

THE SPEAKER

Fall 2007
78th Session, Issue 2

News from the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Message from the Chair

The Alumni Society has wonderful news! We have secured \$20,000 in funding from the Coast Capital Savings Foundation (\$15,000) and the Victoria Foundation (\$5,000).

The generosity of these foundations allows the Society to reduce registration fee from \$280 to \$150 for this year and we are very grateful for these grants. This is a significant development and is due to the dedication of our Executive Director, Julia Lockhart, who prepared the grant applications and had many discussions with each Foundation. We hope that this development will allow more individuals to apply to be members.

Having addressed our immediate need for funds to organize the Session, the Fundraising Committee will now shift its attention to building our endowment fund at the Victoria Foundation, the "Youth Parliament Fund" so that we can primarily rely on both our endowment funds to fund the organization of Session.

As previously reported, the Youth Parliament Fund began with an initial donation of \$5,000 from the Society, which was matched by the 78th Youth Parliament. Other alumni have made donations and the fund presently has a balance of just over \$12,000. The Society recently resolved to deposit a further \$5,000 to the Youth Parliament Fund. Elsewhere in The Speaker you will learn of a new initiative for our alumni to donate to the Fund.

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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.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Saturday, November 17, 2007
10:00 am, University of British Columbia
Meekison Arts Students Space, Buchanan D

- Year-end Reports of Executive and Committees
- Approval of Annual Financial Statements
- Ratification of Activities of Board
- Election of Board of Directors

Senate Meeting to Follow

If you would like to join the Board of Directors, please contact Kerry Simmons at 250-480-9145 or kerrysimmons@hotmail.com

Message from the Registrar

Dear Alumni,

Yet again, the calendar has rolled around to recruitment season for the upcoming Session of youth parliament. You will find a copy of the application form for the 79th British Columbia Youth Parliament enclosed with this edition of *The Speaker*. If you know any young people aged 16-21 who might be interested in joining BCYP, please pass on the form. There is also a soft copy of the form available at <http://www.bcp.org/session>, along with copies of a promotional brochure and poster about youth parliament. I truly appreciate any personal contacts for recruitment you may be able to make. If you would like more copies of the form, copies of the brochure or poster, or if you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at registrar@bcyp.org or by phone at 604-728-0446.

Yours in Parliament,
Dora Turje
Registrar

Message from the Chair (continued from Page 1)

Our Annual General Meeting is November 17 at UBC. Please refer to the details on Page 1. We welcome new directors to join the Board and I invite anyone who is interested to contact me in advance of the meeting to discuss their participation. We are slowly developing our teleconferencing abilities to allow for multiple locations during most Senate meetings.

I would like to thank Mark Karjaluo, Sarah Bonner, and Aniz Alani for their assistance to the Board this year. These individuals who are not on Senate but have particular expertise or a willingness to lend a hand in a particular area are much appreciated.

Laurel Hogg is the Premier for the 79th Youth Parliament. She is originally from Kamloops and is presently a student at SFU. She ran Camp Phoenix this past year and has a report on the success of that project in this edition of the Speaker. A by-election for the Leader of the Opposition is underway at the time of preparing this message. The Deputy Speaker is Jeremy McElroy, whose father, Chris McElroy, was the Deputy Speaker of the 55th Session in 1983. We look forward to the energy that the new House Leader Team will bring to the events for 2008.

Kerry Simmons
Chair, Board of Directors

2007 Registration Fee Bursary Challenge

As many alumni know, the amount of the registration fee to attend session has increased significantly over the past few years. Senate has been engaged in some fundraising efforts over the last few years to try and contain the increases. In 2007, thanks primarily to the efforts of Julia Lockhart, BCYP received two large grants: one from the Coast Capital Foundation and one from the Victoria Foundation.

These grants have allowed us to offer a bursary of \$125 to every member, effectively reducing the registration fee from \$280 to \$155. At the same time, Senate recognizes that financial pressures will continue to challenge our ability to make session accessible to members with diverse backgrounds and financial means.

In light of this, we are launching the 2007 registration fee bursary challenge. We are challenging all alumni to donate \$155 (the amount of this year's registration fee) to either of the Society's permanent endowment funds (the Walter S. Owen fund at the Vancouver Foundation or the Youth Parliament of BC fund at the Victoria Foundation). Your contribution will be used to help permanently reduce the cost of the session for members. For every 20 alumni who each make a one-time contribution of \$155, an additional annual bursary of \$125 forever is created.

Cheques should be payable to the Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society, so we can send you a tax receipt directly. Please indicate which foundation you would like your donation forwarded to and mail your donation to Katrina Wang, Assistant Treasurer, at 2-9331 #5 Road, Richmond BC V7A 4E1.

