

# Beyond the Hill

Autumn 2006

## In this issue...

The Library of Parliament, Past and Present

**An Interview with Audrey O'Brien, first female**  
Clerk of the House of Commons

Where are they now? A look at what some  
of our Former Interns are up to

Canadian association of Former parliamentarians



# Letters



**D**ear Doug,

Just a quick note to say how much I appreciated the lunch and evening with the Association (during the Winnipeg Regional Meeting in September 2006). Obviously you have done a great job in developing an interest. I think I'll make an effort to try and make one of the Ottawa meetings.

Again, I just wanted to send this little note to say how much I enjoyed lunch and the Riverboat evening and really am sorry that I couldn't take in the two other events.

Keep up the good work – regards.

Sincerely,

*Nathan Nurgitz*

*Represented the Progressive Conservative Party in the Senate from 1979 to 1993*

**D**ear Doug,

I have received a copy of "Beyond the Hill" and compliment your Association on an excellent publication recording matters of interest to your members which appear to emphasize the similarities between our two countries.

Yours faithfully,

*Hon. Peter J. Gresham, President*

*Association of Former Members of the Parliament of New Zealand*

**G**reetings to all the Staff:

Many thanks for once again sending us photos from the annual meeting of the CAFPM back in June! You do such a superb job of providing us with the pictures, together with the record of the Memorial Service and presentation of the Distinguished Service Award. I am always impressed with the high level of planning that you do for our Association! We shall look forward to seeing you all at the event in 2007!

Best wishes, sincerely,

*Bruce Halliday*

*Represented the Progressive Conservative Party from 1974-1993 in Oxford, ON*

## From the desk of the Managing Editor

The Summer Issue of "Beyond the Hill" was sent to you late—very late. We do benefit greatly from the 'no cost to us' services from the Parliamentary Printing Bureau, but they do operate on a priority basis. Thus, the needs of sitting members and Standing Committees come ahead of us. We understand and accept that, but it is frustrating. We can only take comfort in the fact that we are saving the costs of a commercial printer to the amount of several thousand dollars per issue.

We think very highly of our editorial interns and value their work for us. They do, however, come and go. Graduation sees them move on to promising careers or graduate studies elsewhere and other students move into their places. For our summer issue, we had a number of such changes and that, combined with the absence of the managing editor who was basking on the foggy shores of Newfoundland, meant that some of our production control wheels came loose and errors occurred.

Regarding the Obituaries, we are most embarrassed and apologetic. The picture of our esteemed former colleague, Cliff McIsaac was wrongly placed and that of Judge John Gilbert did not appear at all. We deeply regret these mistakes and corrections are made in this issue.

Stay with me, for there is more mea culpa to follow. The interviews that were given during our AGM were meant to appear in the magazine in an even and balanced presentation. This did not happen and we feel badly about the result. Finally, the end piece in the magazine "In Closing Mr. Speaker" came about by means of an interview and was not written directly by Betty Kennedy. We ask to be forgiven.

As a politician of yesteryear, I learned how to make excuses for sins of commission and omission and herewith have done so. It remains now only to make a promise. We will be more careful and will return to our previous high standards in all subsequent issues.

Keith Penner  
Managing Editor



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# From the Chair's Desk



by DOUG ROWLAND

Congratulations! Members will be pleased to learn that one of our honorary members, **Dr. Gordon Barnhart**, former Clerk of the Senate, was installed as Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan on August 1, 2006.

## Regional Meetings

Two successful regional meetings were held in the autumn. The first in Winnipeg, 18-19 September, is reported on elsewhere in this edition. However, I would like to say a special word of thanks to the **Right Honourable Edward Schreyer** and **Mrs. Schreyer** for so graciously assisting me in hosting one of the Winnipeg events, to the **Honourable John Harvard**, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, for the hospitality accorded to us at Government House and for his obvious enjoyment in getting together with some former colleagues. A special thanks also to the **Honourable George Hickes**, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature, and his staff for making us feel so welcome and for all their assistance. On a side note, coincidentally, the captain for our cruise on September 18, **Steve Hawchuk**, was the brother of one of our members, **Dr. Joseph Slogan**, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

A Regional Meeting was held in Halifax, October 29 to 31. About 24 people were in attendance. Because of

space considerations a full report of the event must await the next edition of the magazine. In the interim, I wish to thank the **Honourable Mayann Francis**, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, the **Honourable Cecil Clarke**, Speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislature and **Commander Patrick St-Denis**, Captain of HMCS Charlottetown, for their enormous contributions towards making the event a thoroughgoing success. The Chair's reception on the first day happened to be held in the same hotel, at the same time as that celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of the **Honourable Gerald Regan** and his wife **Carole**. Needless to say there was a great deal of to-ing and fro-ing between the two events and much photographing of Mr. Regan and the **Honourable John Buchanan** together.

## Second Annual Fundraising Dinner

Our second annual fundraising dinner, the proceeds of which go to supporting our youth-directed programs, was held in Ottawa, at the Canadian War Museum, November 1. A full report can be found on page 8. My thanks go out to the **Honourable Michael Wilson**, Canada's Ambassador to the United States and a member of this Association, who was our guest speaker and the **Honourable Peter Milliken** who was Master of Ceremonies for the event. The **Honourable Doug Frith**, Chair of our Educational Foundation, deserves enormous credit for the financial and the social success of the event as does Mr. **Torrance Wylie** and his Assistant **Carly Couture** with whom we contracted to assist in organizing all aspects of the dinner. Finally, thanks to our staff member, Susan Simms, who worked closely with Torrance and Doug, contributing much through her customary attention to detail. Julie Mertens and Céline Brazeau Fraser also pitched in

to good effect, as their duties managing the Winnipeg and Halifax regional meetings, respectively allowed them time to do so.

## International Election Monitors Institute

We continue to make progress on this joint venture with our American and European counterparts. We have recently received word that CIDA will provide some funding over the next three years to enable us to train our members in election observation, to assist in their deployment and to ensure effective reporting including possible on-going contributions to strengthening democracy in the affected states.

## Outreach

The Canada School of Public Service continues to draw upon the knowledge of our membership. In September and October, the following members were engaged in the orientation program for new public servants: **Mr. André Bernier, the Honourable Herb Breau, Mr. John Bryden, Dr. Jeannot Castonguay, Mrs. Marlene Catterall, Mr. Auguste Choquette, Dr. Stanley Dromisky, Mr. Léo Duquay, Mr. Gordon Fairweather, the Honourable Sheila Finestone, Mr. Terence Grier, Reverend Laverne Lewycky, the Honourable Lorne Nystrom, the Honourable Gilbert Parent, Mr. Keith Penner, Mr. Roger Pomerleau, Mr. Jack Ramsay, and Mr. Guy St-Julien.**

As sponsors of the Parliamentary Interns Program providing financial assistance for an initial three years, the CAFP hosted, in October, an orientation program over lunch at the Parliamentary restaurant for nine new Parliamentary interns and nine former Parliamentarians. Parliamentarians attending were: **Mrs. Francoise Boivin, the Honourable Don Bou-**

dria, Mrs. Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral, Mr. Léo Duquay, the Honourable Sheila Finestone, the Right Honourable Herb Gray, Mr. Dennis Gruending, Mr. Douglas Rowland and Mr. William Tupper.

During the week of November 6, some 90 teachers from across Canada were in town to receive intensive instruction on how Parliament operates. The program entitled the Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy is operated by the Outreach Branch of the Library of Parliament. Your Association provides 5 bursaries of \$500.00 each, annually, to assist teachers to attend. The Association was represented at various events during the week by **the Honourable Don Boudria, the Honourable Jack Murta, Dr. Patrick Boyer** and I.

As part of our continuing efforts to extend our outreach to young Canadians, I have held discussions with officers of Rencontre Heritage Encounters and Adventures in Citizenship with a view to determining how best the Association might assist those two organizations in accomplishing their objectives for young Canadians. This follows a successful pattern established with the Forum for Young Canadians in which **Dr. Maurice Foster** was most helpful.

### Outreach Activities

On September 25, **Mr. John Bryden** chaired a panel on Access to Information: Managing Reform and Change co-sponsored by the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada and the Canadian Newspaper Association. The **Honourable Laurier LaPierre** addressed 100 students from across Canada attending a program of Rencontre Heritage Encounters at the Terry Fox Centre in Ottawa on October 19. On October 26, the **Honourable Mr. Justice Allan Sully** spoke about Parliament to



**The Honourable David Pratt and Doug Rowland attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa**

students at a school in Strathmore, Alberta and on November 9, **Mr. Guy St-Julien** spoke to a visiting group from the Niger Youth Parliament.

### Representation

I have had the honour of representing the Association at a dinner held for departing **New Zealand High Commissioner Graham Kelly** and **Mrs. Janette Kelly** at the home of the Mexican Ambassador, **Mrs. Maria Teresa Garcia Segovia** and at the Malaysian and Bangladesh's National Day Celebration. I also attended the address by the President of Afghanistan, **Hamid Karzai**, to a joint session of Parliament on September 22. On October 24, my wife and I were guests of the Embassy of China and the Parliamentary Spouses Association at a fashion show of regional and period Chinese dress held at the Chinese Embassy. Also in October, at the invitation of the IDRC (International Development Research Centre), the **Honourable Don Boudria** and the **Honourable Jack Murta** and I attended a presentation by a Peruvian NGO entitled "Peru: the 2006 Elections and Beyond". On November 6, at the Annual Service of Remembrance held in the Senate Chamber, I was accompanied by both Susan Simms and Celine Brazeau Fraser. On November 11, the **Honourable David Pratt** and I represented the Association at the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Memorial.

## Beyond the Hill

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## Winnipeg Regional Meeting

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# “On Manitoba! Shine Forth, Brown and Gold!”

by BUD SHERMAN

**Appropriately, the 2006 Homecoming Weekend at the University of Manitoba led directly into a two-day Manitoba Regional Meeting of Former Parliamentarians.**

The timing was auspicious, enabling a number of alumni of both the U of M and Parliament to reconnect with both their alma maters within a space of four days.

Homecoming was a colorful success, outlined by brilliant autumn weather and a big victory by the University of Manitoba Bisons football team.

“On Manitoba! Shine Forth, Brown and Gold!” and all that.

But it didn't outshine the CAFP Regional, held Sept. 18-19. While the Regional endured less salutary treatment from the weather office, and lacked the razzmatazz of a college football game, the former Parliamentarians were treated to a great program matching Homecoming every step of the way.

Thirty-six of us attended, representing six provinces from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. In offering this short report on our proceedings I wish to acknowledge, at the outset, the kindness of **Messrs Gordon Earle and Alvin (Al) Mackling**, who both participated and who helped me generously with their recollections of events. Mr. Earle of course is a former MP from Nova Scotia and Mr. Mackling is president of the Former MLA's Association of Manitoba.

Of our number, 19 were former MPs, two were retired Senators, 11 were spouses or guests of the aforementioned and four were

representatives of Manitoba's Former MLA's Association.

The contingent of former Manitoba Parliamentarians included: **the Rt. Hon. Ed Schreyer, the Hon. John Harvard, Mr. Justice Nathan Nurgitz, the Hon. Jake Epp, the Hon. Ray Pagtakhan, CAFP Chairman Doug Rowland, Leo Duguay, Dorothy Dobbie, Cyril Keeper, Sig Enns and David Walker.**

With us, in a category of unique mention, was **Simma Holt**. Simma did not represent a Manitoba constituency when she was an MP, but she is an alumna of the University of Manitoba and, in fact, holds a Distinguished Graduate's Award from the institution.

We had tremendous assistance throughout the program from the office of the **Hon. George Hickes**, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, and we also wish to register our warm thanks to CAFP Logistics Officer Julie Mertens.

A brisk business meeting on the Monday afternoon followed a welcome luncheon in the Legislative Assembly Dining Room and words of greeting from Speaker Hickes.

The business meeting was notable, in particular, for a joint report on the CAFP Educational Foundation from Chairman **Douglas Rowland and Léo Duguay**. It was followed by a very informative briefing on recent Manitoba energy initiatives from the minister responsible, the **Hon. David Chomiak**.

Then, things turned from serious business to serious fun. In a great top-off to the day, participants shucked off some chilly weather and enjoyed a

wonderful sunset dinner cruise on a Red River Paddle-wheeler. The night included a marvelous meal in the boat's dining salon and the ambience of the lights of Winnipeg and St. Boniface as the vessel cruised the waters of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Colleague Ed Schreyer entertained, with a humorous message of welcome.

The next day was equally entertaining. Its feature was a quite unexpected and memorable climax to the two-day program in the form of a morning historical tour of the Manitoba Legislative Building, conducted by Frank Albo, a Research Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Winnipeg.

Mr. Albo, a resident of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, is a student of the Manitoba Legislative Building; one of Canada's acknowledged classics.

His fascination with the beauty, external and internal, of the Building has led him to some intriguing suppositions. His interpretations of significant and unique architectural features found therein, in paintings, sculptures and ornamentation, have convinced him that built into the structure are the elements of a Masonic temple. He leaves us pondering the mysterious question: Why?

A wind-up luncheon, at Government House, hosted by **the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable John Harvard**, brought the Regional to a very satisfying conclusion.

