



Legislature Library

By Autumn Fjeldberg

The legislature library is a part of the legislative assembly and has been running since 1906. It is mainly for the legislature staff but the public is welcome to come in as well. The library is open Monday to Wednesday 8:15 to 6pm, Thursday to Friday 8:15 to 4:30pm.

In the library the public can search up almost any book they want! This library is so big they even have an old hamburger from 1969!(do not worry it is preserved).The legislature library also has so old newspapers from about 200 years ago. They take pictures of them and put them into microfiche and then into big leather books. So if you want to know what happened 20 years ago read go to the legislature library and the newspaper!. The legislature library is located under the grand stair case of the legislature of Alberta. To find out more information about the legislature library go to www.assembly.ab.ca.

Members' Way

By Adam Lamoureux

Members' Way is a hallway leading to the first floor of the legislature where the government of Alberta stays. The grade six class from Belgravia School had come to the legislature to learn about the building and learned what happened inside the legislature and learned the history of Alberta.

In the hallway called Members' Way there are thirteen plaques that are hung showing the year the session was in government. The hallway is about as long as three LRT cars. Members' Way is at the entrance of the legislature which is in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The plaques tell us about specific years of the government parties. It was built in 2006 to show 100 years of democracy in Alberta. When the government is finished a session they put a new plaque that shows the previous party that was in power.

They share this information to show people what the session is since Alberta became a province. History of Alberta is important because it helps us remember and imagine what it was like at that time. Looking at the plaques is easier than looking at lots of books in the library.

We took the school bus to the legislature every day for a whole week. We went through the Members' Way every day going to the legislature. On the second or third day we went to write down some information from the hallway.

Boy was it fun to go on to this fieldtrip. We got to do lots of things like the Mock Legislature, Hansard and go to the basement.



Making a Law

By Anca Radu

On September 14 to the 18 Belgravia's grade six class went to The Legislature. There they learned how to turn a bill in to a law.

They get their information from the people that live in their community. A bill is something that the government crates to help the community. A bill is not official until in turns into a law. It goes through a few steps to become a law.

The first step is first reading. First reading is when they introduce the bill to the assembly. Step two is second reading. Second reading is when the bill is debated by the members of the assembly. Step three is committee of the whole. Committee of the whole is when the bill is debated for the second time and some changes may be made. Step four is third reading. Third reading is when they have the third and last debate. And the Fifth and last step is Royal Assent. Royal Assent is when the bill becomes a law. But not all bills pass through the five steps to become a law. The government's role is to debate against the opposition. They have to agree on the bill and tell the opposition how it would help the community. And the opposition has to argue with the government and tell them what is not good about it. And sometimes the bill is passed

Places People Don't See

By Aida Radu

On September fourteenth to September eighteenth Belgravia school's grade six class visited the Legislature. They were able to see some things that people do not get to see on a guided tour.

They went to the room where the palm trees are. On the fifth floor there is a big circular hole in the middle of the floor with a railing so people can look down to the first floor. Around the railing there are five palm trees from California. They were given to the legislature in the 1950's. To get to the palm tree room you can take the stairs up to the fifth floor, the stairs are located on the fourth floor.

A few people from the class went to the very top of the Legislature building. There is a small room at the top with a light that goes on when the assembly is in session. The view is very amazing and beautiful. To get to the top you would have to climb the stairs located in the palm room.

Some people also got to see the Speaker's room. The Speaker used to live in the Legislature building because sometimes he was needed during the night and could not drive to the Legislature in time. So he lived at the Legislature. In the Speaker's room there is a throne just like the one in the chamber.

Another thing that they got to see is a narrow balcony outside the palm tree room. Not many people get to go on it. If you look over the edge you can see the Alberta flag.

There are many places that people do not get to see on the tour. We are lucky that we got to see them.





The Cabinet

By Brianna Longworth

From September fourteenth to September eighteenth, the Belgravia Grade six class visited the Alberta Legislature and they learned about the Cabinet.

