secured a position at UBC, working at the Liu Institute for Global Issues. He wrote op-ed pieces, part of the downloading process from an immersion in politics, and he wrote a book.

*Navigating a New World* became a best seller by Canadian standards, sell-

ing over 15,000 copies. True to Lloyd's philosophy, it's about how to survive as an individual activist in the 21st century, making the world safer and more humane and promoting what he calls "human security". But of politics, he says, "Now it's someone else's game."

Still, having an "Honourable" in front of his name is helpful. As the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, he has access to all sorts of people and that makes a big difference in building his dream at the University of Winnipeg. In fundraising, it's a decided advantage to be able to pick up the phone and get through to some very big names. But there's more.

## The risk taker

Lloyd is not afraid to take risks. "I always ask, Why can't we? Is there a reason not to?" he says. "Often the answer is: Maybe we can." That's the only signal he needs to forge ahead.

In his life at the University of Winnipeg, it also took careful calculation to decide where to go and what to do. He spent most of his first year consulting, meeting people, including local aboriginal groups, and talking to others across the province and at other universities.

Before he arrived, the U of W had gone through a couple of decades of strategic planning exercises, but not much had happened. Lloyd was determined to change this. Management renewal was one of the first thrusts, hence the collection of bright young minds that flock around him now.

Gradually a plan began to emerge, and is still emerging, based on capital improvements and a new connection to the community. The community connection came first, and because it's real

"I always ask, Why can't we? Is there a reason not to?" Lloyd says, and often the answer is, 'Maybe we can'. That's the only signal he needs to forge ahead.

and tangible, the university has earned community benefits: there is no graffiti at the University of Winnipeg and in spite of 3,000 drop-ins a month, they have few security issues. It's a safe place for everyone. With all the new construction, the University of Winnipeg has become a beacon for other downtown projects and rejuvenation of the inner city.

#### **Realizing big dreams**

Lloyd dreams big. "Far too many universities bring people in from the ranks that have a cloistered view," he mused. "They have a large sense of entitlement about government funding."

For Lloyd, this is too limiting. You need to be enterprising, to get out there and work for major community support. He has done this successfully, with over 60% of the funds raised to support expansion coming from private sources.

Once perceived as a "castle on the prairies", inaccessible to all but the luckiest and most wealthy, the little college that became the University of Winnipeg has now risen to the big league of universities, says Lloyd. He is not smug; this is just a fact.

As for Lloyd personally, at 72, he still teaches a course in Canadian foreign policy (the practical side, he says). He takes yoga, writes articles and reads four or five newspapers a day. He loves his iPad and believes that the Internet has to revolutionize teaching. That can be for some of the older profs, but "the students are pushing," Lloyd says.

His idea of the end of a perfect day is comparing notes over a glass of scotch with Denise at their cottage at Victoria Beach.

It's the perfect place to dream more dreams.

## Join CAFP and have some fun!

by Léo Duguay

**J**oin your fellow colleagues at CAFP and find out just how much fun the organization can be.

Your Association is an important way to keep in touch with former colleagues in Parliament and to continue contributing your considerable expertise and experience to public life in Canada and internationally. Spouses too can continue to enjoy the friendships developed during your time in Parliament by becoming Associate Members.

This past year, your Association has undertaken a number of activities and continued its many programs, thanks to the revenue gained from the payment of membership fees and the participation of our members. A few of our many accomplishments and upcoming events are listed further.

As a Member, you have access to the "Members Only" section of our website and can participate in our home and auto group insurance plan, new discounts with VIA Rail and iPolitics and, coming this Fall, our first study tour. *Beyond the Hill*, our quarterly magazine, will keep you abreast of current issues and parliamentary matters.

Thank you in advance for your support and for your early attention to taking out or renewing your 2011-2012 membership in the Association. I hope you will also be able to join us at our Annual General Meeting this June!

#### **Services to members:**

- Discounts for members: home and auto insurance plan, VIA Rail and iPolitics
- A membership committee, to increase awareness, participation and services to members
- A popular annual meeting in Ottawa, including the Memorial Service, and a successful regional meeting in Halifax in October 2010
- Quarterly, full-colour editions of our magazine *Beyond the Hill*
- A program for non returning MPs
- Recognizing excellence in 2010:

Keith Penner (Distinguished Service Award) and the Rt. Hon. Don Mazankowski (Lifetime Achievement Award)

#### **Understanding Parliament:**

- Partnerships to increase the reach of our programs, including Canadian International Development Agency and the U.S. Embassy
- Canada School of Public Service – 50 presentations this year
- Stimulating debate about key parliamentary issues – conference on Question Period in Sept. 2010

#### **Promoting democracy abroad:**

- The International Election Monitors Institute – training and deploying election observers to Iraq, Burundi, Sudan, Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2010-2011
- Promoting democracy and empowering women in countries such as Serbia, Sudan, Jordan and Haiti

#### **Engaging youth:**

- A solid base to finance our educational programs with the Douglas C. Frith Dinner – more than \$1 Million raised in six years!
- Over 70 visits to schools, universities, and youth-oriented community groups across Canada
- Parliament to Campus growing – presentations in St. Bonaventure, Buffalo and Syracuse, NY
- Supporting youth oriented programs, such as Encounters with Canada and the Parliamentary Internship Programme
- Reaching out to youth to engage them politically – partnership with CIVIX to provide advice and help deliver mock elections

#### **Upcoming events:**

- May 25, 2011 –Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Hon. Ed Lumley in Toronto
- June 5-7, 2011 – Our AGM in Ottawa, and you're all invited!
- Fall 2011 – A regional meeting in Saskatoon, the 7th Annual Douglas C. Frith Dinner in Ottawa and a study tour of Australia and New Zealand



# The powers and responsibilities of parliamentary officers

by the Hon. John Reid

What makes these offices special? First, they were created by a law, not a regulation or order-in-council decision by Cabinet. That gives them a special status. Second, they report directly to the House of Commons and are outside the normal command system of the Clerk of the Privy Council.

**T**he clash between the former Integrity Commissioner and the Auditor General over the role played by the Integrity Commissioner with her staff and the way in which investigations have been handled has been in the news since December 2010. The Auditor General undertook this investigation of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner under her own authority as a result of complaints received from Integrity staff concerning the way in which personnel were treated. The second set of complaints focused on the way in which investigations were handled. The AG's Report agrees that all the complaints were fully justified. Since the publication of the Auditor General's Report, the Integrity Commissioner has left her office, saying the Privy Council had made her an offer she could not refuse. The Auditor General's Report can be found here: [http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl\\_oag\\_201012\\_e\\_34448.html#hd3a](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_201012_e_34448.html#hd3a).

## **The Auditor General flexes muscles**

Parliamentary officers are relatively new to the Canadian governmental system. This is the first time there has been an investigation into the operations of a commissioner's office by another commissioner. Of course, there have been the usual audits but this examination into the core of a commissioner's office

is a first and represents another development in the parliamentary commissioner system. We now know which parliamentary officer is superior, and the AG has opened a door to supervision of parliamentary officers that did not exist before.

## **Parliament needed a watchdog**

The concept of parliamentary officers arose in the late 1960s and 1970s as the Government of Canada took on greater responsibility through programs such as the Canada Health Plan, the Canada Assistance Plan and others. The development of this legislation placed a great burden on the civil service, which was forced to grow very quickly. Naturally, questions arose as to how to keep track of all of these new programs and spending because the ability of the House of Commons to follow, let alone track, the increasing activities of the Government of Canada was greatly in doubt. Parliamentary officers, in effect, reported directly to committees, giving committees a limited window into government operations.

## **Parliamentary offices changed roles**

What made these offices special? First, they were created by a law, not a regulation or order-in-council decision by Cabinet, which applied directly to the civil service. That gave these offices a special status and a responsibility to

provide leadership in the implementation of these sensitive Acts. Second, they reported directly to the House of Commons and were outside the normal command system of the Clerk of the Privy Council. That made them independent of the government, the politicians and the civil servants. Third, their reports were tabled by the Speaker of the House and then automatically referred directly to a House of Commons committee. Fourth, their main responsibilities were narrow and focused around the law under which they were created. Fifth, it was assumed that commissioners would come from outside the civil service to eliminate any possibility of conflict of interest.

