

# Speakers of the Senate



Original version by Grant Purves



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# Table of Contents

Speakers of the Senate.....	3
Historical Role of the Speaker of the Senate.....	4
Joseph Édouard Cauchon .....	6
John Ross .....	8
Amos Edwin Botsford.....	9
Pierre Joseph Olivier Chauveau .....	11
David Christie .....	13
Robert Duncan Wilmot .....	15
David Lewis Macpherson.....	17
William Miller.....	19
Josiah Burr Plumb .....	21
George William Allan .....	23
Alexandre Lacoste.....	25
John Jones Ross.....	27
Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier .....	28
Lawrence Geoffrey Power.....	30
Raoul Dandurand.....	32
James Kirkpatrick Kerr .....	34
Auguste Charles Philippe Robert Landry.....	35
Joseph Bolduc .....	37
Hewitt Bostock.....	39
Arthur Charles Hardy .....	40
Pierre Édouard Blondin .....	41
Walter Edward Foster.....	42
Georges Parent .....	43
Thomas Vien .....	44
James Horace King.....	45
Elie Beaugard .....	47
Wishart McLea Robertson .....	48
Mark Robert Drouin .....	50
George Stanley White .....	52
Maurice Bourget.....	53
Sydney John Smith.....	54
Jean-Paul Deschatelets .....	55
Muriel McQueen Fergusson.....	56
Louise Marguerite Renaude Lapointe .....	58
Allister Grosart.....	60
Jean Marchand.....	62
Maurice Riel.....	64
Guy Charbonneau.....	65
Roméo-A. LeBlanc.....	67
Gildas L. Molgat .....	68
Daniel Philip Hays .....	69
Noël A. Kinsella.....	70
Bibliography - Senate Speakers .....	71
Photo Credits.....	77

# Speakers of the Senate

Name	Years in Office	Political Affiliation during Tenure
CAUCHON, Joseph Édouard	1867.11.05 - 1869.05.16	Independent Conservative
ROSS, John	1869.05.17 - 1869.05.26	Conservative
CAUCHON, Joseph Édouard	1869.05.27 - 1872.06.02	Independent Conservative
BOTSFORD, Amos Edwin	1872.06.03 - 1872.06.05	Conservative
CAUCHON, Joseph Édouard	1872.06.06 - 1872.06.30	Independent Conservative
CHAUVEAU, Pierre Joseph Olivier	1873.02.21 - 1874.01.08	Conservative
CHRISTIE, David	1874.01.09 - 1878.10.16 (1)	Liberal
WILMOT, Robert Duncan	1878.11.07 - 1880.02.10	Conservative
MACPHERSON, David Lewis	1880.02.11 - 1880.02.15	Conservative
BOTSFORD, Amos Edwin	1880.02.16 - 1880.04.18	Conservative
MACPHERSON, David Lewis	1880.04.19 - 1883.10.16	Conservative
MILLER, William	1883.10.17 - 1887.04.03	Liberal Conservative
PLUMB, Josiah Burr	1887.04.04 - 1888.03.12	Conservative
ALLAN, George William	1888.03.17 - 1891.04.26	Conservative
LACOSTE, Alexandre	1891.04.27 - 1891.09.13	Conservative
ROSS, John Jones	1891.09.14 - 1896.07.12	Conservative
PELLETIER, Charles Alphonse Pantaléon	1896.07.13 - 1901.01.28	Liberal
POWER, Lawrence Geoffrey	1901.01.29 - 1905.01.08	Liberal
DANDURAND, Raoul	1905.01.09 - 1909.01.13	Liberal
KERR, James Kirkpatrick	1909.01.14 - 1911.10.22	Liberal
LANDRY, Auguste Charles Philippe Robert	1911.10.23 - 1916.06.02	Conservative
BOLDUC, Joseph	1916.06.03 - 1922.02.06	Nationalist Conservative
BOSTOCK, Hewitt	1922.02.07 - 1930.04.28	Liberal
HARDY, Arthur Charles	1930.05.13 - 1930.09.02	Liberal
BLONDIN, Pierre Édouard	1930.09.03 - 1936.01.10	Conservative
FOSTER, Walter Edward	1936.01.11 - 1940.05.08	Liberal
PARENT, Georges	1940.05.09 - 1942.12.14	Liberal
VIEN, Thomas	1943.01.23 - 1945.08.23	Liberal
KING, James Horace	1945.08.24 - 1949.08.02	Liberal
BEAUREGARD, Elie	1949.08.03 - 1953.10.13	Liberal
ROBERTSON, Wishart McLea	1953.10.14 - 1957.10.03	Liberal
DROUIN, Mark Robert	1957.10.04 - 1962.09.23	Progressive Conservative
WHITE, George Stanley	1962.09.24 - 1963.04.26	Progressive Conservative
BOURGET, Maurice	1963.04.27 - 1966.01.06	Liberal
SMITH, Sydney John	1966.01.07 - 1968.09.04	Liberal
DESCHATELETS, Jean-Paul	1968.09.05 - 1972.12.13	Liberal
FERGUSSON, Muriel McQueen	1972.12.14 - 1974.09.11	Liberal
LAPOINTE, Louise Marguerite Renaude	1974.09.12 - 1979.10.04	Liberal
GROSART, Allister	1979.10.05 - 1980.03.03	Progressive Conservative
MARCHAND, Jean	1980.03.04 - 1983.12.15	Liberal
RIEL, Maurice	1983.12.16 - 1984.11.01	Liberal
CHARBONNEAU, Guy	1984.11.02 - 1993.12.06	Progressive Conservative
LEBLANC, Roméo-A.	1993.12.07 - 1994.11.21	Liberal
MOLGAT, Gildas L.	1994.11.22 - 2001.01.25	Liberal
HAYS, Daniel Philip	2001.01.26 - 2006.02.07	Liberal
KINSELLA, Noël A.	2006.02.08 -	Conservative

(1) Although we make every effort to verify the accuracy of our data, we cannot guarantee this specific date is correct. Authoritative reference resources do not agree on the date that the Hon. David Christie resigned from the speakership of the Senate. To our knowledge the most probable date is October 16, 1878 as cited in the *Canadian Parliamentary Companion* of 1879.

## Historical Role of the Speaker of the Senate

The *Constitution Act, 1867*, insofar as it was possible to do so, established the Senate of Canada in the image of the British House of Lords. However, adaptations had to be made, primarily because Canada had no peers. It was decided that, instead of an unlimited number of hereditary peers enjoying the rights and privileges of persons of that rank, Canada would have a limited number of “life senators” enjoying the same rights and privileges as those of elected members of Parliament. Similarly, the privileges, immunities and powers of the Senate, as distinct from its role, were to be the same as those of the Commons.

In other respects, however, the Senate was intended to reflect the House of Lords. Thus, the office of Speaker was patterned on the office of the Lord Chancellor. The appointment of the Speaker, formally made by the Governor General, was a personal prerogative of the Prime Minister and not subject to ratification by the Senate. Like the Lord Chancellor, the office of Speaker was expected to be a partisan one; it was assumed he would be able to leave the Chair and speak in debate and retain the right to an original and not a casting vote. On the other hand, he was not given any specific powers or responsibilities to enforce the Rules of the House.

The Senate has always prided itself on being self-governing and on the equality of all its members. Until 1906 it was very self-conscious about the House of Lords tradition whereby the Lord Chancellor intervened in debate to rule on a procedural question only at the request of another Hon. Member. The Speaker, like the Lord Chancellor, had no more authority than any other member except insofar “as his own personal weight and the dignity of his office may give effect to his opinions and secure the concurrence of the House.” (Erskine May, 18th ed.)

During the 1890s and early part of this century, the occasional rowdiness of a few members led to a movement to break with House of Lords tradition and give the Senate Speaker more authority. The 1906 revision of Senate rules gave the Speaker much the same powers as his counterpart in the House of Commons. A new Rule simply stated that the Speaker “shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide points of order, subject to an appeal to the Senate.”

The adoption of the new rule did not have an immediate or profound effect. There seems to have been some uncertainty about the extent of the powers conferred, the circumstances under which they should be used and some hesitancy on the part of Speakers to resort to them. This uncertainty persisted, at least until the adoption of revised rules in 1991.

In the past 20 years some Speakers have become more active in their interventions and have not always waited for their attention to be drawn to breaches of the rules before intervening. At the same time, ever since the 1930s, both Speakers and Senators have on occasion alluded to the existence of an “unwritten” rule that Speakers do not intervene until asked for their ruling by an Honourable Senator. It remains to be seen whether this “unwritten” rule will be able to withstand the changes introduced to the rules and role of the Speaker in 1991.

Adopted in the aftermath of a turbulent debate over the Goods and Services Tax, the 1991 amendments to the Standing Rules and Orders were the most extensive since 1906. While it is still too soon to speak definitively about their long-term impact, formally, they represent a major step away from the “self-governing” traditions of the Senate and toward the rules of the House of Commons. Among the more controversial amendments to the rules of debate were those imposing a 15-minute limit on most speeches, and providing for limiting the length of a debate (time allocation), with or without the consent of the Opposition. These changes make a filibuster much more difficult.

The new Rule 18 at the very least clarifies in a decisive way the role of the Speaker in the Senate. Rule 18(1) specifies that it is not necessary for breaches of order and decorum to be drawn to the attention of the Speaker, he or she can interrupt any debate to restore order or to enforce the rules. In the case of “grave disorder” the Speaker may suspend the sitting of the Senate for up to three hours. Rule 18(3) allows the Speaker to decide when sufficient argument has been adduced to decide a question of privilege or point of order. The rulings of the Speaker remain subject to an appeal to the Senate, and such appeals are to be voted upon immediately, without debate.

Another notable change in the modern office of Speaker is that Speakers have gradually ceased to be active partisans. Today they very rarely speak in the debates of the Senate and do not exercise the right to an ordinary vote. In this respect too, they have grown much closer to the style of the Speaker of the House of Commons, and they preside as an impartial arbiter, free from overt party allegiance.

The biographies of the Senate Speakers since Confederation, which follow, show the very great range of their professional and political abilities. For the majority, their period in the Chair, however long or short in duration, was just one of many achievements in lives that were marked by achievement in various fields. Although success in law and politics is the most common denominator which links them, many also had successful careers in the military, in business, as writers or as journalists; some achieved success and prominence in as many as three or four different fields.

It is the variety and scope of their interests outside politics that makes their lives particularly interesting, and a consistent effort has been made to reflect this in their biographies.

## Joseph Édouard Cauchon (1816 - 1885)



*With a well-deserved reputation as a fiercely partisan journalist and politician, a powerful but controversial associate and a determined opponent, the Hon. Joseph Edouard Cauchon was not an obvious choice to serve as the first Speaker of the Senate after Confederation. In a sense this assessment proved accurate, for Senator Cauchon resigned as Speaker and from the Senate after a few years to re-enter more active politics. Yet he served with distinction as Speaker and still later as Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.*

Descendent of one of the oldest families of Quebec, Mr. Cauchon was born on the last day of 1816 to Joseph-Ange Cauchon and Marguerite, née Vallée. Educated at the Petit Séminaire de Québec and called to the Québec bar in 1843, he never practised law. Instead, at an early age he found his major interests in journalism and politics. By 1841 he was a regular contributor to *Le Canadien*, a leading exponent of French Canadian nationalism, and temporarily became its editor before he launched his own newspaper, *Le Journal de Québec* in partnership with his brother-in-law, Augustin Côté. He quickly turned *Le Journal* into one of the most influential newspapers in Quebec and he continued to edit it until 1874. The newspaper played an important role in the public debates leading to Confederation. In 1858 he wrote a series of articles, later published as the brochure “*Étude sur l’union projetée des provinces,*” critical of an initial plan. But in 1864-1865 he published another series of articles systematically defending the 72 Quebec Resolutions which were the basis of eventual Confederation. “*The Union of the provinces of British North America,*” published in English as well as French, concluded that the proposed confederation would guarantee the privileges, historic rights and special institutions of what would become the province of Quebec.