The Cabinet is important to the Government because the Cabinet determines the Government's policies and priorities. The Cabinet is also referred to as the Executive Council. When we talk about the Government we really mean the Premier and the Cabinet Ministers. At any time, the Executive Council's job is to put Government policies into practice. Throughout the year, the Executive Council discusses policies, considers new Bills, and works on Budget estimates.

The Cabinet currently has twenty-three members. Our Premier, Ed Stelmach is part of the Cabinet. As another example of who is in the Cabinet, I will mention the Honorable Dave Hancock. Dave Hancock is the Minister of Education. He is the Government House Leader. In the Chamber, Dave Hancock sits on Ed Stelmach's right. The Government sits on the Speaker's right-hand side in the Chamber. One way of putting policies into action is by passing new laws. Even though MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly) only debate and pass new bills while the Assembly is in session, ministers and caucus (a meeting of party members within a legislative body to select leaders and determine strategies) work year-round planning them.

The Finance Department

By Jenna Toogood

During school at the Legislature my grade 6 class saw many places. One of the places was the finance department it was very interesting from the other things we saw.

The Finance department of the Alberta Legislature is the place where the budget is decided for the Assembly for the year. All of the people who work there work very hard to make the budget for the assembly. The budget is due each year in the early months of the New Year. The Finance department is part of the Legislature so that the assembly knows how much money that they have to spend on the province that year.

According to the website (www.assembly.ab.ca) the FMAS provides full administration, accounting services and the economy of scale purchasing that individual offices can't achieve. The Finance department serves the whole province and all the people in it. The Finance department of the legislature is responsible for the money for the assembly they are responsible for buying furniture and other needs of the assembly.





History at the Legislature

By Christiana Garros

This article is based on my amazing time at the Albert Legislature from January 14th to 18th. So I will be writing about how our legislature building was years before it is now and how some people were back then.

Our government system is based on parliamentary systems from way back in ancient Greece and Rome. The word Democracy is based on two Greek words, "Demos" means people and "kratia" meaning rule. Government developed when people got the idea that they should rule themselves which came from Greece about 2,500 years ago. Greece was then divided into small pieces called city states and all the citizens were put together to make decisions to govern the city state. The Greeks gave us most of the ideas that make government possible. Our Parliament today became what is now in the United Kingdom. It is like this because monarchs needed more tax venues to fight in the wars and rule their kingdom.

Many historical events have happened in the Alberta Legislature and many different people worked there including all the Lieutenant Governors before the Honorable Norman Kwong. In total there have been 16 Lieutenant Governors. They started out with the Honorable Bulyea in 1905. Now we have Norman Kwong who was appointed as Lieutenant Governor in 2005. There have been many Premiers before Ed Stelmach. There have been 13 in total including Stelmach. The first Premier was Honorable Rutherford. Premier Stelmach was elected to Premier's office in 2006 and still is our Premier today.



Speakers tend to be the oldest people in the parliament system. This is because they usually have these jobs for a longer period of time. There have only been 10 speakers so far starting off with the Honorable Charles Fisher in 1906. We now have the Honorable Kenneth Kowalski who was appointed in 1997. Although the speaker is quite important today the speaker's job used to be considered dangerous because if the speaker made a mistake or said something incorrect during meetings, the speaker would be killed or get decapitated. Shortly after the speakers started having body guards to insure the speaker was safe. Today the job of the bodyguard developed into that of the Sergeant at Arms.

Without all the history and traditions in the legislature there would be no legislature. So whenever you drive or walk by the legislature building remember about the importance of that old beautiful building and all the important meetings and laws for our good being that have been made there.

Clerk of Journals

By: Jacob Cherwick

My class went to the Alberta legislature. We learned a lot about the legislature and how it works. This article is about the clerk of journals.

