



Summer 2011



Some Honourable Members

Former Manitoba MLAs Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past months have found many of us at our Association activities, be it the Bear Pit session at Youth Parliament in December, the two Association winter luncheons with featured speakers Stuart Murray and Gerald Friesen, or a Teacher Institute. Reports on these activities and pictures are featured in this newsletter.

You are encouraged to attend two upcoming fall 2011 events: the **Speaker's Reception on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6 P.M.** in Room 254 at the Legislative Building, and our **Association Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 23, 10:30 A.M.** at the Norwood Hotel. It will be followed by a luncheon at 11:45 (cost: \$25) with a guest speaker.

I would like to thank Len Evans for all his work as Association President and newsletter Editor. Len has given many hours to these roles and continues to provide advice as Past President. We now need a newsletter editor. While we

wait for an Association member to step forward, I am coordinating the task with the help of other executive members and a computer expert, Karin Carlson. Please phone me at 269-2030 if you would like to volunteer.

Muriel Smith and Marty Dolin, executive members, have been involved in the initiation of a course at the University of Winnipeg that would focus on the life of a MLA, featuring a number of our members as speakers. We are waiting for approval of this exciting activity. We will need several volunteers to speak.

Thank you to Reg Alcock, David Neuman and Muriel Smith, our members, who represented our Association at the Teacher Institute sponsored by the Speaker's Office. Muriel reports on it in this newsletter.

Doreen Dodick, Membership Coordinator, continues to work hard on membership renewals. Your \$50 yearly contribution is our only source of income to finance the operation of our Association activities — it is crucial.

Please note that no expenses are paid to our executive and other volunteer members when they work on behalf of the Association. Help us continue our activities! Make your contribution today!

With the upcoming AGM, members will be asked to serve on the Executive. Please consider standing for office. The commitment means four meetings a year and helping with one aspect of our operation. We need you!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

~ Linda Asper, President ☀

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Speaker's Reception October 12, 2011

You are invited to attend the Speaker's Reception on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 6 P.M. in Room 254 of the Legislative Building.

Annual General Meeting

FMLA Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. at the Norwood Hotel. It will be followed by a luncheon at 11:45 (cost: \$25) with a guest speaker.

Retirement Events

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming "retiring from politics" celebrations..

Retirement Banquet for Len Derkach

Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Russell Community Hall. Cocktails will begin at 5:00 P.M., Dinner is at 6:00 P.M. Tickets will be available in early October.

Event for Peter George Dyck

To celebrate his retirement from politics, join us Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Agassiz Event Centre in Morden, Manitoba. More info to follow.

"Thank You" for Bonnie Korzeniowski

Celebrate Bonnie Korzeniowski's retirement from politics at a "Come and Go" at the St. James Legion Branch #4, 1755 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, from 7 to 10P.M. Cost is \$20 with a cash bar.

Next Luncheon: November 9th, 2011

The next AFMLA luncheon will take place November 9th, 2011 at the Norwood. Our Guest Speaker will be local historian and former MLA, Jean Friesen who will speak to us on the topic "We Are All Treaty People."

You, your friends and relations will all be welcome. Details to follow by regular mail.

Back Issues on Website

This is the 25^h issue of our Newsletter which can be viewed on our website. You can also download an electronic copy of this issue (and all back issues). Please visit the website by going to: www.formermanitobamla.ca.

Publication and Contact Information

Some Honourable Members is published twice yearly. Contributors: Linda Asper who oversaw the publication for this issue; Muriel Smith who contributed articles; Karin Carlson who designed and typeset the newsletter; and Marty Dolin and Clif Evans, who both contributed photography.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Honourary President.....Speaker George Hickes
- PresidentLinda Asper
- 1st Vice President Ed Helwer
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- Activities Coordinator..... Muriel Smith
- Newsletter Editor and Past President Len Evans
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- Harry Schellenberg Member-at-Large



7TH ANNUAL BEAR PIT

December 28, 2010

7th Annual Bear Pit a Roaring Success

The Youth Parliament of Manitoba continued its 89th Winter Session today, but the most exciting part of the day came when our youth parliamentarians had the opportunity to participate in the Bear Pit and Reception with former members of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

Besides current session members, and family, friends and alumni of YPM, former MLAs and Speaker George Hickes attended the evening event. Such guests included Reg Alcock, Clif Evans, Marty Dolin, Harry Schellenberg, Myrna Phillips, Al Mackling, Howard Pawley, Jack Reimer, Reg Alcock and Darren Praznik.