*Bud Sherman represented the riding of Winnipeg-Fort Garry, Manitoba as a Progressive Conservative from 1965 to 1968*



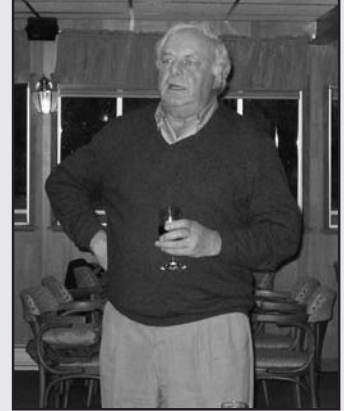
# Winnipeg Regional Meeting



**Doug Rowland thanks the Honourable David Chomlak, Minister of Energy, Science and Technology for Manitoba, for his presentation on recent energy initiatives in Manitoba.**



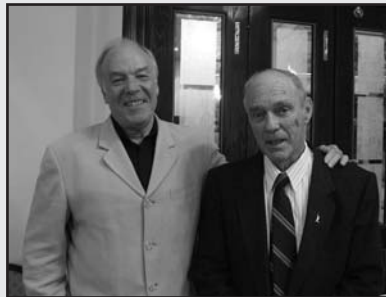
**Frank Albo (right) gives the participants a fresh look at the Manitoba Legislative building.**



**The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer on the Paddlewheel Queen.**



**Mr. Léo Duguay and Mr. Louis R. (Bud) Sherman during the business meeting**



**The two Chairs: Mr. Douglas Rowland (left), president of the Association of Former Parliamentarians, and Mr. Al Mackling, President of the Manitoba Association of Former MLAs.**



**The Honourable George Hickey, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, welcomes us.**



**The Honourable John Harvard, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, greets Mrs. Simma Holt.**



**From left to right: Mrs. Verona Jackson, Mr. Ovid Jackson, the Honourable John Harvard, Mrs. Jill Adams and the Honourable Peter Adams.**

Photos taken by Julie Mertens

# A night to remember

*Over \$100,000 raised at the 2nd annual Educational Foundation dinner*

by MARK MASTERS

**Parliamentarians past and present have teamed up with some of the top names in Canada's business community to raise more than \$100,000 for the Educational Foundation of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.**

The money was raised through the foundation's second annual fundraising dinner, held November 1 at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

The event was attended by more than 350 people, including the **Right Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Beverley McLachlin, the Right Honourable John Turner and Foreign Affairs Minister, the Honourable Peter MacKay.**



**Former House of Commons Pages Mark Ruban and Ellen Burch reunite.**

But the star of the program was the **Honourable Michael Wilson**, Canada's ambassador to the United States, who delivered the keynote address. During his remarks Wilson paid tribute to the work the CAFPF was doing through the educational foundation.

The one-time finance minister under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said young people have a lot going on in their life and cannot always focus on democratic issues, which is why the

CAFP Educational Foundation is so important.

Among those taking in Wilson's address were some of the young people that have participated in the foundation's activities, including Pages from the Senate and House of Commons. It is only one of many opportunities created through the Foundation. Another program sees CAFPF join forces with the Teachers Institute to go to secondary and post-secondary schools in the country and spread knowledge about Canada's democratic institutions.

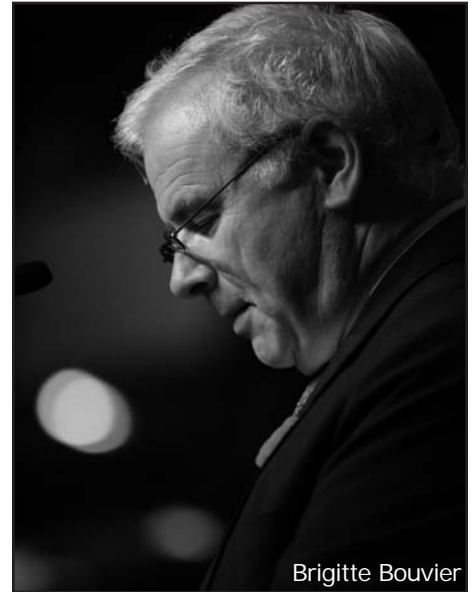
**Jean-Pierre Kingsley**, Canada's chief electoral officer, said that with the help of CAFPF the country is starting to turn the corner when it comes to the problem of youth political apathy.

Kingsley, who was seated at the head table during the dinner, said former Parliamentarians bring a different approach to engaging youth that allows them to be more successful. "They know how to relate to other Canadians. This is what they've done all their lives. They know how to get support and they know how to share ideas," said Kingsley.

Chairman **Douglas Rowland** spoke on behalf of CAFPF and during his address laid out the main objective for the foundation.

"Funds from this dinner will go to enhancing young Canadians involvement in the political process," said Rowland. "We want to assist young Canadians to become powerful citizens."

**The Honourable Don Boudria**, the vice-chair of the CAFPF, said the foundation's objectives are worthwhile. Boudria is a member of the Hill & Knowlton public relations firm, a firm that pur-



**The Honourable Peter Milliken speaking at the Educational Foundation dinner.**

chased two tables for the dinner. Boudria was sitting at a table with a client during the dinner when his client turned to him and pledged that next year not only would he be back but his company would purchase a whole table.

The former cabinet minister said this shows how the objectives of the foundation have really hit a nerve in both Canada's political and business communities. "I thought that was a very powerful message that not only people who come here want to come back, but they want to multiply their efforts for the contacts they've made, the relationships they've built and for the cause it supports."

*For the text of Douglas Rowland's remarks on the objectives of the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians Educational Foundation check out [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca).*



## Michael Wilson on Border Security

by MARK MASTERS

**The Honourable Michael Wilson, Canada's ambassador to the United States, said border security is the top issue between the two nations now that an agreement on the softwood lumber dispute has been reached.**

Wilson outlined the border issue and others facing the two countries during a keynote address at the second annual Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Educational Foundation fundraising dinner, November 1. "Strengthening border security is a top priority for the United States because of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations," said Wilson.

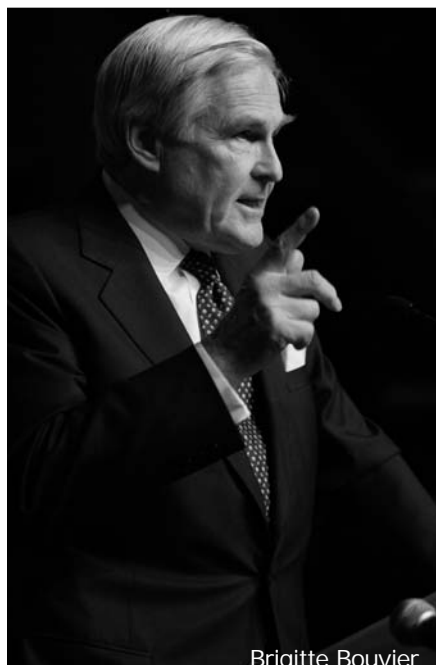
The former finance minister under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney went on to say that despite this pressure American leaders must fight the urge to rush-in any new border initiatives that may effect trade and travel.

Wilson said that without certainty at the border people on both sides will think twice before making any travel arrangements.

And while Wilson is hoping to avoid rash changes at the border he says he expects major changes in America's policy in Iraq.

Wilson said his interpretation after talking to U.S. officials is that President George Bush is not happy with the progress in the country. Wilson said an upcoming report from former Secretary of State James Baker will act as "a catalyst for change" on the issue.

Congress has commissioned Baker to create a report with recommen-



dations on how to proceed in the war-torn country. Wilson says the situation in Iraq is reaching a "tipping point" which will be evidenced in the American midterm elections.

And while Iraq grabs a lot of headlines Wilson said other foreign policy issues will come to the forefront in Washington in the coming year and beyond, including the War in Afghanistan, a potential transition of power in Cuba and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Wilson labels these as "common-cause issues" where Canada and the United States can easily work together towards acceptable ends.

Wilson concluded his remarks by saying that, despite the tremendous workload, he is enjoying his role as Canada's top official South of the border.

### Put your parliamentary experience to work

To achieve its stated goal of strengthening democracy in Canada and abroad, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians undertakes a number of activities to encourage youth participation in the democratic process and foster a better understanding by students of the political processes and institutions in Canada.

Among these activities, former parliamentarians visit elementary and secondary schools near them to talk to students about the legislative process in Canada, parliamentarians' role in the process and their experiences on Parliament Hill. Participants, students and former parliamentarians alike, have found the experience to be most satisfying.

Every year, the Association receives quite a few requests from teachers from across Canada to have former parliamentarians come and speak to their students. **We need your participation to make this activity a success.** If you would be interested in visiting local schools, please advise the Association.

E-mail: [exparl@parl.gc.ca](mailto:exparl@parl.gc.ca)  
phone: 1-888-567-4764.



# The ideal seat for a political junkie

## *An interview with Audrey O'Brien: Canada's first female Clerk of the House of Commons*

by MICHELLE COLLINS

**Recently named Canada's twelfth Clerk of the House of Commons, Audrey O'Brien says she is most surprised by how well she's adjusted to her new, high pressure position.**

Serving in this most upper role, O'Brien acts as chief executive officer for the administration and is responsible for overseeing the five integral service areas on Parliament Hill, as well as acting as senior procedural adviser to the House.

For O'Brien, who describes herself as a non-partisan political junkie, this is the perfect job.

"Politics absolutely fascinates me," she says. "I think that's from growing up in Quebec. It's mother's milk in Quebec."

In the nearly three decades since O'Brien's fascination for politics first brought her to the doors of Canada's Parliament, she has acted as Committee Clerk, Principal Clerk, Clerk Assistant and even Head of Parliamentary Precinct Services in 2005. She has amassed an impressive wealth of experience that surely secured her nomination.

Under a newly enshrined Standing Order from the Special Committee on Modernization, the candidate for Clerk must be voted on in the House. The unanimous approval from Members of the House in October 2005 for O'Brien to serve as Parliament's most senior public servant is a testament to her

widely recognized expertise.

"I'm thrilled to bits, I consider it an enormous honour and privilege," she says, adding that her mother, had she lived to witness it, would have been especially happy.

For O'Brien, guarding the legitimacy of the process and being responsible for advice on parliamentary procedure is something that she says is extremely important and interesting. She also says it's a job where she's never been bored.

"You never know what's going to happen no matter how organized you are," she says. "The House of Commons is a very small organization, but it is very complex."

Indeed, keeping the affairs of the House of Commons in order is no small task.

On most days, O'Brien is on Parliament Hill and seated in her office just down the hall from the Rotunda in Centre Block by 7 a.m. She sits down to what will be the first of several double espressos and reads *The Globe and Mail* and *Le Devoir* before tackling a list of emails and tasks she left for herself the night before.

It is a morning ritual that one might call the calm before the storm. On this particular day there were meetings on top of meetings to attend, parliamentary staff trainees to greet, presentations to give, agendas to plan and even a daily parade into the



Provided

House for Question Period – all before 2 p.m.

Her subsequent afternoon of work and endless meetings quickly turns to evening before she makes it home to relax and indulge in a novel, a favourite pastime.

"I'm a ferocious reader, I read everything I can get my hands on," she explains, adding that she also enjoys film. Her latest read is *This is Beauty* by Zadie Smith, "which is quite fantastic," she says.

With so many long and hectic days, O'Brien admits her schedule can be a bit challenging to keep up with.

"My colleagues are tremendously tolerant of my being late to things," she says. More importantly however, O'Brien says it's the camaraderie and jokes that add to the meetings and daily grind of the job.

"It's humour that keeps us going at many points in this," she says. "Everyone takes the job and work seriously, but you can't take yourself too seriously."

Along with a love of politics, it seems O'Brien's upbringing instilled in her an animated sense of humour that is a known character trait around the Hill. Humour, she says, is also her own way of coping with pressure.

"I come from a family where teasing, I venture to say quite fierce teasing, was the order of the day," she says. O'Brien links her sense of humour to the Irish settler roots of the village in Quebec where she grew up, and refers to it as a kind of "bursting pomposity."

Notably, O'Brien is the very first female Clerk for the House of Commons in Canada, let alone in any of the long established Commonwealth institutions including the U.K., Australia and New Zealand.

O'Brien says she is honoured to be the first woman to hold this esteemed and most senior position.

"One of the things I found the most touching is there are so many women

right across the Hill, who when I was just named, would run into me and comment and would say how great this is."

But O'Brien is quick to point out there are women serving as clerks in various capacities all around the world. Offhand, she mentions and even spells out the names of several women from provincial legislatures in Canada and even two international women, Jacqui Sampson-Jacent, Clerk in Trinidad and Tobago, and Connie Mompei, Clerk in Botswana.

"Both of these women were, to me, tremendous role models," she says.

While O'Brien feels "trails have been blazed," she says she always finds it interesting that visiting delegates from outside of Canada who sit in on the Clerk's meeting are surprised to see the number of women in senior rank.

"Invariably we get comments," she says, "they're always struck by the fact that it's pretty well half and half, women and men."

In her years of service to Parliament Hill, O'Brien says she is particularly fond of her experiences with the Commonwealth Society of Clerks and is honoured to have been appointed as Secretary to the Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Officers in 1996.

"For me, it's been just a tremendously

enriching experience," she says. "It has allowed me to see the countries in the Commonwealth and Africa and created for me a lifelong passion for Africa."

The artwork around O'Brien's office speaks to this passion. On the fireplace mantle she points to two carvings of giraffes, one from South Africa and one from Tanzania, as well as an intricately carved lion, also from Tanzania, that guards the centre.