The Clerk of Journals makes sure that everyone follows the rules. The rules are in a book called standing orders. To make sure everyone follows the she also edits the journals. The journals are a summary of what happens in the assembly. The clerk of journals also gives advice to the speaker. An example would be if someone's speech gets out of hand she could ask the speaker to make them stop or to turn their microphone off. Or if someone speaks out of turn she can write a point of order and ask a page to send it to that minister. Our Clerk of Journals is Micheline S. Gravel. She was the Clerk of Journals the first time the whole assembly table was occupied by women.



Rules and Traditions

By Cameron Somerville

Rules and traditions are one of the most important things at the legislature, without them the legislature would be chaotic. Rules and traditions are two very different things; rules are something that you must follow, whereas traditions are what make the legislature unique and interesting. Rules keep the legislature in order, traditions are important to the history of Canada, Alberta and Great Britain. In different parts of the legislature the rules are different. Most of the rules and traditions apply to the people working at the legislature.

Most of the traditions and rules used in our legislature originated in Great Britain, and Greece. The ancient Greeks thought up the idea of a democracy in about 500 B.C., that's where the basic rules come from. Most of our traditions come from Great Britain, like how the Sergeant-at-Arms is there to protect the speaker. It is like this because the king used to decapitate the speaker when something he didn't like was happening. He started doing this because he was losing power and the parliament was taking over and becoming more powerful. Of course now there are no Kings who want people's heads cut off, but the tradition of the Sergeant-at-Arms still remains in the legislature today.

The legislature is where politicians make decisions about what is going to happen in Alberta, this is a big deal to all Albertans. The Bill of rights does not actually apply in the chamber. Politicians do not always have the same opinion about how things should be done, they often fight. They need rules so that people respect one another, and don't get out of hand and start insulting each other. This is why there is a point of order rule. A point of order is like calling a penalty in hockey, except it is one player calling a penalty on another. If a politician notices that another politician is doing something against the rules they write a point of order.

A lot of the traditions are there to keep fairness. For example, when the legislature is in session, the Sergeant-at-Arms will alternate sides when he carries the mace. The Sergeant-at-Arms is the guard of the speaker. If he didn't walk by one part of the room the people might think that he doesn't want to walk near them because he does not agree with them. Another example is at the back of the chamber, there is one flag for each province, but because there are 13 provinces and they cannot let one side have more flags than the other, Alberta's flag is down on the ground across from the Canadian flag.

Sometimes tradition can become a part of life. For example, the light on top of the glass dome at the very top of the legislature turns on when it's in session. In the past you could see this light all across Edmonton. MLA's wives would look up there if their husband would be at work late.

People follow rules because they have to, but they follow traditions because they give meaning to the rules. Both are important to the working of the legislature. I think though that the majority of people prefer traditions over rules.

The Legislature Grounds

By Sam Huculak

On the legislature grounds, there's lots of different kinds of trees and bush's. There is a certain kind of tree that there is only two of on the entire Legislature grounds. They also try to plant as many trees and bush's as possible and still make it look good. They are always looking for things to clean up trying to keep the Legislature Ground's clean. In the winter they light up all the trees with little white lights.



Sergeant-At-Arms

By Davina Kam

The Sergeant-at-arms is an important part of process in the chamber. The sergeant-at-arms has lots of interesting jobs and interesting facts.

The Sergeant-At-Arms' name is Brian Hodgson. Brian Hodgson's job as a Sergeant-At-Arms is to call order and bring the mace into the chamber

The Sergeant-At-Arms is the director of the Legislative Assembly Office's Visitor, ceremonial, and security services division. Our Sergeant-At-Arms Brian Hodgson also watches over and directs the management and operation of the Interpretive Center and the Gift shop in the Legislature. He watches over and directs the School at the Legislature program we attended for grade 6's.