The evening began with a welcome from the Co-Ministers of Alumni Affairs, and the announcement of the annual MLA Essay Contest worth \$500. Harry Schellenberg stated that the intent of the essay contest is “to explore and promote the world of politics.”

The next item on the evening’s agenda were the YPM Senate elects, which saw the appointment of three YPM alumni to the senate . The new senators include Paul Taylor (79th – 83rd sessions), Tynne

(Continued on page 5)

“Within systems where there are people with higher positions; it’s not because they are brighter... it’s because they are able to see more.”

~Reg Alcock



“If you’re interested in public life, get a mentor.”

~Darren Praznik





SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS



(Continued from page 3)

Petrowski (82nd – 86th sessions), and Amy Dhillon (80th – 88th sessions). The appointment of YPM senators is based on their history of long-term commitment to the organization.

“We will marshal an enthusiasm, an enthusiasm leading us towards a better world.”

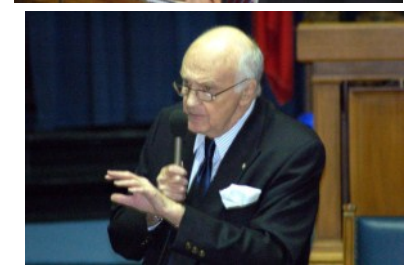
~Howard Pawley

Another award that was presented at today’s Bear Pit was the Educator Appreciation Award. This year’s presentation was made by House Leader Alyssa Morrison and was presented to Ed Dow, a history teacher from Stonewall Collegiate in Stonewall, Manitoba. Mr. Dow’s longtime support and recruitment of his history students for YPM made him an excellent recipient for this year’s award. Unfortunately he could not be there to accept the award himself but sent his regards.

The final presentation of the evening was the Alumni Achievement Award. This presentation was made by YPM Speaker Jennifer Pawluk, and this year’s recipient was Darren Praznik (54th – 62nd sessions). Mr. Praznik was recognized for his achievements both in YPM and in his own personal political career as a Manitoba MLA.

Finally, the long-awaited “Q and A” portion of this year’s Bear Pit began; as Reg Alcock, Darren Praznik and Howard Pawley were questioned on a range of topics such as northern Manitoban reserves, voter apathy and mandatory voting, their personal and public lives, and what they felt was their greatest achievements. ⚙️

Source: Youth Parliament of Manitoba website



“Education is the greatest raiser of people.... It is with education that we raise our lives.”

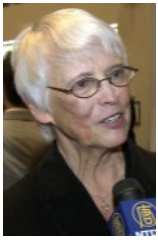
~Darren Praznik





TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

April 17, 2011



Muriel Smith

The Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy, an initiative of Speaker George Hickes, took place on Sunday afternoon, April 17th

and throughout the following week.

The Institute is a non-political professional development seminar for Manitoba educators which provides opportunities for teachers to become completely immersed in Manitoba's system of democracy. It is coordinated by JoAnn McKerlie-Korol from the Speaker's office.

The first Panel in the series was the Cabinet Minister Panel in which Reg Alcock, David Newman and I had the privilege to participate, each of us having served under

different political regimes. Its purpose was to help educators understand the role that cabinet ministers play.