On the coffee table she keeps a bowl from Kenya that her friends and colleagues presented to her at her last conference as Secretary to the Group of Commonwealth Precincts.

It is one of the more telling pieces that O'Brien keeps that symbolizes her passion not just for Africa but also for her country of Canada, where she says we are most fortunate.

On a table next to her desk is a small statue of a pregnant woman, draped in a yellow dress with a bucket of water on her head and a baby on her back.

"It's really a reminder," says O'Brien of the statue she brought back from Nigeria, "that you're born into a certain set of circumstances and you get to be Clerk of the House, and you're born into another set of circumstances and you have to walk 25 miles to get water."

"What a humbling experience."

**What have you been up to?**

**Have you started a business?  
Have you been appointed to a  
diplomatic post?  
Have you won an award?**

**LET US KNOW!**

**This information will be compiled into an  
alumni honour roll that will be  
part of each issue.**

**Send an email to:  
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or leave a message at our  
office at 1-888-567-4764**



# What is the Canada School of Public Service?

by DANIELLE O'CONNOR

**I**t often happens through the CAFP office that former parliamentarians agree to take part in the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) without really knowing what the program is all about.

The CSPS needs to be better known to former parliamentarians, whose years of experience with the Parliament of Canada and other Canadian institutions mean they are in high demand there.

The School was created in 2004 from three federal bodies: Training and Development Canada, Language Training Canada and the Canadian Centre for Management Development.

By combining these three bodies, the CSPS now meets the shared needs of a great many Canadian public servants for professional, language and administrative training.

One of the School's most important programs is orientation for new Public Service employees. The aim of the program is to help them understand what the government, its institutions and its values are. For two days, detailed presentations are given on the way the government operates, along with explanations on the links between Parliament, the central agencies and the departments. The briefings also deal with the sometimes complex communications between the federal government and provinces, territories, municipalities and lobbyists.

Over the two days, participants also have an opportunity to meet with important players on Parliament Hill, including representatives of the Senate and the House of Commons,

and current and former senators and MPs. This is where the knowledge accumulated by ex-parliamentarians comes in: former senators and MPs have an opportunity to tell new public servants about their careers in politics.

On November 22, a classroom filled with new Public Service employees from all corners of the country welcomed **Mr. Keith Penner** and **the Honourable Jack Murta** to an orientation session at 111 Sussex Drive. The two ex-parliamentarians, from very different backgrounds (the former a Liberal MP, the latter a Progressive Conservative MP and cabinet minister), had a friendly bite to eat with the new public servants before discussing their political careers.

The session lasted about an hour. A CSPS moderator put informal questions to both guests in turn, jokingly comparing the sessions to an *Oprah* or *Dr Phil* program. Certainly the questions sometimes resembled the ones asked on that kind of program: for example, the first thing she wanted the two former MPs to do was come up with the five words that best described them. Some of their answers had the audience laughing.

The two guests then sketched their political journeys, describing the difficult moments and the memorable moments in their careers. They wrapped up with wise advice for the new employees. Mr Murta and Mr

Penner agreed on the importance of integrity at work. Mr Penner added that it is important to look on employment with the Public Service not as just a job, but as a real career.

The members of the audience then had a chance to ask questions about things like partisanship and cynicism in politics, and a very successful discussion was concluded.

These question and answer sessions are classified as among the three most popular activities for new public servants participating in the CSPS program.

Mr. Penner regards positive feedback as one more reason for ex-parliamentarians to get involved with the CSPS. He also considers that, because this is a service the CSPS offers, it is advantageous for ex-parliamentarians to take advantage as often as possible

of opportunities to make sure that government works well. "It's an interesting assignment. It's an opportunity to recall your past experiences and to share them with people who are actually interested. Also, you get to work with a former colleague, another parliamentarian of a different party, and that's a bit of a plus."

If you'd like to participate, contact the CAFP:

Phone: 613-947-1690

Toll-free: 1-888-567-4764



**Keith Penner, addressing an audience of new Public Service employees.**

# A look at news and notes from our membership

by MARK MASTERS

**The Honourable Lyle Vancief** (Class of 1988) was the Liberal Minister of Agriculture from 1997 until 2003 and since leaving politics has acted in an advisory role for a number of companies in the agro-food industry.

Vancief is also a senior consultant with the firm of Hill and Knowlton in Ottawa.

In May 2006 he completed the Directors Education Program at the Rotman School of Management.

In addition to going back to school Vancief has also been helping his old school by serving as a member of the Board of Governors at the University of Guelph since 2005.

For the past two years Vancief has chaired a campaign aimed at raising money for diagnostic equipment for the Tri-County Healthcare Foundation. The foundation helps hospitals in Belleville, Trenton and Picton, Ont.

In October 2006 he celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by traveling with his wife to India. Vancief served the people of Prince-Edward Hastings until 2004 when he did not seek re-election.

**Val Meredith** (Class of 1993) left Parliament Hill only to take on a job that sees her help clients gain greater influence on the Hill. As a member of the Parliament Group the former Conservative MP helps people lobby government and advocates for legislation.

Meredith is currently working with Visiphor, a company focused on improving Canada's data-sharing capabilities.

She says the company will eventually help Canada in the fields of law enforcement, national security and even healthcare.

The former member for the Surrey-area of BC is also part owner of an

Appleby's franchise in Vancouver. The position with the franchise has taken her on many travels including to Puerto Rico and Scottsdale, Arizona.

Meredith says she is now busier than she ever was as an MP and has not had a day off in more than 18 months.

**Lise Bourgault** (Class of 1984) left Ottawa but did not leave politics after serving her final term in office in 1993. The former Progressive Conservative MP was elected mayor of her hometown of Chatham in 1997 pledging to amalgamate the township with Brownsburg, a neighbouring municipality. Bourgault made good on the promise but was defeated in her bid for re-election in 2000. She returned several years later to reclaim the mayor's chair, which she currently holds.

During her time away from the nation's capital Bourgault was blessed by the birth of a daughter, now 13, whom she has been raising in the municipality.

**Peter Ittinuar** (Class of 1979), Canada's first Inuk MP, is now serving as Ontario's Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs. He started the job about a year ago and focuses on land claim cases by First Nations people.

Ittinuar traveled to Paris, France to address the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Inuit Studies Conference, which was held from October 26-28, 2006.

The one-time representative of the riding of Nunatsiag is also serving as an advisor on a documentary being created by White Pine Pictures. The documentary, called *The Experimental Eskimos*, will focus on Ittinuar and two other Inuit boys who came to Ottawa early in their lives. It will examine how they coped in a new environment and is due to be

released in 2007.

Ittinuar is also presently serving on the Studies Development Committee at Queen's University along with fellow association members the **Honourable Flora MacDonald** and the **Honourable David MacDonald**.

Ittinuar was originally elected as a member of the NDP but crossed the floor to join the Liberal Party in 1982. He served as a Liberal MP until 1984 when he lost the party nomination and ran unsuccessfully as an independent.

**The Honourable Hugh Faulkner** (Class of 1965) left politics after being defeated in the 1979 election and soon after joined the company Alcan, Canada's largest aluminum company, as a vice-president.

The former Liberal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would be invited in 1983 to manage an Alcan company in Calcutta, India. Three years later Faulkner was again on the move shifting to Geneva, Switzerland, where he managed Alcan plants in the region.

In 1987 Faulkner left Alcan to take the post of Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, France. After one year Faulkner, a businessman by profession, decided to purchase a winery in France.

Around the same time Faulkner was approached to help set up the Business Council for Sustainable Development.

He remained with the council until 2000 and it continues to be a leader in dealing with sustainable development in the world.

Faulkner now splits his time between the winery and working with a spin-off of the council known as Sustainable Project Management.

### *The Library of Parliament*

# Fighting for improved services, 1960-1994

by ERIK SPICER  
*Parliamentary Librarian*

**A**fter a near disastrous private interview with the prime minister and a probing interview with an informal committee of cabinet, I was appointed by the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker as the first professionally trained parliamentary Librarian, 16 November 1960. Amazingly, I served under 22 speakers (House and Senate) and eight prime ministers until my resignation took effect April 9, 1994. I was expected to make professional improvements and was determined to do so.

But I was astounded by the attitude on the Hill. An early visitor to my office, a member (later a cabinet minister) asked why I was working so hard. He said "After all, you don't have to work now, you've arrived." I apologized, explaining that "I've always worked hard". Then MP Doug Fisher, a fellow librarian said, "If you can't turn the library around in a year, you'll never do it." After examining the problems, I said it would take two years for significant progress.

Of course, Parliament in the 1950s and early 60s was not the Parliament of today. Except for ministers, members shared offices and called the typing pool for help! Partisan parliamentary employment was cheerfully accepted.

Unfortunately, the library was more like that of a private club. But it served many favoured "strangers" in addition to Senators, Members of the House

of Commons, the Parliamentary Press Gallery and senior parliamentary staff.

#### **Administration and goal**

My father-in-law was Dr. W.G. (Bill) Blair MP for Lanark, Ontario from



Danielle O'Connor

**Erik Spicer**

1945 until his death a week after re-election in 1957. From his experience, I first learned that senators and members needed all the help they could get. I was determined to give all possible help within my budget. Not all improvements cost money but only after making necessary administrative improvements should additional service be offered, a view shared by many.

The battle to cut off service to

strangers (first raised in 1959) was long and exasperating, and fought by some of my staff, some members and some Speakers. However, the Joint Committee had given its instructions and I enforced them.

Many staff were "work-relaxed" by the then slow parliamentary pace, the long periods of recess and politically guaranteed job security. True, when the House or Senate sat in the evening, some staff had to work those nights and some worked weekends too. But I had come directly from the public library where the staff regularly worked nights and weekends, was chronically understaffed, underpaid, and short on holidays. I knew that parliamentary staff could work a bit harder and refused the offer of more money until required for new staff.

Believing that members should be served by the best staff I could afford, not by friends and relatives alone, I established competitions and professional hiring. I wanted non-partisan impartial colleagues to share my enthusiasm to help members to be well informed which I articulated as our goal. My success in this may be indicated in that three of my "new" staff eventually left to become chief librarians elsewhere. [On finding two former teachers on staff, I established language training – French and English – for those willing to give some of their own time; 50 per cent library time, 50 per cent personal time. When the House asked us to train their staff, too, I realized I had moved too fast, but soon more formal



language training was offered by the government.]

Meanwhile, my staff believed, as told by a local MP's relative working with them, that I would certainly be fired as soon as the government changed in 1963. This seemed certain when the new Speakers promptly ordered an administrative study of the Library.

Fortunately for me, and more importantly for parliament, public service expert Bert Laframboise issued a thoughtful report in 1964 that was gratifyingly supportive. "Hindsight always has 20/20 vision and it is easy now to suggest ways by which the *necessary adjustments* might have been made with less friction *but the fact that the changes had to be made and that however they were made, considerable heat would be generated, is beyond dispute.*" We all owe Bert much for what we have today. Regrettably, his major suggestions were not implemented.

For nearly thirty four years, in order to communicate my enthusiasm and vision to all new staff, I personally administered both the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office and Secrecy. I wanted them to appreciate the importance of their work and to share my simple goal – help parliamentarians be well-informed so that members might be better parliamentarians.

Most parliamentarians, the press, and the public do not realize that the organization of the Library of Parliament is unique. It is not the House of Commons Library, but the Parliamentary Library. This is because both the upper and the lower houses had their own libraries before Confederation and these became a joint library serving both the House and the Senate. The Parliamentary Librarian was thus responsible directly to the Speaker of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of

Commons and for many years, the only true parliamentary officer. The Parliamentary Librarian is appointed by the Prime Minister and can only be removed by the Prime Minister. I served "at pleasure" and had the status of a deputy head. I also acted as secretary to the joint committee on the Library which assists the Speakers with the management of the library during each session.

In addition to professionally rationalizing administration and attracting unusually well qualified new staff, the main improvements to library service were the establishment and enlargement of the Research Branch and the early introduction and continuous improvement of automated services. (Lack of space prohibits detailed mention of our international services in support of parliamentary associations and foreign parliaments, but a later article could do so.)

## Research

Though some members asked for research as early as 1955, it was not formally recommended until the 12<sup>th</sup> report of the House Special Committee on Procedure and Organization in 1964. A report of a subcommittee comprised of MPs Gordon Fairweather, Pauline Jewett and Georges Lachance, enabled me to include funds for this in the library estimates of 1965-66. Then the House Speaker found opposition in cabinet and the research branch was nearly stillborn. When I angrily objected to cabinet's thwarting the will of parliament, the Speaker identified the ministers involved and invited me to try to convert them.

Fortunately, the two opponents were the two Liberal ministers I knew best. I twice argued the case, pointing out that members needed research like congress, that a centralized service (instead of separate Senate and House services) being larger would allow careers and greater variety

of staff. They jointly supported the proposal. One said, at the conclusion of my sales pitch, "Oh, we thought the Speaker was just empire-building. If we had known it was your idea, Erik, we wouldn't have opposed it." It is on such personal relations that progress is sometimes made.