## **Commissioners to serve the law**

The commissioners were meant to serve their specific law, not the government, the civil service or the public. They were to be the "canaries in the mineshaft" to signal when something had gone wrong with the implementation of their legislation. Commissioners could make reports when necessary but their annual reports were most important as they provided a look into what was going on, at least from the commissioner's point of view. The idea was that MPs would deal with the problems, having the commissioner's report before them. Committees also had the ability



*The Hon. John Reid.*

to instruct the commissioners. Consequently, the commissioners looked to the committees they reported to for leadership, guidance and direction. Where committees were not prepared to hear commissioners and act on the information provided to them, the system would not work and commissioners would be left high and dry.

#### **Does the canary now sing for a different master?**

However, if the relevant parliamentary committee was aware that something was wrong and did not act, then the basis upon which the parliamentary offices were created has been badly damaged. The idea of “the canary in the mine-shaft” was that if the canary stopped singing, you had better get out of the mine quickly, because something bad was going to happen. This is one of the areas where parliamentary committees have had a real responsibility to lead.

Now it appears that the Auditor General has moved to overshadow the parliamentary committees’ oversight responsibilities of parliamentary officers.

This is a significant change in authority. It comes at the expense of MPs and parliamentary committees.

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

## Our hearts go out to Christchurch

**T**he following is a letter received from Graham Kelly, the president of the Association of Former Parliamentarians in New Zealand, in response to a message sent by our president, Léo Duguay, shortly after the news about the Christchurch earthquake emerged.

Hello Léo,

Thanks for your message of support and prayers for the Christchurch earthquake victims.

The whole country has been in shock about this catastrophic and overwhelming event, particularly the citizens of Christchurch, who are devastated. About one third of the central city is destroyed and the loss of life is still climbing, although by now there is little hope of finding any more alive. Some 200 are still missing, but some may have left the area. In the eastern suburbs of the city there are thousands who cannot live in their houses and are living in garages or have gone to shelters or to neighbours or friends and are cooking outside on BBQs.

With 80% of electricity reconnected and water arriving in 17 milk tankers twice a day to collection points, in the short term, people are surviving. Wastewater disposal is a massive problem for most. A spade in your garden is the recommended short-term solution.

Most of the worst affected parts of the city, including back yards, driveways, roads, footpaths, sports fields, school grounds, etc., have a layer of sticky grey mud up to knee height, caused by the liquefaction.

Thousands have left the city and gone to other cities throughout the country. And many roads are not able to take vehicles. Of course businesses, transport and other services have stopped operating and the government has just announced financial packages to attempt to encourage companies to keep staff on their payroll. Other businesses have al-



*An interesting and destructive phenomenon of earthquakes is liquefaction, where the earth basically turns to mud as illustrated above. Wikimedia photo.*

ready had to lay off all their staff as their buildings and businesses are destroyed.

The defense forces, fire, police and other rescue services have been superb, working 24 hours a day, and have been supplemented from around the country and from many other countries, for which we are all extremely grateful.

Fortunately we have earthquake insurance, included when you insure your home. This is paid into a separate Earthquake Commission, which administers and pays out the first \$100,000 to homeowners in a disaster. However many people are not insured. This will leave billions of dollars to find for destroyed infrastructure and for those not insured.

Politicians who have riding offices in the city and suburbs have had to deal with destroyed buildings and no phones. None of their staff were killed. I have seen some photos of these offices, which cannot be used again. On the day of the quake, Parliament diverted all MPs’ phones (irrespective of political party) to Parliament and handled all calls from there.

A number of MPs have had their houses totally or partially destroyed, or sunk up to the window level, because of the liquefaction. And they, like others in the frontline of helping, have had to deal with the crisis on a constituent and citywide level, as well as their own houses and families; not easy and extremely stressful.

Because of the extremely good on-the-ground organization, the most practical assistance would be donations of money for the many families in real despair.

Given that families and infrastructure are not going to be fixed any time soon, it’s going to be a long cold winter.

Again, our thanks to you and your colleagues for your kind thoughts

Sincerely,

Graham Kelly, President, AFMPNZ



# Finding the balance

by Kathryn Burnham

A year after the Speaker's ruling, many documents pertaining to the Afghan detainees are still kept secret under concern for national security, solicitor-client privilege and Cabinet confidence.

*Speaker Peter Milliken ruled that he would make a ruling in two weeks' time, but nothing further has happened for the past year.*

On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, Speaker Peter Milliken made his "historic" ruling in the House of Commons in regard to the need for the government to disclose documents relating to the possible torture of Afghan detainees.

"On analysing the evidence before it and the precedents, the Chair cannot but conclude that the Government's failure to comply with the Order of December 10, 2009 constitutes, *prima facie*, a question of privilege. [...] I will allow House Leaders, Ministers and party critics time to suggest some way of resolving the impasse for it seems to me we would fail the institution if no resolution can be found. However, if, in two weeks' time, the matter is still not resolved, the Chair will return to make a statement on the motion that will be allowed in the circumstances."

## Wrangling then silence

The ensuing months were filled with political wrangling as Members of Parliament sought a solution to balance the concern for national security and the need to get to the heart of the issue: did the government know about the torture of some detainees?

On May 14, the Bloc Québécois, the Liberal Party and the government reached an agreement. The New Democratic Party balked, saying the deal did not live up to the Speaker's ruling.

And then there was silence.

Nearly a full year later, little has been learned about the Afghan detainee situation, and no documents have been released. A team of parliamentarians, joined by three jurists, are pouring over the doc-

uments to decide which to release.

The jurists, impartial arbitrators, are former Supreme Court Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, former B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Brenner, and former Supreme Court justice Frank Iacobucci, who had been earlier hired by Justice Minister Rob Nicholson as a special legal adviser for an internal screening of the information.

Access to some documents was granted by the government, as they released thousands of related papers, but many were kept secret, due to concerns regarding national security, solicitor-client privilege and Cabinet confidence.

## Who is the client?

Cabinet confidence is effective for 20 years and then the information is made available to the public, said Michel Drapeau, a retired colonel and lawyer. But solicitor-client privilege has no expiry date, he said.

Drapeau said the concern that arises is: Who is the client? If it is the government consulting, on the country's behalf, and it is in the public's best interest for that information to be released, there should be some mechanism to do so.

"Public interest should trump solicitor-client privilege," Drapeau said. "A Minister is my representative. He is there because I elected him. A client is not this ephemeral person."

Drapeau suggested a public interest clause be included with the access to information process so that, after a few years have expired, information can be reviewed and released if in the best interest of the public.

The solicitor-client privilege is centuries old, but the concern, says Errol Mendes, director of human rights re-



search and law professor at the University of Ottawa, is if the government wants to extend it more widely to cover almost everything involving its lawyers. "If you have a government prone to secrecy, there is a tendency to extend the rule of privilege too far."

As for the issue of national security, Mendes says the ruling from the Speaker was "very careful to balance the rights of MPs to have access to peoples, persons and documents with [the concern for] national security."

## Time to establish a policy

Mendes said the speech from Speaker Milliken set "an urgently needed precedent, not just for this issue." He added that the agreement between two opposition parties and the government to establish a joint committee has helped align Canadian with other liberal democracies, which, according to Mendes, have a system in place for similar issues of national security.

Mendes said the British have a joint committee, as does the U.S. Congress, to review sensitive documents.

In the case of the U.S., the congressional committee reviews Department of Defense documents, such as the Abu Ghraib photos of torture, and decides what to release to the public – which, in the case of these photos, was nothing. Similar pictures had already been published in the media. However, this committee has also released large amounts of information, Mendes said.

"We need a system that is more effective," Mendes said. "MPs are the guardians of the constitution and preserve the values of the country."

# My moment with Mubarak

Mubarak looked at me directly and I could see him scowl. With a raised voice he said that we in the West didn't understand the dangers of Muslim extremism . . .

by Ian Waddell

**W**e were a delegation of French-speaking Canadian MPs in the early 1990s in Egypt. I was the only anglophone and the lone NDPer. Apparently, some time ago, many of the Egyptian upper classes spoke French as a second language. Anyway, that was our excuse for coming to Egypt on a fact-finding mission.