In 1844 Mr. Cauchon was elected for Montmorency County and continued to represent this riding until 1867 and his appointment to the Senate and the speakership. In Parliament he supported the reforms and the great political compromise which followed the rebellion of 1837-1838 and led to the union of the Canadas and ministerial responsibility. He vigorously defended the Union, despite its difficulties, because it ensured equal representation in Parliament for Canada East and Canada West and this guaranteed the institutions and traditions of each part of the country. Initially he supported the reform policy of Baldwin and Lafontaine, but was instrumental in engineering the defeat in 1854 of the Hincks-Morin administration despite being offered the post of assistant provincial secretary. Thereafter he gave his support to the Liberal-Conservative coalition of Morin and MacNab, then of MacNab and Taché and finally of Taché and Macdonald, accepting the post of commissioner of Crown lands for Canada East. It was he who introduced the Bill that transformed the Upper Chamber, the Legislative Council, into an elected body.

Always something of a political maverick, Mr. Cauchon resigned his office in 1857 when the government refused to support his scheme for a Montreal-Quebec railway along the North shore of the St. Lawrence River. Still officially a supporter of the Liberal-Conservative party, he nevertheless voted against the Cartier-Macdonald coalition on occasion. This did

not prevent him from serving as Minister of Public Works from 1861 to 1862 and in 1864, nor from being chosen in 1867 as Prime Minister of Quebec. His attempts to form a government in Quebec failed, however, although he continued to represent Montmorency in the Legislative Assembly from 1867-1874.

It was a sign of Mr. Cauchon's influence in Quebec and with the government of Cartier-Macdonald that he won appointment as Senator and Speaker of the Senate. An acerbic politician and journalist who thrived on partisan controversy, and with no prior experience in an Upper Chamber, Senator Cauchon's appointment was unpopular in some quarters. While the speakership brought with it responsibilities and prestige as well as a certain freedom to pursue political and business interests, Senator Cauchon seems to have chafed over its lack of power and to have missed the turbulence of more active politics. For whatever reasons, he resigned the speakership and his seat in the Senate in 1872 to stand for election to the House of Commons in the riding of Quebec centre.

His return to the House of Commons as an independent member was marred by a controversy dealing with his role as the Member of the Quebec Legislative Assembly for Montmorency at the same time as an asylum which he owned was being subsidized by the Quebec government. Federally, he changed his party allegiance and began to support the Liberal opposition in the House of Commons, becoming a bitter and effective political opponent of his former Conservative colleagues during the Pacific Scandal. As a supporter of Alexander Mackenzie's Liberal government, Mr. Cauchon helped to settle the issue of pardons for Louis Riel and other Métis leaders and to improve relations with the Roman Catholic Church. Taking into account his influence in Quebec and experience, Prime Minister Mackenzie made him President of the Privy Council in late 1875 and Minister of Internal Revenue in 1877. His presence in the cabinet was never fully accepted by the other Quebec MPs, and in October 1877 he accepted the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. He fulfilled his promise to ensure that the law was upheld, to bestow special favour to no citizen but to render justice to all during his term of office. He retired at the end of 1882 and died on 23 February 1885.

## John Ross (1818 - 1871)



*In the early years of Confederation there was no provision for a Deputy Speaker of the Senate. Consequently, if the Speaker were unavoidably absent during session, either the Senate could not sit or the government had to appoint a temporary Speaker. The Hon. John Ross was the first of two Senators who served during the absences of Speaker Cauchon.*

Born in County Antrim, Ireland, John Ross was brought as an infant to Upper Canada, and raised in Johnstown District and Brockville. Articled at 16, he was called to the bar in 1839 and established successful law practices in Belleville, and later in Toronto. An energetic Liberal, the 23-year-old lawyer campaigned vigorously for Robert Baldwin in the latter's successful bid for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1841. For the next seven years he served as the Reform leader's aide and adviser; he was rewarded, in 1848, with a seat on the Legislative Council, a position he held until Confederation when he was appointed to the Dominion Senate.

Named a QC in 1850, he was appointed Solicitor General and later Attorney General for Canada West in the Hincks administration. Upon the formation of a MacNab-Morin coalition in 1854, Mr. Ross was selected Speaker of the Legislative Council; in this role he succeeded Hincks as leader of the Moderate Reformers. In the spring of 1856, disillusioned with MacNab's leadership, he resigned as Speaker of the Legislative Council and worked to convince his followers to support Sir John A. Macdonald. In 1858 he served briefly as Macdonald's Receiver General and as a member of the Board of Railway Commissioners. As President of the Executive Council, he accompanied Cartier and Galt to London in October 1858 to press for the federation of British North America. For the next four years Mr. Ross continued in the post and was also Minister of Agriculture in the Macdonald-Cartier administration. Mr. Ross was an effective administrator as well as an astute politician. He was appointed one of the six government directors of the proposed Grand Trunk Railway in 1852 and was sent to London to help negotiate financial support. He was appointed president of the railway at the request of British financial interests, a position he held until 1862. After 1862 Mr. Ross devoted more of his time to his private business affairs as a director of the Northern Railway Company and as a charter member of the Dominion Bank. He continued to attend the sessions of the Legislative Council and in 1867 was appointed a Senator. When, for two weeks in May 1869, Speaker Cauchon was unable to fulfil his duties as Senate Speaker following the death of one of his children, Senator Ross was chosen to take his place.

Senator Ross died in Toronto after a long and painful illness. In a eulogy, delivered on 16 February 1871, a Senate colleague spoke of his determination, loyalty and ability drawing particular notice to Ross's achievements in helping resolve the Clergy Reserves question and in his capable stewardship of the Grand Trunk project.



## Amos Edwin Botsford (1804 - 1894)



*The Hon. Amos Edwin Botsford was descended from one of the most prominent political families in New Brunswick. His grandfather, father and brother represented Westmoreland in the New Brunswick House of Assembly, each serving in turn as Speaker. Thus, it was particularly appropriate that Senator Botsford should carry on the family tradition by serving the Senate on two occasions as Speaker, in 1872 to replace Speaker Cauchon and in 1880 to replace Speaker Macpherson.*

Mr. Botsford was born in Saint John and educated in Sackville where he settled and took up farming. In the general election of 1830, he attempted to follow in the footsteps of his father William and brother Bliss, but was defeated in his bid for a seat in the Assembly. Three years later, however, he was appointed to the Legislative Council where he sat until Confederation.

A member of numerous government commissions, Mr. Botsford participated in boundary negotiations between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (1836) and between New Brunswick and Canada (1853).

He was sent as a delegate to Quebec to discuss with Lord Durham the common interests of the British North American colonies. In 1839 and again in 1852, he was dispatched to Washington on diplomatic missions. The first concerned the Maine-New Brunswick boundary dispute or "Aroostook war" which saw a brief skirmish. The second journey was in connection with reciprocity negotiations.

Active in domestic politics, Mr. Botsford served from 1838 to 1840 as a member of Sir John Harvey's Executive Council. At various times he acted as president of the provincial board of agriculture and commissioner responsible for public works. He served as senior Judge of Common Pleas for Westmoreland and held the rank of lieutenant colonel in the 2nd Battalion Westmoreland Militia. Founding president of the Dominion Rifle Association, he continued in that capacity until 1871.

An active member of the New Brunswick Legislative Council, in 1855 Mr. Botsford moved and carried an amendment to the standing orders which permitted, for the first time, public access to the Council's meetings. It was in 1866, however, that he made his most significant contribution in the Legislative Council, one that altered the course of New Brunswick and Canadian history.

Both Samuel Leonard Tilley, Premier from 1861, and Lieutenant Governor Gordon supported the cause of confederation. Popular feeling on the subject was reflected in the overwhelming defeat of Premier Tilley in the election of 1865. On 4 April 1866, Mr. Botsford introduced two resolutions affirming the Council's support for the confederation plan adopted at Quebec. Passed by a vote of 12 to 5, this was the only endorsement of the Quebec

resolutions by any Maritime legislative body. The Lieutenant Governor supported the position of the Council, causing the anti-confederation government of Premier A.J. Smith to resign. The ensuing political crisis was resolved when R.D. Wilmot led the pro-confederation forces to a decisive victory in the June 1866 general election.

Senator Botsford, who had declined a request to form a government, was called to the Senate in 1867. He served twice as Speaker replacing Joseph Cauchon for several days in June 1872, and Speaker D.S. Macpherson between February and April of 1880. On 30 May 1881, he was appointed a member of the Privy Council.

Upon his death in 1894, it was remarked in the Senate that Senator Botsford had been “born in the legislative purple...”

During the two months that on one occasion he filled the Chair of the Senate ... there was a unanimous feeling in this House that no one could have been fairer or more reasonable than he proved himself to be. A gentleman in every way, he inspired confidence in the Assembly that he presided over.

## Pierre Joseph Olivier Chauveau (1820 - 1890)



*The Hon. Pierre Chauveau served not only as Speaker of the Senate from 1873-1874, but also as Premier of Quebec. In addition to being a politician, he was a lawyer, an educator and a well-known man of letters.*

Senator Chauveau was born on 30 May 1820 into one of the oldest families of Charlesbourg, Lower Canada. Since his father, a merchant, died when he was only four years old, Senator Chauveau was raised by his mother in the household of her father, Joseph Roy. He was also greatly influenced by two uncles, André-Rémi Hamel and Louis-David Roy. As a student at the Séminaire de Québec he proved to have an obvious literary talent; nevertheless, at the age of 17 and after considering the priesthood, he decided to study law, articling in the law offices of his uncles and later accepting a partnership.

While the practice of law provided him with an income, Senator Chauveau's interests lay in literature and politics. In 1838 *Le Canadien* had published "L'insurrection," his poem exalting the heroism of the Patriotes during the recent rebellions. Thereafter he regularly published poems and articles on literature and politics and took an active part in founding the Société Saint-Jean Baptiste de Québec and the Société Canadienne d'Études littéraires et scientifiques. He produced collections of poetry, launched journals on education in both French and English, and wrote novels, including the acclaimed *Charles Guérin*. But there was no secure future for a man of letters in the Canada of those years, and he was consequently drawn to politics.

Mr. Chauveau ran in the general elections of 1844 on a platform calling for responsible government, and more support for education and industrial development. He won a surprising and decisive victory over the prominent incumbent, John Neilson, and then sat in Opposition with the other supporters of reform under Lafontaine. He was bitterly disappointed in 1847 when the reform coalition of Baldwin and Lafontaine won the election, but did not include him in the cabinet. However, the coalition was short-lived, and Mr. Chauveau was made Solicitor-General in 1851 by the Hincks-Morin government and then Provincial Secretary in 1853. Another political realignment in 1855 again excluded him from cabinet. In partial compensation, and in view of his reputation as one of the foremost literary men of Canada, he was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction in Lower Canada.

The position of Superintendent of Public Instruction, which he held from 1855-1867, allowed Chauveau to implement some of the educational reforms for which he had agitated as a politician. At the same time, his reputation as a politician, his political connections with the government and his standing as a man of letters speeded the course of reform. The principal objectives of the reforms were to improve the professional training and working conditions of teachers, to adopt and standardize modern teaching materials, to develop libraries, and to establish realistic budgets. His tenure as Superintendent witnessed the establishment of three teachers' colleges, the launching of the *Journal de l'instruction publique*, which he managed

and to which he made regular contributions, and its English-language equivalent, The Journal of Education for Lower Canada. Through his efforts, the government also set up the first Council of Public Instruction, an important administrative body which united Catholics and Protestants and helped oversee the schools. On the eve of Confederation he left on a tour of the United States and Europe to study the most advanced public school systems.

The basis of trust Mr. Chauveau had established with both the Catholic and Protestant communities of Canada East played an important role in his selection as Premier of Quebec in 1867 after Joseph Cauchon had failed to form a government. He took office on 1 July 1867 and served until his resignation in February 1873.

His years as Premier were difficult ones. The Conservative Party of Quebec was riven by personal, regional and religious factions.

