

The Speaker

The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society's Official Newsletter

Fall 2001

Premier's Report



Greetings,

As the out-going Premier of the 72nd BC Youth Parliament (BCYP), I am very happy to say that this unique service organization has continued to fulfill its motto of "youth serving youth" for another year.

This year, BCYP has had several successful events, which have allowed the 93 Members to come together and work as a team to serve and educate British Columbia's youth. Such projects include volunteering for the **Union Gospel Mission, Variety Club Telethon**, and organizing a "**Mini Day-Camp**" for young children.

However, BCYP's largest service project continues to be **Camp Phoenix**, a week-long summer camp for children who would otherwise

Continued page 3

Inside this issue...

AGM

**Call for new
Senators**

**Update from the
Premier**

Camp Phoenix

**New BCYP
Website now
online**

AGM: Call for Senate Nominations

By Bea McCutcheon

At the Annual General Meeting on **November 17, 2001**, the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society will be electing its Board of Directors for 2001 – 2002.

The Board of Directors organizes and supervises BCYP's legislative session in December, reviews the legislation passed and activities proposed at Session, and oversees BCYP's activities throughout the year. The Board meets approximately every six weeks. Usually the Board meets in person once in Vancouver and once in Victoria, with the rest of the meetings taking place by teleconference.

Board members can take on additional responsibilities such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Returning Officer, Executive Director, or Alumni Affairs, or serve as general directors.

If you'd like to get involved (or get involved again) with the Board of Directors, please contact **Bea McCutcheon** for additional information or to put your name forward to the Nominations Committee. You can contact Bea by phone at (250) 384-5960 or by email at bea@uvic.ca.

The AGM will be held at 11 a.m. in the AMS Council Chambers (SUB Room 206) at the University of British Columbia (registration begins at 10:30). All alumni are invited to attend.

Camelot and Camp Phoenix



Happy Campers!

The first Camp Phoenix of the millennium was a return to simpler times. Campers swam in a moat, ate food with chopsticks, and spent much of their day honing skills at the foundry and archery range.

Centred around the theme of "**King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table**", Camp Phoenix 2001 was held at the **Kwomais United Church** site in Surrey, BC from August 25 to 31. Camelot, as the site was known, was the home of 36 successful knights- and ladies-in-training.

Camp Phoenix's return to the Lower Mainland had its fair share of the petty crime normally attributed to urban areas. No sooner than the morning after the first campfire was the legendary bottle of magic ashes stolen from Arthur's Castle! The campers searched everywhere for clues: the dining scullery, throughout the forest, and all over the fields and knoll. When word came that Mordred, the local prankster, had swiped the ceremonial heirloom, the campers were ready to beat him at his own game. If not for the honour of Camelot, then for having been forced to use chopsticks, strainers and spatulas to eat a roast ham and mashed potatoes dinner!

The campers had a few tricks of their own for Mordred. In a classic counter-intelligence ploy, the camp schedule was reversed for an entire

The Speaker Fall 2001

day. Mordred was clearly unprepared to see the camp eat pasta for breakfast, or ham and eggs for dinner! The plan was clearly a success, as Mordred surrendered in disgust and returned the legendary Phoenix campfire ashes.

2001 was a great year for Camp Phoenix, and plans are well underway for Camp Phoenix 2002! Many special thanks to **Kerry Simmons**, Camp Director and Chair of the **Camp Steering Committee**, as well as **Rhonda Vanderfluit**, **Robyn Marshall**, **John Baatz** and **Negin Mirriahi** for their invaluable support on the steering committee.

For more information on Camp Phoenix and other projects underway in BCYP, please visit our web site at <http://www.bcyp.org>.

Aniz Alani
Camp Administrator
Camp Phoenix 2001
Premier, 73rd British Columbia Youth
Parliament



On the water at Camp Phoenix



Message from the premier (cont.)

not be able to attend a summer camp due to social or financial circumstances. This year 40 children were given the opportunity to have a memorable and safe week at Camp Phoenix (held at **Camp Kwomais** in Surrey, BC). The time and effort of BCYP's Members have allowed Camp Phoenix to be held for the 33rd time.

To help raise funds for Camp Phoenix, BCYP's members organized the **10th Annual Sweet Dreams Auction**. This event was held at the Arbutus Club (in Vancouver) in late spring and was attended by alumni, friends, and community figures. A big thank you to all those who attended!

Furthermore, five **Regional Youth Parliaments**, which were organized and attended by BCYP Members, were held across the province this year allowing younger youths (between the ages of 14-18) to learn about the parliamentary process. Regional Youth Parliaments were successfully held in Vancouver, Lower Mainland East area, Kootenays, Thompson-Okanagan, and on Vancouver Island.

It has been a great pleasure to be a Member of BCYP and I am very glad that this organization continues to exist today (and I have no doubt that it will for years to come) to educate youths about our parliamentary system and to give them an opportunity to gain valuable life-long skills.

Negin Mirriahi
Premier
72nd BC Youth Parliament



BCYP is on the Web!

Check out our newly renovated site, including a new section for alumni!

youth serving youth - www.bcyp.org

New Alumni Email

The Alumni Society now has a new BCYP email address:

alumni@bcyp.org

In the coming months, we will be working with the wise BCYP webmasters to develop the new alumni section of the BCYP web site.

If you have suggestions for this space, or a story you would like to submit to the newsletter, please email it to our new address! You can also mail it to **Lisa Buckley, 1804 – 1238 Richards Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6M6**



The Alumni Society needs your support!

For decades, the Youth Parliament Alumni Society has provided valuable support for BCYP. As the official sponsor, we organize and resource the annual session for youth from across the province. It provides a valuable opportunity for youth to gain leadership experience, and encourages a spirit of volunteerism and community responsibility through individual and group service projects.

In this era of increasing government fiscal restraint, our grants have decreased. Additionally, our operating expenses for the session, including transportation and accommodation for members have continued to rise. We are attempting to keep session fees at reasonable level to encourage a diverse group of participants, and are actively pursuing alternative fundraising opportunities.

Alumni contributions to BCYP, such as participation in the annual auction are of tremendous help to keep initiatives like Camp Phoenix alive, and we thank you very much for those of you who attended this year.

We would also ask at this time that you consider donating to the Alumni Society to help us make this year's session a success.

Yes, I want to help support the Alumni Society sponsor BCYP! Please send your donation along with this card to:

*The Youth Parliament of British Columbia
Alumni Society
c/o 1804 – 1238 Richards Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6M6*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Volunteering is a great way to make a contribution!

Alumni can volunteer by becoming a senator or sitting on groups that support and mentor BCYP members, such as the Camp Phoenix steering group.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Bea **McCutcheon** at (250) 384-5960 or by email at bea@uvic.ca