The questions the panelists were asked by the moderator to address were:

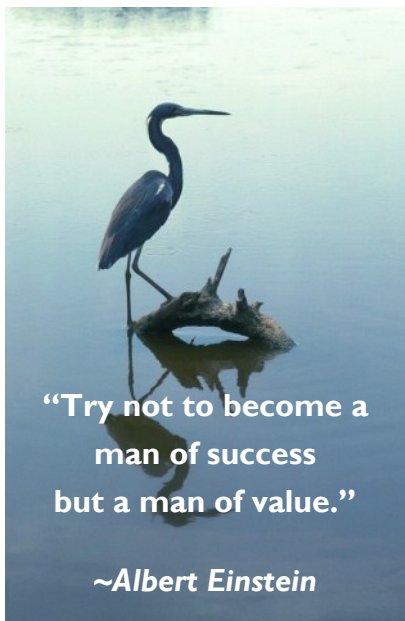
1. What is a Cabinet Minister? How does it differ from the role of a backbencher?
2. How does an MLA become a Cabinet Minister? Do background and experience have a bearing on what portfolio an MLA is assigned?
3. What kind of decisions are discussed and made in cabinet? What was the most difficult part of your role as a Cabinet Minister?
4. Can you explain what your role was in question period?
5. Does the role of a Cabinet Minister in the Federal Government differ from that in a Provincial Government?
6. Can you please describe for us the role a Cabinet Minister plays relating to the House, to the Standing Committees and to Committee of Supply?

7. Can you be a minister of the Crown without being an MLA? Why and when would this type of situation occur?
8. What happens in a cabinet shuffle?

As you can see, there was a great deal of scope for each panelist to consider when sharing their experience. The one hour time allotted to the Panel sped by all too quickly as each panelist warmed to the task. It was followed by a lively question-and-answer period for the educators to participate. Feedback indicated the educators had been well satisfied by this kickoff to the series. In their evaluations, they commented on the openness and honesty each panelist had shown.

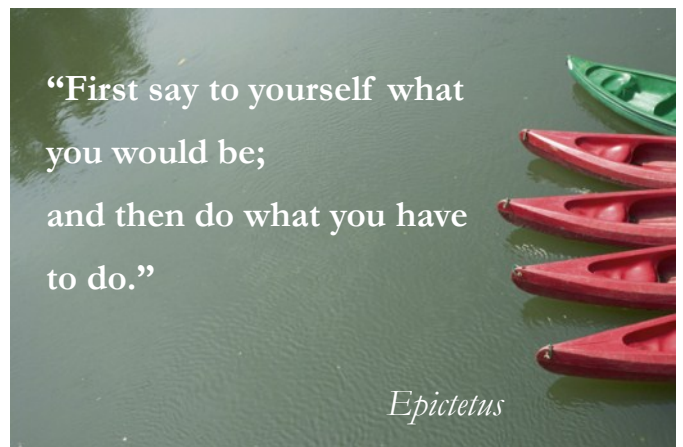
I think the three of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we explored and rediscovered the intensity and personal meaning of our collective past while serving as cabinet ministers.

By Muriel Smith ✨



“Try not to become a man of success but a man of value.”

~Albert Einstein



“First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.”

Epictetus

AFMLA FEBRUARY 1ST LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker: Stuart Murray



Stuart Murray, CEO of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, spoke to a packed gathering of AFMLA members and guests on February 1st. David Newman introduced Stuart, citing his impressive list of community activities as well as highlights from his professional



and political careers.

An affable and personable speaker, Stuart began with a description of his first day on the job, in a bare office with a desk and chair, nothing on the walls and no telephone. This began his Journey of Learning as he was brought up to date on “Izzy’s” concept of a Museum of ideas, not artifacts. It is hoped that, as each visitor, experiences his or her individual Journey of Learning, he or she will emerge not only with deeper understanding of the struggles underlying the securing of each human right, but also its multi-faceted aspects and the diversity of views surrounding it. The goal is for each visitor to be ready to make a personal commitment to continue the struggles to advance the human rights of all.