Premier Chauveau himself was a compromise candidate, respected but lacking a substantial power base. Under his leadership, the Conservatives won a decisive victory in the general elections of September 1867. Thereafter he began the laborious process of establishing an administrative and financial structure for the province. This was made more difficult by the loss of many of the most able public servants to the new federal government and by uncertainty about the amount of the Province of Canada debt to be assigned to Quebec. His governing coalition was severely strained by the growing controversy over education policy, which not only set Catholic against Protestant, but also those who wanted a more secular education against the growing ultramontane movement. Unable to dominate the increasingly ungovernable factions and beset by personal debts and tragedy, Mr. Chauveau resigned as Premier, having accepted the office of Speaker of the Senate on 21 February 1873.

Senator Chauveau's tenure of the speakership was relatively brief, lasting less than a year. The Pacific Scandal led to the defeat of the Conservatives and the formation of a Liberal government. Senator Chauveau was forced to resign as Speaker in early 1874. He also resigned his seat in the Senate to seek election to the House of Commons. He was strongly opposed by the Ultramontanes and defeated.

His forced withdrawal from active politics gave Senator Chauveau the leisure to write again. He turned his attention to education and to aspects of the history of New France. In 1876 he was appointed to the Quebec Harbour Commission and quickly became its chairman. The next year he became sheriff of Montreal and in 1878 was offered the opportunity of returning to politics, an offer he turned down because he had too many debts and had been "too bruised" by past experiences. Instead, he agreed to teach law at Laval University, serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1884-1890. He also found time to serve as Vice-President and President of the Royal Society of Canada between 1882 and 1884. In late 1889 his health began to break down; he died on 4 April 1890.

## David Christie (1818 - 1880)



*A farmer, stock breeder and politician, the Hon. David Christie served as Speaker of the Senate between 1874-1878, being the first and one of the rare Senators without legal training to occupy the chair.*

Senator Christie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in October 1818 and received his education there until the age of fifteen when he and his family emigrated to Upper Canada and took up farming in Dumfries Township. He was to devote much of his life to improving agriculture in Ontario, helping manage the family farm and turning his own estate "The Plains" into an agricultural showplace noted particularly for stock breeding. In 1846 he participated in the formation of the Provincial Agricultural Association, later serving several terms as president, and in 1850 was named to the newly-created Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada. He was committed to agricultural improvement and education, and was an active organizer of and exhibitor in provincial fairs. In later years he helped set up the Ontario School of Agriculture, which became affiliated with the University of Guelph, and was president of both the Dominion Council of Agriculture and the American Shorthorn Breeders Association. His interest in education earned him a seat on the Senate of the University of Toronto.

In politics, Mr. Christie was a radical Reformer, who supported the causes of elective political institutions, universal suffrage and of the secularization of the clergy reserves. Several authorities credit him with coining the expression "Clear Grits," by which the radical faction of the Reform movement came to be known. His life and political career closely paralleled that of a former Edinburgh schoolmate, George Brown. The latter aligned himself and the *Toronto Globe and Mail* he edited with the modern Reformers supporting Robert Baldwin; initially the two men were to be political rivals: ultimately, they became close friends, sharing a keen interest in farming.

Mr. Christie began his political career as reeve of Brantford Township under the newly-organized system of municipal government in Canada West. In 1851, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, representing first Wentworth county and later the riding of Brant. By the mid-1850s the divided Reform party was settling its differences; Mr. Christie played a major role in the party convention of 1859, supporting George Brown's plan for a British North American federation. In the meantime, he had given up his seat in the Legislative Assembly and joined the newly-elective Upper House. As a member of the Legislative Council he was able to devote more energy to managing his estate and promoting local railway development. He continued to promote the Confederation plan in the Upper Chamber, despite his reservations over the proposed Dominion Senate -- an appointed rather than an elective body. Nevertheless, in 1867 he joined his fellow Council members in accepting a seat in the newly-created appointive Canadian Senate, an act which inspired some criticism from his political opponents.

When Alexander Mackenzie formed a Liberal administration in 1873, he initially appointed Senator Christie Secretary of State and shortly afterward, Speaker of the Senate. As Speaker Senator Christie served with distinction, earning respect through his dignified comportment and the logic and clarity of his arguments rather than through brilliant oratory. In a eulogy delivered in the Senate on 15 December 1880, Mr. Scott who succeeded Senator Christie as Secretary of State, emphasized the fairness and impartiality of his predecessor's decisions. Senator Christie resigned as Speaker in October 1878 upon the defeat of Alexander Mackenzie's government, and retired from active political life.

Senator Christie fell victim to the severe economic depression of the 1870s and spent his last years in serious financial straits. He was forced to declare bankruptcy, sell his estate and auction his household goods late in 1879. He died in Paris, Ontario, on 14 December the following year, leaving behind him, in the words of a contemporary source, the reputation of "a high-toned Christian gentleman."

## Robert Duncan Wilmot (1809 - 1891)



*Senate Speaker between November 1878 and February 1880, the Hon. Robert Wilmot was also a shipowner and miller, a politician active in municipal and provincial as well as federal politics, and finally, Lieutenant Governor of his native province, New Brunswick.*

Robert Wilmot was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on 16 October 1809 into a family with strong mercantile, political and Loyalist roots. For many years his father, a prosperous shipowner and miller, represented Saint John county in the colonial legislative assembly. Having completed his formal education by age 16, he joined his father's business. It was probably in relation to his de-veloping career in shipping that he spent some five years in Liver-pool, England, shortly after his marriage in 1833, returning to Saint John, according to most accounts, about 1840.

Mr. Wilmot began his political career in municipal politics serv-ing for a time as a city alderman in the early 1840s and, in 1849, as mayor of Saint John. Even before his term of mayor he had become active in New Brunswick politics. In 1846 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly succeeding his father as the member for Saint John. With the exception of one term, 1861 to 1865, he held this seat until Confederation.

The politics of New Brunswick in the period between 1840 and Confederation were based as much on issues and personalities as on formal party allegiance. Mr. Wilmot was originally attracted to Liberal ideas. Nevertheless, he served on the Executive Council during two Conservative administrations, holding the office of Surveyor General from 1851 to 1854 in the Partelow government and that of Provincial Secretary from 1856-1857 in the Gray government. When he returned to the Assembly in 1865, the great issue facing it was whether or not to support the plan for the Confederation of the British North American colonies embodied in the Quebec Resolutions.

Mr. Wilmot became an anti-confederate after studying the Resolutions. Many New Brunswick anti-confederates were opposed because, as Sir Albert Smith and his followers argued, the Resolutions gave too much power to the central government and too much power within the central government to Upper and Lower Canada. Mr. Wilmot was among a minority who opposed Confederation because it left government too weak and who therefore favoured a legislative union. The anti-confederate government formed by Sir Albert Smith and Mr. Wilmot after the overthrow of the Tilley administration was a strange and short-lived alliance. In September 1865, Mr. Wilmot attended a Quebec City meeting of the Confederate Council on Commercial Treaties convened to discuss the commercial policy of the colonies vis-à-vis reciprocity with the United States. The experience convinced him that some form of union was essential to relieve economic pressure on the separate colonies. From his observations at the meeting, he became convinced that the legislative union he favoured could not be made acceptable to a Lower Canada determined to protect the rights of French Canadians. Conse-

quently, he gradually came to support the only remaining option, a federal union based on the Quebec Resolutions.

Mr. Wilmot resigned from the Smith-Wilmot administration in March 1866 and helped Peter Mitchell form a pro-confederation government one month later. As a leading member of this government he was a delegate to the London Conference which settled the final framework and details of Confederation. When the new government of Canada was formed in 1867, he was called to the Senate.

In 1876 Senator Wilmot participated in the United States centennial exhibition in Philadelphia as a Canadian commissioner. Two years later, when Sir John A. Macdonald formed his second administration, Senator Wilmot was appointed minister without portfolio and Speaker of the Senate. After serving as Speaker for just over a year, he resigned from the speakership and the Senate on his appointment as Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. His term lasted from 1880 to 1885 and following its expiration he retired to the family farm known as "Belmont" in Sunbury county. He died six years later on 11 February 1891.



## David Lewis Macpherson (1818 - 1896)



*A pioneering businessman, railroad contractor and expert on public finance, the Hon. Sir David Macpherson's tenure as Speaker from 1880-1883 was plagued by ill-health and ended with his return to more active politics as Minister of the Interior. Nevertheless, both as a businessman and Speaker, he had a reputation for hospitality and made the Speaker's chambers a centre of society.*

David Lewis Macpherson was born in Scotland and educated at the Royal Academy of Inverness. At the age of 17 he came to Montreal where his older brother was senior partner in a successful forwarding company. Macpherson, Crane and Company conveyed goods by wagon and ship throughout the Canadas before the advent of railway transport. He went to work for his brother's firm, first as a clerk and later as a partner. His association with the transportation industry was strengthened by his marriage into the Molson family of Montreal who were pioneers in steam navigation and railroads as well as finance.

David Macpherson himself was quick to realize the potential of the railway age. In 1851, with Alexander Galt and L.H. Holton he applied for a charter to build a line between Montreal and Kingston. By 1853, the associates had joined Casimir Gzowski's contracting firm which was to handle much of the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway. The connection with this company brought him considerable wealth and influence in the business circles of Toronto, where he moved, as well as Montreal. During the course of his career he was to hold directorships in a number of companies, including Molson's Bank, the Western Canada Permanent Building and Savings Society and the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway. He was also, at various times, a member of the Corporation of Hellmuth College, London, a vice-president of the Montreal Board of Trade and president of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto.

Mr. Macpherson entered politics in 1864, running successfully for a seat in the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada. An imposing figure, he spoke with authority on public matters relating to finance and commerce, but remained too much the practical businessman to be entirely comfortable with party politics. Called to the Senate in 1867, he made noteworthy speeches on Confederation and on the settlement of Crown waste lands.

In 1868, Senator Macpherson was named to a commission, with the mandate under the BNA Act, to divide the outstanding public debts and assets of the previous union between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. His performance as an arbitrator representing Ontario, was praised for its impartiality. The following year he published a widely-circulated pamphlet on banking and currency. Upon British Columbia's admission to the Dominion in 1871, Senator Macpherson formed the Inter-Oceans Railway Company to bid for the contract to build a transcontinental railway. This prize was awarded to a rival company headed by Sir Hugh Allan, but the contract was nullified with the defeat of Sir John A. Macdonald's Conservative government in 1873.

Despite disappointment about the lost contract, Senator Macpherson continued to support the Conservatives, quickly emerging as one of the most formidable critics of Alexander Mackenzie's Liberal government. His speech of 19 March 1878, attacking that government's public expenditure policy, was published in pamphlet form and distributed as part of the Conservatives' campaign literature. Equally effective was the denunciation, in the Senate, of the Liberals' public works projects, particularly with respect to the Fort Francis dock.

Appointed Speaker in February 1880, Senator Macpherson served only a few days before ill-health caused him to step down; he was able to resume his duties by the following April. On the role of Senate Speaker, a contemporary source observed that:

This is a position, which, by tradition, calls for not only political but social gifts of a high order, for Mr. Speaker's chambers are a centre of Society during the session of Parliament.

Senator Macpherson's courtly and hospitable fulfilment of these obligations were considered to be exemplary.

Senator Macpherson resigned the speakership in October 1883 to accept the position of Minister of the Interior. He was knighted the following year, but was forced to retire in 1885, due to continued ill-health and criticism over his handling of the Northwest Rebellion.

In his later years, Senator Macpherson took little part in politics or in business affairs. He died in 1896 while crossing the Atlantic on the SS Labrador.

## William Miller (1835 - 1912)



*Like Senator Botsford, the Hon. William Miller also played a critical role in bringing about Confederation, and in a sense was a “stepfather” of Nova Scotia’s decision to enter confederation. A leading authority on constitutional issues and procedure, Senator Miller served as Speaker from 1883-1887.*

William Miller was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia on 12 February 1835 to a family of Irish descent. Educated at St. Andrew’s grammar school and Antigonish Academy, he spent several years as a school teacher before he began to study law. In 1860 he was called to the bar of Nova Scotia and began practising in Halifax.