As most of you will recall, the reference librarians provide the raw materials, books, articles, periodicals, newspapers, quotations, facts, graphs, etc., already in print, on the internet or in any other form. Subject specialist research officers provide tailor-made papers at the request of and in consultation with individual members, committee chairs, leaders of parliamentary association delegations, or leaders of caucus groups. Ideally, these papers include exactly what the member needs, in brief, lucid prose, containing accurate information and timely analysis, information and ideas.

From the beginning, the research branch served committees, but there was strong opposition to this from some members and some Speakers. Our greatest champion was Madame Speaker Muriel Fergusson of the Senate, Parliament's first lady Speaker. Now research officers are routinely assigned to most Senate, House and joint committees. They prepare papers, recommend witnesses, propose questions to be asked to witnesses, summarize testimony, draft reports and brief committee members. The committee clerks and their technical assistants help ensure that committees are effective and run smoothly.

The research branch also serves Canadian members of parliamentary associations and groups, primarily the long established Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Interparliamentary Union, l'Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue Française (AIPLF), the newer

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# The Library of Parliament

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Francophonie and many smaller groups. Many papers have been prepared for discussion and many briefings given.

For many years former Speaker Marcel Lambert requested synopses of legislation presented to Parliament and it gave me great pleasure when we were finally able to provide them. After all, no member can be reasonably expected to know all bills, but must be able to demonstrate some basic knowledge at any time.

The branch also arranged topical seminars for members and their staff and, like the librarians, anticipated questions. This is done by preparing background papers and issue summaries. Working as a research officer for the research branch, as a reference librarian or supporting them, is an exciting, honourable, demanding and exhausting job, but very gratifying.

## Automation

Justified on the basis of public relations and staff training, our first computer terminal was installed in 1977. We were also early collaborators with Telidon and later with Hugh Lawford's Quiklaw. We joined the National Library in 1979 to help develop an automated on-line cataloguing system, IBM-based DOBIS. Personal microcomputers followed in 1983 and all research officers, senior administrators and librarians were soon on a local area network.

In 1989, a nine year project was completed and the old card catalogue automated – much to the inconvenience of Senator Forsey, and others, including the Parliamentary Librarian. I was embarrassed to confess my inability to access the new catalogue during an unexpected visit by an information-seeking Prime Minister Trudeau and two sons. But they graciously accepted help from

a younger librarian. Anyway, this massive retrospective task has since served our users very well.

## Oral History

One of our least known projects is our collection of oral history transcripts. It grew out of a request from the late Dominion Archivist Dr. Wilfrid I. Smith. The archives had taped political interviews conducted by journalist Peter Stursberg, but lacked the funds to transcribe them. We agreed to share the costs and retain copies.

Once the archives' tapes were finished, we carried on this collaboration. We chose the subjects, the archives got the tapes and we both got transcripts. The result was a fine set of historically important interviews, some pleased parliamentarians, and the retention of some very significant political memories.

The veteran CBC journalist Tom Earle succeeded Stursberg, but the project was later abandoned. Another regret was the untimely death of our first French interviewer and that two of his successors found too little time for the work. Fortunately some francophone parliamentarians, sympathetic to our problems, agreed to interviews in English.

## Other Services

Apart from the branch libraries and reading rooms we opened, the most obvious and appreciated new service remains the publication *Quorum*. It is seen everywhere, being read in the chambers, elevators, washrooms, footpaths, restaurant, cafeterias, buses, etc. The idea was from Quebec's National Assembly and insisted on by my members who had seen it there and wrote to the House Speaker. I agreed, if the extra staff and additional costs were added to my budget. This was done to everyone's continuing satisfaction.

Much earlier was the popular clipping file, an idea taken from a visit to the Ontario premier's office. Like the Congressional Research Branch of the Library of Congress it contained (amongst many other items), published biographical material on nearly all members including any biographical material they provided. Our policy of open access was unexpectedly controversial, however, as members wanted exclusive access to information about themselves, but access to files on others!

I was astonished to learn that committee hearings were not indexed. They had been of course, but during the depression this ceased in order to save money. What amazed me was that everyone still accepted this and all the delay, inconvenience, and sheer ignorance this promoted. I insisted on indexes done by the library as other staff appeared unwilling to undertake them. After some years the House took over indexing its own publications, but we continued the Senate indexing.

Readers will also be amazed to learn that we had the first public photocopier on the Hill. I am sure there were others, but they must have been closely guarded because ours was so popular that it was discussed at a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Library where I was invited to report any member who was using it to excess.

It is easy to be aware of something without fully realizing that "something should be done about it." I knew that we had many rare books, but I assumed they were stored in proper conditions. However, when more money was suddenly spent by growing university libraries bragging about rare valuable books being added to their collections, I realized that many were familiar as part of our collection. I checked the shelves and

found in many cases multiple copies of these "rarities". Clearly we needed a separate rare book room, specifically designed to protect and preserve the best copies. In the mid-60s, I ordered that a separate secure room be created. Unfortunately, I delegated this with inadequate instructions.

When invited to see the results, I had to announce that it wouldn't do and that the selected books would have to be moved again. The location was in the sub-basement into which all water would run in case of fire. And it had water pipes running just below the ceiling. If they should leak or burst, the water damage could be enormous. Happily, well before my retirement, we opened a properly designed rare book room which during the recent reconstruction, was replaced with a larger and more modern one.

Most of you will not remember the days before we had mobile shelving in the storage stacks and don't even want to read about it. But this obvious temporary "solution" to book storage for a building to which no additions could be made, was the result of my 1964 visit to West Germany with three Canadian university librarians as guests of the German government.

In case it is not obvious, I thoroughly enjoyed my work, most of my team and most of those I served. I don't agree with the MP who accused me of being "insufficiently pompous for my job." I think I was just pompous enough – at least enough to last nearly 34 years!

As far as being "idiosyncratic" as a senior staff member described me to a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, I leave that to your more compassionate judgment.

*Erik Spicer is an honorary member of the CAFP*

## Undergraduate ESSAY COMPETITION

THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION, INVITES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM CANADIAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO ENTER A NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION.

Title of Essay:

**"The impact of terrorism on international economic development"**

Length:  
**Up to 2000 words**

Submission date:  
**Received by  
January 19, 2007**

FIRST PRIZE  
**\$1000**

SECOND PRIZE  
**\$750**

THIRD PRIZE  
**\$500**

Essays will be judged on originality, creativity and good substance. Winners will be invited to Ottawa to receive their prizes and be familiarized with how the Government of Canada functions.

Submit essays to:

**The Educational Foundation (CAFP), P.O. Box 768, West Block,  
Houses of Parliament Ottawa (ON) K1A 0A6**



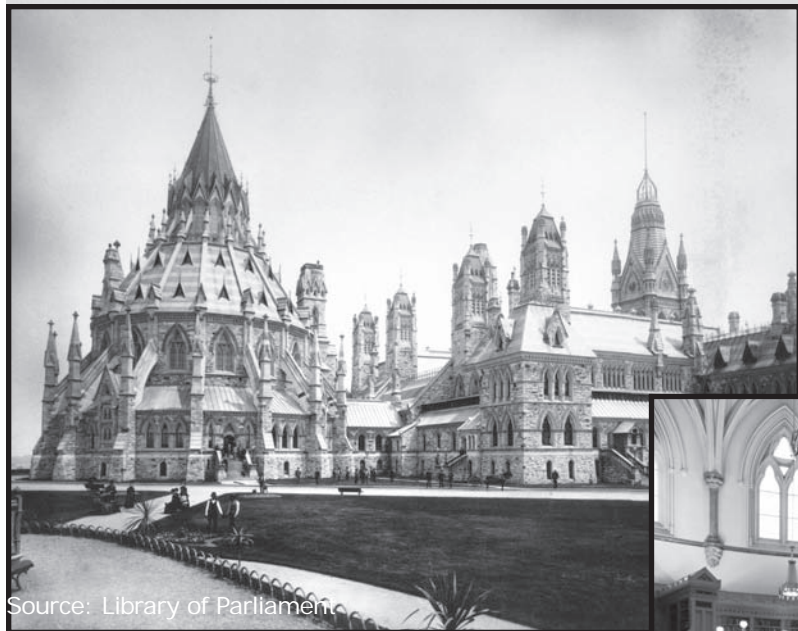
**1-888-567-4764  
www.exparl.ca**





# The Library of Parliament in pictures

*A 130-year history of serving Canada's parliamentarians*

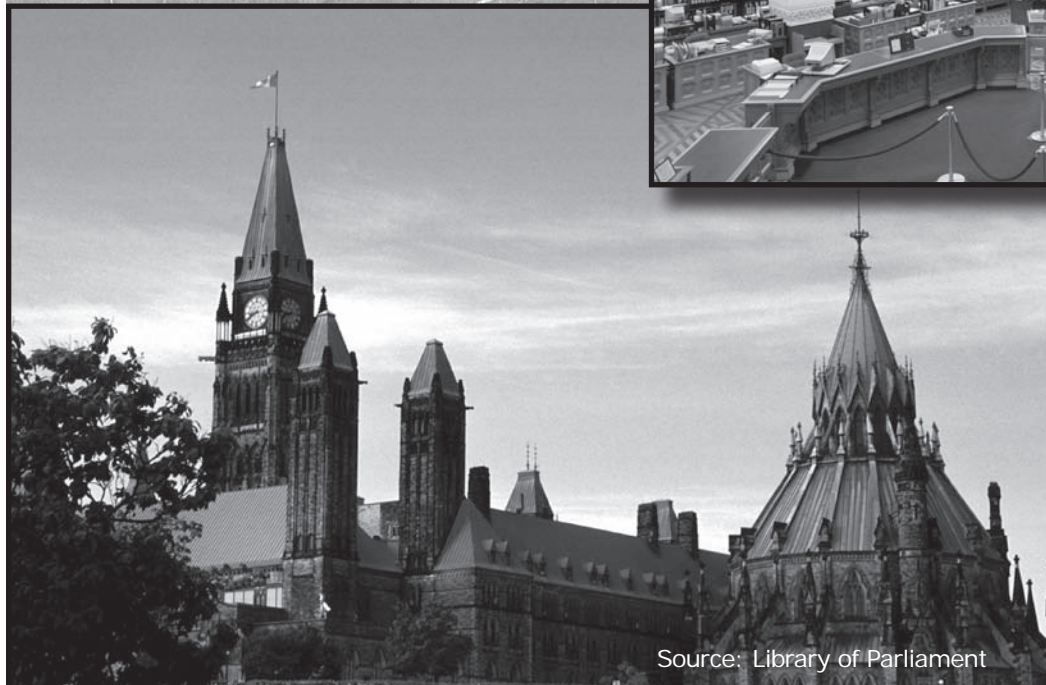


*The Library of Parliament overlooks the craggy bluffs of the Ottawa River and boasts spectacularly beautiful views of the sunset.*

*The circular Reading Room is modeled after that of the British Parliament. The room is crowned by a circular lantern dome and in the centre is a marble statue of Queen Victoria.*



Mone Cheng

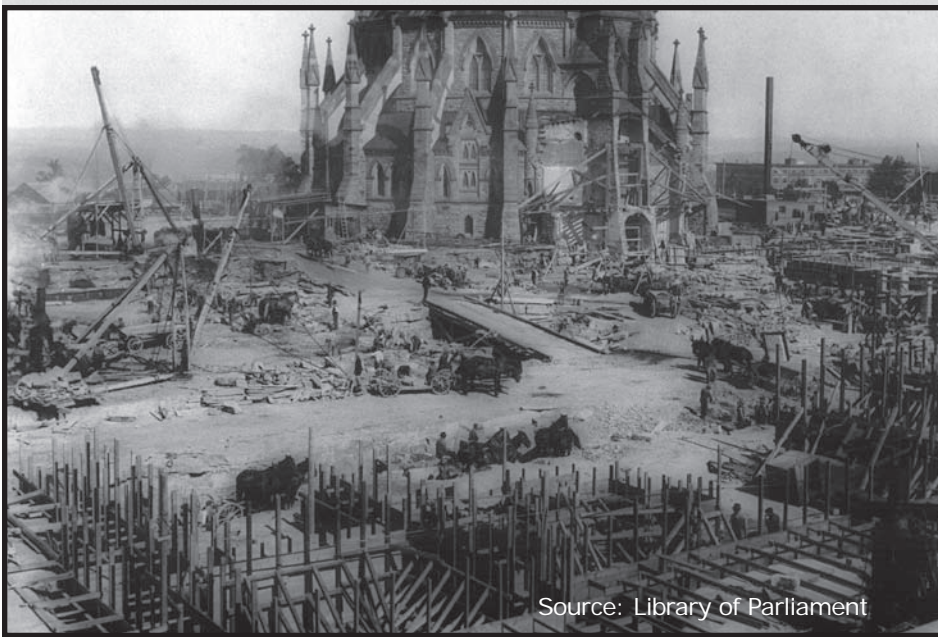


Source: Library of Parliament

*The library opened in 1876 and is the only remaining structure of the original Parliament buildings.*

*The structure is an adaptation of the medieval "chapter house" form, a meeting room usually attached to a cathedral and medieval monasteries.*