He then moved to the architecture of the building and the mysteries of its construction: 30 plus caissons of concrete

going 30 feet down into the prairie soil. There is no real basement so as to permit future archeological digs under the building. Here, Mr. Murray stopped to

recognize that the Museum will stand on Treaty One land. Rising from below ground level are four massive Root structures supporting two towers clothed in curving panels of glass that in combination resemble the wings of a dove. The interior will have ramps that spiral upwards through 12 galleries to the topmost Hall, directly under the crowning Tower of Hope. All the steel, concrete and glass has been specially manufactured and conditioned to withstand Winnipeg’s extremes of temperature, precipitation and wind.



This remarkable building and its contents will have extraordinary impacts on Tourism and will become a “must see” destination particularly for students, particularly for students of high school age and older. Its influence is re-enforced by other human rights institutions in Winnipeg: the Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at

(Continued on page 9)



Association of Former Manitoba MLAs Membership Contribution

Attached is my annual contribution.

\$50 Other Amount \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please send your cheque payable to:

**Association of Former Manitoba MLAs
c/o Marty Dolin, Treasurer**

**140 Canora Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1S9**

Note: All former Manitoba MLAs are automatically members of the Association. However, an optional annual contribution of \$50 or more is requested to assist in paying various administration and operating costs.



(Continued from page 7)

the University of Manitoba, the Global College at the University of Winnipeg and the Peace and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Canadian Mennonite University.

Visitors proceed through the permanent galleries for Indigenous Rights and the Holocaust, the latter being



recognized for the impetus its horrors gave to the passage in 1948 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Material for the museum is being collected through community consultations and the compilation of oral histories. The focus will be Canadian but the scope will be global.

The discussion period that followed reflected the excitement and enthusiasm of the audience, and Roland Penner's witty and personal thank you words were a

fitting conclusion. President Linda Asper then presented the speaker with an AFMLA framed certificate and honorarium, quipping, "Now you have something to put up on your walls."

By Muriel Smith ☀

Next Luncheon: November 9th, 2011

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jean Friesen

Save November 9th for AFMLA's next luncheon at the Norwood.

Speaker will be local historian and former MLA, Dr.

Jean Friesen, who will speak to us on the topic "We Are All Treaty People."

You, your friends and relations will all be welcome. Details to follow by regular mail.



Dr. Jean Friesen

Born in England in 1943, Dr. Jean Friesen emigrated to Canada in 1960. She attended McGill (B.A., 1964) and UBC (PhD, 1969). She worked at the National Museum in Ottawa as a historian from 1967 to 1973, and since then has taught Aboriginal History at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Friesen was elected to the Legislature as the MLA for Wolseley in 1999, and she served as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Deputy Premier from 1999-2003. She returned to the University in 2004 and has conducted research on the making of Treaty 1 and on Alexander Dallas, Governor of the HBC at Red River College.

Source: Wikipedia ☀



AFMLA APRIL 13TH LUNCHEON Speaker: Historian Dr. Gerald Friesen



Second Luncheon speaker, historian Dr. Gerald Friesen, leaves audience puzzling: “Does Manitoba have a Political Tradition?”

Local historian, Dr. Friesen, popularly known as “Gerry”, gave an engaging and thoughtful talk on the always perplexing question: *Does Manitoba have a political tradition?* The occasion was the second



Association of Former Members of the Legislative Assembly (AFMLA) 2011 luncheon, held on April 13th at the Norwood Hotel.

The talk opened with the promotion of a recently published book of essays edited by Paul Thomas and Curtis Brown: *Manitoba Politics and Government: Issues, Institutions, Traditions*. The material was drawn from a three day November 2008 conference sponsored by the Roblin Professorship at St. John’s College, UM. Dr. Friesen drew heavily on his own essay, the first in the book, entitled *The Manitoba Political Tradition*.