Early in his life, Mr. Miller was attracted to politics, and to the politics of political union in particular. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia in 1863 and represented the Cape Breton riding of Richmond County until Confederation four years later. From the beginning of his political career he supported a union, on equitable terms, of all the British colonies in North America. For this reason he opposed the Hon. Charles Tupper’s resolution authorizing the appointment of delegates to consider a union of the maritime colonies at Charlottetown in 1864.

But he opposed just as strongly the scheme of union embodied in the Quebec Resolutions which he attacked as being unjust in many details, especially the financial arrangements for the smaller colonies. Mr. Miller did, therefore, play a key role in making the financial provisions of the proposed Confederation unacceptable to the people of Nova Scotia.

Resistance to the Quebec Resolutions was not limited to financial matters, but soon involved hostility to the very concept of union, a concern that was central to Mr. Miller’s thinking. The realization that the movement toward a general union was endangered caused him to make a dramatic break with other anti-Confederates. In April 1866 he made an historic speech in the Nova Scotia Assembly proposing that a delegation be sent to London to negotiate, under the auspices of the British government, such amendments to the Quebec scheme as to make it more fair and acceptable to Nova Scotia.

Contemporaries realized that Mr. Miller’s action had a profound effect. He was bitterly assailed by anti-Confederates as a turncoat -- with reason, because when the government of Sir Charles Tupper accepted his compromise resolution, a majority of ten against the Quebec Resolutions turned into a majority of 14 in favour of federal union under more favourable terms. The government considered his services so valuable that he was asked to serve as a delegate to the London conference; he declined, perhaps because his motives and personal integrity were being maligned by his opponents.

In 1867, Mr. Miller was called to the Senate. Of his performance there, a contemporary source comments:

No man, perhaps in the Senate is listened to with more attention and respect than the Senator

from Richmond for notwithstanding he is one of the most ready and effective debaters in that body, he is careful never to bore the House and rarely addresses it unless he has something worth contributing to the debate.

A particular concern of Senator Miller was completion of what he called “the noble edifice of British North America Union,” through the admission of British Columbia to the union, the development of the northwest territories and through the construction of a transcontinental railway to link the whole together from sea-to-sea. On the fifth anniversary of his speech to the Nova Scotia Assembly, he rose in the Senate to welcome and support the admission of British Columbia and to express confidence in the eventual adherence of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland to Confederation.

During his long career as a Senator, from 1867 to 1912, Senator Miller served as chairman of all the leading standing committees and of numerous special and joint committees including the one responsible for codifying the criminal laws. In October 1883 he was named Speaker of the Senate, a post he held until the close of the 5th Parliament in 1887. His legal experience brought authority to his opinions on constitutional matters and he was widely regarded as an expert on parliamentary procedure. Contemporary accounts note that he filled the role of Speaker “with ability, with dignity, and with great satisfaction,” that he presided with firmness over the debates and proceedings of the Chamber. Although he was politically an independent Liberal-Conservative, Prime Minister Macdonald offered him the leadership of the government in the Senate, and, as one of his last official acts, appointed him a member of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada in 1891.

Shortly after leaving the speakership, Senator Miller became increasingly affected with deafness. In the last decades of his life, he showed little of the forceful debating style for which he was well-known. At his death, in February 1912, he was the longest-serving Senator in the Chamber and the last to have been summoned to the Upper Chamber upon its formation.

## Josiah Burr Plumb (1816 - 1888)



*American-born and already a successful businessman and politician when he emigrated to Canada after the American Civil War, the Hon. Josiah Burr Plumb launched a second career in Canadian politics, serving as MP, Senator, Government Leader in the Senate and, briefly, as Speaker during 1887-1888.*

Josiah Plumb was born on 25 March 1816 into a well-established and prominent family which, on his mothers side, was also very active in United States state and national politics, having provided numerous judges, legislators and Senators as well as Colonel Aaron Burr who served as Thomas Jefferson's first Vice President between 1801-1805. Mr. Plumb began his career in banking and finance, becoming manager of the State Bank of Albany, N.Y. and a director of banks in Buffalo and Oswego. He served on the committee which arranged for the consolidation of several railways in New York State into what later became the New York Central Railway.

Although an active member of the New York Democratic party, Mr. Plumb neither held nor sought public office. As the storm clouds of the American Civil War gathered and relations between slave-holding and anti-slavery states deteriorated, he was nominated by New York Democrats in 1861 to serve on a committee established to confer with the slave states on the Northern border, with a view to avoiding, if possible, the impending conflict.

Immediately after the American Civil War, Mr. Plumb retired from business and moved to the Niagara Falls area of Canada West. He quickly became active in the Conservative Party, thanks to the influence of his brother-in-law, Thomas Clark Street, and came to the attention of Sir John A. Macdonald who encouraged him to run in the general election of 1874. He won election in the county of Niagara holding it after a contested election in 1878 which saw his apparent defeat and later vindication. However, the riding he represented went out of existence in the redistribution which took place before the 1882 election and he was defeated when he ran in Wellington North.

Although his stay in the House of Commons was relatively short, it was characterized by his independence and outspokenness. This is not surprising given the self-confidence engendered by a highly successful career in finance and by his close association with American politics before emigrating to Canada. Despite his background in American finance and railroading, he campaigned actively for the National Policy proposed by Sir John A. Macdonald as Prime Minister. Given the importance of railway building and finance to this policy, it is not surprising that he was called to the Senate on 8 February 1883.

In the Senate, his independent and outspoken character continued to have an impact. He was tireless in his efforts to warn against and lessen the regional rivalries in Canadian politics, which in his view, if unchecked, might set the new Canadian Confederation down the tragic path of the American Union. Senator Plumb thus became a natural leader in the Senate, and when Senator Miller resigned the Speakership, it was to him that the government turned on 4

April 1887 to become Speaker of the Senate. His term of office was, however, short for he died on 12 March 1888.

## George William Allan (1822 - 1901)



*Speaker of the Senate from 1888 to 1891, the Hon. George Allan was a widely travelled and cultivated man who made a substantial contribution to Canadian education, the arts, science and horticulture in addition to politics.*

His father, William, was a pioneer settler of York (Toronto) during Governor Simcoe's term and later became the first postmaster and customs collector for the city, eventually holding a seat in the Legislative Council and serving in the executive. As a youth, Senator Allan attended Upper Canada College. His studies were interrupted when, at the age of 15, he volunteered to serve with the Bank Rifle Corps during the 1837 Rebellion. Returning to school the following year, he passed his examination as a law student and was articled to a law firm, being called to the bar in 1846. Encouraged by his father to do so, he travelled extensively before beginning the practice of law. Thus he not only toured Europe, but also went up the Nile River to the borders of the Sudan and travelled through Syria and the Holy Land, Asia Minor, Turkey and Greece at a time when many of these countries were both relatively inaccessible and dangerously chaotic. These travels led to his election to the Royal Geographical Society of England and gave him a lifelong interest in foreign countries and travel. 1846 also witnessed his first marriage, to Louisa Maud Robinson.

As a young lawyer, Mr. Allan was attracted to municipal politics, serving as a popular Toronto alderman from 1849 and being elected mayor of the city in 1865. He was also attracted to national politics and in 1858 was elected to the Legislative Council from the district of York, a position he retained until Confederation. As a Councillor, he took a prominent part in the business of the Council and for many years was chairman of the Private Bills Committee. He was summoned to the Senate of Canada in May 1867.

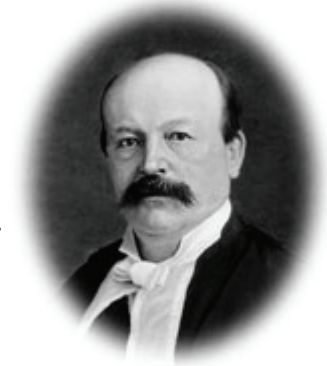
As a Senator, he first served as chairman of the Private Bills Committee, but was best known for his long tenure of the chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce. In March 1888 he was appointed Speaker of the Senate and served until the end of the Parliament in 1891.

Urbane and widely travelled, Senator Allan was a man of many interests outside politics. Throughout his life he was much involved in promoting education, science and culture. A patron of the arts, he amassed a large collection of Paul Kane's paintings and presided over numerous associations and institutes, among them the Royal Canadian Institute, the Ontario Society of Artists, the Toronto Conservatory of Music and the Ontario Historical Society. He was associated with Trinity College from its founding in 1852 and served as its chancellor for more than 20 years. Senator Allan was also a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Geological Society and the Zoological Society. Keenly interested in horticulture, he donated to the city of Toronto a piece of land which formed the nucleus of the municipal horticultural gardens. Senator Allan retained his early interest in military affairs and held the title of Lieutenant Colonel of the Regimental Division of East Toronto, as well as being an

honorary member of the Queen's Own Rifles. Active in the Synod of the Church of England, he was for a long time president of the Upper Canada Bible Society. Senator Allan died quietly at his residence, Moss Park, in July 1901. With his death, Toronto lost one of its most widely liked and respected residents.



## Alexandre Lacoste (1842 - 1923)



*The five months Sir Alexandre Lacoste spent as Speaker of the Senate between 27 April and 13 September 1891 were just a brief interlude in his career as one of his government's foremost constitutional lawyers and jurists.*

Sir Alexandre was born on 12 January 1842 at Boucherville, Quebec where his family had settled in the early eighteenth century and where his father was the most widely consulted notary on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence as well as being Member of Parliament for Chambly and a Senator. Sir Alexandre studied at the seminary of Saint-Hyacinthe before entering Université Laval to take law. He was an exceptional student, displaying both a diligence and a brilliance that brought him to the attention of his professors, particularly at law school. Thus, a successful and prominent legal career was expected of him when he was called to the bar in 1863.

He did not disappoint these expectations. He joined the firm of Leblanc and Cassidy, a leading Montreal firm in its day. He moved up in the firm quickly until he became a junior partner and the firm was renamed Leblanc, Cassidy and Lacoste. Later, he founded Lacoste, Bisailon, Bresseau and Lajoie which was to become highly respected.

As one of the most prominent lawyers of Montreal in the 1870s and 1880s, Alexandre Lacoste was involved in some way with almost all of the major cases of his era, and, on more than 20 occasions, he travelled to Great Britain to argue before the judicial committee of the Privy Council. His most famous intervention before the judicial committee established the constitutional right of the provinces to tax commercial corporations.

Conservative by temperament as well as by party loyalty, Sir Alexandre took an active part in political campaigns, sometimes making speeches, but for many years he resisted efforts to recruit him as a candidate for either the Legislative Assembly of Quebec or the House of Commons. In 1882 he agreed to accept a seat in the Legislative Council of the province and in January 1884 he was called to the Senate.

Senator Lacoste believed very strongly in the role of the Senate as a court of revision. In the rush and pressure of political life in the government and House of Commons, it was all too possible in his opinion to propose and even to pass legislation that might be unconstitutional or that might encroach on areas of provincial jurisdiction. Thus he dedicated himself in particular to the careful scrutiny of federal legislation and was a respected and prominent member of the Upper Chamber. Family and financial considerations caused him to turn down positions in the cabinet of Sir John A. Macdonald and on the bench of the Supreme Court, although he did serve briefly as government leader during the temporary absence of the Hon. Mr. Abbott. When he was chosen as Speaker of the Senate on the assembling of the new Parliament in 1891, the appointment was popular on both sides of the House.

Although he only held the Speakership for a few months, contemporary accounts noted his

reputation for “dignity, impartiality, and a thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure.” As Speaker he paid special attention to the social duties attached to the position and was known “as one of the most generous entertainers in Ottawa.” He resigned the Speakership in September 1891 to accept the position of “juge en chef” (Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench) for the province of Quebec. He remained Chief Justice until his retirement from the bench in early 1907. But even in retirement Sir Alexandre continued to be active in legal circles carrying on an extensive consulting practice.