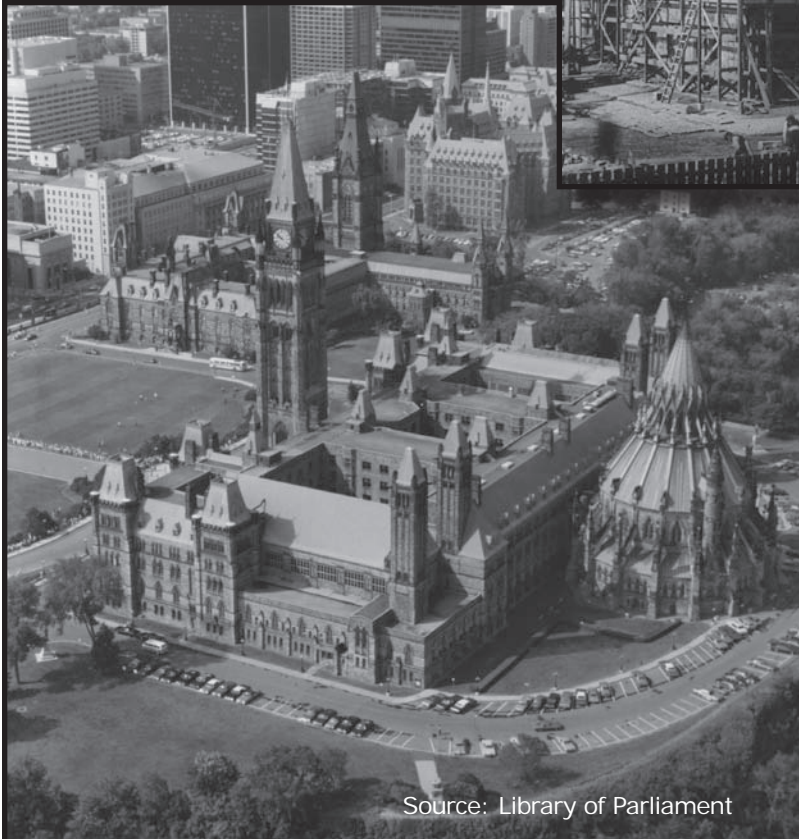
Source: Library of Parliament

*A fire in 1916 destroyed all of Canada's Parliament buildings except for the Library which was protected by heavy iron doors.*

*As seen in the photos, Parliament as it stands today was re-built around the historic Library.*



Source: Library of Parliament



Source: Library of Parliament

*The Library is considered to be the 'jewel' on the Hill and is an integral part of Canada's parliamentary history. Thousands of tourists have admired its beautiful architecture.*

*After four years of restoration, the Library has re-opened its doors to parliamentarians to celebrate its 130th year.*

*Have a look at stunning colour pictures of the Library's interior on page 35.*

*All pictures provided by the Library of Parliament unless otherwise noted.*



# Having fun in the Library on the Hill

*Librarian Bill Young on the improvements to the 'jewel'*

by MICHELLE COLLINS

**It only takes a few minutes to notice that Canada's Parliamentary Librarian is anything but the dull stereotypical character most would imagine a librarian to be.**

Donning his silver-rimmed glasses, Canada's Parliamentary Librarian Bill Young walks quickly and confidently up to Parliament Hill, frequently stopping to chat with colleagues and staff. His popularity, it seems, can be largely attributed to his genial demeanor as laughter abounds and Young never misses the opportunity to make a witty joke. It soon becomes clear why Young humorously refers to the Manager of Executive Services, Ted Buglas, as his 'minder.'

"He makes sure I behave," jokes Young.

If laughter is contagious Young's colleagues have caught it. Cynthia Taylor, a manager at the Library of Parliament, sits in on the interview and shares many laughs and inside jokes with her boss throughout.

"It was love at first sight," she jokes of their amicable working relationship.

Taylor, who is planning a surprise party to mark Young's 19th anniversary with the Library of Parliament, pipes up mid-interview to ask his favourite dessert. It sounds as if the Parliamentary Librarian enjoys a good party and especially enjoys elaborate desserts – most of which he can whip up on his own, a skill he picked up while studying for his PhD.

"I needed something I could finish and enjoy," he says. "So I learned to cook, kind of self-preservation."

On a typical day Young is bouncing

around downtown Ottawa from morning meetings and ceremonies, to lunch meetings and appointments on the Hill, then back to his office to tackle the pile of paperwork that awaits him at the end of each day in "Ted's little blue book."

He usually begins his days around 6 a.m. to enjoy a coffee and to read through the *Globe and Mail* and *The Ottawa Citizen*. If the weather is decent, Young says he'll also venture out for a morning walk.

"People know that if I've had my walk I've had time to think and I come in with ideas," he says laughing.

As Parliamentary Librarian, Young oversees the operations of the Library, its research staff and analysts and maintains the tradition of non-partisan service to Canada's parliamentary democracy.

Now in its 130<sup>th</sup> year the library has evolved to provide more than just the traditional resources. When the refurbished library re-opened last spring after four years of construction, the slogan on the ceremonial invitations was "more than meets the eye."

Young says the Library is completely wired so that even Peter Mansbridge could plug in and within minutes broadcast *The National* from inside its historic and now refurbished walls. He says the Library has become more electronically-based and is creating information databases, including one for the War Museum that documents

all parliamentarians who have served in the Canadian military. The Library also sends out daily 'PARLMEDIA' alerts to MPs and Hill staffers.

No matter the government of the day, the Library has always been a prominent institution of Parliament and even plays a central role in civic education and supporting parliamentary public programs.

For Young, guarding the traditions of Canada's parliamentary democracy has become especially important and as Parliamentary Librarian, it is something he is

actively trying to encourage.

"After '93, there was such a wholesale turnover of Members that all the corporate memory of what it was to be an MP was gone," says Young.

"All those who had grown up during the McGrath period were gone, members coming in had no fixed point to hold onto," he adds, referring to the McGrath reform committee where members examined the rules and roles of MPs at length in the mid-1980s.

Young says a recent report based on the experience of former parliamentarians produced a strong consensus about what could work better in Parliament. He believes there is an opportunity to better



Provided



integrate the experience of former parliamentarians.

"I'd like to work with [former parliamentarians] to help find ways to preserve the history of Parliament and keep it alive," he says. Otherwise, "with each election all that expertise and knowledge goes out the door."

His passion for the tradition of Parliament is rooted in his nearly 20 years of service at the Library of Parliament. A professional historian with a doctorate from the University of British Columbia, Young has been Director of Political and Social Affairs and a Principal and Senior Research Officer.

He has also taught at McGill, Simon Fraser and York Universities and compares the experience of Parliamentary Librarian to his days of teaching.

"It's not that different in its own sweet little way," he says. "After each election, we get a new crop of Parliamentarians who will rely heavily on our information, research and outreach support to fulfill their duties on behalf of Canadians."

When asked what he enjoys most

about being Parliamentary Librarian, Young immediately says it's the people he works with, whom he describes as a fun, smart, supportive and committed group.

"Working for Parliament is a bit like being part of a family," he says, adding he's always been impressed that most people who serve in Parliament are there because they feel they can make a difference.

"When you meet others on the Hill, there's an immediate affinity with them."

As for the Library building itself, Young explains that 90 per cent of his staff works in 10 other locations around Ottawa and that even as an analyst for the library, he himself never worked in the actual Library building on a regular basis.

Nevertheless, "people identify with it hugely because it's such a tremendous space," he says.

Indeed now that the restoration project is complete, the Library has become quite the attraction. The rehabilitation of the Library officially began in 2002, but was preceded by seven years of preparation over which

environmental sustainability became a priority.

The Library now boasts a thermal window system to conserve energy and toxic substances like lead and asbestos have been removed from the building.

Throughout the construction, old materials were re-used rather than discarded.

Young says one of the real marvels is the re-finished basement, which used to be crowded by overhanging pipes and, he says, was quite scary.

Before the restoration, Young says the Library's space was not as accessible and user-friendly as it is now. But having been closed for the last several years, Young says few people on the Hill are in the habit of doing work in the Library.

"A lot of MPs and Senators are going in as spectators to look at the architecture, but not to use the space," he says.

Young says he hopes to make it more of a community spot and takes pride in the fact that the Library itself is a non-partisan space that everyone on Canada's Parliament Hill can use.

## *Taking lessons of democracy from Parliament to Canada's classroom*

Throughout the school year, with so many students to worry about day in and day out, few teachers have the opportunity to undertake other studies.

Giving some teachers the opportunity to spend an entire week learning and even witnessing first-hand the operations of Canada's parliamentary democracy in Ottawa has become an annual tradition on Parliament Hill.

The Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, run by the Library of Parliament and in part financially supported by the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, brings out about 70 teachers who have demonstrated active interest in learning and teaching about governance.

The teachers who participated in this year's event in early November say the week long program of workshops opened their eyes to the complexities of

parliament and gave them a greater appreciation for the work that the government does.

"You learn how to access information and respect what MPs do, I have a much better appreciation of the Senate," said Patti Bligh, a high school teacher from Nunavut. Bligh, who has made the trip to Ottawa for four years now, said she especially enjoys the opportunity to have intellectual discussions with other teachers and said the resources they learn how to access and use are "glorious."

First time participant Tana Mitchell, a high school teacher from Saskatchewan, said the week-long institute was a fantastic experience.

"I couldn't feel more pleased or validated," she said.

Mitchell said she was especially impressed by the spirit with which parliamentarians do their jobs, a spirit she plans to take back to her students.

# Beyond ... Beyond the Hill

## News from our former Editorial Interns

**Julia Skikavich**

(Intern from January 2003 to February 2004)

**B**yond the Hill has come a long way since CAFP offered its innovative intern program in 2003-04. Our group was challenged with converting the all-text newsletter to magazine format, so the first year wasn't without its frustrations. But getting to interview the likes of **the Right Honourable John Turner** and **Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn** made the experience worthwhile.



After graduating from Carleton, I spent eight months globetrotting. Politics, though, seems to be something I cannot escape and after returning to Canada I became the political reporter at the *Whitehorse Daily Star*, covering the excitement of wrangling territorial politicians. I also do regular stringer work with the *Canadian Press* and *Time*. *Beyond the Hill* helped provide me with the confidence to interview political heavyweights and helped better my understanding of the political system. As a young journalist, the internship, for me, was a great experience, helping to further my aspiration of getting back to the Hill.

**Peter Severinson**

(Intern from May 2005 to April 2006)

**I**t's been half a year since I was swearing over a computer, working to fit another article in French onto a tight page. Deadlines loomed, editors waited, photos kept shrinking and I couldn't help thinking, "Sure French is a beautiful language, but why when you translate it does it always have to be 30 percent longer?"



Since that last issue in spring 2006, things have changed. After graduating from Carleton, I went to work for *The Province* newspaper where I met some great folks, learned a lot, and even did some journalism from time to time. Since September, I've been working on a graphic novel, although I still dip my toes into print occasionally.

I miss doing visual work for *Beyond the Hill*, especially shooting and laying out photo spreads. I have fond memories of interviews with former parliamentarians doing exciting work around the world. And it's good to know that other students will have the same opportunity in the future.

**Philippe Morin**

(Intern from May 2005 to June 2006)

**W**orking at *Beyond the Hill* was my first step into professional writing. And I loved it! Over the course of a year, I got to interview Auditor General Sheila Fraser, notable figures like **the Right Honourable Herb Gray**, and walked around Parliament with surprising freedom. I cannot think of a better adventure for a student interested in politics!

After graduation, I moved from Ottawa (pop. 800,000) to Inuvik, NWT (pop. 3,500) in the Arctic Circle. I now report for the territorial paper *News/North*, as the Beaufort Delta correspondent. I'm the only reporter assigned to seven communities and most work is done over the phone these days but I'll soon be able to travel using ice roads, to Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Tetlit'Zheh/Fort McPherson. Since moving to Yellowknife and then Inuvik, I've been learning about Northern culture by interviewing Beluga hunters, biologists, climate change scientists and many other interesting people. Check out pictures and notes on my blog, [www.inuvikpm.blogspot.com](http://www.inuvikpm.blogspot.com).



**Tim Lai**

(Intern from April 2004 to June 2005)

**I**t's probably the same way for departing Parliamentarians - you leave Ottawa and think you're way beyond the Hill. But, even months later, it's not a distant memory and it probably never will be.

Working with *Beyond the Hill* gave me access, early in my career, to meet the newsmakers. My time there was one of change as we expanded the content, developed new sections and brought colour to the magazine. It wasn't an easy job and there were bouts of frustration, but seeing that glossy cover made it all worth it. Since graduating from Carleton in 2005, I've covered the summer of gun violence for the *Globe and Mail*, the Oilers' thrilling playoff run for the *Edmonton Journal* and am now working at the *Toronto Star*. Being a young journalist, you never forget where you got your early opportunities, and because of that, I'll never really be far beyond the Hill.



# Meet our newest interns

## Michelle Collins

Despite her jam-packed dayplanner, Michelle Collins is one of those people who seems ready to take on any project. Like Mark, she also hails from Toronto and is studying journalism with a major in political science. She is a member of several clubs at Carleton, including the Journalists for Human Rights. Last year, she also sat on the *Charlatan* board of directors.

She was a member of a competitive synchronized skating team for 13 years and was also a snowboarding instructor.

Outside university, she covered general news stories for the *Town Crier* in Toronto and also worked as a Summer Promotions Director with Standard Radio in Toronto for 97.3 EZ Rock. She is currently the editor of the website OttawaStart.com and is eagerly looking forward to her internship with the *Globe & Mail*, which starts in December.

"I am very excited to be working with the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and with *Beyond the Hill*," she says. "I think this is an amazing opportunity to learn more about the past and present of Canada's Parliament."