We were to have a lazy day visiting the awesome Egyptian Museum in the heart of Cairo. But as the visit started, our guide, the chief curator, was looking very flustered. Apparently President Hosni Mubarak wanted to meet the delegation and he wanted us to come to his palace, now! I guess the museum guide had to show the delegation something for our visit. He quickly opened a back door of the museum leading us into a dusty storage area, which seemed full of old coffins. He opened one. Before us was Ramesses II, the greatest, most celebrated and most powerful Pharaoh, who ruled from 1279 BC to 1213 BC.

## Off to the palace

Now we had to go by bus across the vast city to the suburb of Heliopolis to meet the modern (and now last) Pharaoh.

I remember being offered sweet mint tea in the red-carpeted waiting room of the Palace and then being ushered into a large office. Only two men were inside. The one who came toward us and greeted our delegation leader in French was the then Egyptian Foreign Minister and later Secretary General of the UN, Boutros Boutros Ghali. But almost immediately the larger, well-dressed man vigorously came forward, hand outstretched, and greeted us in English apologizing that he couldn't speak French. So the meeting will be in English, he said. There was no doubt who was the boss here.

At this point our delegation leader, Louis Plamondon, then a Quebec con-

servative and now a Bloc MP and very hesitant in the English language, informed President Mubarak that he was turning the chair of the delegation over to me. Up to that point I had been hiding behind the other MPs. Reluctantly I took the chair near the President and put aside the trivial thought in my head as to whether a New Democrat had ever chaired a Canadian Government delegation.

## An edgy question

Mubarak welcomed us with a big smile and then said he would take questions. As I recall, the questions were fairly easy – about agriculture, tourism and a few other topics. I helped shape the questions from our guys into clearer sentences and better English.

Finally, when no more questions came, I couldn't resist. "Mr. President," I stammered, "I have a question. I'm a member of Amnesty International and they tell me Egypt has a reputation for locking up a lot of political prisoners, banning some groups and not allowing really free elections."

Mubarak looked at me directly and I could see him scowl. With a raised voice he said we in the West didn't understand the dangers of Muslim extremism, that terrorism could come someday to our land, too (he was right here, this was before 9/11) and that he had to take measures to protect Egypt from extremism.

At the time I thought President Mubarak actually liked my question as it got him engaged and allowed him to give us a message.

The Canadian diplomats in attendance were not so happy.

When I got back to Ottawa, I called the Canadian head of Amnesty International and told him of our moment with Mubarak. He said: "You're lucky you're not in jail."

Ian Waddell was an NDP MP for Vancouver Kingsway from 1979 to 1993.



*Hosni Mubarak just before he was forced to step down.*



# Staying in Touch

By Rosella Chibambo, Andrea Ozretic, and Kathryn Burnham



Hon. Dr. Rey Pagtakhan.



Hon. Joe Jordan.

## **The Hon. Dr. Rey Pagtakhan**

Dr. Rey Pagtakhan immigrated to Canada from the Philippines in 1968 and trained as a lung specialist for children. He later taught at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine as a Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health.

He was elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament in 1988 and served until 2004.

### **What is your favourite memory from your time as an MP?**

Foremost of them all was when it finally dawned on me it was real, that I was with my family taking my oath of office as a Member of Parliament and that, within a month, I was standing in its chamber and debating the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, opening as I did with greetings to all conveyed in the language of my original tongue, “Mali-gayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon” (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year). It was not within my dream.

The second memorable event was when then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien called to inform me that he had appointed me Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. I felt obliged to first ask his permission – for reason of confidentiality – before I shared the exciting news with my wife that same evening.

### **How has Parliament changed since you were there?**

Occupants of the Chamber sides have changed, but the institution has remained as robust as it always was. I have observed, for the betterment of the institution, that members elected are more and more reflective of the groups given special attention by our Charter of

Rights and Freedoms – women, people with disabilities, visible minorities and aboriginal people. It was not the situation when I was first elected in 1988.

### **What current event has caught your attention recently?**

The doctrine of ministerial responsibility has caught my attention. Two days after the news broke out on Parliament Hill, through the CAFR program Parliament to Campus, I was participating as guest speaker at a previously scheduled class seminar with professor Andrea Rounce to graduate students of public administration at the University of Manitoba.

We dissected the three fundamental tenets of the doctrine – responsibility, answerability and accountability; the news provided us with a living example for teaching purposes. In essence, I shared my insights as a former Member of Parliament and Minister of the Crown and the class concurred that trust in public office, elected or non-elected, is vital to our system of parliamentary democracy.

### **What have you been up to recently?**

My immediate community participation upon leaving Parliament in July 2004 was to join the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy who, as President of the University of Winnipeg, invited me to help him found the newly established Global College at the university.

The goal of the College is to advance the cause of human rights and understanding. I served as its Founding Director until 2006 and initially chaired its Advisory Board.

I have since wandered, giving invited lectures, here and abroad, on a vari-

ety of topics, including the Canadian parliamentary system and federalism; “Politics and Medicine: Two Noble Callings,” and most recently, ministerial responsibility and accountability.

During this “life after politics”, I was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

### **How has being in politics helped you in your current career?**

In fact, my career in politics has helped me attend to the needs of people, albeit not quite in diagnosis and treatment of diseases, but it's still about caring for fellow citizens, on a broader scope.

That is why I have often spoken with friends and strangers about the nobility of both politics and medicine.

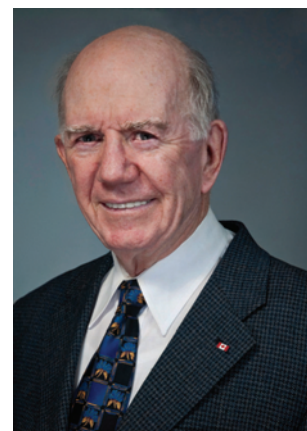
## **Hon. Joe Jordan**

Joe Jordan spent 7 years in federal politics, representing the Leeds-Grenville riding. During this time he served as Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Chrétien, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board and was a director of parliamentary affairs to the President of the Treasury Board. He is a senior consultant at the Capital Hill Group, professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and has taught in both Ethiopia and Eastern Europe.

### **What was your favourite memory from your time in Parliament?**

I had the tremendous honour to be appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Chrétien for three and a half years of my tenure and that experience, to me, was the highlight. Just to be around Mr. Chrétien and watch the way he operated and made decisions and

"In a majority government you generally get three years of trying to make the world a better place and then you get into election mode. They're always in election mode now, so I think that contributes to the tone and tenor that we're seeing to a great degree." – Hon. Joe Jordan



*Hon. Warren Allmand.*

handled caucus, it was unbelievable. He wouldn't dwell over decisions. He was very, very good at collecting the information that was available, and making a decision. His political instincts were unparalleled, but he certainly never let the perfect stand in the way of the good. He made decisions and moved on, it really was fascinating and it's a quality that many people don't have.

**How has Parliament changed since you were there?**

I don't think it's any secret that it looks like the partisan element has risen quite a bit. Part of it, I think, is because when you're in a constant cycle of minorities, you never get off the election train so you're trying to extract political benefit from everything. In a majority government you generally get three years of trying to make the world a better place and then you get into election mode. They're always in election mode now, so I think that contributes to the tone and tenor that we're seeing to a great degree. I think the 24-hour insatiable appetite for news tweets and twits is also contributing to the atmosphere.

**You've been contributing to the *Hill Times*. What made you want to do that?**

I lost an election when I was in my late forties, so one of the defense mechanisms is that you have to have as many jobs as possible, because you never know when you are going to lose another one. So I just have as many jobs as possible (jokingly). I enjoy writing about things from a former MP's perspective. I'm the laziest person there, I do about one every two months, but I enjoy it.

**What current event has caught your attention recently in the news?**

I was absolutely floored about the story that you aren't allowed to drink in your ice-fishing house. Certainly, what happened in Egypt, I think the implications are yet to be felt. I think that's a huge story.