During his long career he received many honours, among them the Order of St. Michael and St. George (24 May 1893). He was knighted by Queen Victoria on 15 June 1897. He received a doctorate of law from Laval University in 1879 and was Professor of Civil Law there from 1880-1923. He died in Montreal on 17 August 1923.

## John Jones Ross (1831 - 1901)



*Speaker of the Senate from 14 September 1891 to July 1896, the Hon. John Ross Jones was also the seventh Prime Minister of Quebec and throughout his active political career maintained a medical practice, serving as President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Quebec.*

John Ross was born at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade on 16 August 1833, the son of Marie-Louise-Eloise Gouin and George McIntosh Ross. Having completed his classical education at the Séminaire de Québec, he studied medicine under Dr. Carter, receiving his diploma as Doctor of Medicine in 1852 from l'École de Médecine et de Chirurgie of Montreal.

He spent most of his time over the next few years establishing his medical practice in his home town of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. He was nevertheless attracted to politics and to the Conservative coalition of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier. He was elected first in 1861 to represent his home county of Champlain in the legislature of United Canada. After Confederation in 1867, he continued to represent Champlain for a short period at both the federal and provincial levels under the system of double mandate. He resigned as the provincial Member for Champlain in November 1867 to represent the division of Shawinigan in the Legislative Council of Quebec and in 1874 resigned as the federal Member on the abolition of the double mandate.

Mr. Ross was a member of the Legislative Council of Quebec for more than 30 years. On three occasions he served as Speaker and as a member of the government: from February 1873 to September 1874 under Premier Ouimet, from January 1876 to March 1878 under Premier Boucher de Boucherville, and from October 1879 to July 1881 under Premier Chapleau. From July 1881 until March 1882, he was Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. The resignation of the Mousseau Ministry in January 1884 opened the way for him to form an administration of his own, serving as Premier and Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. His government lasted for three years until his resignation in January 1887.

Senator Ross was appointed to the Senate on 12 April 1887. As a Conservative Senator he fully supported Prime Minister Macdonald's National Policy and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He became Speaker of the Senate on 14 September 1891 and held that position until 12 July 1896. Shortly thereafter he joined the Cabinet of Sir Charles Tupper as a Minister without portfolio, but his term in Cabinet was short-lived because the Tupper Government was defeated in the general elections of 1896.

Outside politics, Senator Ross throughout his life maintained a strong interest not only in his medical profession but also in the militia and in business, particularly railroad construction. A large landowner himself, he spent a great deal of time improving the quality of agriculture in his home district of Champlain, serving as president of the local Agriculture Society and as a member of the provincial council on agriculture from 1862 to 1890. After 1896 Senator Ross retired from active politics and died on 4 May 1901 in his home parish.

# Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier (1837 - 1911)



*One of the most prominent public figures of his era, the Hon. Sir Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier, had a varied career as a lawyer, army officer, Member of Parliament, Senator, cabinet minister, Speaker of the Senate from 1896 to 1901, Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, and Lieutenant Governor of Quebec.*

Charles Pelletier was born on 22 January 1837 at Rivière Ouelle in the County of Kamouraska in Lower Canada. His parents, J.M. Pelletier and Julie Painchaud, were successful merchants and farmers and his maternal uncle was the founder of Sainte-Anne-la-Pocatière College where Mr. Pelletier studied before entering Laval University to take law. He was admitted to the bar of Lower Canada in 1860 and for several years devoted most of his energies to his practice. He nevertheless found time to take an active part in the Canadian militia. As Major in command of the 9th Voltigeurs de Québec, he distinguished himself in active service during the Fenian raid of 1866.

Immediately after Confederation, Mr. Pelletier ran for the Liberal Party in the county of Kamouraska. Although he won by a large majority, the Returning Officer nullified the result on the grounds of informal proceedings. While the Returning Officer was censured for partisan conduct, a new election had to be called for 1869. Mr. Pelletier won with an even larger majority, easily holding the seat in the general election of 1872. The next year, he was asked to run for the provincial legislature in Quebec East under the “double mandate.” Again the election was bitterly contested and before he won, he was slightly wounded in an attempted assassination.

In Parliament he quickly became an important spokesman for the Liberal Opposition, particularly with regard to Quebec issues. When the Liberals themselves formed a government, his coolness and debating skills proved invaluable in its defence.

Senator Pelletier was called to the Senate in 1877 to serve as Minister of Agriculture and to represent the government on behalf of French Canadians. As Minister of Agriculture, he was appointed Canadian Commissioner to Paris to prepare the Canadian section of the Universal Exposition of 1878 in Paris. At the close of the Exposition, the head of the British Paris Commission, H.M. The Prince of Wales, congratulated him and his department on the quality of the Canadian display. Senator Pelletier was also made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.).

When the Liberal government was defeated in the elections of 1878, Senator Pelletier concentrated his attention on his role as Senator, on the development of his legal practice and on rebuilding the fortunes of the Liberal party in Quebec where it had traditionally returned only a few Members of Parliament. He is given much of the credit for turning Quebec into a bastion of Liberal support. In the general elections of the 1880s and 1890s, he served as

chairman of the executive committee for Quebec and, when the Liberals under Wilfrid Laurier returned to power in 1896, it was with the support of a large majority from Quebec.

Senator Pelletier was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 13 July 1896. On 24 May 1898, the list of honours he had received was lengthened with his appointment as a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (K.C.M.G.). With the end of the Liberals' first term of office, Senator Pelletier resigned as Speaker of the Senate on 28 January 1901, continuing to sit as a Senator until appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Quebec in 1908 and served until his death on 29 April 1911.

## Lawrence Geoffrey Power (1841 - 1921)



*The Hon. Lawrence Geoffrey Power served as Speaker of the Senate from 1901-1905, a position for which long years of service as a clerk assistant in the Nova Scotia legislature had prepared him and which led to his publication of a manual on the Senate rules shortly after his period of office was over.*

He was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 9 August 1841, the son of Patrick Power who sat in the House of Commons from 1867 to 1872 as a supporter of Joseph Howe. In his youth he was a noted scholar: he received a B.A. from St. Mary's College in Halifax, undertook graduate studies at the Catholic University of Ireland, and studied law at the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the bar of Nova Scotia in 1866 and began to practice in Halifax.

Mr. Power was appointed clerk assistant and clerk of bills to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, the House of Assembly, and served from 1867-1877. During this time he was actively engaged in the preparation of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, and of the Laws and Ordinances relating to the City of Halifax.

A Liberal, Mr. Power took an active part in the politics and community affairs of Halifax. He served as an alderman for six years and as a member of the Board of School Commissioners for thirteen. Throughout his adult life, he served on the boards of many charitable organizations, among them the Halifax School of the Blind, the Children's Aid Society and the Joint Benevolent Committee. He was also associated with the Dominion Rifle Association, the British Navy League, the Nova Scotia Game Society and was Vice-President of the Victoria School of Art and Design, as well as sitting for a great many years on the Senate of the University of Halifax.

Senator Power was called to the Canadian Senate by the Earl of Dufferin on 2 February 1877. He was known as "a quiet studious man," in the words of the Montreal Star, as an author, and as an active champion of the cause of Catholic Canadians. His first two books were Richard John Uniacke: A Sketch and The Irish Discovery of America which appeared in 1891 and 1895 respectively. His best known and most influential work was the pamphlet, "The Manitoba School Question from the Point of View of a Catholic Member." Published on the eve of the 1896 general elections, the pamphlet was translated into French and was circulated widely in both languages during the campaign. It was credited with helping defeat the Conservative government.

Senator Power's services in the Senate were rewarded when he was appointed Speaker on 29 January 1901. His experience as clerk assistant of the Nova Scotian House of Assembly served him well for his role as Speaker allowing him to master quickly the rules of the Chamber. His previous experience was also valuable because the Senate had become aware of the need to revise its rules and to consider giving the Speaker more power to rule on points of order. Acting on his own initiative in 1902, he removed a Notice of Motion from the Order Paper as being contrary to the dignity of the Senate.

Although his successor, the Hon. Senator Dandurand, was Speaker when the reform was carried out, Senator Power's mastery of the rules was such that he published a manual of the revised Rules and Regulations of the Senate some two years after his own term of office had expired on 8 January 1905.

Within days of the appointment of a new Speaker, Senator Power was honoured by being made a member of the Privy Council. In 1911 he was further distinguished by his selection as one of five Senators chosen to represent the Senate at the coronation of King George and Queen Mary.

At the time of his death on 12 September 1921 at his home in Halifax, Senator Power was the senior Senator of the Chamber, having been a member for forty-three years.

## **Raoul Dandurand** **(1861 - 1942)**



*Appointed to the Senate as a young man, the Rt. Hon. Raoul Dandurand was Speaker from 9 January 1905 to 13 January 1909 toward the beginning of an illustrious career in law, politics and international affairs.*

Raoul Dandurand was born on 4 November 1861 in Montreal. He attended Montreal College and took his law degree at Université Laval, graduating in 1882. A year later he was admitted to the Quebec bar and rapidly established his reputation thereafter. Although specializing in corporate law, he collaborated with the Assistant Attorney General of Quebec, Charles Lanctot, to publish a treatise on criminal law and manuals for Justices of the Peace and police officers.

In 1886 Mr. Dandurand married Josephine Marchand, the daughter of F.G. Marchand, Premier of Quebec. She was also a personality of note, being a well-known novelist, playwright and essayist of her time. She held many important positions in the national and international women's movement and was the first Canadian woman made an "Officier d'Académie" by the French government in 1899.

Senator Dandurand was appointed to the Senate by his long-time friend, Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier, on 22 January 1898 at the unusually young age of 37 and became Speaker of the Senate in January 1905. As Speaker he presided over a major reform of the rules of the Senate. Before 1906 the Senate had prided itself on following the procedural traditions and practices of the British House of Lords. The Chamber was ruled by the self-discipline of its members, not by the Speaker who had no power to intervene in debates to enforce the rules unless asked to do so by another Hon. Member. Nor did the Speaker have the power to enforce order and decorum. Incidents of disorder and want of decorum, while rare and confined to a few individuals, nevertheless did occur, and in 1906 the rules were revised and a new rule was added to give the Speaker specific authority to preserve order in the House. Rarely resorted to, this rule continued to exist until 1991 when the authority of the Speaker to preserve order and control debate was strengthened and clarified. .

During his period as Speaker, Senator Dandurand founded and was the first President of the Canadian branch of the Interparliamentary Peace Union. A profound interest in and commitment to the issues of world peace was one of the striking features of his career.

In 1921, when the Liberals regained power, Prime Minister King appointed Senator Dandurand as Minister of State, the representative of the government in the Senate, and the second most senior and powerful minister in the government (second only to King himself). From then on he became a close advisor and friend of Prime Minister King, staying by his side until his death in 1942. During this period, he was not only very influential in domestic politics when the Liberals were in power but also became a prominent international statesman. In 1925 and again between 1927 and 1930, he served as Canadian representative to the Assembly of the League of Nations. He was so highly thought of that he was elected, by a large



margin, President of the Assembly in 1925. At the League he was a tireless champion of the rights of ethnic minorities in Europe and elsewhere and became a specialist in social issues. Thereafter he was often sent on special missions to represent Canada internationally.

Senator Dandurand received many honours for his services to the causes of peace and justice to minorities. The French government made him a Knight of the Legion of Honour in 1891, an Officer in 1907, a Commander in 1912, and finally a Grand Officer in 1935. Later he was elected a member of the Institut de France, Académie des sciences morales et politiques, an honour rarely bestowed on anyone outside France. For his services during World War I to the French and Belgian Relief Funds, he was made Commander of the Belgian Order "Pour la Couronne." The British honoured him by appointing him to the Imperial Privy Council in 1944. He received numerous other honours and decorations during his lifetime.