Danielle O'Connor

## Mark Masters

Since his arrival, this 22-year-old, originally from Toronto, has enlivened the meetings at *Beyond the Hill* with his sense of humour and original story ideas. His passion for current events makes him an ideal candidate for our magazine. "I've always loved politics and political writing and was a student participant in the Forum for Young Canadians in April 2002," he says.

He was the editor-in-chief of the *Charlatan*, Carleton's independent student newspaper, during the 2005-06 publishing year.

Mr. Masters is also a member of an intramural flag-football team, as well as hockey and soccer teams. Last summer, he was able to indulge his passion for sports by working for the Toronto Argonauts.

He is currently completing his third year in Carleton's journalism program with a minor in political science.

He says he believes writing for *Beyond the Hill* will give him an opportunity to learn more about Canadian democratic institutions.

"It allows me to interact with some of the most interesting people in our country's political history. It's a tremendous opportunity to gain perspective on the decisions made from the people who helped make them."

## The new exparl.ca

The CAFP has its own magazine, but perhaps it's time to tackle its website and make it more effective and pleasing to the eye. The Association therefore called on the talents of interns Roman Filippov and Sabrina Tang to breathe life back into our site.



Provided

### Roman Filippov

A second-year student in the Internet Application Programmer program at Algonquin College, Roman Filippov already has his own web design and development company, Hunox (Hunox.ca). With seven years experience in the field, CAFP's website is decidedly in good hands.

When he's not working, Mr. Filippov likes to work out. He also writes electronic music on his computer in his spare time.

As to his job with the CAFP, Mr. Filippov has always been interested in politics: "My father was always into politics and we talk about it a lot. As a result I became very interested in political issues and love learning. I think it's an unavoidable part of residing in Ottawa."



Provided

### Sabrina Tang

Sabrina is also in her second year of the Internet Application Programmer program at Algonquin. While web design was initially a hobby, after she received her degree from Queen's University she took a real interest in it. Since last year, she has landed contracts with several clients in the region, including the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. She hopes to find a job in a company that can offer her many and various challenges.

She is a big fan of the Ottawa Senators, but admits to being a bit disappointed by their performance up to now.

She is very enthusiastic about working with the CAFP saying, "I think it will be a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about our political system."



# A Chosen Path

## From Moccasin Flats to Parliament Hill

Written by Frank Oberle

reviewed by Jim Fleming

**Frank Oberle and I spent 12 years or so sitting across from each other in the House of Commons. Frank stuck around for almost another ten and distinguished himself in the process.**

In all those years sharing political space and experiences I didn't get to know Frank. Now, having read both volumes of his autobiography, I think I do a little. Getting there was a charming, insightful and amusing experience.

Volume two, *A Chosen Path*, covers Frank Oberle's life from municipal councillor in the small community of Chetwynd in North British Columbia to his twenty-one years in Parliament and eventual elevation from humble roots to political power as a Minister of the Crown.

There's no doubt, as you travel through this episodic review of political maturing, sacrifice and success, that Oberle is very proud of his achievements. He also has no difficulty in offering, no pun intended, some very frank views including his take on successive leaders of his party. He is no less fuzzy about his political opponents.

Late in the book, as he describes his work both as Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of Forestry, there can be no doubt either of his deep commitment to his responsibilities nor his profound skepticism of bureaucracy.

As Frank Oberle recounts political events and influences in Ottawa there are more than a few conclusions that I might fail to pound my desk or shout, "here, here" over. But this is Frank's story and he tells it well.

Amongst the most charming of his recollections are those of his early ventures in municipal politics; the jealousies and mean spiritedness that too often poisons the path to much needed progress. The challenges

of representing an enormous constituency are also insightful and he paints colourful and often amusing portraits of those he encounters and sometimes recruits along the way.

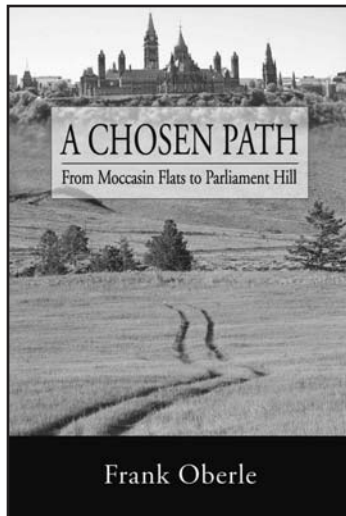
I can remember watching Oberle from time to time across the house back in the 70's and early 80's, as we worked, groaned or cheered our way through question period. I do recall that he had a ready grin, the hint of

sometimes being a bit of a rascal and, on occasion, he had a set to his jaw which suggested a determination that was not easily diverted.

Well, it's all there in *A Chosen Path* and his first volume too, *FINDING HOME: A War Child's Journey to Peace*.

*A Chosen Path: From Moccasin Flats to Parliament Hill, Paperback, 320 pages, ISBN: 1894384830, \$22.95, Publisher: Heritage House To Order: Ph: 1-800-665-3302*

*Jim Fleming represented York West, Ontario as a Liberal from 1972 to 1984*



*If you've recently read a book with a historical or political interest to former parliamentarians, we invite you to send us a review.*

### Suggestions:

- *Private Demons: The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald*, by Patricia Phenix
- *The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa*, by Eddie Goldenberg
- *Citizen of the World: The Life of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Volume One: 1919-1968*, by John English

The CAFP will provide books for any member wishing to write a review.

Parliament Buildings  
PO Box 768, West Block  
Ottawa, ON Canada K1A 0A6  
Email: [exparl@parl.gc.ca](mailto:exparl@parl.gc.ca)

# Sacrificed? Truth or Politics

*The uncovered story behind one of the greatest betrayals of the 37th Canadian Parliament*

*Written by Larry Spencer*

**reviewed by Derrek Konrad**

**Truth or Politics, written by Larry Spencer, documents his life beginning on a farm in Missouri through his conversion to Christian faith, a missions-oriented ministry in Regina, Saskatchewan and his election to Parliament as a Canadian Alliance MP. Halfway through the book he relates the events that ultimately ended his political career as an independent candidate following his disastrous interview with Peter O'Neill of the *Vancouver Sun*, and the media firestorm that engulfed him.**

The Spencers immigrated to Canada in 1974, settling in Regina and after 25 years of starting and pastoring Southern Baptist churches, became Canadian citizens. Throughout the book Spencer relates how his personal faith prepared him to speak openly and without qualification and how the demands of politics frequently conflicted with that openness.

When asked to run for office, Spencer had to wrestle with the demands of self promotion as opposed to promotion of Jesus. He points out that when he became a candidate he had to exchange the unchanging "Book" to a book written and rewritten at will by men. He discovered that in politics there are Red Books, Blue Books and Green Books but no commonly acknowledged authority. This was disconcerting to a man who had dedicated his life to preaching from one book.

Spencer's political career was uneventful as Family Issues Critic for the Canadian Alliance until the debate over the redefinition of marriage began. In Spencer's view, changing

the definition would forever change the way Canadians perceived and practiced marriage. The Canadian Alliance was reluctant to take a stand on the issue, even when the Liberal government's intentions became known, as they were in negotiations with the Progressive Conservatives to bring the two parties together. This avoidance led the media to suspect the Alliance had a secret agenda on the matter, which may have had a bearing on ensuing events.

Mid-book Larry begins to relate the events that led to the end of his career. Following the O'Neill interview, during which he said homosexuality should be outlawed, things quickly crossed the tipping point and went downhill in a hurry. When he arrived in Ottawa for winter caucus meetings he was surprised to be called into the leader's office and accused of trying to derail the upcoming merger. Given the timing of the interview and the hurricane of negative media coverage this came as no surprise.

In the following days Spencer complied with the party's wishes, accepting a temporary suspension from caucus, refrained from speaking out in public about the matter and signed a letter written by Alliance communications staff accepting responsibility for the controversy his remarks engendered. On the fifth day he began to fight back and informed party leadership that regardless of the outcome his name would be on the ballot in the next election in the Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre riding.

Following the successful merger vote, Spencer was given five minutes to present his case for permission to join the new caucus. In his own words, "What happened next has haunted me from then until now." A secret ballot was taken, votes were counted by members of the leader's staff without scrutineers and only the results were made public. Spencer was advised that he would not be permitted to join the new party.

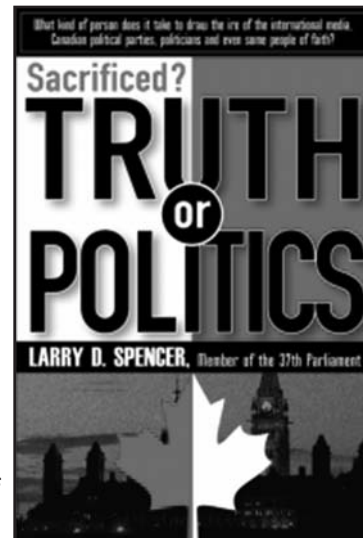
As he promised the party leadership, Spencer's name was on the next ballot and as most independent candidates have found, he could not overcome party momentum as voters were interested mainly in having a government member represent them.

The book is a personal journey but he ends it with a comprehensive 44 page appendix of e-mails, speeches, editorials and letters from around the world expressing support for him. It is an easy read and certainly an interesting one for anyone who has experienced a similar jolt of ugly reality in politics or wants to view the inner workings of a political party in full protection mode.

*Sacrificed, Truth or Politics*, 172 pages, ISBN: 0978057406, \$17.99

Publisher: KayteeBella Productions  
To Order : [www.truthorpolitics.com/html/Order.htm](http://www.truthorpolitics.com/html/Order.htm)

*Derrek Konrad represented Prince Albert, Saskatchewan as a member of the Reform Party from 1997 to 2000*



# A mission of hope

by C. GIRVE FRETZ

**This story began while I was in Parliament. In the early 1980's I had been invited to be a member of the all-party Task Force on North-South Relations. Our task was to write a report for the government on Canada's role in the developing world. It was a very interesting and educational experience.**

During this time I met David McKenzie, Executive Director of Hope International Development Agency. Subsequently I was elected to the Board of HOPE. Consequently for over 20 years I have been involved as a volunteer with this wonderful organization.

HOPE's mission statement can probably be summed up in one paragraph: "to improve the supply of basic human necessities for the neediest of the poor in the Third World through self-help activities; to challenge, educate, and involve North Americans regarding development issues." HOPE and its workers reach into 25 or more of the poorest of the poor countries. With HOPE I have helped raise funds in Canada, Japan, the U.K. and U.S.A.

Travelling into remote areas of Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Cameroon and Ethiopia has not only been exciting and interesting but has given me a deep empathy for the suffering people of the world.

Accompanying HOPE donors to some of the above countries have enabled them to see "first-hand" the tremendous need of poor, hurting people. This experience allows them to see the difference that is made in the lives of countless numbers where there is the simple act of providing clean water. Clean, pure, fresh water, instead of filthy water that in many

villages kills half the babies before they reach the age of five, has been HOPE's response to a desperate need.

Many pictures appear in my mind's eye as I write this story. I remember visiting a very small village in Ethiopia where HOPE's well-drilling rig had recently brought in a well. The well was capped awaiting a pump. I recall seeing a woman with a pot on her head walking away from the village. Upon enquiring I learned that she had a 12 kilometre round trip to endure in order for her family to have water for cooking, for dishes, laundry, and water for bathing. What an incredible picture of human need and suffering.

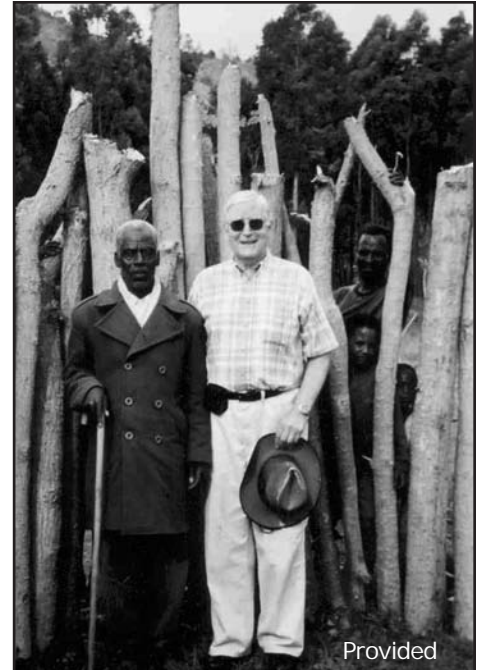
Imagine if you will a small stream only three or four feet wide. From your vantage point in the Jeep on a bridge you notice some cattle standing in the stream. You also quickly pick out three women washing their clothes in the same stream. You already know the answer to the question, as I did when I sat in our vehicle and looked at the scene: "Where do they get their drinking water?" Obviously they get it from the same filthy stream of water.

Why do we, the educated, wealthy, healthy millions of the Western World not do more to help? These are the neglected poor who die at the age of 40, with no medical clinics, schools or even the most basic of needs – clean water. Should we care?

My thoughts are somewhat summarized by the words of a Canadian university student who spent her summer of 2004 working with HOPE in Ethiopia:

"I realize how desperate the situation is here. Despite the cute kids we play with every day, they are constantly living one day at a time. It is overwhelming."