**Hon. Warren Allmand**

William Warren Allmand was the representative for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce for 31 years between 1965 and 1993. He was the Solicitor General from 1972-1976, then the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development until 1977, and afterwards the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs until 1979. He was also, between 1984 and 1993, the critic for employment, arms control and disarmament, official languages and immigration. When he resigned from politics in 1993, Warren became the president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

**What was your favourite part of being an MP?**

I always enjoyed committee work, both on the government side and opposition, especially when those committees were mandated to search for a solution to a problem. The members worked together better when they were searching for a solution.

**How has Parliament changed since you were there?**

Government started to change while I was still there – and for the worse, in my view. If I had a different view from my party on a bill, it was hard to get on the Speaker's list. There was more and more control in the hands of the Party Leader.

I still feel this is contrary to the rules and behaviour of Parliament.

**What current event has caught your attention recently?**

I have been very interested over the past couple of years in the Middle East crisis – in particular the Israel and Palestinian conflict. More recently, the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia have caught my eye. I feel the conflict in the Middle East has repercussions for the whole world. Much has to be done to bring peace and justice to that area.

**What have you been up to recently?**

When I left Parliament I became the president of Rights and Democracy, from 1997 to 2002. Then I began teaching at McGill University – a course on international human rights. In 2005, I was convinced to run for the Montreal city council as they were looking for an emphasis on human rights. I did not think that after 31 years in Parliament I would ever run in an election again, but I did and I won. Since this past June, I have been the president of the Thomas-Moore Institute, and I have been teaching again.

**How has being in politics helped you in your current career?**

I had a lot of experience with human rights in government and the opposition. These were intense experiences in Parliament. All that gave me a lot to pass on that was of interest to students. I have taught throughout my political career, and have given individual lectures at universities, colleges and high schools on parliamentary life or issues of interest.



# A Successful Career After Politics: Lorna Marsden

"There's been a complete turn around in the gender ratios in universities and it's even more pronounced in graduate studies."

by Andrea Ozretic

**E**ducation has played a fundamental role in the Hon. Lorna Marsden's life. Upon exiting politics in 1992 she found herself back in the world of universities, serving as President of Wilfrid Laurier University from 1992 to 1997 and York University from 1997 to 2007. She has also been awarded the Order of Canada.

Lorna spent about eight-and-a-half years in federal politics. She says the time she spent in the Senate, especially as a member of the Finance Committee, served as a great transfer experience in going from politics to President of Wilfrid Laurier.

Today it may be customary for university presidents to do this, but at the time, few did. "When I went to work at the university, I understood why I had to get to know the auditor: I used the audit as a way of understanding a changing institution," says Marsden.

"If I had another life, I'd be an auditor," she adds, chuckling.

"They are amazing, and they do such important work; I learned that in the Senate. I would have not had a clue unless I had the privilege of sitting on that committee."

## **Universities are complex**

Though she was able to transfer her skills, she says there are some things about universities that at times make them even more complicated than government.

"I made my life in universities and I think they're wonderful, complicated institutions. They are very different from government, very different from bureaucracies. They really are fascinating organizations and fascinating places,



*The Hon. Lorna Marsden has had an exciting career as a politician and educator.*

all of them. And every single one is different from the other."

Her passion for education and the time she has spent in universities has also given Lorna the privilege of watching how women's presence in post-secondary level education has evolved.

Marsden earned her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Toronto, and her PhD at Princeton.

## **More women in academia now**

"When I started teaching at the University of Toronto in 1972, even in the sociology department, women were a minority," says Marsden.

"There's been a complete turnaround in the gender ratios in universities and it's even more pronounced in graduate studies. There were always women in undergraduate degrees, but to see the proportion of women in all fields, in graduate studies, and then increasingly in the faculty – it's really a transformation."

Today she continues to work with

York University, running an outreach program for alumni, parents of York students and people in the Keele neighbourhood. Lorna is also a director at Manulife, and particularly enjoys observing how the organization moves and changes.

She has been named Chair of the Expert Panel on Women in University Research for the Council of Canadian Academies. The panel will be taking a very deep and serious look into women's research careers in Canada, both inside and outside of universities, on a comparative basis with other countries.

## **Working on two books**

Everything seems to be coming full circle for Lorna. She is currently working on two books related to women's rights. One is on the history of the women's organization, the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women, of which she has been a member since 1971. The other is an examination of why women's rights were not included in 1867, mostly looking at citizenship rights. It also concentrates on how social institutions involving women's rights organized themselves to bring about change.

The role of women in society has been an area of passion for Marsden throughout her life. She originally became involved in politics as a member of the women's movement.

"It became really evident to a whole lot of us very early in the 70s that if you really wanted change on regulation and so on, you had to understand politics. Those were the people who were going to make the change and you had to work with them."

# The other side of the microphone

Moving into politics from journalism is by no means easy. There's a belief that the attitudes of journalists are too negative to build relationships.

by Ada Wasiak



*Photo by Mike Schinkel.*

“We all know journalists make bad politicians,” Prime Minister Stephen Harper reportedly told one of his new MPs back in 2006. “Politicians know they have to stick to a message. That’s how they are successful. Journalists think they always have to tell the truth.”

This is interesting, since Michael Ignatieff was a sports reporter and a BBC journalist before entering politics. Other prominent figures such as Ronald Reagan and Jeanne Sauv  started their careers as journalists.

The reality is that politics and journalism require many transferable skills. These include a talent for communication, an interest in a lot of things, a broad knowledge base, the ability to write well, an understanding of what makes a good story, the ability to anticipate what the media will ask, an understanding of the importance of getting the facts right, and the ability to communicate well in multiple types of media.

The past has shown that journalists make exceptionally good politicians. Geoff Scott, a TV reporter, entered politics in 1978.

“I am the only one in recent history to jump from Parliamentary Press Gallery on the third floor of Centre Block to the second floor House of Commons

and in a matter of weeks.” He says that there were a lot of variables he had to consider when making the move.

“There’s no question that it was risky. When you go from the stable and sometimes lucrative world of journalism into the tenuous and quirky partisan fishbowl of politics, that’s a real lifestyle change,” said Scott.

Increasingly, there is a revolving door between journalism and politics.

The problem is that this movement could easily become a conflict of interest for an individual, and could be perceived as such by the public.

When you’re in politics, you make friends with other politicians. This can be a great source of information and news tips but it might also call into question the stories you choose to write or the decisions you make if you return to your journalism career.

However, there is a need for journalists to understand how politics works. “Most, to be blunt, don’t have the first clue of how politics is played, what politicians care about, how they make decisions or how they view issues,” write Jaime Watt and Dan Robertson in an article titled “Getting behind political spin” on J-Source.

If a journalist has a chance to be a part of the political process, he or she gains inside knowledge but can end up

leading to alienation from one’s previous employer and coworkers.

Jeffrey Simpson was a parliamentary intern before becoming a columnist for *The Globe and Mail*. After he wrote his first column, he was told, “These interns are supposed to keep their mouths shut.”

Freer movement between journalism and politics can lead to a more transparent society and a better understanding of the other side. The result is also better reporting based on experience and first-hand observation. It is helpful for politicians to know how journalists operate; journalists who learn politics firsthand understand the important issues and are able to apply that knowledge to work in politics.

Moving into politics from journalism is by no means easy. There’s a belief that the attitudes of journalists are too negative to build relationships. If it’s done carelessly, “the media’s already shaky credibility takes a hit,” says Deborah Potter.

In the words of Nathan Carr, a public relations professional, “You have to remain ethical and get the facts right no matter what your job is.”

The ability to change jobs and succeed while maintaining the public’s trust depends a lot on the integrity of the individual and their ability to maintain integrity in both roles.



# What Jeffrey Simpson learned from his parliamentary internship



"I thought that seeing the Hill from the inside would be a good window on the government or one part of the government, that I subsequently hoped to write about."

by Kathryn Burnham

As you flip through the morning paper while sipping your fresh cup of coffee, sitting at the kitchen table or the living room easy chair with the newspaper spread out before you, stories about Canadian health care, Internet regulations and job growth leave their mark on your ink-stained fingers.

Stories about the Hill generally focus on partisanship – the back and forth between the parties. Yet behind this bickering and gossip, MPs correspond with their constituents, research issues for Question Period, attend committee meetings, and generally conduct their day-to-day jobs.