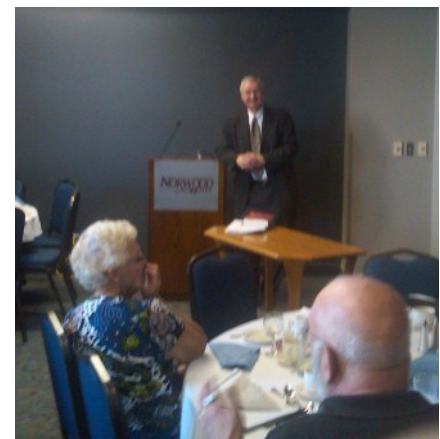


He described different perspectives of the concept “political tradition”: American academic Richard Hofstadter maintained that while political coverage by popular media tended to focus on the importance of conflict and personality, he believed the underlying drive towards building consensus was more significant. The research Dr. Friesen had undertaken for his contribution involved interviews with past premiers and political insiders, media reports and his own knowledge of Manitoba history. While the media reported conflict, the interviewees largely emphasized the tendency towards consensus, or “reasonable accommodation” as one insider put it. They attributed this to several factors: Manitoba’s mid-Canada location which fostered a mediating role between East and West, and to , its small but diverse and relatively stable population.



Dr. Friesen posited another more complex approach, that of identifying important themes or fault lines that have underlain Manitoba politics and made the achievement of consensus anything but automatic.. He Friesen presented examples of the themes or fault lines he had detected in Manitoba’s history. Each in its particular way producing deep differences of opinion, struggle and debate.

The themes of division he selected were based differing perspectives of major groupings, cultures and political philosophies. The groups were: the aboriginal,



(Continued on page 11)

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT

Ambassador Gary Doer, LL.D (Hon.), O.M.



Gary Doer, LL.D
(Hon.), O.M.

Brandon University is pleased to announce the conferral of a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) upon Canada's Ambassador to the United States and Manitoba's former

Premier, Gary Doer. In October 2009, Mr. Doer assumed his responsibilities as Canada's 23rd representative to the United States of America.

Prior to taking up his current position in Washington D.C., Ambassador Doer served as Premier of Manitoba for ten years. During that time, he worked extensively with U.S. Governors to enhance Canada-U.S. cooperation on trade, agriculture, water protection, climate change and renewable energy.

Ambassador Doer, who hails from Winnipeg, won three consecutive elections as Premier of Manitoba with successive increased majorities. In 2005, he was named by Business Week magazine as one of the top 20 international leaders on climate change.

His government introduced balanced budgets during each of his ten years in office while reducing many taxes, including a plan to eliminate small business tax.

As Premier, he led strategic investments in health care, education, and training and infrastructure.

Doer has frequently argued in favour of Canada's public health system. Doer's government introduced a landmark anti-smoking bill in 2004, banning smoking in all indoor public places and workplaces across the province. Supported by all

parties, the legislation was the first of its kind in Canada.

In early 2003, Doer signed a \$160 million deal with the federal government for expansion work on the Red River Floodway. The floodway expansion was described as the largest infrastructure project in Manitoba history, and was started in late 2005.

Doer's government increased Manitoba's minimum wage several times between 2000 and 2008. In 2005, the Doer government introduced a bill to expand provincial workers' compensation coverage.

"We are pleased to honour this distinguished Manitoban who has served our province and our nation so well and for so long," said Deborah Poff, Brandon University's President and Vice-Chancellor. ⚙️

Sources: Brandon University

(Continued from page 10)

First Nations and Metis; rural settlers with different ethnic groupings north and south of what we now know as highway #1; urban working people; French Canadians; immigrants, women; and the ruling and mostly business class. The tensions produced by cultural factors were those between individualism and collectivism, varieties of Christian Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, different ethnicities and classes, and modernists and traditionalists. Political tensions fell into several periods: the first up to the 1960's marked by profound disagreements and conflicts, the second and post-Roblin era by general acceptance of the rules of the political game with accommodation being the norm, and finally the third and current period where struggles persist between philosophies, the neo-liberalists who see the role of government as agents of restraint and

stability, and the social democrats who see the role of governments as an agent of equalization and reform.