In the Spring issue of the Speaker, we will publish the results by year of first session attended (please tell us which year you want your donation counted towards!). We encourage you to get together with other alumni from your "era" to ensure that your sessions are appropriately represented.

Did you know that joining BCYP could run in the family?

Mother-Daughter Pair:

Laura Soles (née Downs) and Caroline Soles

Laura was a member from the 50th to 54th Sessions. She served on both Shadow Cabinet and Cabinet during her time in Parliament. She served as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and attended a session of the National Youth Parliament in Ottawa. She also served as Deputy Camp Minister, although Camp did not run that year, and returned once to serve as Camp nurse. Laura now has new opportunities to help BCYP, such as carpooling her daughter and another member from their home in Clearwater to Kamloops so they didn't have to catch a 3:00am bus to Session!

Caroline is about to go into her second year in BCYP, having been a backbench member at last December's Session. She served as a cabin leader at Camp Phoenix in August this year, and is currently a first-year student at the University of Victoria, where she will have more opportunities to participate in BCYP events in the coming year.

Father-Son Pair:

Chris McElroy and Jeremy McElroy

Many alumni will remember Chris McElroy as Deputy Speaker of the 55th Session (1983) or as Senate's Chief Returning Officer in the 1990s. Chris is a long-time supporter of Youth Parliament both as a member and as a senator. This Session, his son, Jeremy McElroy, will follow in his dad's footsteps as the Deputy Speaker of the 79th Parliament. Jeremy joined Youth Parliament in the 76th Parliament and has served on Shadow Cabinet and Cabinet. He is presently in his second year in Arts at UBC.

Jeremy says he returns BCYP because of Camp Phoenix - he's been a staff member three times, most recently as Blackbeard Jeremy as portrayed in the photo below. His enthusiasm from Camp is something else he shares with Chris, who is a former Minister of Camp Phoenix.



When Jeremy stood for election last December, he did not know his dad had been DS. Although the procedures in Committee have changed somewhat from 1983, Jeremy will have to make some trips to the Youth Parliament Archives housed at UBC to review old Journals to see what Parliamentary excitement Chris faced.

Visit Us Online:

<http://www.bcyp.org/alumni>

From the Ministry of Camp Phoenix...

I can't believe that the time has already come for me to report on how Camp Phoenix 2007 went! Camp has come and gone and many memories of the event will be cherished by the staff and children for years to come. Camp this year was held from August 27-September 1, 2007 at Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island. We had campers from all over the island and Lower Mainland this year as well as two campers from the Interior of BC. Our theme for this year's Camp was *pirates* and all hands were on deck to ensure that the 44 children in attendance had an amazing week! Both the programme director, Emilie-Anne Paul and the 8 amazing programme staff helped to successfully implement the theme in all of their activities. Whether it was swimming in Davie Jones' Locker, archery in the Crows Nest, or arts and crafts at Treasure Island, the children had fun partaking in the exciting activities.



A huge thank you goes out as well to the 25 other cabin leaders and kitchen staff who did an amazing job. A special thank you as well goes to Deborah Harry who came to Camp as the Nurse for the second year in a row and also to Anne

Sanderson who provided delicious and nutritious food for everyone throughout the week. Last and definitely not least Kerry Simmons, Camp Director and Tyler Allison, Assistant Camp Administrator, deserve to be thanked for the amazing job they did and their support of this Camp throughout the year! We had beautiful weather for the week and everything ran smoothly and safely. I am proud to say that Camp Phoenix also passed accreditation this year, so we can look forward to 2-4 yrs more of being accredited by the BC Camping Association.

Running this Camp was both challenging and incredibly rewarding. I am glad to be able to report that Camp was both successful and safe. Already I have received e-mails from parents wanting to know if their child can come to Camp Phoenix 2008 because they had such a great time. This project was a success for BCYP and could not have happened without the continuing support of the dedicated staff members and of Senate. I look forward to helping next year's Minister for Camp Phoenix run yet another great project!

Laurel Hogg
Minister of Camp Phoenix

And From the Premier - Elect...

As I am preparing now for the position of Premier, I have many new tasks to do before December! I am in the midst of preparing my cabinet for this year as well as appointing House Leaders to assist at Session. I am hoping this year to bring people together and increase participation of the Membership in our projects, especially from individuals coming from the Interior. I am excited about the potential for a great cabinet this year as well as the potential for our projects to be run successfully. Having just completed the running of Camp, I want to ensure we have another great year of Camp. I also want to re-emphasize the importance of Regional Youth Parliaments and encourage members to both join and assist in their organization. I am sure that these things can be accomplished throughout the year and I look forward to the opportunity of working with my new cabinet and of preparing for the 79th Session! It is bound to be an exciting year!

Laurel Hogg
Premier- Elect

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