



Edgar Dunning, who has been writing a newspaper column for over 50 years, turned 100 on Jan. 7.

Journalist still writing, driving at age 100

By **JOAN DELANEY**
Epoch Times Staff

Edgar Dunning grew up in the newspaper business, having started out in his father's newsroom over 80 years ago as a printer learning to set type by hand one letter at a time.

That was in Ladner, B.C., a community in Delta which is a suburb of Vancouver, where Dunning's father, a printer and publisher, founded the Delta Optimist newspaper in 1922. Dunning bought the Optimist in 1940 and worked there as editor, publisher, and then co-publisher until he sold it in 1980.

However Dunning, who turned 100 on Jan. 7, continues to write his weekly "Wandering" column—which he began in the early 1950s—for the newspaper, covering community issues, book reviews, true stories and anecdotes, as well as historical facts about the region.

In honour of his birthday, the City of Delta has named its municipal museum community archives, to be opened later this year, the Edgar Dunning Archives.

The announcement was made during a special presentation at municipal hall on Jan. 4 by Dunning,

who regaled listeners with humorous stories of past Delta councils and politicians.

"I can't find words enough to express my appreciation, my joy," Dunning said. "Thank you very much, it's overwhelming."

'Most towns have archives for their historical records. In Delta we have Edgar Dunning.'

— Mayor Lois Jackson

Mayor Lois Jackson, who has described Dunning as "Delta's living treasure," listed the veteran newsman's numerous contributions to the community, including being a founding member of the Delta Historical and Museum Society, the Kinsmen Club of Ladner, and the Delta Community Band Society.

He was also editor of the Pacific

region edition of the CBC radio program Neighbourly News for 26 years.

In a special tribute at the B.C. Legislature, Delta South MLA Vicki Huntington called Dunning an "amazing gentleman."

"In his columns and articles Mr. Dunning continues to recount the rich history of Delta as he witnessed it since his arrival in Ladner in 1922," she said. "Most towns have archives for their historical records. In Delta we have Edgar Dunning."

Dunning, who some have fondly dubbed Mr. Delta, lives on his own and still drives. He used a typewriter to write his columns up until 10 years ago, when he replaced it with a computer.

On CBC Radio's B.C. Almanac, Dunning said one of his brothers—"the athletic one in the family"—died at 59 while another brother who was always worried about his health lived to be 92.

He said he has "no idea" how he has lived to be 100.

"I used to get drunk periodically. I smoked cigarettes for years and years. I don't know. I asked my doctor that the other day—he didn't know either."

Nation Briefs

Suspending Parliament eliminates Tory lead: poll

OTTAWA (Reuters)—Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to suspend Parliament in order to focus on getting through the recession has cost his party its lead in public support, a poll released on Wednesday found.

The Strategic Counsel poll, published by the Toronto Star, showed Harper's Conservatives with 31 per cent popular support and the opposition Liberals with 30 per cent, which would make an election a toss-up if one were held today.

In October, as the population reacted adversely to a Liberal attempt to topple the minority Conservative government, Strategic Counsel had put the Conservatives 13 points ahead.

The Conservative lead had been falling after the Liberals abandoned their attempt to force an election but the sharpest decline in the lead came in the wake of Harper's decision to end the current session of Parliament.

The move is constitutional and has been done more than 100 times before. But the opposition accused Harper of trying to avoid parliamentary scrutiny of whether Canadian soldiers had turned over Afghan prisoners to likely torture at the hands of Afghan authorities in 2006-07.

Maple Leafs' goalie Joseph ends 19-year career

TORONTO (Reuters)—Toronto Maple Leafs' goalie Curtis Joseph, one of the most successful netminders in the history of the National Hockey League, ended his 19-year career by retiring on Tuesday.

The 42-year-old stopper finished with 454 career victories, trailing only Martin Brodeur, Patrick Roy and Ed Belfour in the all-time regular season goalie wins category.

"It's a good day and it's been a great career," Joseph said during a press conference in Toronto.

"I'm a lucky guy to do what I love to do for a living for 19 years, almost two decades. I'm extremely happy and certainly felt I didn't leave anything on the table."

Joseph, who represented Canada at the 1998 and 2002 Winter Olympics, broke into the NHL in the 1980-90 season with the St. Louis Blues.

He also played for the Edmonton Oilers, Calgary Flames, Phoenix Coyotes and the Detroit Red Wings in a 943-game career.

Stelmach replaces finance, energy ministers

CALGARY (Reuters)—Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, facing an onslaught of criticism over his handling of the oil-rich province's finances and energy policy, replaced the ministers in charge of those departments on Wednesday to try to win back support from conservative voters.