Our Sergeant-At-Arms Brian Hodgson works at the Alberta Legislature. Brian Hodgson leads the table officers and the pages to their designated spot when a session in a chamber is about to begin. Brian Hodgson also brings in, and announces the Lieutenant Governor to the assembly when Royal Assent is taking place in the chamber. The other time he introduces the Lieutenant Governor is on the Throne Speech Day.

Traditionally the Sergeant-At-Arms was the speaker's bodyguard. Now the Sergeant-At-Arms is responsible for the mace's security instead. He leaves it in a display case for people to see in the daytime, then in the evening puts it away into a vault. Brian Hodgson brings the mace into the chamber when needed, because it is his job. He also brings the mace into the chamber because the mace represents parliament.

The mace we currently use is under the security of the Sergeant-At-Arms. When the mace is in use in the assembly, it is on a table in the middle of the chamber. If not, the mace is in the display case. The mace is gold-plated and the jewels on the mace crown spell ALBERTA.

Those jewels are Amethyst, Lazurite, Bloodstone, Emerald, Ruby, Topaz, and Agate. The mace before our current mace was made of recycled material such as a toilet float, a piece of red fabric, and tea pot handles. Rather than making the mace gold plated the old mace was painted with gold paint.

Learning about the Sergeant-At-Arms was a lot of fun, and if you wish to know more about the Sergeant-At-Arms you can go to <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/lao-sarg.htm> . If you ever have a chance to see our current mace, and the mace not currently used at the Alberta Legislature you will be able to see the differences. School at the Legislature was extraordinary, and if you have a chance to go back to grade 6 you should go to School at the Legislature.





The Premier's Office: Life at the Legislature

by Emily Friesen

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As the Belgravia grade six class takes their first step into the office of Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach they find out some amazing facts about him.

“The premier has some very important roles in the legislative assembly”, says grade six tour guide Lisa Mackenzie, “The premier is head of the Alberta government and he is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. He chooses the members of the cabinet and leads cabinet meetings. He has powers that the cabinet ministers do not possess individually. He decides what is important to the government and what is not. He also decides what topics and laws will be debated on in the Legislative Assembly. However, the Premier can and will lose his office if the Assembly loses confidence in him.”

The class also finds out that the Premier must be a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to sit in the chamber and participate in debate; however, he does not have to be an MLA to watch debate in progress.

“Ed Stelmach also has a few secret trap doors. This one, [she points to the first trap door] has a refrigerator behind it. The second one has a bathroom in it. Now the thing about this bathroom is that it is just like any other normal bathroom. Nothing fancy for Alberta's leader. Now, the third one is the most secret, and special room that nobody ever gets to see.” Lisa then presses on an outlined rectangular shape on the wall and it opens to reveal the door of a safe. Lisa then unlocks the safe and the class counts down from 5. The door opens on 1 and reveals a messy old small room that looks like a storage system.

Of course, this probably was the most important room out of the three trap doors. The tour guide also says that there is some history behind this storage room. Ernest Manning a former Premier, believe it or not, used to pick his son up after school and would let him work on his homework in this little tiny room. There also used to be a small desk, and a chair. Lucky for his son the Premier never forgot to leave the door open!

“I noticed that the premier has an ‘Easy’ button,” says grade six student Christiana Garros. “Does he use it often?” “No,” says Lisa, “The reason he doesn't push it often is because he barely has time to! In fact, last year he worked 364 days a year! Yes only one day off! He also is not allowed to drive a car. He cannot go on vacation without body guards. He is allowed to go to his farm to spend time with his family, but his body guards do not think of this as a clever idea.”

The class finds out that the Premier is kept very busy attending special events such as fundraising for things like healthcare or science and technology, or he may attend hospital or College and University openings. The reason the Premier is invited to so many events is because he wants to show the support of the Government of Alberta. He also represents the province at national and international events.

Lisa Mackenzie also tells the class about Ed's background. “The premier is also Ukrainian! If you look around, you can see he decorates his room with Ukrainian Easter eggs and pictures of family and friends.” The grade six class also observes that the premier has old landscape paintings and animal art of animals such as fish and birds.

