

THE SPEAKER

Spring 2007
78th Session, Issue 1

News from the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year to our alumni! We hope you enjoy this update of activities about Senate, BCYP, and fellow alumni members.

On behalf of the Board, I thank the alumni who made contributions to the Society's operating fund last fall to help us deal with the year's shortfall. We are truly grateful. I have had several requests for information about ways to donate to the Society directly and to the Youth Parliament Fund at the Victoria Foundation, as well as requests for confirmation of the full name of the society when it is included as a beneficiary in a will. Thank you for financially supporting the continued success of this organization. We provide a unique opportunity for youth to learn about the parliamentary process and to develop a commitment to their community. Thank you!

At the Annual General Meeting in November, Jason Herbert, Jocelyn Fung and Swithin D'Souza, did not stand for re-election. Each of them contributed to the success of Senate and Parliament in the past years. Julia Lockhart joined Senate after an amazing six years in BCYP during which she received the Inspiring New Member Award in 2001, the Bond Shield in 2004 and 2006, and the Paynter Memorial Award for Leadership in 2002 and 2006. Julia assumed the role of Executive Director.

As always, if you would like more detailed information about something you read in the Speaker or wish to comment on the work of the Board, please contact me at kerrysimmons@hotmail.com or 250-480-9145.

Kerry Simmons
Chair

News about your fellow Alumni

May 2006, Alan Ip was called to the bar
August 2006, Bea McCutcheon was married
July 2007, Victor Urban (formerly Tuomi) and his wife, Kate, are expecting the birth of their first child

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Who are the Senators?

Kerry Simmons, Chair
Alan Ip, Vice Chair
Julia Lockhart, Executive Director
Jenn Jay, Chief Returning Officer
Dora Turje, Registrar
Simon Philp, Secretary
Rahim Meghji, Treasurer
Katrina Wang, Assistant Treasurer
Negin Mirriahi, Alumni Affairs
Bea McCutcheon
Sang-Kiet Ly
Natalie Barnes
Travis Wong, Premier

The Speaker in your Inbox

If you would like to receive your next copy of The Speaker electronically via E-mail rather than by snail mail, please send the Director of Alumni Affairs (alumni.affairs@bcyp.org) an e-mail indicating your full name, current mailing address, and e-mail address. The Alumni Society of the BC Youth Parliament maintains complete confidentiality and does not sell or trade any names, addresses or alumni information. All information you supply is kept confidential and secure and will be used to distribute the Society's official newsletter and information about the BC Youth Parliament. The Speaker will be sent to you as a .pdf document and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader (free to download) to view it.

78th Session in Review From the Registrar...

At Session this year we had close to a full House, a definite improvement over last year's slight slump in membership numbers. BCYP this year has 92 members, and if not for a few last-minute cancellations would have had a full 95.

Some interesting facts about this year's membership are as follows. The regional breakdown is 67 members from the Lower Mainland (including the Fraser Valley), 17 from the Interior, and 8 from the Island. There are 58 new members and 34 returning members, including three retiring members (aged 21 as of Session). Of the 92 members, 53 are female and 39 are male, which is the highest number of male members that BCYP has had in five years.

From the Sessional Affairs Director...

Session 2006 was, if I do say so myself, a tremendous success! This year was a great blend of old and new traditions that combined to make an amazing week. The members arrived on December 27th to the Harbour Towers Hotel in downtown Victoria. They proceeded to the legislature for a welcome event in the Ned de Beck members' lounge. After the opening ceremonies and traditional reply-to-the-speech-from-the-throne speeches, the members capped off their first day with a night of mixers at the hotel.

Day 2 began with a photo at the legislature and a trip to government house. This is the 58th year that the parliamentarians have visited government house for a tour. This year in addition to the tour, the parliamentarians had coffee and pastries while the Lieutenant Governor's private secretary spoke about the role of the Lieutenant Governor in a parliamentary democracy. December 29th featured a tour of the legislature as well as a workshop on donations and fundraising (the "bonds" for the older alumni). The day concluded with a dance at the hotel.

The fourth day of session, December 30th, turned out to be "free food" day for the members. Lunch was provided by the Beta Sigma Phi, a tradition which dates back to 1974 when BCYP first admitted women. The sandwiches, fruit and desserts were enjoyed by all. This year for the first time the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) sponsored a closing banquet and awards dinner for the members of youth parliament. The PCC has a mandate to celebrate and connect the capital with all British Columbians. The dinner was held at the hotel and

There are two children of BCYP alumni, three pairs of siblings, and two siblings of recent alumni in the current membership. Anyone who is interested in more detailed statistics on the membership should feel free to contact me (see below).

As has been the case for some time, transportation of Lower Mainland and Interior members to and from Victoria was arranged with Pacific Coach Lines. A special "thank you" is due to PCL for providing the Society with a substantial discount on the charter rate for their services. The savings of almost \$700 allowed the members to continue to have the opportunity to travel to Victoria in comfort. PCL's excellent service and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dora Turje
Registrar

featured an entertaining presentation by the director of outreach on the history and significance of the capital. Members had a great time, and I look forward to building on this relationship next year.

Session continues to be the highlight of the parliamentary year for most members as well as the Alumni Society's largest contribution to leadership development in youth parliament. By continually striving to improve the sessional experience for members, the Board is making a conscious effort not to "rest on our laurels" but rather to explore new ways to make December 27-31 the best days of the year for 95 young people!

Julia Lockhart
Sessional Affairs Director

SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know any youth aged 16-20 who might be interested in BCYP? If you do, let them know about BCYP and what a great opportunity it is! Feel free to pass on my contact information to interested young people, or to get in touch with me yourself if you have ideas for recruitment or you would like copies of the recruitment material when it is available.