The picture he gave of Manitoba's political tradition was a richly nuanced one. He left his audience tantalizingly hanging on the initial question - *Does Manitoba have a political tradition?* This would require further deliberation by all those present. The lively question and answer period that followed kicked off that deliberative process. ⚙️



By Muriel Smith



HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT

The Honourable Gary Filmon, LL.D (Hon.), O.C., O.M.



Gary A. Filmon
LL.D (Hon.), O.C., O.M.

University of Manitoba Honorary Degrees

The University of Manitoba bestowed honorary degrees upon nine individuals during the 132nd annual Spring Convocation. Honorary degrees are given to those who have achieved preeminence in human rights, medicine, voluntarism and Manitoba politics.

Gary A. Filmon

A dedicated public servant and volunteer, Gary Filmon led Manitoba as its Premier and contributed to the economic and social growth of the province.

A University of Manitoba graduate, Mr. Filmon is a registered engineer by profession, but he found his calling in public service. He served as a member of the Winnipeg City Council prior to his first being elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1979. In 1981 he was Minister of Environment, and he also served as chair of the Manitoba Roundtable on Sustainable Development.

Leader of Manitoba PC Party

In 1983 he became leader of the Manitoba Progressive Conservative Party – a position he held until his retirement from politics in 2000. During his tenure, he steered the province through a recession, the 1997 Red

River flood, and the worst wildfires in Manitoba’s history, which burned in 1989. The province’s response included the evacuation of thousands of residents in northern Manitoba and the co-ordination of interdepartmental efforts, including working in close conjunction with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg. In 2003, he was commissioned by the government of British Columbia to undertake a survey of forest fires in that province.

Retirement


Upon retiring from politics, Mr. Filmon was appointed to the federal Security Intelligence Review Committee, an independent body that oversees the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. He has also worked as a business consultant and was elected chairman of the board of trustees for the Exchange Industrial Income Fund and was vice chairman for Wellington West Capital Inc.

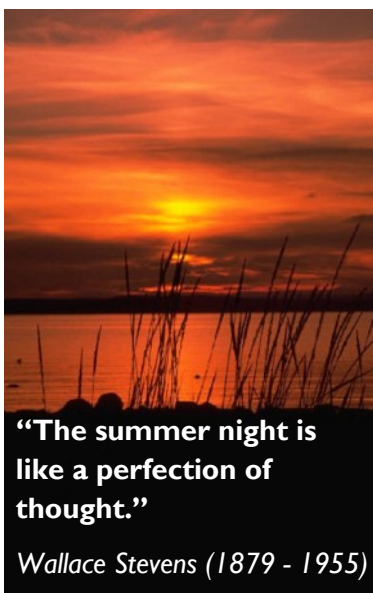
Community Involvement

Among his other community activities, he has served as President of the University of Manitoba Alumni Association, and as President of the Association of Canadian Career Colleges. He is a member of the Senate of the University of Manitoba, Director of the Administrative Management Society and Director of the Red River Exhibition Board.

Awards

His awards and honours include a Community Service Award from the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, B’nai B’rith Canada Award of Merit, a Ukrainian Canadian Congress Tribute Dinner and together with his wife, Janice, he received the University of Manitoba the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005. Mr. Filmon is also a Member of the Order of Manitoba as well as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Source: University of Manitoba website 



“The summer night is like a perfection of thought.”

Wallace Stevens (1879 - 1955)

IN MEMORIAM

Sterling Rufus Webster Lyon, O.C., O.M., Q.C.

Sterling Rufus Lyon, O.C., 1927 to 2010, was a lawyer, cabinet minister, and the 17th Premier of Manitoba from 1977 to 1981. Born in Windsor, Ontario, Lyon moved with his family to Manitoba at a young age. He graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1948 and received an LL.B from the Manitoba Law School in 1953. Following the completion of his legal education, he worked as a crown attorney for the next four years.