We walk along the dry river bed



Provided

**Fretz with a chief of village in the Derashe district, in the Highlands of southern Ethiopia. This occasion was the visitation by Canadian donors to Hope International Development Agency.**

whose banks are probably four metres high – it must have been a mighty river in its' past. We pass a few people carrying water jugs on their backs or heads. It takes almost two hours until we reach a spot where cattle must drink – the water is moving but green algae grows and it definitely doesn't look clean".

Her thoughts vividly remind me that there is such an overwhelming need by millions of people in the world. However, it is people like this Canadian university student who are making such a difference in the world. As Canadians we are so privileged.

*Girve Fretz represented Erie, Ontario as a Progressive Conservative from 1979 to 1993*



# A Visit to Nazaret, Ethiopia

by PATRICIA TORSNEY

**If there's a benefit to losing an election, it must be the chance to see friends and family and to share experiences internationally. While visiting friends in Paris this spring, I received an e-mail from the Parliamentary Centre asking me if I could share my House of Commons committee experience, particularly that which enhanced women's participation, with legislators in Ethiopia. My response: SURE!**

En route to Ethiopia, via London, I read in a British newspaper that Britain, concerned that peaceful protesters were being met with live ammunition, was suspending aid to Ethiopia. A quick check with foreign affairs' websites reassured me that travel was fine (though protests should be avoided).

After a long set of flights, I was warmly welcomed by local parliamentary staff in the diverse city Addis Ababa who took me by car to Nazaret, a bustling city about 100 kilometres away where I was sure the work we would do would help Ethiopian citizens and their government work together better.

The panellists for our sessions included former Canadian Speaker John Bosley, Kenyan parliamentarian Peter Aringo, an Ethiopian constitutional professor, and myself. We were housed in two small hotels about a half kilometre apart on the main highway through Ethiopia to the coast.

The Ethiopian Speaker presided over the meetings, which included committee chairs and representatives from the opposition parties. After each set of presentations, breakout groups were formed outside the hotel. It was a great way for members to get to know each other and discuss ways to implement the proposals we were recommending, something that wouldn't have worked well if we were still in the capital with offices to distract.

My session focussed on the need to ensure good public participation. We discussed the need to directly invite witnesses and to accommodate those with less experience, particularly women, to travel or use flexible meeting times.



**An intense exchange between the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives (in white, leaning to his right) and the chief whip of one of the opposition parties. Torsney, who is not visible in the picture, was the moderator.**

On the second day of our discussions, we were all startled by smoke, gun shots and rocks crashing through windows, people yelling in the street outside, and women screaming from within the hotel. It was quite frightening, exactly what the websites had recommended we avoid, and it ended quickly. We were told no one was hurt, but as I wrote this article I learned that in fact two people were killed and 20 were injured.

The Speaker advised that the protest was started because the local government had given land where the market is held to a developer, and the merchants were justifiably annoyed no provision had been made for their businesses. They had asked the Speaker to intervene but as Ethiopia is a federation, he informed them to deal with the municipal government. The protest between our two hotels was designed to ensure maximum effect, to catch his attention nonetheless.

The event demonstrated all too clear-

ly the need for the MPs to get it right. For the sake of all citizens, government processes must work more effectively. The shared and frightening experience broke down barriers and focused the parliamentarians (and the presenters!) on their work.

The Ethiopian MPs and their Speaker are an impressive group. They seem committed to working through the issues and improving their new government. Brainstorming around their specific issues and drawing from applicable experience in Canada's House of Commons was refreshing and encouraging for me. As was the question from a few MPs as to why Canada's parliament had so few women (good question!).

Ethiopia is a multicultural nation with a rich history. It prides itself on being the only African nation never colonized. The people I met were smart, friendly and welcoming.

It was an honour to work with them and with John Bosley. Readers may know he's extremely well regarded for his work advising the new Ethiopian government. He's a great ambassador for Canada. And he was kind to this recently defeated MP. It was fun for us to share similar perspectives from different parliaments. From time to time, the commonality of our views surprised the Ethiopian MPs especially when they learned we had represented different parties!

In spite of the surprising and disturbing events, I'd jump at the chance to work again with the Ethiopian parliament and others in newer democracies. Thank you former Parliamentarians for this experience!

*Patricia Torsney represented Burlington, Ontario as a Liberal from 1993 to 2006*

# Afghanistan and Minority Parliament

by JEAN-JACQUES BLAIS

**Parliament has traditionally played a secondary role of catch-up to decisions already made that needed public support. In addition, politicians have not seen foreign policy as sensitive to partisan politics as other areas of public administration. In other words, there aren't many votes in foreign policy.**

Times are changing. The Canadian public is better informed, and more conscious of the impact of Canadian foreign policy on its security. The world is shrinking; Canadian demographics reflect international demographics with the potential importation into Canada of off-shore conflicts with the immigrant population.

Canadians historically have been conscious of the need for Canada to be actively engaged as part of the international community in working to achieve stability through the resolution of international conflicts. It was seen as Canada's duty. Since 9/11 however, I would suggest that Canadians have become more conscious that their own security is affected by what is happening in the world. That growing recognition has brought them to insist that their elected representatives ensure that the government of the day be called to account for its foreign policy initiatives.

Two coincidental events are encouraging Canadians to pursue ever more aggressively, greater accountability by the executive for its foreign policy initiatives. The first, and perhaps most important is our involvement in Afghanistan. The second is the Minority Parliament, which makes the government of the day vulnerable to defeat on any issue of confidence including questions of foreign policy.

First Afghanistan. Our presence in

Afghanistan results from a decision taken by the Chrétien government in 2003. It was very much a political decision taken at a time when the government was under increasing pressure from the Americans to join in the Iraq adventure. Afghanistan was not the military's preference.

I was in Afghanistan at the time. I agreed with the decision then and I agree with the decision now. There is no doubt in my mind that Canada needs to be there and that we can make a substantive difference with our presence.

Canada is there because of its national interest: our sovereignty and our security depend on the maintenance of international peace and security. We need to make a national vocation of strengthening the international rule of law. With the second largest land mass in the world and a storehouse of dwindling natural resources Canada will fare much better in a world ruled by laws than in one dominated by force.

Since the Berlin wall came down the international community has been engaged in intra-national conflicts, within existing states, within so-called failed or fragile states. Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, the Sudan, Haiti, to name some. In all of these international interventions, force was central to the international community's involvement but always with a view of reestablishing a functioning rule-of-law state. In other words, it wasn't only about war or the military. It was to strengthen the host state and build its institutions of governance.

That approach gave rise to the "Diplomacy, Defense and Development" (3D) strategy adopted by the Chrétien government. That strategy was very much aimed at Canada's view of its role in the

stabilization of fragile states. The key was coordination of the Canadian effort in all areas of activity incorporating an essential principle of Canadian governance: subordination of the military to a civil authority. In other words the military was engaged as one of the instruments of governance under a strategy determined by its political masters.

The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Canada has undertaken in Kandahar province is typical of that approach. It involves military and civilian participation. The military and police provide the security which permits the civilian elements to assist in the carrying out of essential community activities including resolving conflicts, institution building and service delivery. In addition the PRT extends the writ of the central government to Kandahar province. Canada's PRT is one of 24 operating in the various regions of Afghanistan.

However, what is true for PRTs is not true for the International Community's effort for the whole of Afghanistan. There are three organizations leading the international effort, the UN through UNAMA, the United States through Operation Enduring Freedom (OFE) and NATO, through the International Security Assistance Force. All are aimed at the stabilization of Afghanistan, and while they do speak to each other, each organization has its own structures and governance. There is no unified chain of command nor any common strategic planning nor any process of political accountability related to the use of force.

As previously stated, the commitment of Canadian troops to Afghanistan was very much a political act. But once the military are there, how is the supremacy of the political

direction maintained? The military are experienced in multinational operations and have set means and processes of co-operating, of maximizing the effectiveness of the use of force. Indeed NATO's strength is its ability to marshal forces from its various members into cohesive units. How effective is the political control in theaters of operation where there is a host government but that government is unable to control its territory much less those using force within it?

The difficulty gives rise not only to the weakness of ensuring accountability in the use of force, but it also may create major problems related to the implementation of national initiatives. Canada is focusing more and more of its international effort on Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a test case for the implementation of the 3D strategy.

The 3D strategy includes in its workings basic principles of governance that form the cornerstone of Canada's constitutional order including civilian control over the military. In other words the 3D strategy is not a military doctrine but very much a foreign policy doctrine with Foreign Affairs as the lead department. Looking at what is taking place in Afghanistan, it becomes evident that, save in its dealings within the Provincial Reconstruction Team, as I have described, Canada's military receives no political direction.

There was no better example of that by the public statements made by the Minister of National Defence, Gordon O'Connor recently asking for help for Canada's beleaguered troops in the South of Afghanistan. Surely, how the NATO troops are deployed, for what purpose, with what support are fundamental questions of

political strategy which should have been determined politically prior to deployment and subject of ongoing political monitoring. Was it done? Are the military being directed by effective civilian authority?

The problem therefore is not that which members of the opposition have identified, namely a too great concentration on military activity by the



**Photos taken at the Sarobi Dam during Jean-Jacques Blais' trip to Afghanistan.**

Canadian Forces, but rather the seeming lack of proportionality because the Canadian Forces are operating with little or no political direction from the Harper government. Indeed the Canadian Forces, as other military participants, are all operating under NATO's military chain of command with little political direction from any source, except from perhaps the American Secretary of Defence. The predominance of the American military presence makes the Canadian political role in military direction even less probable and less effective. The implementation therefore of Canada's 3D approach becomes most difficult if not altogether impossible.

Let me then turn to the second important element of the coincidence: minority Parliament. Parliamentarians in a minority House are in a position to call the Harper government to account, more effectively, on how Canadian resources, including the military, are

being utilized in Afghanistan. The 3D strategy, developed in anticipation of our Afghan decision, recognizes that the Canadian contribution would be more effective if made through simultaneous, coordinated intervention engaging diplomacy, development and military action aimed at developing effective security institutions and good governance over the whole of a sovereign territory. It would appear that the Harper government has lost sight of those aims, if ever they understood them.

How Parliament achieves its aim of holding the government to account, however, is a considerable challenge. The House of Commons committee system has been subject to justified criticism, most recently by the Gomery Inquiry, as to its effectiveness. It needs to be strengthened. Perhaps a review of Canada's involvement in Afghanistan in a Minority House context might provide the occasion for such strengthening. The House of Commons Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs and National Defence would need to cooperate very closely in their activities. Their membership constitutes some of the more experienced and respected parliamentarians. Perhaps they could look to the Senate for inspiration. Senator Colin Kenny has demonstrated leadership and determination in the work of the Senate Committee on Security and Defence. He has obtained resources that have permitted his committee to conduct investigations, hold hearings and disseminate its message in a way that points to the relevance of Parliament and Parliamentary committees. The House of Commons Committees interested in Afghanistan need to do the same. Now is the time.

*The Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais represented Nipissing, Ontario as a member of the Liberal Party from 1972 to 1984*



# Fighting Corruption

by **ROBERT MILLER**  
*President*  
*The Parliamentary Centre*

I recall one evening sitting in a living room in New Delhi, India listening to a senior police officer describe the scourge of corruption and its effect on the country's health system. He described in graphic detail a recent police crackdown on a ring operating within New Delhi Hospitals stealing drugs and fencing them on the black market. To cover their tracks the members of the ring would replace the stolen drugs with imitation drugs of no value (but possibly dangerous) and these would sometimes unknowingly be administered to patients. As the officer said, "corruption is not just about money. Often it is a life and death matter, especially for the poor."

The fight against corruption has come to be recognized as essential to improving governance and the prospects for economic and social development. The World Bank – once a laggard in the fight against corruption – identifies control of corruption as one of six key measures of good governance, defining corruption as "the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain." The international development community has slowly come to appreciate that among the institutions necessary to control corruption none is more important than an effective parliament.

The Global Organization of Par-

liamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) has a mission to develop the capacity of parliaments and parliamentarians world-wide to fight corruption. John Williams, MP for Edmonton-St-Albert has been a driving force in establishing and developing GOPAC. CANPAC, the Canadian chapter, focuses much of its attention on Canadian support for the global fight against corruption. Former Parliamentarians are welcome as members of both the global organization and the Canadian chapter.



**John Williams, MP and Chair of the Canadian Chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).**

GOPAC does not judge its success by its resolutions or declarations, but rather by practical improvements in parliamentary oversight, the legislative framework for public administration, the conduct of par-

liamentarians in carrying out their democratic duties, and engagement of the public in fighting corruption. Expertise in the tools and techniques of anti-corruption is important but not nearly enough by itself: equally important are political commitment and the skills required to build coalitions, mobilize public support and generate political pressure. These are all areas where the experience of former Parliamentarians can be especially helpful.

At its most recent global conference in Arusha, Tanzania, GOPAC created a series of global task forces on key issues in the fight against corruption – parliamentary oversight, parliamentary immunity, codes of conduct, engagement in monitoring development loans and grants, conventions against corruption, more effective money laundering regimes and resource revenue transparency. Former Canadian Parliamentarians are invited to contribute to the work of these global task forces.

This is an opportunity to make a contribution to an important global cause while making friends and acquaintances from around the world.

For further information, contact Martin Ulrich, Director, GOPAC Secretariat at the Parliamentary Centre (613 237-0143 ext. 322).