Senator Dandurand was very active in the debates and work of the Senate, being highly respected by his colleagues regardless of their political affiliation. Just before his death, he was guest of honour at a Senate function at which he was presented with a bust of himself as a token of esteem and affection.

Senator Dandurand died suddenly on 11 March 1942. In the Senate it was said that: "The Senate of Canada has been fortunate in having many brilliant leaders since Confederation, but none was more experienced, more talented or more highly thought of."

## James Kirkpatrick Kerr (1841 - 1916)



*A Bencher of the Law Society and a prominent member of the Masonic Order, the Hon. James Kirkpatrick Kerr served as Speaker of the Senate during the 11th Parliament from 14 January 1909 to 22 October 1911.*

James Kerr was born near Guelph, Ontario on 1 August 1841. He was educated at the Galt Grammar School and was called to the bar of Upper Canada at Osgoode Hall in 1862. He began his long career as a barrister and solicitor in Toronto in partnership with Edward and Samuel Blake, but from 1884 was the head of the important Toronto legal firm of Kerr, Davidson, Paterson and Grant. Over the years he handled many important constitutional cases and appeared before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He became a distinguished member of the Canadian bar and was elected a Bencher of the Law Society in 1879. The province of Ontario recognized his stature as a lawyer by appointing him a Queen's Counsel in 1879, and he received the same honour from the Dominion two years later.

Mr. Kerr was a member of the Liberal Party. He was the Liberal candidate for the constituency of Centre Toronto in the general election of 1891. Unsuccessful, he became President of the Ontario Liberal Association in 1892 and was summoned to the Senate on 12 March 1903. Appointed Speaker of the Senate six years later in January 1909, he served until October 1911.

Throughout his life, Senator Kerr devoted much of his time to the Masonic Order. Between 1875 and 1877 he was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and served as Provincial Prior of the Sovereign Great Priory of Masonic Knights Templar in Canada. He had the honour of receiving the distinguished Order of the Grand Cross of the Temple at the hands of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, in 1883.

A shrewd and energetic businessman, as well as an acknowledged legal authority, Senator Kerr held many responsible and important positions in commerce, being a director of the Canadian General Electric Company and of several other large industries. He was one of the founders of Havergal Ladies' College, Toronto.

Senator Kerr was appointed to the Privy Council for Canada in October 1911. He died on 4 December 1916 after a long illness.

# Auguste Charles Philippe Robert Landry (1846 - 1919)



*Scientific farmer, soldier, politician and leader of the fight to retain the educational rights of Franco-Ontarians, the Hon. Auguste Charles Philippe Landry, Speaker of the Senate from 23 October 1911 until his resignation on 2 June 1916, has probably been its most controversial presiding officer.*

Auguste Landry was born on 15 January 1846 at Quebec City. He received his education at the Séminaire de Québec and at the Ste-Anne's Agricultural College where he won awards for his work on the theoretical and applied sciences of agriculture.

Upon graduation he embarked on the career in which he would most excel, that of "gentleman farmer." His proficiency in the science and technique of farming was widely recognized due to his authorship of the "Traité populaire d'agriculture théorique et pratique" and many other pamphlets on agriculture. His lifetime interest in agriculture also saw him teach agricultural science, hold numerous posts (including President) with the Agricultural Society of Quebec, and write for *Le Matin* of Quebec and the *Journal de l'agriculture*.

Mr. Landry, while making his contributions to agriculture, also pursued a military career that won him many accolades, honours and awards. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and given the command of the 61st Regiment of Montmagny on 9 January 1885. During the Fenian Raids he commanded the 10th Infantry Brigade and was later awarded the Fenian Raid medal. He then served as aide de camp to Lord Stanley of Preston and to Lord Aberdeen. Promoted Colonel of the 61st Regiment in 1903, he became the Regiment's Honorary Colonel in 1909.

His political career began after his other two careers were well-established. He first ran for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec in the riding of Montmagny but was defeated. He ran again in the general election of 1875 and won, but his election was contested and he was unseated a year later.

His years as the President of the Conservative Party Association of Quebec were rewarded, however, in the general election of 1878 when he won a seat in the House of Commons to represent the federal riding of Montmagny. He was re-elected in 1882 but was defeated in 1887.

Senator Landry was called to the Senate on 23 February 1892. He continued to be active in his community, however, becoming Mayor of Limoilou on 1 May 1899. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 23 October 1911 and resigned 2 June 1916. He thus presided over the debates during the early years of World War I and during the increasingly bitter struggle over French-language educational rights in Ontario, two events which tested the limits of Canadian unity.

Normally, the procedural rulings of the Speaker were unchallenged, and if challenged were not put to a formal vote. Nevertheless, many of Senator Landry's rulings were challenged, some were put to a vote. In early 1915, he regularly had difficulty with the House: his rulings were being challenged and rejected on appeal. From 8 April to the day of the prorogation, a period of several days, he absented himself from the Chamber. Since it was not clear that his absence was "unavoidable," the legality of the decisions of the Senate under its Acting Speaker was questioned and it was suggested that the government either force Senator Landry to take the chair or dismiss him. Finally, he returned explaining that he had felt deeply the refusal of some government members to support his rulings, two of which had just been reversed on appeal, and had declined to preside over a House which failed to give him the expected support. This statement closed the incident and Senator Landry presided over the Senate for another year.

Some accounts attribute his resignation as Speaker to a feeling that he had been unfairly treated by his colleagues. The editorial and interviews which appeared on his death in *Le Devoir*, however, suggest that he may have been influenced by the desire to devote more of his remaining time and energy (he was seventy years old) to the cause of Franco-Ontarians whose right to a French-language education was under attack. Although a Québécois, he had agreed to serve as the President of the Franco-Ontarian Association d'éducation, lending his prestige as Speaker and his experience as a politician to their cause. He made it clear that he felt his first duty was to the French-speaking minority and their children, and it was to this cause that he devoted the years between his resignation in 1916 and his death on 20 December 1919.

## Joseph Bolduc (1847 - 1924)



*Noted for his geniality, hospitality and fairness, the Hon. Joseph Bolduc was Speaker from 3 June 1916 to 6 February 1922. He is one of the very few Speakers who has been forced to “name” or threaten to eject an Hon. Member.*

He was born on 22 June 1847 in the Beauce village of St. Victor de Tring, Quebec. He received his education at College Sainte-Marie and Université Laval, graduating as a public notary in 1874. Throughout his life, however, he was also a successful businessman, farmer and politician.

Mr. Bolduc was an active and popular member of the community in which he was born. Because of his successful efforts to promote a railway line linking St. Victor de Tring with the rest of the province, the Maritimes and New England, and because of his active participation in many local businesses, including the telephone company, he was elected Mayor of his parish and, later, Warden of the County of Beauce. But his desire to serve his community did not stop there.

Two years after graduation he won a by-election in 1876 to represent the riding of Beauce as a Conservative in the House of Commons. He sat in the Commons until 1884, winning successive elections with ever-increasing majorities. His popularity was such that in the election of 1882, he had only two votes against him from among all those votes cast in his and the two adjoining parishes.

Senator Bolduc resigned his seat in the Commons on being called to the Senate on 3 October 1884. As a Senator he became noted for his efforts to improve relations between the people and regions of Canada and for his support of the Navy Bill. Appointed Speaker following the resignation of the Hon. Landry as of 3 June 1916, Senator Bolduc also served as Speaker during the following Parliament. Like his predecessor, he found that the issues which arose during the war years caused an unusual amount of turbulence in Senate debates. No issue was more controversial or caused more heated and passionate debate than the passage and implementation of the Military Service Act of 1917. In an effort to delay conscription at least until after general elections could be held, Senator Choquette moved a motion for the production of papers. In the debate which ensued, Senator Choquette was warned that his line of argument was such as to create excitement in the country and opposition to the operation of the law. When he continued, the Speaker threatened to name him and finally told him to sit down. Although the procedure followed was unconventional and there was some question as to whether Senator Choquette had been named for a discourtesy to the Senate or to the Speaker, there was no doubt in the mind of the Speaker that the Hon. Senator had been named. In this as in other incidents of disorderly debate, Senator Bolduc was able to restore order without the need to entertain a motion for suspension.

By the time of his death on 13 August 1924, Senator Bolduc was one of the last members of the House of whom it could be said that he had been a contemporary, friend or counsellor of

every Prime Minister since Confederation, from the Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald to the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King.

## Hewitt Bostock (1864 - 1930)



*Speaker of the Senate from 7 February 1922 to 28 April 1930, the Hon. Hewitt Bostock was the longest serving presiding officer until the Hon. Guy Charbonneau served more than nine consecutive years between 1984-1993.*

He was born on 31 May 1844 at the "Hermitage," Walton Heath, Epsom, England. Following his graduation from Trinity College, Cambridge, with honours in mathematics, he took up the study of law and was admitted to the British Bar in 1888 at Lincoln's Inn. Rather than pursue the profession of lawyer, he spent the years following his professional training travelling in America, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan. This emphasis on what we today call the countries of the Pacific Rim was surprising, but his decision in 1893 to purchase land in British Columbia at Monte Creek was consistent with a very early awareness of the future development of the Orient and its importance to Canada.

Throughout his life in Canada, Mr. Bostock was particularly interested in the development of British Columbia's agriculture and natural resources. He began a very successful stock-raising and fruit-farming ranch at Monte Creek and organized the Kootenay Lumber Company which he later sold.

A strong belief in English political and legal traditions attracted Mr. Bostock both to publishing and to politics. In 1894 he started the Weekly Province in Victoria; later he moved the presses to Vancouver and in cooperation with Walter C. Nicol founded the Vancouver Daily Province. He was elected as a Liberal to the House of Commons for Yale-Cariboo in the general elections of 1896 and was appointed one of the Liberal 'whips'.

Senator Bostock was summoned to the Senate on 6 June 1904 and became Leader of the Liberal caucus there in 1914. He took a very active part in the debates of the Upper Chamber, particularly during the stormy sessions dealing with war-time legislation such as the Navy Bill of 1913, the issues of the vote for servicemen, the War Time Elections Act of 1917 and the Military Service Act. He could not, however, support Sir Wilfrid Laurier's opposition to the principle of conscription or of a Union government and he campaigned actively throughout the West promoting the Union government which was returned at the polls in 1917.

Senator Bostock was appointed Minister of Public Works in December 1921 in the government of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 7 February 1922. In 1923 he was one of those chosen to represent the Canadian government in the welcome of President Harding of the United States when the latter visited Vancouver. He represented the government again in 1925 at the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva and worked on the first and third committees.

Senator Bostock died in office on 28 April 1930. A contemporary said of him: "There was never a more painstaking, more obliging or courteous Speaker of the Senate of Canada."

## Arthur Charles Hardy (1872 - 1962)



*The Hon. Arthur Charles Hardy served as Speaker from 13 May to 2 September 1930, completing the term of his predecessor, the Hon. Hewitt Bostock, who had died in office.*

Arthur Hardy was born in Brantford on 3 December 1872 into a well-established family noted for its dedication to public service, his father having been premier of Ontario and a grandfather having served in the cabinet of Sir John A. Macdonald. He was educated at Upper Canada College, the University of Toronto and took law at Osgoode Hall, being admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1898. Although he practised his profession of lawyer, his main passion in life was agriculture, and particularly the development of pure-bred cattle. But he was also an active businessman and was involved with trust companies, various other enterprises and a variety of charities.

In 1917 he accepted the near hopeless task of running for the Liberals against the Conservative Minister of Finance, Sir Thomas White, in the riding of Leeds. Defeated, he later became the President of the Ontario Liberal Association, a position he held from 1919 to 1932.

He was appointed to the Senate on 10 February 1922 and served as Speaker from May to September 1930.

During his years as a Senator, Arthur Hardy was an active and vigorous member who often took part in the debates. In the last years of his life, Senator Hardy, despite being too ill to attend sittings of the Senate, continued to follow the debates of his colleagues by reading the Senate Hansard every day and advised his many friends among the Hon. members by letter of his opinion about the issues before the House.