Manitoba Legislature 1958

Lyon was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1958 for Fort Garry. A Progressive Conservative, he was named Attorney General in Dufferin Roblin's minority government. He subsequently served as Minister of Municipal Affairs and then Minister of Public Utilities and Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

Left Politics

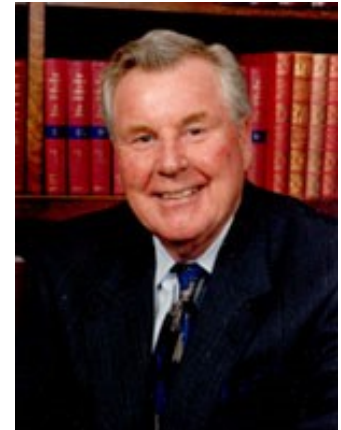
He left politics in 1969 only to return in 1975 by being elected PC leader. Lyon led the Party to an upset victory of Schreyer's NDP in 1977. Lyon was personally elected in Charleswood. Lyon's government was defeated in 1981 by the NDP. He served as Leader of the Opposition for two years, then stepped down as leader. He retired from politics in 1986.

Lyon was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1986. He retired in 2002. He died after a brief illness on December 16, 2010.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Lyon was sworn into the Privy Council in 1982. He was chosen for the University of Winnipeg's "Distinguished Alumnus Award" in 2009.

That same year, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada for his contribution as a judge and long-time politician in Manitoba, where, as premier, he led the expansion of community-based health and social services, and modernized governmental and financial procedures.



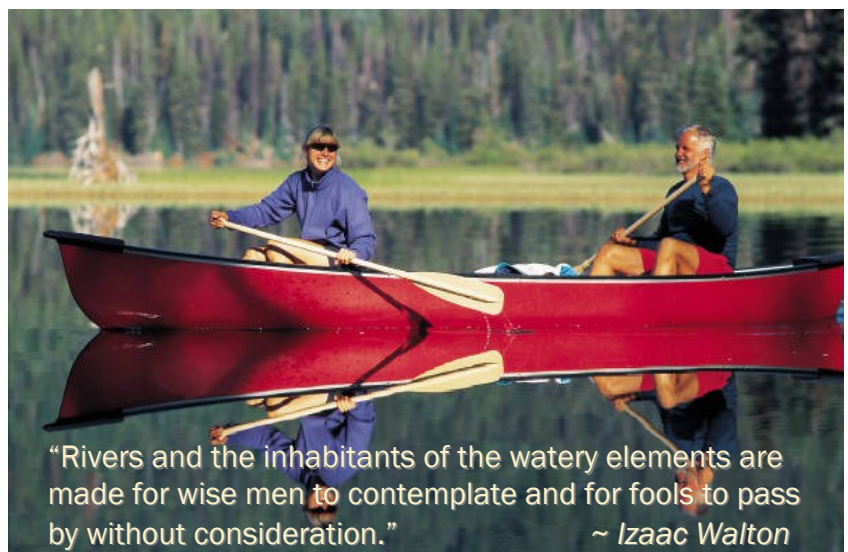
Sterling Rufus Webster Lyon
O.C., O.M., Q.C.

(Fort Garry 1958–69,
Souris-Killarney 1976–77,
Charleswood 1977–86)

The Sterling Lyon Parkway in Winnipeg was completed and opened to traffic in 2005.

He loved spending time at the cottage, and was a longstanding member of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

Source: Wikipedia 



"Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration."
~ Izaak Walton



IN MEMORIAM Samuel (Sam) Uskiw



Samuel Uskiw
(Brokenhead, 1966–69,
Lac du Bonnet 1969–86)

Sam Uskiw passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Selkirk General Hospital, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his wife Olga. He will be sadly missed by his children Jan (Ken), Rose, Roger (June), Barry (Cyndy) and Tammy, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sam was born on October 18, 1933. After completing his education at Patapun School, he sought employment by working for the Little Gallery in Winnipeg and the T. Eaton Company in the bakery and printing departments. In one year, Sam managed to save \$125 and decided to head east to find work. Farm help was needed in Ontario so he worked on a mixed farm in Ingersoll. He worked at various other jobs after the harvest and then moved to work for the Toronto Hamilton Buffalo Railway.