While these more routine moments don't make for great headlines, their role isn't lost on one Parliament Hill reporter.

## **Jeffrey Simpson on the Hill**

*Globe and Mail* columnist Jeffrey Simpson was first introduced to life on the Hill nearly 30 years ago as a parliamentary intern. While his columns today focus on critiquing government and how policies affect Canadians, he was once helping write correspondence to constituents, researching questions every year for Question Period and even working for forty years on an election campaign.

Every year for 40 years, the parliamentary internship programme has given ten interns ten months of experience on the Hill, where they fully integrate themselves into the political process. Interns are placed with both a Govern-

ment and an Opposition MP throughout their term, allowing them to see the political process from both sides of the Chamber.

The interns are asked to act as regular staff for the MP with whom they are working. It wasn't long before Simpson heard his MP asking the government questions he had penned within the Parliamentary chambers.

## **Working for the So-Creds**

That was when Simpson was working with MP André-Gilles Fortin (Lotbinière, Quebec) of the Social Credit Party, a right-wing protest party of the day that was mainly concerned with dairy subsidies, unemployment and issues of the French language.

Working for an MP from a smaller party meant working for the whole party, Simpson says. His first task was preparation for the morning Question Period meeting.

"I remember, the first day I walked in with about eight questions, figuring they would pick one or two," Simpson says. "But they were so amazed that someone had prepared all these questions that they divided them amongst themselves and asked them over the next two or three days."

## **His experience provided insight**

This opportunity provided him with some insight that carried into his years as a reporter. "I had an early indication of how parties prepare for Question Period and what a theatre it is," Simpson says. "I got a better understanding of the preparation that goes into good theatrics."

This experience was very different from his time with the Liberal Party, working for MP Barney Danson (York North, Ontario). With the Liberals in government under Pierre Trudeau and the party holding over 100 seats, Simpson was not needed to work for the whole party, and instead worked more closely with Barney's office, helping with correspondence to constituents and files as part of the Immigration portfolio.

Beyond the daily routine of Question Period, parliamentary committees and Cabinet duties, getting re-elected is a critical part of the MP's job.

## **Working on an election**

Simpson experienced firsthand the long hours and team effort that fuel an election campaign. His first assignment was with MP Ed Broadbent of the New Democratic Party. Within a few weeks of Simpson's arrival on the Hill, the writ dropped for a fall election, and Simpson found himself on the campaign trail.

It was during this time that he learned about the need to rise above local rivalries and how difficult ethnic divisions can be to overcome at election time. He says he also got to see the incredible mobilization and dedication it took to run a campaign based on going door-to-door and participating in local debates.

When Simpson first strode up to the Hill, he says he didn't have any strong party allegiances. He says he knew he wanted to be a journalist, and so he was on the Hill to learn, from the inside, about the job.

"I thought that seeing the Hill from

"I saw people up close. I have never been able to believe that politicians are in it to feather their nests," Simpson says. "Most of those that I saw were people who gave an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. And that has generally been my experience ever since."

the inside would be a good window on the government, or one part of the government, that I subsequently hoped to write about," Simpson says. "I was there to learn, not to become a prophet."

Simpson says he got to meet many impressive people and experience the dramatic times of a minority government.

#### See MPs as real people

"I saw people up close. I have never been able to believe that politicians are in it to feather their nests," Simpson says. "Most of those that I saw were people who gave an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. And that has generally been my experience ever since."

Simpson's first article for the *Globe and Mail* was an opinion piece, written in 1972 after the Speech from the Throne. It was a comment on the Debate in Reply on the Speech – colour-

fully, and slightly sarcastically, pointing out the "bombast that takes up a week of the House's time as the MPs sing the glories of their riding, thank their electors and praise their leaders."

The piece was a hit with the paper, but not so much with his bosses on the Hill. "These interns are supposed to keep their mouths shut," Simpson says, and he agrees. But, he says, the piece must have shown the *Globe and Mail* that he could "string a word or two together" as it helped him secure a summer placement.

Since then, he has been entertaining audiences, including politicians, with his reporting from the Hill and commentary on the policies and antics therein. His experience as a parliamentary intern gives him an informed insider's perspective – a luxury many reporters don't have.

#### More influence than he knew

Newspaper reporters and columnists can influence the public, but some can also have tremendous sway over the policies and direction of government.

For many years, Jeffrey Simpson was *the* newspaper guru for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who sincerely respected his opinions. The PM, well known for the credence he gave journalists, was also a master spell-binder in caucus. His talks were peppered with anecdotes and stories. He frequently quoted Simpson to his colleagues in making a point about government's policy or direction. If Simpson supported it, it must be good.

When I was co-chair of the party's National Policy Meeting, I decided it was time to brief the PM on what I was planning. He listened with great interest and made his comments, but his mind was clearly elsewhere. Finally, he rose swiftly from his chair and steered me over to a credenza filled with newspapers.

Pride of place, by a clearly impressed prime minister, was given to the column that day by Jeffrey Simpson. –Editor

## MacDonald Laurier soirée

by Ada Wasiak



Jean Chrétien on the left and Joe Clark on the right. What's new?

Former Prime Ministers John A. MacDonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Joe Clark and Jean Chrétien were all in attendance at the soirée hosted by the MacDonald-Laurier Institute to celebrate Canada's Flag Day at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier on February 15.

The evening was filled with cameo appearances from past prime ministers (even then long dead), costumes, speeches and laughter.

Actors in period costumes portrayed MacDonald and Laurier. Both Clark and Chrétien spoke about who they thought was Canada's greatest prime minister.

"Answer the question you would have preferred to be asked," was the advice Clark received during his time as prime minister. He applied that to his speech that evening. Instead of talking about Canada's greatest prime minister he argued for the prime minister he thought had the greatest influence: Diefenbaker.

He also made jokes and engaged the crowd.

"The one thing Jean Chrétien and I have in common is that neither of us know anything about international affairs," said Clark. The crowd laughed. "I'm always happy to let Jean speak for himself."

From CAF, Jack Silverstone, Bill Casey, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, Francis LeBlanc, and Jesse Flis were in attendance.



# The Canadian Women's Press Club

by Andrea Ozretic

The women in this club were not only trailblazers in the field of journalism, they were trailblazers for Canadian women in general.



**B**ack in 1904, heading home on the train in a Pullman car after traveling to the St. Louis World's Fair, 13 female Canadian journalists founded the Canadian Women's Press Club. These women banded together at a time when it was a struggle for women to obtain an education and to be part of the workforce, let alone to be working in the press.

This group of journalists later found themselves traveling on the train, first class, thanks to the efforts of Margaret Graham, who at the time had fifteen years of experience writing for Canadian and U.S. newspapers.

## **Twelve became sixteen**

Ms. Graham convinced George Ham, the publicity director at the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to issue press passes to the women, allowing them to take part in promotional excursions. In order to get the passes, she first had to show him twelve female journalists willing to go. Graham quickly found him sixteen, all of whom had managed to get themselves assigned to cover the World's Fair.

The Club worked together to educate fellow women working as journalists and authors. They supported and built working relationships and connections with one another, and gave each other the sense that they truly did have a presence in the field of journalism. They strove

to have women from across the country represented in the Club's executive.

There were struggles within the organization. The commitment to annual meetings sometimes floundered and there was sometimes competition among members of the group. But two things always bound them together: their dedication to their craft, and their hunger for recognition.

## **First for women**

Many of their accomplishments were firsts for Canadian women journalists. In 1955 the Club toured Europe, culminating in a visit to the USSR, which at the time was quite a feat. The information and writing they managed to collect on the trip did not make it all the way home to Canada, but they brought back some film that allowed North America to see a part of the world they had not been able to see in 20 years.

The women in this club were not only trailblazers in the field of journalism, they were trailblazers for Canadian women in general.

Nellie McClung, a member of the club, was a leader in fighting for the rights of women in Canada. She played an instrumental role in the "Person's Case" that allowed women to be viewed as persons in Canada in 1929.

Journalism has changed considerably since then. Today's newsrooms are

much more equal for men and women. Many females now run newsrooms throughout the country, and men have also played an encouraging role in their rise.