# A CELEBRATION OF 50 GREAT YEARS

*Douglas Fisher reflects on his time as an MP and in the Parliamentary Press Gallery before looking ahead to Canada's future*



by DOUG FISHER  
*The Ottawa Sun,*  
July 30th 2006

**I**t's time to go, probably past time. My bent, as I write this last column for the Sun, is to be laconic about it. This skimping on sentiment probably stems from my early life in a railway family and years as an ordinary soldier in World War II. Saying farewells became banal.

My string as a columnist commenting on Parliament began with the late John Bassett's Toronto Telegram in 1961. When the Tely died in 1971, I moved to the new Toronto Sun, courtesy of

the late Doug Creighton, its founding publisher, and editor Peter Worthington -- both fine men to work for.

I was an MP -- the CCF member for Port Arthur -- when I sought to write a column. I did it not because I wanted a personal platform for politicking but because I was drowning in debt from the high costs of being an MP.

We were paid \$10,000 a year, with \$2,000 more to cover expenses (the highest-paid bureaucrats then got about \$26,000). Out of this, we had to pay for two residences -- one in our riding, one in Ottawa. We had to pay our considerable long-distance phone bills -- including collect calls from constituents!

And although we had unlimited railway travel passes, these only covered the cost of a day coach seat, not a berth for overnight travel. So the frequent trips back to the riding -- and driving within the riding -- were costly.

What's more, freshmen MPs were packed two to an office where they shared a secretary -- half a day each. I was the first MP in modern memory

(in 1960) to ask for better pay and services, for which I was roundly criticized.

## OUTLASTED THEM ALL

My columns went over well enough that I decided not to contest the 1965 election. I moved from House membership to membership in the parliamentary press gallery. Forty years later, I had outlasted all who were there when I joined -- reporters and columnists like Charles Lynch (Southam), George Bain (Globe and Mail), Blair Fraser (Maclean's), Norman Depoe (CBC TV), Judith Robinson (Telegram), Grattan O'Leary (Ottawa Journal) and many more.

I sometimes shudder when I consider how long I've been "columnizing," and how much I've written -- more than 2,400 columns for the Sun, running past 3 million words.

Any limits on content or opinions were my own. The editors at both the Telegram and Sun were excellent in their restraint when dealing with my copy -- except those few times when they worried I might get them sued for libel.

I carried the opposition MP's mentality into journalism. Over the years, my opinions have been more critical than approving of whatever government has been in power. By choice, I didn't bring the NDP banner with me, in contrast to the late Dalton Camp, a Progressive Conservative in his columns as he was in life.



Fisher is joined by wife Jeanie Fleming, then-Toronto Sun editor-in-chief Mike Strobel, far left, columnist John Downing, second from left, and Sun founder Douglas Creighton -- who hired Fisher in 1971 -- at Canadian News Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Toronto in May 2000.

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## In Closing Mr. Speaker

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Because the Liberals were in power more often than the Conservatives, I've sometimes been tagged as anti-Liberal. If I am, it started back in the 1930s in reaction to my father's deep respect for Mackenzie King and his party, and deepened during the war-time conscription crisis. And aging, of course, has made me more conservatively minded.

The arrogance of government, its overwhelming control of Parliament, and the opposition's weakness were a big theme during my four parliaments as an MP - much discussed on the Hill and in the press. I carried that theme with me to the press gallery and have often written about it.

After nearly 50 years, I can only say that government has become immense, the prime minister's office is vastly bigger and more powerful, more attention than ever is paid to party leaders and in particular to the prime minister, and the House of Commons - whose weakness we bemoaned back in my time in it -- has withered almost to insignificance. Stephen Harper is more supreme and absolute in the government, cabinet, House and the country than John Diefenbaker was in my first House in 1957.

Today's MPs are easily as able and hard-working as during the Diefenbaker years -- as well as better educated and provided with far better facilities and support services. Paradoxically, they play a far smaller, less important role than MPs of yore, undermined over the years by a hardening of caucus discipline and by the swelling cadres of aides and spin doctors in the offices of the prime minister and the other parties' leaders.

Diefenbaker and Lester (Mike) Pearson were the last two prime ministers to spend a lot of time in the House of

Commons beyond the daily oral question period. In their day, there was usually substantial attendance during passage of significant legislation.

### CAMARADERIE DRIED UP

Pierre Trudeau changed all that. He was frank in saying that time spent in the House was both a waste and a bore for him. His ministers took his cue, and after 1968, one rarely saw



**Fisher receives the Distinguished Service Award from Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Senate in June 2001**

more than two ministers in the House other than during question period. Then evening sittings were ended and an annual schedule for sittings and holidays instituted. Any sense of camaraderie dried up.

The growing irrelevance of the House as the dramatic, dynamic stage of the federal parliamentary system can be traced to this downward shift in attendance and participation. Today, not even the volatility of minority government jacks up interest in what goes on in the House, outside of question period.

Who's listening anymore to the debates we do have? Very few, although they are televised. Few listen, few report on legislative talk. Instead, the media and politicians concentrate on the theatrical, often farcical, tussles of question period.

Hansard, the printed record of the House, never sold well. Today it is largely forgotten, outmoded by a televised House and political websites and blogs. In short, the floor of the House is a meaningless stage except during that British parliamentary holdover -- the 45 minutes of highly organized, ultra-competitive nastiness called question period.

The influence of cabinet ministers has declined most of all. There were 22 in cabinet when I came to Ottawa 49 years ago. By the end of Jean Chretien's regime, the total was up to 39, a considerable dilution.

Only one ministry still stands out: Finance. No longer do major cabinet ministers dominate a region or a field of particular importance. For years we've had no agriculture minister with the reach that Gene Whelan had just 30 years ago, no labour minister as important as Bryce Mackasey. It is unimaginable that we'll again see a minister as dominant in western Canada as was Jimmy Gardiner from 1935 to 1957, or one like C.D. Howe, all-powerful in the realm of business and industry.

### DARING INITIATIVES

Cabinet government has given way to prime ministerial government, and the main power centre is in the dovetailed operations of the Prime Minister's Office and Privy Council Office. PMO-PCO now has a staff of many hundreds. Compare that to the 20 or so who served Pearson, or the dozen who staffed Mackenzie King's PMO.



If my comments so far suggest I'm dour and negative about the trends in our politics and government, let me point out that since 1957, governments have been creative and experimental. There has been an immense number of daring and wide-reaching initiatives.

The welfare state was largely completed by the end of the Trudeau period. There were many federal innovations for the economy as well as for culture -- art, music, recreation and sport. Scores of federal boards, Crown corporations, foundations, and agencies were created and financed, and beginning with Brian Mulroney's government, many Crown companies were also done away with.

Ad hoc, non-governmental organizations framed and fostered many of these ideas and programs. As a consequence, it is hard to think of an interest the federal government hasn't dealt with, from subsidizing kids' hockey equipment to providing better wheelchair scooters for the elderly.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING?

What's more, although the House of Commons doesn't count anymore when it comes to debating important matters, such as federal-provincial relations or the fiscal pickle facing Canada's cities, debates still go on in other forums -- among lobby groups and non-governmental organizations as well as at the other two levels of government, provincial and municipal.

In closing this farewell column, I want to ask and try to answer the great question: Where is Canada going?

My guess is that Quebec, so central to our politics during my time, is unlikely to depart (a decade ago, I thought it would).

The demographics on births, immi-



**Fisher greets separatist icon René Levesque, circa 1964. A decade ago, Fisher thought Quebec would one day leave the country. Now he thinks that's unlikely**

gration and language preferences forecast a steady slippage of "la francophonie" in Canada. Within a quarter-century, I believe the West will be Canada's most powerful region -- the wealthiest, with the most federal clout. Meantime, Canada as a whole should be as prosperous as any country in the world, given our natural resources and people.

If there is any great and immediate question Canadians have to settle in the next decade, it is this: How do we come to sensible, workable terms with the most basic animus now affecting our polity, i.e., our rampant anti-Americanism?

If we cannot contain it and divert its force into a national determination to know our neighbours better and make them understand our grievances, we could face organized hostility and major troubles from the U.S.

To conclude, I wince when Canadians

brag of our vast land and our superior ways in health care and peacekeeping -- because bragging is so un-Canadian.

Nonetheless, at 86 and retiring, I am as positive about our country as I was in my 20s, coming home from the war.

In this century, there will be as much opportunity as there was a century ago in the opening up of our West, with the promise of a better society to the fore -- if we cultivate our politics sensibly.

Excelsior!

*Doug Fisher represented Port Arthur, Ontario as a member of the CCF from 1957 to 1961 and as a member of the NDP from 1961 to 1965*

# Political Passages

## *Beyond the Hill pays tribute to recently departed members*

*Because of the errors that slipped through our last issue, we are publishing the corrected obituaries of Cliff McIsaac and Judge John Gilbert.*



### **Mark Lorne Bonnell**

A retired senator and respected member of the community, the Honourable Dr. Lorne Bonnell passed away on October 9 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He was 83 years old.

Born in the rural community of Hopefield, Prince Edward Island, Dr. Bonnell set up a family practice in Kings County, a popular clinic that he maintained for close to 40 years. It is said that he brought more than 3,000 babies into this world. In 1951, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, where he held several ministerial positions. In 1971, he was appointed to the Senate by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau. He was particularly recognized for the report of his special Senate committee on post-secondary education. The Honourable Elizabeth Hubley paid tribute to the late Dr. Bonnell in the Senate, saying, "For most people in my province, Senator Bonnell was a living legend, having accomplished so much during his lifetime in his chosen profession of medicine and in the realm of politics and government. He was a man of great energy and purpose with a desire to make a difference in the lives of others." Husband of the late Ruby Bonnell (née Jardine), Dr. Bonnell leaves his children, Mark and Linda.



### **David Rooney**

David Rooney, a former Liberal MP for the Bonavista-Trinity-Conception riding of Newfoundland died on November 9th 2006 at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital in St-John's. He was 69.

Rooney won four straight elections in his riding, from 1972 to 1980. He was defeated in 1984 by Progressive Conservative Morrissey Johnson. He was born in 1937 in the town of Lower Island Cove on the Lower North Shore of Conception Bay. He went on to become a teacher prior to entering politics. As a politician, he was known as a hard working individual who focused on local issues rather than high profile provincial or federal issues.

In a recent interview with The Telegram (St. John's), Former Terra Nova MHA and past-president of the provincial Liberals, Tom Lush mentions that Rooney was also a reliable colleague: "I was in the opposition for a lot of those years when the federal Liberals were in government - we counted on them to help us and Dave Rooney was a guy I found I could count on," Lush says.

Lush also mentions Rooney's wife as a "key figure in all the success he had at the political and personal level."

Rooney is survived by his wife Ruth and his son David.



### **Cliff McIsaac**

A former Liberal MP for Battleford-Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Joseph Clifford McIsaac passed away at the age of 74 in Guelph, Ontario, on July 25th 2006 from complications associated with Alzheimer's disease. Born on Prince Edward Island in 1930, Dr. McIsaac graduated from the Nova-Scotia Agricultural College in 1950 and the Ontario Veterinary College in 1955. Dr. McIsaac owned and operated Unity Veterinary Clinic in Unity Saskatchewan. Later on he owned and operated Northwest Veterinary Clinic in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, a mixed practice with veterinary supplies. This was the first large animal clinic in Saskatchewan - a concept which has now spread across the Prairies. In 1964 Mr. McIsaac was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan and was reelected in 1967 and 1971. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1974 and was Liberal Party Whip for Prime Minister Trudeau. He served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport and the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion and chaired the committee on Regional and Economic Expansion. He was defeated in 1979 after which he occupied such positions as Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission and Chairman of the National Farm Products Marketing Council.

He is survived by his wife Marie McIsaac of Guelph and his six children.



### **John Gilbert**

Former NDP member John Gilbert passed away on August 7th 2006 in his 85th year. When Judge Gilbert became a lawyer, he first practiced law with the Salvation Army providing free legal counsel. He first ran as an NDP candidate in 1963 in the riding of Broadview-Greenwood in Toronto but was defeated. He ran again in 1965 and won, maintaining his seat until 1974. "The work that John did in Parliament was exemplary", says Jack Layton in an on-line tribute to the Judge. "He, alongside Tommy Douglas and Ed Broadbent, believed that fundamental elements of healthy and prosperous living should not come and go with the precocity of economic times; rather, he believed that the purpose of having a government was to defend the rights and the dignity of people from every social station, and to ensure that nobody had to go without the basic necessities of life."

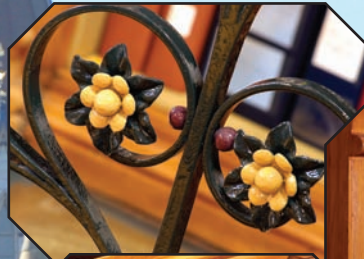
He also served his community for 15 years as an Ontario Judge.

He is the beloved husband of the late Nora Gilbert and is survived by his three children, John, Gwen and Peter.



# The new face of the Library

Photos by Mone Cheng





# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

## In our next issue...

**A look at the fine political art of heckling**

**An interview with Parliament's new Sergeant-at-Arms**

**An article on media embedding in Afghanistan**

*We encourage all members with ideas  
for an interesting interview, story,  
subject, debate, issue or book  
recommendations, to contact us.*

Beyond the Hill is the official publication of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. It 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. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this Mission Statement, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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