Senator Hardy died in Brockville at the age of 90 on 13 March 1962.



## Pierre Édouard Blondin (1874 - 1943)



*The Hon. Pierre Edouard Blondin served as Speaker of the Senate between 3 September 1930 and 10 January 1936, having served previously as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.*

Pierre Blondin was born at Saint François du Lac in the County of Yamaska, Quebec, on 14 December 1874 and was educated in the Séminaire de Nicolet and at Université Laval. He decided to follow in his father's footsteps and in 1900 was admitted as a notary.

Establishing his practice in Grand Mère, he soon became involved in public affairs, serving two terms as alderman on the Town Council and as Clerk of the Circuit Court for Champlain County. Having distinguished himself in municipal politics, he was nominated the Conservative candidate and won election in 1908 as the Member of Parliament for Champlain in the House of Commons. Re-elected in 1911, he became Deputy Speaker of the House. Three years later he joined the cabinet of Prime Minister Borden as Minister of Inland Revenue; in 1915 he became Secretary of State and in 1917 Postmaster General.

Mr. Blondin was defeated in the general election of 1917, as were all but three Conservatives in the province of Quebec as a result of strong anti-conscription sentiment. Realizing that the serious turn the war had taken called for Canada's best efforts to be evident on the front lines, he attempted to resign his portfolio to form the 258th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and left to serve overseas with his battalion while still Postmaster General. But he was Prime Minister Borden's Quebec lieutenant and the chief French Canadian supporter of the Prime Minister in the formation of the Union government; as a result, his presence in Canada was considered equally important to the war effort.

On his return to Canada in July 1918, the Prime Minister asked Mr. Blondin to assume his duties as Postmaster General once again and to accept a Senatorship. He continued to serve in this capacity during the administration of Prime Minister Meighen and until the defeat of the Conservatives in December 1921. When the Conservatives regained power under Prime Minister Bennett in 1930, he was appointed Speaker of the Senate, a position he occupied until 1936.

Created a Commander of the Legion of Honour in 1918, Senator Blondin died on 29 October 1943 at St. François du Lac.

## Walter Edward Foster (1873 - 1947)



*Best known as the “boy premier” of New Brunswick between 1917 and 1923, the Hon. Walter Edward Foster was Speaker of the Senate from 11 January 1936 to 8 May 1940.*

Walter Foster was born on 6 April 1874 in St. Martins, New Brunswick and was educated at the Saint John Grammar School.

At the age of sixteen he began his business career as a clerk with the Bank of New Brunswick. Ten years later he joined the firm of Vassie and Company, which dealt with general merchandise, and quickly became its managing director and vice-president. Marriage into the Vassie family cemented his position as a leading citizen of Saint John.

A lifelong Liberal, he ran for the provincial legislature in 1912 only to be engulfed, along with 44 other Liberal candidates, by a Conservative landslide. But his status in the party continued to grow. On the eve of another general election, he became a member of a committee to reorganize the provincial party. At the conclusion of its deliberations in 1916, the committee asked him to become party leader. Although he was politically unseasoned and less than an exciting public speaker, he had the image of a fresh face, political integrity and business competence that the party was anxious to project. He accepted the leadership and led the party to victory in the provincial general election of 1917 and again in 1920.

As premier, Mr. Foster was a successful “chairman of the board,” to a cabinet consisting of aggressive colleagues who frequently seemed to overshadow him, to be older and tougher. He presided with a calm businesslike approach and a quiet confidence. But these qualities did not make it easy for him to win personal election in the rough and tumble of either provincial or federal politics. Unsuccessful in the election of 1912, he was personally defeated in 1917 as Premier, later winning an uncontested by-election. In 1923 he resigned to devote his full-time efforts to his business interests, accepting an appointment to the St. Lawrence Great Lakes Waterway Advisory Board, of which he later became Chairman.

Mr. Foster returned to politics in September 1925 when Prime Minister Mackenzie King appointed him Secretary of State, but he was forced to resign in November when he failed to carry the riding of Saint John Albert in the federal general election of 1925. Three years later, on 5 December 1928, he was called to the Senate and within eight years was appointed Speaker, a position he held from 11 January 1936 to 8 May 1940. As Speaker he was a member of the official Canadian delegation to the coronation of King George VI and was remembered by his colleagues in the Senate for his unfailing charm, integrity and good judgment.

Senator Foster died in Saint John on 14 November 1947.

## Georges Parent (1879 - 1942)

*Senior partner in a major law firm, successful businessman and politician, the Hon. Georges Parent became Speaker of the Senate 9 May 1940 and died while still in office on 14 December 1942.*



The son of Simon-Napoléon Parent, Premier of Quebec (1900-1905) and Mayor of Quebec City (1894-1905), Georges Parent was born on 15 December 1879 in Quebec City. He received his education at the Collège de Ste-Anne de la Pocatière and St. Dunstan University, Prince Edward Island, before undertaking the study of law at Université Laval. He was admitted to the Bar of Quebec in 1904 and began to practice with the Quebec City law firm of Fitzpatrick, Parent, Taschereau, Roy and Cannon.

At the age of 25, in the same year that he was admitted to the Bar, Mr. Parent was elected as a Liberal to the House of Commons for the riding of Montmorency, Quebec. As the youngest member of the House of Commons, Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier asked him to second the motion on the Speech from the Throne in 1905. He was re-elected in 1908 but lost his re-election bid in 1911. He continued with his law practice and became increasingly involved with various business interests. He was soon returned to the House of Commons, however, when he won the riding of Quebec West for the Liberals in the general election of 1917. He won all his subsequent election bids by holding the riding of Quebec West in the general elections of 1921, 1925 and 1926.

A successful businessman, Mr. Parent was President of Citadel Brick Ltd., Equitable Enterprises and of Wolfesfield Ltd., Vice-President of Donnacona Paper Company as well as being a Director of many other enterprises, including "Le Soleil Ltée," Southern Canada Power and Quebec Power.

Senator Parent was called to the Senate on 3 June 1930 to represent the district of Kennebec in the Eastern Townships and from then on took an active part in the debates and committee work of the Upper Chamber. Noted for his broadmindedness, he was a champion of the equality of French and English Canadians. His long experience in both Houses of Parliament and his perfect command of both languages made him especially qualified to be Speaker, a position to which he was appointed on 9 May 1940. He died in office on 14 December 1942 before his term of office was finished.

## Thomas Vien (1881 - 1972)



*A veteran of the House of Commons who had served as Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Thomas Vien was called upon to serve as Speaker of the Senate from 23 January 1943 to 23 August 1945 following the sudden death of his predecessor, the Hon. Georges Parent.*

Thomas Vien was born at Lauzon, Quebec on 19 July 1881 and was educated at the Collège de Lévis, Université Laval where he graduated in law, and the Royal Military College. He was called to the Bar in 1905 and quickly brought himself to the attention of the legal profession. Throughout his career he practised in a senior capacity with several prominent law firms before becoming senior partner of Vien, Paré, Gould and Vien, Montreal.

A Liberal, Mr. Vien was first elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Lotbinière, Quebec, in the general election of 1917 which saw the French Canadian Liberal followers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier sweep Quebec, but the Union Government of Prime Minister Borden sweep English Canada. Mr. Vien was nevertheless re-elected in the more “normal” peacetime general election of 1921. As a Member of Parliament, his abilities were quickly recognized: he served as Chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee in 1922-1923 and of the Banking and Commerce Committee in 1924-1925. But in 1925 he decided not to seek re-election. Instead, he accepted the position of Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, a position he held until 1931 when he returned to his law firm.

Ten years after he left federal politics, he ran once again in the general election of 1935, this time in the Montreal riding of Outremont. Successful, he was appointed chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines (1936-1940) and following the general election of 1940 he served as Deputy Speaker of the House.

Senator Vien resigned as Deputy Speaker and his seat in the House of Commons on being called to the Senate on 5 October 1942. He had only been sitting in the Upper Chamber for three months when Mr. Speaker Parent died in office. Senator Vien, despite his newness to the Senate, was a logical choice to serve as Speaker for the balance of the Parliament because of his knowledge of procedure and experience in the Chair. He took his seat as the Speaker of the Senate on 23 January 1943 and served until 23 August 1945.

Senator Vien continued to serve in the Senate until his resignation from the Upper Chamber on 1 April 1968 at the age of 87. He died four years later in Montreal.

## James Horace King (1873 - 1955)



*A distinguished physician, surgeon, politician and statesman, the Hon. James Horace King was Speaker of the Senate from 24 August 1945 to 2 August 1949.*

James King was born at Chipman, New Brunswick on 18 January 1873, the son of George G. King who was also called to the Senate. He attended St. Martin's Academy in New Brunswick before entering McGill University in Montreal where he received his medical degree in 1895. For a few years he practised medicine in Andover and Saint John, New Brunswick, but in 1898 he moved to the Kootenay region of British Columbia and established a practice in Cranbrook. There he was a medical pioneer, affectionately regarded as a true physician and friend by his patients scattered over large expanses of territory. His medical interests were not limited to the confines of his adopted province, for in 1910 he attended an international conference on medicine and surgery in Budapest, Hungary. Shortly thereafter he played a leading role in the establishment of the American College of Surgeons at Chicago, serving as an early Governor and remaining a Fellow. For his services to medicine, the St. John's Ambulance Association in 1932 created him a Knight of Grace of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

The political career of Mr. King began in 1903 when he was first elected as a Liberal to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for the riding of Cranbrook. Re-elected in 1907, he chose not to run in the provincial general election of 1909, preferring instead to return to his medical practice. Attracted to federal politics by Prime Minister Laurier, he ran in the federal general election of 1911, but was defeated in the riding of Kootenay. He returned to the Legislative Assembly in 1916 and held the portfolio of Minister of Public Works until 1922 when he decided to resign both his Cabinet position and seat in the Legislature to accept an invitation from Prime Minister Mackenzie King to join the federal Cabinet as the Minister of Public Works in Ottawa. He entered the House of Commons shortly thereafter, winning a by-election in Kootenay East on 14 March 1922.

In 1926 he exchanged the portfolio of Public Works for the double portfolio of Minister of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment and Minister of Health. He launched many improvements in the legislation dealing with veterans, being directly responsible for the War Veteran's Allowance Act. He continued in this capacity until 7 June 1930 when he was summoned to the Senate. As a Senator he continued to interest himself in the field of health, pensions, and veterans' benefits. In 1942 he re-entered the Cabinet as Minister Without Portfolio and as Government Leader in the Senate. As Leader in the Senate he attended the San Francisco Conference of June 1945 which led to the establishment of the United Nations. Two months later, on 24 August 1945, Senator King was appointed Speaker of the Senate, a position he held until 2 August 1949.

Following his retirement from the Chair, Senator King continued to be active, being a co-

chairman of the joint Senate-House of Commons Committee on Old Age Security which reported in 1950.

Senator King died in Ottawa on 14 July 1955.

## Elie Beauregard (1884 - 1954)



*The Hon. Elie Beauregard, Speaker of the Senate from 3 August 1949 to 13 October 1953, combined a number of those elements that have brought many Canadians to the Senate: a knowledge of the law, a keen interest in industry and vision in politics.*

Elie Beauregard was born in the Eastern Township community of La Patrie, Quebec, on 18 July 1884. He attended the Séminaire de St-Hyacinthe, the Collège de Montréal and the Montreal campus of Université Laval where he studied law. Admitted to the Bar of Quebec in 1909, he opened a law practice in Montreal. He soon gained eminence, being made a King's Counsel just ten years after his admission to the Bar and being elected President of the Montreal Bar Association. He served on the Turgeon Commission of Enquiry into the Canadian textile industry and was President of the Royal Commission on the Montreal Tramways Co.

Mr. Beauregard was as well a leader in the business life of Montreal. He held, among others, the offices of President of H. Corby Distillery Ltd., Vice-President of General Security Insurance Co., and Chairman of the Board of the Provincial Bank of Canada.