In 1953, Sam returned home to the farm and found employment at MTS, then at Jenkinson meat market as a butcher for ten years. In 1955, Sam’s father passed away so Sam assumed full responsibility for the farm as well as selling insurance.

True Calling

Sam’s true calling in life was politics. From an early age, he was exposed to politics by his father and attended many meetings with him. Later in life, Sam decided to support the NDP and was first elected in 1966 as MLA for Brokenhead and then Lac du Bonnet. During his 20 year run in politics, Sam held several ministerial positions, including agriculture, cooperative development, government services, highways and transportation, business development and tourism and natural resources. He served under two premiers, Ed Schreyer and Howard Pawley.



“In summer, the song sings itself.”

William Carlos Williams
(1883 - 1963)

Life After Politics

After politics, Sam started a consulting business and also helped his two sons with their business. He loved to escape the snow for a while, his favorite place being Waikiki. Sam loved to work in his yard as shown by his well manicured lawns, flowers galore and spotless pool area. ☀

*Source: Gilbert Funeral Home
Obituary*



“Life has no smooth road for any of us; and in the bracing atmosphere of a high aim the very roughness stimulates the climber to steadier steps, till the legend, over steep ways to the stars, fulfills itself.”

W. C. Doane

IN MEMORIAM

Albert Driedger

Albert Driedger (January 18, 1936 – July 18, 2011) was a politician in Manitoba, Canada. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1977 to 1999, and a cabinet minister in the government of Gary Filmon from 1988 to 1997.

Driedger was born in Steinbach, Manitoba, and was educated at the University of Manitoba. He returned to the Steinbach area after graduation, and worked as a real estate broker and farmer. Between 1967 and 1972, he served as reeve of the municipality of Hanover. He was also a director of the Elim Mennonite Church. On July 15, 1970, his frog Georges won the First International Frog Jumping Championship in St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba, as part of a series of festivities surrounding a royal visit.

Elected to the Manitoba Legislature

Driedger was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the provincial election of 1977 as a Progressive Conservative, defeating incumbent New Democrat Steve Derewianchuk by about 1000 votes in the rural southeastern riding of Emerson. For the next four years, he served as a backbench MLA supporting the Progressive Conservative government of Sterling Lyon.

The NDP defeated Lyon's government in the 1981 provincial election, although Driedger was able to retain Emerson by 356 votes over his NDP challenger Paul Dupuis. He was re-elected by a greater majority in the 1986 election, which the NDP won by a narrow margin.

Appointed Minister of Government Services

In 1988, disgruntled NDP backbencher Jim Walding brought down his government and forced a new election. Driedger was again re-elected without difficulty, and was appointed Minister of Government Services and Minister of Highways and Transportation on May 9, 1988.

Following redistribution, Driedger ran for re-election in the riding of Steinbach in the provincial election of 1990; he once again won without any difficulty. He lost his position as government services minister on February 5, 1991, and on September 10, 1993, was transferred from highways and transportation to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Once again, he experienced no difficulties in the 1995 provincial election. Driedger supported Jean Charest's bid to lead the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in 1993 (Winnipeg Free Press, 12 June 1993). Driedger was dropped from cabinet on January 6, 1997, and did not seek re-election in 1999. Driedger died on July 18, 2011, at the age of 75, days after suffering a stroke. ☀



Albert Driedger
(Emerson, 1977–90,
Steinbach, 1990–99)

Source: Wikipedia



“Most of the shadows of this life are caused by our standing in our own sunshine.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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