## **Men helped**

"I would say that the people who helped my career along were all enlightened male managers, many of whom had daughters and wanted women to have equal opportunities to compete, wanted to attract more women as consumers of journalism, and perhaps wanted to be seen as change makers," says Marilyn Mercer, a former CBC radio and television producer and manager.

But getting hired was often still a struggle, as some men were often hesitant to hire women, concerned that they might have to take time off to have kids, and this was reflected in their benefits. When Mercer had a child in 1987, women were allowed four months off. Today, women are entitled to a full year with pay and do not have to worry about losing their jobs.

The ever-growing presence of women in the newsroom is a testament to this progress. One can look back to the struggles of the early women journalists, when obtaining something as simple as a press pass could be difficult. It is the work of these women over a century ago that helped blaze a path for future women to follow.



Dorothy Dobbie.

# Can democracy thrive in the Middle East?

There are democratic Islamic countries such as Malaysia, Turkey and Indonesia. The democratic deficit is not just a question of religion.

What is happening right now in the Arab world is fascinating and a little bit frightening. That ordinary people are apparently rising up, en masse, to protest their systems of governance without provocateurs pulling strings somewhere in the background is hard to believe. Yet this appears to be the case.

It's a fragile time. It is doubly so since the revolution (at least in Egypt) appears spontaneous. If there is no co-ordinated leadership behind the event, then it opens up the way for self-interested opportunists. Revolutions often make way for even more repressive regimes than those they replace.

The longing for change is palpable throughout the Arab nations and perhaps it is long overdue. Still, it begs the question: why has democracy been so slow to emerge here?

## Oil and aid dependence

One interesting theory is that the economies of these countries are addicted to either oil revenues or to foreign aid. In the case of the oil-rich countries, it is postulated that having endless wealth flowing to the state means that there is no income tax system and that this breaks down the natural relationship between the state and the people. The same is true, says this school of thought, in the nations that, because of their strategic locations, have become dependent on foreign aid. These nations include Egypt.

"At the end of the day, oil rent and strategic rent explain why major parts of the Arab world did not develop like the West. Simply put, they were able to depend on easy income without genuine economic development, private sector

growth, the emergence of an industrial bourgeoisie, a middle class and, most importantly, taxation and representation," wrote Omer Taspinar in a January edition of *Today's Zaman*, a newspaper based in Turkey.

He and others point out that there are democratic Islamic countries such as Malaysia, Turkey and Indonesia, so the democratic deficit in the Arab world is not just a question of religion. Still others say that religion plays a big role because, they say, the concept is totally alien to the idea of *shura*, the tribal laws that are deeply rooted in the belief that God's rules are indisputable and must be interpreted through the highest religious authority in the community.

## Separation of Church and State

This clash between religious and secular laws was dealt with long ago in Western cultures by the separation of Church and State, but we still see vestiges of conflict here when questions arise about whose law we should follow; the laws of God or the laws of man. This was part of the debate involving the religiously led Reform Party and later the Canadian Alliance. Neither leader could understand the concern expressed by many Canadians over their avowed fealty to God's laws over those of man.

## Who interprets the law?

The issue here is, of course, the question of who interprets the law. Under democracy we have a clear set of principles that transcend our individual and personal relationships with any spiritual order. When a conflict arises, man's law prevails and we don't have to rely on a biased intermediary. Instead, we rely on the carefully constructed rules that have to do with human-to-human transactions, leaving spiritual beliefs out of the discussion.

In the final analysis, the concept of Christianity and governance is really not that different from the concept of

*shura*. The same conflicts arise among all religious adherents when it comes to applying the law.

Mishal Al Sulami wrote in 2005 for *Open Democracy*, an organization based in London that deals with the way we govern ourselves, "Any reconciliation between *shura* and democracy founders over the concept of sovereignty; while people are the real source of law and power in democracy, sovereignty for the Muslim means God's sovereignty (as expressed through the *shari'a*)." Al Sulami was arguing that there is no conflict between Islam and democracy; however, if democracy is to thrive in the Arab world, then there must be a new structure to deal with these issues and the development of those structures will take time.

## Self rule means self rule

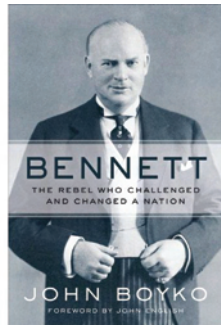
How those structures are developed, though, has to be the decision of the people who will be living with them, and not imposed on them based on a Western concept of how the world works. While emerging democracies may borrow from one established order or another, the final model must be theirs, constructed country by country.

It will not be an easy or a smooth transition. Democracy is a messy system, allowing, as it must, certain periods of imbalance with winners and losers. Oil-rich Arab countries that have existed under the strictness of dictatorships may find the apparent disorder of democracy hard to swallow. Russia is a perfect example, where a certain portion of the population longs for the "good old days" under communism where choices were made for you.

Still, we can only hope that the excited and newly enthusiastic will of the people will prevail, not just for their own good but for the sake of peace and world order for all people.

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





## R. B. Bennett, a Red Tory?

Author John Boyko presents his thesis that Bennett was a Red Tory with “a belief in the positive power of government intervention to help people in need, balanced by a fiscal conservatism that respected the vitality of a free market and individual responsibility.”

*Bennett: The Rebel Who Challenged and Changed a Nation*, by John Boyko. Key Porter Books, Toronto, 2010. 501 pages. Reviewed by David Daubney.

This is an informative and highly readable biography of a largely unknown prime minister, Richard Bedford Bennett. In fact it is the first full biography of Bennett who served as Tory (then called Liberal-Conservative) prime minister from 1930 to 1935, the worst years of the Great Depression.

Born in New Brunswick in 1870, R.B. Bennett was a teacher and principal. In his late teens, he graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 1893. He established a successful practice in Chatham and was soon elected to the town council. In 1896 he was enticed by Senator James Loughheed, the grandfather of former Alberta Premier Peter Loughheed, to join his Calgary law firm. His practice thrived as did several business and land investment ventures.

In 1896, he was elected to represent his adopted city as a member of the then Northwest Territories Legislature. After Alberta became a province, he was elected to the provincial legislature and, in 1911, to the House of Commons as the MP for Calgary West. While continuing his many businesses, professional and charitable interests, Bennett was an influential and hard-working member of Sir Robert Borden's government. During the First World War he chaired the National Service Board, the mandate of which was to encourage military enlistment while simultaneously keeping essential skilled workers in factories and farms on the home front.

Following the War he served as Minister of Justice in the Government of

Arthur Meighen until its defeat in 1921. Bennett lost his own seat in Calgary by a handful of votes but regained it in the 1925 election in a personal landslide and a national result that gave the Meighen Conservatives a 116 to 101 lead over the Liberals.

Despite this, Prime Minister Mackenzie King refused to step down, asking Governor General Byng to call another election. Byng refused and asked Meighen if he could form a government which, contrary to R.B. Bennett's advice, he agreed to do. His government, which included Bennett as Acting Minister of Justice, was defeated in the House and in the resulting General Election of 1926.

Bennett retained his seat and in a leadership convention the following year was elected leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party of Canada. His speeches and actions before, during and after this landmark convention – the first in the party's long history – allow author John Boyko to prove his thesis that Bennett was a Red Tory with “a belief in the positive power of government intervention to help people in need, balanced by a fiscal conservatism that respected the vitality of a free market and individual responsibility.” As leader, Bennett pulled his party towards this Red Tory vision.

As Prime Minister he implemented a vision that reflected his personal generosity. Each year of his adult life he donated 10% of his income to charity, including anonymous donations to thousands of Depression victims. In Boyko's words, Bennett “was a softie when it came to churches, schools, libraries and deserving groups from small towns.”

He worked tirelessly to provide some

public relief to suffering Canadians and to encourage increased trade with the United States and Commonwealth member states to create jobs. His public works programs employed over 100,000 Canadians.

His Government's record of accomplishments is testament to Bennett's success in moving the Tory party of the 1930's to the left of King's Liberals. It included: the creation of the Bank of Canada, the Canadian Wheat Board, the Economic Council of Canada and the predecessor of the CBC; unemployment insurance; minimum wages, the eight-hour day and a day of rest; legislation to assist farmers such as the Natural Products Marketing Act and the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act; the Dominion Housing Act; protections for investors; and the abolition of unfair labour and pricing practices.