The grade six class says their last “goodbyes” to the office as they stand around the premier's desk to get many photos taken on their cameras. This has been, an unforgettable day.



Alberta Ombudsman

Freya Hammond-Thrasher

Have you ever felt that life is not fair? Well, life is certainly not fair, but the Alberta Ombudsman are here to help. They determine whether something is fair or not through investigations. When someone submits a complaint, it will be reviewed by a complaints analyst, then the ombudsman will decide whether to launch an investigation or not.

On Wednesday the 16th of September a group of grade six students from Belgravia School and I talked to an ombudsman named Mr. Johns about his work. He explained that his job is to look after the fairness of the public. His office focuses on complaints about the provincial government, private organizations, and patient concerns.

There are also some organizations that the ombudsman do not investigate including federal or municipal governments, MLA's, Universities, police, schools and matters handled by the courts.

If somebody has a complaint about something that the ombudsman do not investigate, the ombudsman will point you to the proper office to submit your complaint to.

The ombudsman support mainly two things. One of them is the Alberta Legislature. They support it by keeping the government accountable. They do so mainly through investigations. The other thing they support is the public. If somebody feels they have not been treated fairly, they can make a complaint to the ombudsman.

The ombudsman have offices in both Edmonton and Calgary and so if you feel the need to make a complaint to them, there are plenty of ways to contact them. The Edmonton office is on Jasper Avenue, number 10303, suite 2500. You can also phone them. Their phone number is: (780)427-2756 and their fax is: (780)427-2759.

The Alberta ombudsman's mission, as stated in their brochure, is "to promote high standards of administrative fairness through investigations and recommendations for change and education." The ombudsman values "fairness, competency, respect, integrity, equity and confidentiality." They provide service free of charge and work to be positive and responsive.

The word 'ombudsman' means 'representative' in Swedish, as they represent fairness to all citizens in Alberta, and around the globe. If you feel you have been discriminated against, or treated unfairly, the ombudsman can help and are approachable and understanding. To contact the Alberta ombudsman go to their website at www.ombudsman.ab.ca.

Human Resources

By Rachel King

The students of Belgravia recently paid a visit to the program, School at the Legislature. "Better than boring old school!" exclaims Davina age 11, who attended this wonderful program. Here is some information on the program when the students went to the human resources department.

This was an enjoyable experience for both me and my fellow students at Belgravia I enjoyed learning about human resources, for example: did you know that human resources helps to hire fire and retire people? I remember that by calling them the three ire's. "What I thought was the most interesting was finding out the steps of getting a job and sitting in the big comfortable room." Christiana also says that the class got information sheets on the individual steps on getting a job. This is an important job because the human resources helps to hire the people *in* the assembly aside from the opposition and the government who are elected by the people of Alberta.



School at the legislature newspaper project

By John Crowther

The Liberals are the opposition of the province of Alberta. One of the reasons that the Liberals are the opposition rather than the Conservatives is that the Liberals have the second most members out of all of the parties that did not win the election. After the vote the party with the most people that have not won the election are the opposition, that is the Liberals because they have 9 members.

The names of the opposition members are leader David Swann, former leader Kevin Taft, Harry Chase, Laurie Blakeman, Kent Hehr, Dave Taylor, Bridget Pastoor, Darshan Kang and Hugh McDonald. That is nowhere near as many people that are members of the government. An opposition member called Kevin Taft who used to be the leader is the MLA of Edmonton Riverview, which is where I live. He lives right across the road from the school I go to. Fortunately I have got to meet him on a few occasions.

The Liberals did not win the election but they have more members than any of the other parties that didn't win the election. The party with the most members is the Conservative party with 72 members. The Liberals make sure the government is held accountable for their promises. As well as being responsible to ask questions about the decisions that the government has made. The opposition is very important in the chamber because they keep the government in check.

