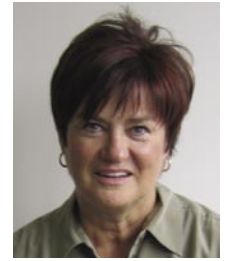
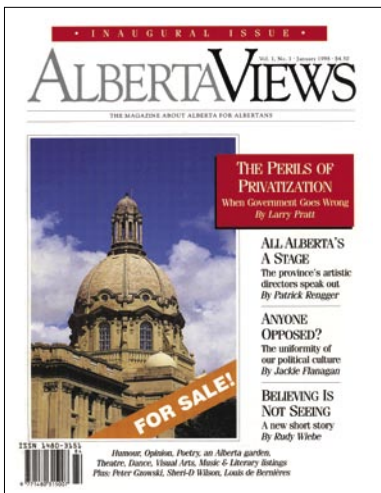


Milestones: 100 years, best mag and Ralph by Jackie Flanagan



THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE WORD milestone was literally a stone to mark the distance between points so travelers would know how far they'd come.

*Albertaviews* marks a few milestones with this issue. I founded the magazine eight years ago. On the cover of our first issue was Alberta's beautiful legislature building. So we are delighted to have on the cover of this issue a birthday cake in the shape of the same building, being cut by our Queen to mark the milestone of 100 years since the 1905 founding of Alberta as a province of Canada.



Through the '90s, I was so mad at what was happening to Alberta. People were complaining about taxes and government intrusion. "Cut spending, downsize government, privatize, privatize." Thousands of government employees were fired without the bat of an eye.

Now, my mother was a government employee. In her day she was called a "civil servant"—someone in the service of civil society. She was a nurse at the Baker Memorial Sanitarium in Bowness, and later director of nursing at the tuberculosis hospital at the U of A. She spent her life healing the sick. The people of Alberta paid her. She earned every penny. And because she was a civil servant, I qualified for and won a civil service bur-

sary, which paid my tuition to university. My university education enabled me to be a teacher. For 20 years I taught the young people of Alberta how to read and write. I believe the province's investment in me paid off. I was indirectly a government employee. For my 18 years at Mount Royal College, as a member of the faculty association, I belonged to AUPE, the Alberta Union of Public Employees. So you can see I might be upset when the word on the street in the '90s was that government employees were useless and should be fired. I started *albertaviews* magazine in 1997 to present alternative points of view on the public good. Someone in Toronto told me I should have called it "*Fury from the Foothills*."

This June at the Western Magazine Awards we won Magazine of the Year for Alberta. We were overjoyed. Then, to our astonishment, we won Magazine of the Year for all of Western Canada. I guess we've come a long way since the days of fury.

Another milestone for this issue is our introduction of a new columnist, former Albertan Jeremy Newson, who reports from London, England, providing us for the first time with a more global perspective.

Throughout the entire life of this magazine, Ralph Klein has been premier, and I have disagreed with practically everything he has done. But now, on the occasion of Alberta's hundredth anniversary, and to mark the milestone of Premier Ralph's retirement of the debt and his own impending retirement, which I hope will be long and happy, I want to make a tribute to him.

Premier Klein was born November 1, 1942, and raised in the modest Tuxedo Park district of Calgary. He interrupted his high school studies to enlist in the Canadian Air Force. After leaving the service he completed his education and became principal of the Calgary Business College at the tender age of 20. From 1963 to 1969 Mr. Klein worked for the Red

Cross and the United Way. From 1970 to 1979 he was senior civic affairs reporter with CFCN television and radio. He was a champion of the "little person." He was elected mayor of Calgary October 15, 1980, and during his tenure Calgary hosted the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, built the LRT system and protected the Bow River by blocking development on the riverbank and improving sewage treatment.

He was elected MLA for Calgary-Elbow in 1989 and quickly entered the cabinet as Minister of the Environment. He became premier on December 5, 1992, and led the Conservatives to victory in the 1993 provincial election. In 1993 Premier Klein became the second white person in history to be adopted into the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation. In 1996 the Blood Tribe made him an honorary chief in the Kainai Chieftainship. In November 2004 his party won 62 of 83 seats. Mr. Klein is widely regarded as one of the most popular politicians Canada has ever seen. He's come a long way.

Ralph always has a sparkle in his eye for a friend, he's fun and he's a fine golfer. For some men there is no greater tribute.

To celebrate our centennial, Premier Klein recently announced that Alberta had eliminated its public debt. Premier Klein is not burdening our children with our spending. That may sound like a shot, sir, coming from me, but in all sincerity I acknowledge that you have spent most of your life in public service to the people of Alberta, and as far as I am concerned there is no higher calling than service to the people. Personally, I'd rather give our children vibrant good health, a superb education, a clean environment and some untouched wilderness to engender awe in creation and the Creator. But be that as it may, you governed according to your light.

*Jackie Flanagan*