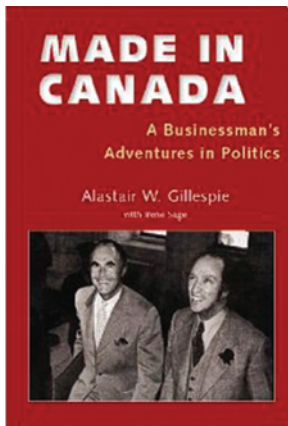
Although these progressive reforms have stood the test of time, they were no match for the cumulative impact of five years of crushing economic and human damage.

Someone had to take the blame. That someone was Richard Bedford Bennett.

His party was reduced to 37 seats. He resigned as leader in 1937 and moved to England, where, in 1941, he was appointed to the House of Lords in recognition of steadfast contributions to Canada and Britain's war effort.

R.B. Bennett, Viscount Bennett of Mickleham, Calgary and Hopewell, passed away in 1947. He is the only Canadian prime minister not buried in this country.

David Daubney was Progressive Conservative MP for Ottawa West, 1984 to 1988.



## On mixing business and politics

Alastair Gillespie's book reveals a business leader who does not believe that the bottom line and maximizing shareholder value are the only responsibilities for captains of industry.

*Made in Canada – A Businessman's Adventures in Politics*, by Alastair W. Gillespie with Irene Sage PhD, Robin Brass Studio, 2009 (247 pages). Reviewed by Jack Silverstone.

Although very much a Westerner, born and raised in Victoria, Alastair Gillespie was first elected to the House of Commons in 1968, in the Toronto area riding of Etobicoke. He went on to cabinet positions as Minister of State for Science and Technology, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and finally serving as Minister of Energy until the 1979 general election.

Throughout Alastair Gillespie's years in politics, he always tried to bring a businessman's approach to the Cabinet table and the various departments where he was Minister.

This is a recurring theme throughout the book. Proud of his career in the business world prior to entering politics, he seems to regard himself as somewhat of a disadvantaged minority among lawyers, intellectuals and various policy thinkers who were his Caucus and Cabinet colleagues, and in the bureaucracy.

At one point he declares, "Had we more business people in government and fewer theoreticians and free-market ideologues, Canadian business would stand on stronger feet today."

It's safe to say that his attitudes about business are not typical of those with his professional credentials. A strong believer in a measured amount of government intervention in the economy, he is an ardent defender of the Foreign Investment Review Agency. He bemoans the paucity of Canadian multinationals,

the inadequacy of indigenous industrial research and the branch plant economy that typifies too much of Canadian business. His book reveals a man who, as a business leader, does not believe that the bottom line and the maximizing of shareholder value are the only responsibilities for captains of industry.

In the volume's very interesting introduction, he states that, "the Canadian economy, despite solid fundamentals, is staggering as a result of the greed of modern-day bullies on Wall Street, who faced no countervailing forces from Washington or elsewhere."

An economic nationalist in the mould of Walter Gordon, he cites Gordon's work with approval in the same introduction as follows: "In the sixties as Canada's Finance Minister, he promoted nationalist policies that prevented powerful American banks from overwhelming our smaller financial institutions. Thank God he did or we would today face the fate of the Wall Street giants that have collapsed completely."

And what of the man himself? What

took him from the confines of the British imperial values of his youth to being an outspoken Trudeau liberal and economic nationalist?

Perhaps it was his sense of justice or his experiences as a Canadian naval officer during the Second World War. It is likely a combination of many factors – as it is for so many in this country. With reference to the war years, I wish he had written more. His self-deprecating and matter-of-fact approach to the hazards of convoy duty and naval aviation training, as well as the painful loss in action of his flying officer brother, was fascinating. His experiences should stand as a challenge to all those from that great generation to write their personal war narrative.

Alastair Gillespie's book is an easy-to-read and informative political and personal memoir. He has written an autobiography that recounts a life of service and achievement in Canada's military, in business and in politics. It adds to our pool of knowledge about our country's history. Other former public figures should be encouraged to do the same.

### ATTENTION AUTHORS

If you would like your book to be reviewed, please send two copies as follows: one copy to Céline Fraser, Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen St., House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6; and one copy to Dorothy Dobbie at Pegasus Publications Inc., 130A Cree Crescent, Winnipeg MB R3J 3W1.

### Resumption of parliament reception

To celebrate the resumption of parliament, CAFP hosted a reception on February 1, in the Senate Banking Room. At the reception, the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award was announced. The Honourable Ed Lumley will be presented with the award on May 25th during a gala dinner at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Several MPs, Senators and the Speaker of the House, Peter Milliken, were present.



## Our tribute to those who have passed on



*Hon. Keith Davey*

### Hon. Keith Davey

The Hon. Keith Davey was dubbed the “rainmaker” because of his near-magic political instincts. But, as Andrew Cohen wrote in the *Ottawa Citizen*, he made more than just rain, he made sunshine.

“People called him the happy warrior,” said the Hon. David Collenette.

David says it was Keith who first approached him to run for office and who suggested he would be a good Cabinet Minister. “A lot of us owe our political careers to him,” he said.

The Liberal organizer died at 84 on January 17 after a long illness.

He earned his nickname after serving as the national campaign director for prime ministers Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau. He is credited with returning the Liberals to power in 1963 under Pearson, who later appointed Keith to the Senate.

Keith was a pioneer in applying modern polling techniques to the Canadian scene, David Collenette said, but it was his reputation as a good listener and his talent for drawing people out that made him good at what he did.

Keith sat in the Senate from 1966 to 1996. In that time he chaired the committee on mass media and served on numerous other committees.

Keith worked in sales for a radio station before entering politics in 1960. He also briefly served as commissioner of the Canadian Football League.

“He had a saying,” David Collenette remembers. “Never bear a grudge and always do a favour.”

Keith is survived by his wife Dorothy, three children and two stepchildren.



*Dr. Bruce Halliday*

### Dr. Bruce Halliday

Dr. Bruce Halliday, 84, passed away peacefully at his home in Tavistock, Ont., January 1, 2011.

A doctor before entering politics, Bruce had a passion for medicine, serving on numerous health committees while in Parliament.

His particular concern was for the situation of disabled Canadians, an interest probably stimulated by his first wife’s disability following a fight with polio, said friend and fellow politician Harry Brightwell.

A member of the Progressive Conservatives, he represented the riding of Oxford for nearly 20 years, from 1974 to 1993.

“I would kid him on his habit of attending functions in Ottawa until late in an evening and then driving home to fulfill a commitment in the riding,” said Harry.

He says one time Bruce had an accident on his way home in the middle of the night and found himself and a Rotary exchange student travelling with him on the other side of the road. They escaped unhurt, Harry said, but it was a testament to his dedication to his role.

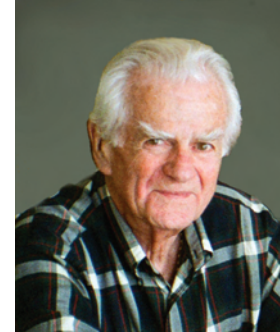
He remained active in the Rotary Club and continued to play hockey well into his 60s.

He is survived by wife Elizabeth Vander Spek and his daughters and son.

### Frank Howard

Frank Howard came from a tough background and it made him a tough politician, fighting for what he believed was right, and seeing the differences.

He passed away March 15 at age 85.



*Frank Howard.*

Frank was placed in foster homes at a young age and served two years for armed robbery. He recounts his childhood struggles in his autobiography *From Prison to Parliament*.

Upon leaving prison, he vowed never to return, working as a logger and entering politics at 28.

He was elected to the B.C. provincial parliament in 1953, serving only one term before being defeated. He then moved to federal politics.

He was elected to represent Skeena in 1957 and served that riding for 17 years as a member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and later the New Democratic Party.

In his book he said, “I’m proud of having been able to move from breaking laws to making them.”

“This was probably his most enduring achievement,” said his stepdaughter Danielle Peacock and stepson Anthony Peacock.

He was instrumental in reforming Canada’s divorce laws and the prison system, as well as attaining full voting rights for First Nation Peoples.