All of the opposition have constituencies in places in Alberta. Bridget Pastor's constituency is in Lethbridge, David Swann's constituency is in Calgary, Kevin Taft's constituency is in Edmonton, Harry Chase's constituency is in Calgary, Kent Hehr's constituency is in Calgary,

Laurie Blakeman's constituency is in Edmonton, Darshan Kang's constituency is in Calgary, Hugh McDonald constituency is in Edmonton and Dave Taylor's constituency is in Calgary. Most of the opposition lives in major cities in Alberta such as Calgary and Edmonton except for one member who lives in Lethbridge. During session the opposition sit on the speaker's left from his point of view.

When the opposition are called to session they discuss bills. During session they discuss bills and vote on whether to make it a new law or not. During session the opposition makes sure the government are held accountable for their actions.

The opposition live in major cities, they also discuss bills during session, and the opposition are very important because they help make sure the government does what they should be doing. Liberals live fairly close to me and the Liberals have the second most members out of all the parties

Mock Legislature

The Youth Curfew Act

By Justin Adames

During the School at the Legislature we had two mock legislatures. The second mock legislature was called the youth curfew act.

In the youth curfew act Silas Troung was the speaker, Justin Adames was the sergeant at arms, Jezec was the clerk of journals, Stephie was the Lieutenant Governor, Cam was the Premier and everybody else was the opposition or government members. The Mock Legislature was made so people studying the legislature understand how it works. On Friday we got ready for the mock legislature but we didn't have any lines prepared for it.

The mock legislature is a fake.



Information Technology Services

By Madeleine Lowe

ITS plays a big part in the Alberta legislature system. They install computers, fix computers, and train staff to use the software. ITS upgrades the computer system every two years.

One of the jobs that ITS takes on is client services. They fix computers and also train MLAs to use their blackberries and laptops which they receive as soon as they begin their job in the legislature. All blackberries, laptops, and computers in the legislature are connected to the server room. There are 83 MLAs, so ITS has over 83 computers to deal with.

Blackberries are a type of cell phone manufactured by Research in Motion.

In the server room, there is a removable floor. This is because the electrical wires and network cables run underneath so people will not trip. With a special suction cup, the tiles can be removed.

The 30 servers in this room are named after greek gods. This makes it harder to crack into, since all the computers have different names.

Most employees do their work between 8:00 to 4:30, but some work on call, in case something breaks down. They would also need to work on call to turn off computers.

On call means to work after hours.

Without Information Technology Services, there would not be records of important data, and it would not be possible to save information like old newspapers, hansards, and journals. The legislature would not have good communication, it would be disorganized, and just a mess



Mock Legislature School uniforms act

By Stephanie Mitton

The grade six class from Belgravia went on an amazing trip to the Legislature buildings. While they were at the legislature they did lots of fun and exciting activities. One of the activities was mock legislature. That's when the children pretend to be members of the government. They will choose the bill ahead of time at school. The reason they do mock legislature is to experience what it's like when the chamber is in session. They are assigned random parts to play at school. When they are at mock legislature they will put on simple costumes and begin.

The reason they do mock legislature is so the children experience what it is like when the chambers in session. It is basically the kids' version of the chamber. The room was made to look like the actual chamber. Now that they know what its like to work in the chamber they might work there when they grow up. It is a great learning experience.

There debate was about the school uniforms act. They were talking about if or if not students should wear school uniforms. The children could pass notes complimenting each others speeches or suggesting ideas to one another. There are still more activities to do in the legislature.





The Chamber of the Legislative Assembly

By Stephe Hammond Thrasher

During the week of 14th to the 18th of September, grade 6 students of Belgravia school went to the legislative building to have a week enjoying the School at the Legislature program.

One of the many things they were able to see was the chamber, which is where the members of the legislative assembly meet to discuss and pass bills or laws. When the legislature is in, it is called into session with a certain type of bells that ring throughout all of the legislature buildings at 2:30pm and all of the members of the Legislative Assembly are called into the chamber to watch the procession of the mace being carried into the room by the Sergeant At Arms.