Dora Turje
Registrar
registrar@bcyp.org or 604.728.0446

From the Chief Returning Officer...

First and foremost I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope all had a memorable Holiday Season. My holiday was indeed quite memorable; I served at the 78th Session of BCYP as CRO. This was my inaugural year in this role and it failed to disappoint my expectations. Once members settled into Session, I was completely thrilled at how engaged both new and returning members were with all that took place in and outside of the House and how they made my job effortless through their diligence and respect. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the following for being a wonderful source of support: Kerry, Julia, Dora, Claire, and Alan. I will be honest and say that I had some hesitation in taking on this role and hoped that I would be able to rise to this new challenge.

Interestingly enough, on my ferry ride over to Victoria, I came across a quote from a poem by Robert Lee Frost, "On A Tree Fallen Across The Road". I will be the first to admit that poems in general do not inspire me. But this particular one came at the right time and gave me the confidence I needed. In sharing this, my hope is that it serves as a quaint reminder to those who know it well and inspiration to those who are new to this one:

The tree the tempest with a crash of wood
Throws down in front of us is not to bar
Our passage to our journey's end for good,
But just to ask us who we think we are

Insisting always on our own way so.
She likes to halt us in our runner tracks,
And make us get down in a foot of snow
Debating what to do without an ax.

And yet she knows obstruction is in vain:
We will not be put off the final goal
We have it hidden in us to attain,
Not though we have to seize earth by the pole

And, tired of aimless circling in one place,
Steer straight off after something into space.

Our members will face many challenges this upcoming year and I have faith that, with the leadership provided by Cabinet, they will be fruitful in all they seek to endeavor. I encourage my fellow alumni who have not been acquainted with BCYP for some time to come out to our events and witness the spirit of today's youth and their commitment to BCYP's movement.

Jenn Jay
Chief Returning Officer

From the Premier...

Session was truly amazing. It was full of passionate debates, strict legislative procedures and entertaining Question Periods. Similar to previous Sessions, Cabinet proposed a variety of different pieces of legislation and all of them passed with vigor and resolve. There is no doubt that the Members of the 78th Parliament completely understand the commitment they have agreed to and I look forward to seeing what they can do.

This year, we will be running several major projects along with many smaller service projects in between. Regional Youth Parliaments will be happening once again and the Vancouver Youth Parliament is coming up in February. Our Sweet Dreams Dessert and Auction will be our biggest fundraiser and will be held at the Arbutus Club in Vancouver (please see our included ticket order form). We will also be holding a Youth Conference in Burnaby that will consist of workshops and speakers that target "at-risk" youth. Then finally, we will be holding Camp Phoenix, a weeklong summer camp that brings the entire Membership together.

Besides the work done in the Legislative buildings, we also partook in the usual evening and social activities. On

the second night, the Membership participated in Camp Night which shows Members what Camp is all about and gives them a taste of the spirit of the Phoenix Bird. On the third night, we danced till we dropped. Then on the last night, we held our traditional Penny Auction. This year it raised \$690. A surprisingly high number!

Lastly, I would like to personally thank Julia Lockhart, Jenn Jay, Dora Turje and Kerry Simmons for ensuring that Session ran smoothly. Thank you to the House Servants: Alan Ip, Dorothy Wong, Danica Wong, Victor Mung, Edward Wang, Claire Marchant, and William Chow and, of course, Katrina Wang for helping out during the night. Without the abovementioned names, 95 Members would not have had the unforgettable experience they had.

Travis Wong
Premier

Visit Us Online:
<http://www.bcyp.org/alumni>

The Alumni Society Needs Your Help

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 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 levels to encourage a diverse group of participants, and we are actively pursuing alternative funding opportunities. 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. Making a donation to the Youth Parliament Alumni Society ensures that young people from around the province can participate in an organization that benefits not only themselves but also their community.

Camp Phoenix News

In August I was asked if I wanted to be the Minister of Camp Phoenix and I was at first a little hesitant about doing the job. However, after careful consideration, I realized that it would be an amazing experience and I am really honoured this year to be able to organize Camp. I think it is a wonderful project and I am excited about what this year has to offer.

Camp Phoenix 2007 will take place at Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island from August 27 - September 1, 2007. This is the same site that was used for the last two years and it is very accommodating for the purposes of our camp. Last year's Camp was highly successful at this site and I am confident that it will work well for this year's camp as well.

The Members seem really enthusiastic about Camp this year. The Camp Act went well at Session and there was a lot of support. It is great to see that the membership is still supportive of this project and what it offers for the youth of BC.

Laurel Hogg
Minister of Camp Phoenix

This Year's BCYP Award Winners Are...

Bond Shield: Julia Lockhart
Terasen Inspiring New Member Award: Susie Bowles
Fisi Award For Service: Laurel Hogg
Paynter Award: Julia Lockhart

Yes! I want to support the Alumni Society. Please send your donation along with this form to:

The Youth Parliament of British Columbia
Alumni Society, c/o Katrina Wang,
2-9331 #5 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 4E1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____

WANTED

Camp Director, Cook, Nurse

BCYP's project, Camp Phoenix, runs August 25 to September 1, 2007 at Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island. If you would like more information about these volunteer positions to help BCYP find great candidates, please contact Laurel Hogg, Minister of Camp Phoenix, at ldh1@sfu.ca or 604.727.2547.

Alumni Update/Change of Address

Please keep us updated with your current mailing address or those of your fellow alumni. If you know of alumni who are not receiving the newsletter or have new contact information, please write us at The Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society, 401-5629 Dunbar St, Vancouver, BC, V6N 1W5 or by email: alumni.affairs@bcyp.org

PACIFIC COACH LINES

Thank you for your Support!