After losing his seat in the 1974 election, he returned to provincial politics, serving from 1979 to 1986.

“We will dearly miss his humour and wit, generosity and relentless persistence through thick and thin to live life as fully and honourably as he could,” said his surviving family.

### William Murray Smith

William Murray Smith began his term as Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North in 1958, at just 27 years old.

The former lawyer served for four years as a member of the Progressive



*William Murray Smith.*

Photo  
not  
available

*Hon. Gordon Steuart*

Photo  
not  
available

*Claude Tessier.*



*The Hon. James Tunney.*

Conservative party, defeated in the 1962 and 1974 elections.

He later was appointed to various government posts and travelled extensively.

William passed away October 1, 2010 at the age of 80.

In his four-year term on the Hill, William served as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts, as well as sitting on several other committees, such as Banking and Commerce, Industrial Relations, and Research.

He is survived by his seven children.

### Hon. Gordon Steuart

The Hon. David Gordon Steuart was a man of many successes, passing away at his Kelowna, B.C. home on November 5, 2010 at the age of 94.

From family businessman – helping his brothers and father run several businesses including Red and White grocery stores and Steuart Electric and Furniture – to Senator. In between, he served overseas as a navigator with the RCAF, was elected Alderman for Prince Albert, Sask., and served as Mayor from 1954 to 1958.

He was involved in politics and public service for many years, entering provincial politics in 1962 and worked closely with Liberal Premier W. Ross Thatcher when they formed the government in 1964.

He earned the name of “Landslide Steuart” by winning the next three elections by slim margins, but he hung on to serve as the Minister of Health (1964-66), Minister of Natural Resources (1966-67) and Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation

Ltd. (1967-71). He himself served as the leader of the Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition from 1971-76.

He was summoned to the Senate in December 1976 and served until 1991 when he turned 75.

He is survived by his daughter and son.

### Claude Tessier

Claude Tessier was a passionate man. His passion for serving his community led him to run for mayor of Lac-Mégantic in 1972.

He was Mayor until 1976. Then, he ran for Member of Parliament for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead, and served as MP there for 10 years.

Claude passed away November 8, 2010 from a long-term illness. He was 67.

“He always had at heart the idea of serving his county and defending the interests of his electors. He entered politics with good intentions, and he stayed for equally good reasons,” his daughter Anne-Josée said.

He was the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Revenue from 1980 to 1982, and he was the chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture from 1980 to 1984, as well as acting as a member of over a dozen other committees throughout his years in the House.

After losing the election in 1984, Claude continued to be involved in the local Liberal riding association for many years, even as his health declined.

“Claude Tessier was a proud man,” Anne-Josée said. “Proud of his family and proud to contribute and to make his world happy.”

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne-d’Arc Quirion and his two daughters.

### The Hon. James Tunney

The Hon. James Tunney was a fourth-generation farmer, and a farming expert at that.

He served as director of the Dairy Farmers of Canada for 18 years, of the Dairy Bureau of Canada for eight years, and of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board for 12 years. He has been inducted into the Quinte Agriculture Wall of Fame.

The former Senator passed away September 22, 2010 at the age of 83. He served as Senator for a little over a year beginning in March 2001.

Former senator and former agriculture minister Eugene Whelan wrote in a letter read in the Senate by Claudette Tardif that James was often a source of opinions and solutions while he was on the Ontario Milk Marketing Board.

“We will always remember Jim Tunney as a great representative of the dairy farmers, and if I was ever thought to be a good Minister of Agriculture for Canada, it was because of people like James Francis Tunney helping me do my job,” Eugene wrote in the letter that was read in a tribute to James.

James served on the Standing Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and National Finance.

He was also active in his community, serving as a trustee on the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board for 16 years.

He is survived by two stepsons.





by Keith Penner

## Where is our St. George when we need him?

There is a lingering fear that deficit reduction will harm the national economy. There is much evidence to the contrary, showing that lower public spending calms markets and encourages investment.

**S**t. George, the patron saint of England, is also, by legend, reputed to be the great dragon slayer. The story is that in a certain lake there dwelt a dreaded dragon. To appease the beast the local citizens fed it two sheep a day. When this effort proved ineffective in lessening the danger, they resorted to substituting their own children. When the King's daughter was about to be swallowed, St. George appeared to slay the monster and end the crisis.

Now, Britain's Prime Minister needs his country's patron saint to help slay its deficit-dragon. The UK is balancing on a financial brink. The hunger and thirst for public funds is threatening the nation's future with perpetual poverty, unless drastic and immediate action is taken.

Greece and Ireland have fallen over the precipice and into a lake of debt that is almost too large ever to be repaid. They are on life support systems from the European Union. Portugal, Spain and Italy are in the lineup to be sacrificed to the financial crisis. The USA, oblivious to reality, continues to spend like a lottery winner.

### **Canada needs its own St. George**

Canada, gratefully, has some time to deal with the same problem. Deficits, however, designed to provide a temporary stimulus to the economy, may develop into permanent structures that are more difficult to eliminate. At some time, sooner or later, we are going to need our own St. George to deal with

this deficit-dragon.

A recent report from the Canadian Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) speaks of the urgency to act decisively to eliminate our deficits. A slower-growing labour force and increasing demands in elders' benefits are pushing us, says the report, "into dangerous fiscal territory."

### **Just reduce spending by 2%**

The PBO believes that there is a remedy. To get rid of our deficits, it states that we need to reduce spending by 2% of our GDP and, at the same time, increase taxes by an amount equal to 1% of Canada's GDP. Using this calculation, we get some rather staggering figures in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Is this possible? The PBO thinks so. "Based on historical experience the amounts are achievable," says the report.

Cutting deficits is easier to talk about than actually to achieve. To reduce spending there must be the active co-operation of government departments backed by a political will to see that it is done. President Obama created a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility that brought forward a bold plan to slash the US budget deficits. The plan, however, failed to get the support from Congress.

There is a lingering fear that deficit reduction will harm the national economy. There is much evidence to the contrary, showing that lower public spending calms markets and encourages investment.

At the same time, governments are

reluctant to raise taxes to help in deficit reduction. A good case can be made that this hesitancy is well founded in reality. Ireland, for example, while harshly cutting spending, is keeping in place its low corporate tax rate. This is essential to future economic growth.

Tax reduction may be as effective in a battle against deficits as are tax increases. It is well known that lower taxes cause the GDP to grow. When President Bush brought in his tax cuts the American GDP grew by an average annual rate of 3.8% for six quarters compared to only a 1.8% annual growth per quarter before the cuts.

### **Hauser's Law**

As W. Kurt Hauser, a San Francisco investment dealer has demonstrated, government revenue remains fairly constant with either a tax reduction or a tax increase. The difference lies in the vibrancy of the economy under a lessening of the tax burden. There is a larger GDP and hence more jobs and a higher level of economic activity in general.

### **A lesson from history**

Rising to speak to his fellow senators, a man said:

"The budget should be balanced; the Treasury should be refilled; public debt should be reduced and the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled."

This was Cicero, speaking to the Roman Senate in 55 BC.

Keith Penner was a Liberal MP for Northern Ontario, from 1968 to 1988.

Canadian  
Association of  
Former  
Parliamentarians



Association  
canadienne des  
ex-parlementaires



# An Evening to Honour The Hon. Ed Lumley

Presented by:

**Bell**

Honorary Patrons

**Hon. Jim Flaherty, PC, MP**

**Hon. John Manley, PC**

*Please join us as the Canadian Association of  
Former Parliamentarians honours our friend and  
colleague, the Hon. Ed Lumley, with a lifetime  
achievement award.*

**Wednesday, May 25, 2011**  
**6:00pm ~ Networking Reception**  
**7:00pm ~ Dinner & Programme**

**Metro Toronto Convention Centre**  
**Constitution Ballroom**  
**255 Front Street West, Toronto**

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## **CAFP Annual General Meeting**

June 5-7, 2011

### **Highlights:**

Annual General Meeting and working sessions

Reception co-hosted by both Speakers

Dinner in the Hall of Honour

Memorial Service and concert by the  
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Distinguished Service Award

Great speakers

Online registration

will be available in April at [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca).

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