The seating arrangement is very interesting considering the 83 MLAs that they have to seat. At the far end of the room sits the Speaker. It is a tradition that the government members sit on the right side of the Speaker's chair with the painting of the Queen. That means that the opposition members sit on the left side with the painting of Prince Philip.

The chamber of the legislature building of Edmonton, Alberta, was built in 1906 and was finished in 1912 so that laws could be made to keep the citizens safe and out of danger. Each bill goes through 5 steps to become a law: first reading, second reading, committee of the whole, third reading, and royal assent. When a bill has gone through all of these steps and the Lieutenant Governor (queen's representative) has chosen to let it pass, it is posted as a law everywhere (including newspapers) so that all citizens are aware of the new law.

All in all, the grade 6 students enjoyed their visit to the Legislature and learned many things. One of the interesting things that they learned about the chamber is that the desks are spaced two arms lengths, two swords lengths and a half apart so that members (during the medieval times) could not threaten each other with swords. The carpet is green because when the members met while the building was being built they would meet in grassy pastures. On the chamber ceiling there are more than 600 light bulbs and they only turn them on when the chamber is in session because they use a lot of power. The lights are important because if they turn them on then they have enough light to have no lights on the camera.

“Grade 6 students enjoyed their visit a lot” says teacher Mrs. Rosanna Hansen. “We all liked the experience and learnt a lot from it. If a teacher out there is reading this it sounds like a great thing to do to teach your class about government.”



Fortis et Libre . . . Strong and Free



The Lieutenant Governor

By Travis Luckert

The grade 6 Belgravia class was privileged to be able to participate in a program called “School at the Legislature”. We spent the whole week within the legislature grounds, learning all sorts of amazing things. We went on tours, did in-class exercises, and met several members of parliament. It was a great week.

The Lieutenant Governor’s office was by far the most fun I had during our visit to the legislature. For the whole week I tried to top the experience, but it could not be done. Unfortunately, Norman Kwong himself was not there to meet us, but talking to his secretary was still very interesting. This is what his office was like.

His office was very fancy, but it was an old-fashioned kind of fancy. There were chairs and light fixtures from 1912 when the building itself was built! There was also a very nice portrait of the queen, as well as some photos of him and his family. I suppose I could actually be accused of lying if I said it was just an office though, because it’s really more of a suite. There was three rooms, two of which we were able to go into. One of the rooms was his actual office, which had his desk in it, but the other room was more of a living room, with a couch, chairs, and a table.

The main role of the Lieutenant Governor is to represent the queen. This involves making close to a thousand public appearances each year, giving “royal assent” to bills (law propositions) so that they can become laws, and meeting many important people that come to visit Alberta, including the Queen herself, Prince Philip, and other governors of provinces. These are the kind of duties that the queen would perform if she were here, and so it is his role to perform them on her behalf.

Another interesting fact that Hon. Kwong’s secretary told us was that the lieutenant governor gets a special house when he is in office. Then, when he retires, the next lieutenant gets to live in that house. The minimum of serving time as a lieutenant governor is 5 years, so he gets the house for another ½ year, as he has been serving now for 4 ½ years.

The lieutenant governor is very important to the assembly, because without him, our laws would not have the tradition and ceremony that they do. An example of this ceremonial tradition is something called royal assent. This is a process which involves a summarization of the law that is being proposed, and then the lieutenant consenting to it, making it an official law.

Hopefully this article has helped you understand more about the Lieutenant Governor. Now you know that his role in Alberta is very important, and that he represents the Britain that has dwelled in Canada for so many years.





Symbols in the Legislature

By Jezec Sanders

When I went to school at the legislature, I was amazed by the building. It was beautiful. The marble was smooth, and there was so much of it too! But what really caught my attention, was the amazing crests and flags that were everywhere. I realized how important, and how we don't recognize how important they are.