Stelmach's cabinet shuffle had been expected. His Progressive Conservative government ran Alberta's first deficit in more than a decade last year and Stelmach was under pressure to rebuild relations with the powerful energy industry and stem support moving to the fledgling, further right-of-center, Wildrose Alliance Party.

Among the key moves, Ted Morton, who was minister of sustainable resource development, becomes finance minister, replacing Iris Evans. Morton is seen as one of the government's most socially conservative members.

Ron Liepert, who was health minister, becomes minister of energy, replacing Mel Knight. Liepert is a onetime telecom executive and public relations consultant.

After winning one of the largest majorities in the history of Alberta's legislature in 2008, Stelmach has struggled to fend off critics attacking his fiscal record. Under Stelmach, the province's long streak of multibillion-dollar budget surpluses ended. He blamed the recession and weak oil and gas prices.

Vancouver dismisses worries over weather

By **ALLAN DOWD**

VANCOUVER (Reuters) - Vancouver Olympics planners downplayed worries over recent spring-like weather on Wednesday, despite their move to limit public access to a ski venue to preserve snow for next month's Games.

A series of Pacific storms have hit Vancouver with rain and unseasonably warm temperatures in recent days, melting away snow on nearby Cypress Mountain, site of freestyle skiing and snowboard competitions.

Planning for the Olympics has taken into account the possibility of warmer weather in the lead-up to, or during, the more than two weeks of competition that starts February 12, said Vancouver Organizing Committee Vice President Tim Gayda.

"Driving up here in the pouring rain, obviously, doesn't look good, but it is something we have always planned for from the early days," Gayda told a news conference on Cypress that was held indoors because of rain.

Crews on Cypress have been pushing unmelting snow into piles to protect it, and are preparing to bring down snow that has been stockpiled at higher elevations on the mountain where temperatures are colder.

The need to move snow has prompted officials to close down normal public access to the ski facility two weeks earlier than they had expected.

Colder temperatures are expected to return to Canada's Pacific Coast next week, and that will also allow crews to resume snow-making on the mountain, Gayda said.

Cypress has been hit by mid-winter melts before and has been able to rebound quickly, Cypress Mountain spokesman Kent Rideout said.

"We have had times when there is no snow on the mountain and two days later we were open," he said.

Whistler Mountain, where the alpine and nordic ski events will take place, is about 125 km (80 miles) north of Vancouver and, at a higher elevation, it has not been hit as hard by the mid-winter melt, officials said.

VANOC says it has also built flexibility into the competition schedule to handle weather-related problems.

"We have 17 days to get every race off, and every Games has been able to do it... It's the challenge of running outdoor sport," Gayda said.

VANOC's chief weather forecaster, Chris Doyle, does not think there will be a problem during the Games because the weather pattern in Vancouver during late February has historically been "relatively peaceful."

"No storms. More likely to have sun than not, and not a lot of precipitation," Doyle said.

Vancouver normally has milder winters than the rest of Canada, but with significant precipitation that usually falls as rain in the sea-level city and as snow in the nearby mountains.



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. GEOFF CADDICK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Flaherty to keep finance if cabinet shuffled

OTTAWA (Reuters)—Finance minister Jim Flaherty will stay in his post in any possible cabinet shuffle, senior government officials said on Tuesday.

"Flaherty will not be moved from finance. He will remain as Canada's finance minister," said one government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Flaherty has been finance minister since Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives took power four years ago. He has been front and center in steering Canada through the recession and is well into preparations for the federal budget for the next fiscal year, due to be unveiled on March 4.

The minister will also host a meeting of the Group of Seven (G7) finance ministers February 5-6.

Prime ministers often change their cabinets early in the new year to freshen them up, and Harper is widely expected to do so this year before a new session of Parliament starts on March 3.

"The prime minister is considering doing a small shuffle," another official said.

In addition to Flaherty staying, Defense Minister Peter MacKay is also expected to remain in his post. He has been under the gun in Parliament over allegations that Cana-

dian soldiers transferred Afghan prisoners to the Afghan authorities in 2006-07 with the knowledge that they might be tortured.

Flaherty will be scrutinized for how he intends to bring Canada's budget back into the black.

His early budgets introduced tax cuts and continued the tradition of surpluses inherited from his Liberal predecessors. The budget then moved to a record deficit for the current fiscal year primarily because of spending measures taken to try to fight the recession.

He has promised not to raise taxes and not to make major spending cuts, aside from letting economic stimulus programs expire. He also has said Canada should be able to return to a surplus in several years, but some question if this is possible.

Economic growth has been tepid so far and unemployment has remained high in the range of 8.5 percent. Harper said in an interview with Toronto's Newstalk 1010 radio broadcast on Tuesday that the unemployment rate should improve in 2010.

"We're not going to be happy until we start to see that number come down again, and we're optimistic that's what will occur in the year to come," he said.

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