There are many different symbols in the legislature. Some of these symbols are flags and crests. Flags represent places in Canada. Crests are imbedded in EVERYTHING, especially furniture. There are different crests in the legislature, and they represent different things. One crest is for Alberta, another is for the parliament. Some people are so important, like the premier or sergeant-at-arms, that they have their very own crests. There are 2 other very important symbolic items. The mace and the black rod.

The mace is a ceremonial staff that the Sergeant-at-Arms carries into each session of the assembly. The mace is a symbol of authority, which the assembly must respect. It is so respected in fact, that the assembly cannot be conducted without it. In the medieval ages the mace was actually a weapon that warriors and guards in the building would use. Eventually it became more authoritative than dangerous. The spikes were replaced by jewels and other decorations and the royal coat of arms. The mace is very important because it is a tradition that has been around for years. During a meeting, the mace is put on the table by the Sergeant-at-Arms, then the meeting can begin.

One day the mace went missing, so they hired someone to make a new one completely out of scraps. The maces shaft was a plumbing pipe, and rumor has it was mounted on a toilet seat. Decorations around the orb were old shaving mug handles, bits of an old bedstead and other pieces of wood. Red velvet and gold paint for the finish. Unbelievably, the makeshift mace was used for 50 years until it was replaced by a new, slicker mace in 1956. The stones on the new mace (amethyst, lazurite, bloodstone, emerald, ruby, topaz, agite) first letters spell "Alberta".

All parliaments have a mace, but not all of them use a black rod, which became part of tradition 500 years ago. It is a symbol of security, and is used to knock on the chamber doors to let the Sergeant-at-Arms. the original rod was just a length of hardwood painted black with brass on both ends. They were given a new one as a gift from the Northwest Territories and retired the old one.

Symbols tell us what things mean. They represent everything, from culture to television. Symbols have shown us things for thousands of years, and will for years to come. Symbols in the legislature represent places, people, and even the building itself. Symbols are very important because they tell us about people and places. Symbols in the legislature will tell future civilizations about our politics, and he way we ran our government.





Hansard

By Silas Truong

The Hansard is the recorded documents of debates in the Legislature and Parliament. Every Legislature in Canada and the House of Commons uses a Hansard to record debates.

The word Hansard was named after the Hansard Family who recorded the British debate into a document. The people that work to create the Hansard are made up of editors, proof readers and writers. There are many more forms and more groups of people that are involved but these are only the general groups.

The few grade six students from Belgravia School that went to visit the Hansard in the Alberta Legislature Annex went through all of the processes of how a Hansard is produced. The grade six students got to type it and print the test Hansard .the Hansard is first recorded in the Assembly then typed in the legislature Annex building then proofread then edited then printed. The Hansard is produced through many stages such as typesetting, proofreading and printing. During a debate if a school, business or name is introduced by the Member, then it will be searched in the research room where many indexes and phone books are stored. A regular afternoon issue will contain more than thirty thousand words!

If a researcher is unable to find it in all of the indexes, then they will resort to the Internet. MLA's have microphones built inside their desks. These microphones will turn on when it is the MLA's turn to speak. In the Chamber there is a person sitting in one of the gallery's and has a control panel so that each MLA is on or off at the right time. The people that work in the Hansard office have these foot pedals that play the debates through earphones that the writer is wearing. These foot pedals can rewind or fast forward the recorded debate.

The Hansard can be obtained as a hard copy through the Legislature library all across Canada. You can also find it over the Internet at the Legislature web site. All of the Hansards that have been obtained are stored in the storage areas in both the Legislature building and the Alberta Legislature Annex building. You can find the latest version of the Hansard in the Legislature Library. You can find the Hansard within 12 hours of printing.

The Hansard can be found on-line at <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/>.

There you can find all sorts of Hansards and be sure to look at all of the other articles. You can find the link to all of the other Hansards across Canada. The Hansard is found all across Canada.