Although he never ran for office, he was very active in the Liberal Party, and for a time was Treasurer of the Liberal organization in Quebec. As a backroom politician he had a reputation for clear and sure judgment, a deep knowledge of men and an extraordinary acumen. His Liberal colleagues in particular appreciated his talents as a political organizer, his mastery of the strategy and tactics of winning elections.

Senator Beauregard was called to the Senate on 9 February 1940 but continued his many activities in Montreal. In that same year, he was elected an alderman in the city of Outremont and was appointed to the Board of Administration of the Université de Montréal. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 3 August 1949 by the government of Prime Minister St. Laurent. Conservative Senators, whose numbers had fallen to no more than a handful, were particularly appreciative of the latitude he allowed them in the debates and business of the House and also spoke of his efforts to help them to function as an effective Opposition.

Senator Beauregard served as Speaker until 13 October 1953. He died shortly thereafter, on 27 August 1954, at Montreal.

## Wishart McLea Robertson (1891 - 1967)



*A businessman and statesman, the Hon. Wishart McLea Robertson was Speaker of the Senate from 14 October 1953 to 3 October 1957.*

Born at Barrington Passage, Nova Scotia on 15 February 1891, Wishart Robertson came from a political family, his paternal grandfather having represented Shelburne County in the provincial legislature from 1854 to 1878 and his father having sat in the House of Commons as well as the legislature of which he was also Speaker.

Mr. Robertson was educated at Barrington Passage High School, Nova Scotia, and Brooklyn, New York, but his business career was interrupted by World War I. In 1916 he went overseas to join first the 219th Battalion and then the 85th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a lieutenant. He returned to Canada in 1918 and entered into business, eventually becoming President and Manager of Argyle Motor Services Ltd. and of Robertson Motors Ltd. of Halifax.

In 1928 he continued a family tradition and sought election to the legislature of Nova Scotia for the County of Shelburne, a riding that his father and grandfather before him had represented. Elected, he served a term in the legislature, but decided not to run again in 1933. Instead he devoted himself to business and to the behind-the-scenes affairs of the Liberal Party. In 1943 he was elected President of the National Liberal Federation of Canada and, on 19 February of that year, he was summoned to the Senate.

Senator Robertson continued as President of the Liberal Federation until 1945 when Prime Minister King chose him to be the Leader of the Government in the Senate and invited him to join the Cabinet as a Minister Without Portfolio. As Leader of the Government in the Senate, he was instrumental in piloting through the Senate the legislation providing for Canadian participation in the United Nations. His growing role in international affairs led him to participate as a delegate of the Canadian Government in the 1946 New York assembly of the U.N. and in the 1948 Paris assembly. Thereafter, however, he dedicated himself more to developing the non-military dimension of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Article 2 of the Treaty establishing NATO set out the political, economic and social objectives of the Alliance. Encouraged by the Hon. Lester B. Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Senator Robertson got in touch with statesmen in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States by correspondence and by visits abroad at his own expense. His objective was to establish groups of Parliamentarians interested in implementing Article 2. These initiatives bore fruit after he had become Speaker of the Senate.

Senator Robertson was appointed Speaker on 14 October 1953. In addition to his duties in the House, he continued his efforts to organize NATO parliamentarians. In May 1954 he was instrumental in the formation of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association of which he



was elected President. With his encouragement, similar associations were formed in other NATO countries, a development which won him the 1954 Atlantic Award for outstanding service to the Atlantic community. In May 1955, on behalf of the Canadian Association, he invited the other national associations to an international conference to be held in Paris. Thus it was that the NATO International Parliamentary Association was formed in July 1955 with Senator Robertson as Chairman of the conference. At its conclusion he was elected Honorary Life President of the international association.

After a busy four years, Senator Robertson left the Speaker's Chair on 3 October 1957. Increasingly poor health forced him to resign from the Senate on Christmas Day 1965. He died two years later on 16 August 1967 in Ottawa.

## Mark Robert Drouin (1903 - 1963)



*The Speaker of the Senate is rarely involved with the policy-making process of the government. The Hon. Mark Robert Drouin, Speaker from 4 October 1957 to 23 September 1962, was an exception, being considered the most influential French Canadian in the entourage of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.*

Mark Drouin was born in Quebec City on 24 October 1903 and received his education at the Séminaire de Québec and Université Laval. At a very early age he was attracted to three fields -- amateur hockey, the theatre and politics -- to all of which he was to make a great contribution. Despite these interests, he continued his professional training as a lawyer being called to the Bar of Quebec in 1926. He began a distinguished legal career practising in Quebec City and eventually became senior partner in the firm of Drouin, Drouin, Bernier and Vaillancourt. An early sign of his legal reputation was his choice as Secretary of the Quebec Bar in 1934. At the time of his death almost thirty years later, he was serving as Bâtonnier of the Quebec Bar.

Throughout his life he maintained his connection with sports and the cultural life of Canada. For more than twenty years he was associated with amateur hockey serving as Vice-President of the Senior Hockey League of Quebec. He played a role in the establishment of "Le théâtre du nouveau monde" and served as its President; he was a Director of the National School of Theatre, Governor of the Dominion Drama Festival, and legal adviser to the Montreal festival. He also served as a Regent of the University of Ottawa. He was to attain one of his greatest ambitions when, after a visit to Europe, he returned with the news that the 1967 World's Fair would be held at Montreal, a feat of diplomacy for which he could claim much of the credit.

Politically, Mr. Drouin was born into an old Conservative family. An active Conservative himself, he undertook the hopeless task of opposing Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent in the riding of Quebec East, just as his grandfather had opposed Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the same riding many years earlier, and with an equal lack of success. He continued, however, to serve as Chairman of the Quebec Conservative Association in 1949, 1953 and 1957. It was his period as First Vice-President of the National Progressive Conservative Party in 1955 that cemented his friendship with John Diefenbaker. He was the only prominent French Canadian Conservative to publicly support the latter before the 1956 leadership convention, a fact which Mr. Diefenbaker never forgot.

One of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's first acts after the 1957 general election was to have his good friend called to the Senate and to appoint him Speaker on 4 October 1957. Although he had no prior parliamentary experience, Senator Drouin earned the reputation as one of the finest and most popular of the Senate Speakers. His good humour in the Chair was legendary as was his kindness, dignity and clarity of mind. As Speaker he had the historic honour of presiding over an opening of the Canadian Parliament by Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II in 1957. Re-appointed Speaker in 1958, Senator Drouin spent much of his time representing the Senate and Canada abroad. He was the personal representative of the Prime Minister for the Canada Day celebrations at the Brussels International Exhibition in 1958 and represented Canada at the meeting of the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Barbados in 1959. He then became a joint President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Chairman of the Canada-NATO Parliamentary Association and the Chairman of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Association.

Senator Drouin relinquished the Speaker's Chair on 23 September 1962 and was appointed to the Privy Council on 15 October 1962. One year later, on 12 October 1963, Senator Drouin died. He was awarded yet another rare honour when he was eulogized on the floor of the United States Senate for his work on the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Association. An American Senator remembered him as "a great Canadian and a great statesman of this hemisphere."

## George Stanley White (1897 - 1977)

*A long-term veteran of the House of Commons, the Hon. George Stanley White was Speaker of the Senate from 24 September 1962 to 26 April 1963.*



Mr. White was born in the town of Madoc in Central Ontario on 17 November 1897. He received a law degree from Osgoode Hall and became a barrister and solicitor in Madoc following service with the 44th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World War I. Years later, he was to say that Canada could be the best and most united country in the world if Canadians could recapture the “fraternal feeling” Canadian soldiers had for each other during the war.

A Conservative, he was elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1940 for the riding of Hastings-Peterborough (later Hastings-Frontenac) and was re-elected in the general elections of 1945, 1949, 1953 and 1957. As a Member of Parliament, he championed the cause of veterans and, in the years following World War II, he was one of a group of war veteran MPs from all parties who played a major role in writing the "Veterans' Charter."

Soon after his re-election in 1957 he was summoned to the Senate, as the first person nominated by Prime Minister Diefenbaker for the honour. As a Conservative Senator he sponsored most of the veterans' legislation proposed by Prime Minister Diefenbaker's governments. At the beginning of the twenty-fifth Parliament he was appointed Speaker of the Senate. He took the Chair on 24 September 1962, but his tenure was short-lived because Prime Minister Diefenbaker's minority government was defeated and Parliament was dissolved a few months later.

Senator White relinquished the Chair on 27 April 1963. He continued to sit as a Senator until his 75th birthday when he voluntarily resigned his seat on 17 November 1972. He died five years later on 6 January 1977.

## Maurice Bourget (1907 - 1979)



*A civil engineer by profession, the Hon. Maurice Bourget was Speaker between 27 April 1963 and 6 January 1966.*

Maurice Bourget was born at Lauzon, Quebec on 20 October 1907. As a young man, he had a brief career as a semi-professional baseball and softball player in the city of Lévis, Quebec. He was educated at the Collège de Lauzon, the Académie commerciale de Québec and the École polytechnique de Montréal where he graduated in Civil Engineering. He returned to Lévis and established himself as a consulting engineer.

His political activity began in 1926 when, at the age of 19, he canvassed for the Liberal candidate in his riding. His own political career began in 1940 when he was first elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Lévis in the general election of that year. He continued to sit as the member for Lévis for 22 years by winning re-election in the general elections of 1945, 1949, 1953, 1957 and 1958. A senior organizer for the party with responsibility for eastern Quebec, he was defeated in his own riding in the general election of 1962 as a result of the upsurge of the Social Credit party.

While in the House of Commons he served as a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris in 1951. Two years later he was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Works, and served until the end of the twenty-second Parliament in 1957. As an opposition member he was chosen as a delegate from Canada to the Commonwealth Interparliamentary Conference in London in 1961.

A year after his defeat in 1962, Senator Bourget was called to the Senate and immediately became the Speaker on 27 April 1963. As Speaker he was Joint Chairman of the Canadian delegation to the meeting of the Canada-U.S.A. Interparliamentary Group at Washington in January 1964 and Joint Chairman of the Interparliamentary Conference which was held at Ottawa in September 1965. Senator Bourget continued as Speaker until 6 January 1966 and was appointed to the Privy Council a month later on 22 February 1966.

Until his death on 29 March 1979, Senator Bourget continued to be active in the debates and committees of the Senate, speaking out on subjects as varied as the responsibility of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to promote Canadian identity and unity, and the need in Quebec for a greater emphasis on scientific research.

## Sydney John Smith (1892 - 1976)



*The Hon. Sydney John Smith, a farmer and businessman as well as a politician, was Speaker from 7 January 1966 to 4 September 1968.*

Sydney Smith was born in Ottawa on 23 September 1892 and attended Lisgar Collegiate before his family moved West. He continued his studies at Regina Collegiate, Saskatchewan, and New York University where he took commercial courses by extension. As a young man, he played football with the Regina Roughrider football club and worked for a number of automobile dealerships. As a resident of Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, he served as alderman and mayor between 1921 and 1925 and ran for election to the Legislature in the Saskatchewan general election of 1934, but was defeated. Shortly afterward he and his family moved to Kamloops, British Columbia.

In Kamloops he quickly integrated himself into the business, social and political life of the community. He took up farming with an emphasis on cattle-raising and hop-growing and soon branched out into a variety of business enterprises related to automobiles, mining and heavy equipment. He was President of Sydney Smith Ltd., Sydney Smith U Drive Ltd., Sydmar Estates Ltd., and the Highway Equipment Co. Ltd., among others, and held a number of directorships in other firms. Between 1951 and 1952 he was chairman of the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Inquiry Board. For a great many years he was associated with the Boys' Club of Canada and was a director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

A Liberal, Mr. Smith successfully contested the riding of Kamloops in the provincial general elections of 1949, but was defeated after one term in office. Following his defeat he became president of the British Columbia Liberal Association (1953-1959) and, on 3 January 1957, he was summoned to the Senate.

Senator Smith was very active in interparliamentary affairs. He was one of the founders of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group in January 1959 and served as a continuing delegate and co-chairman until 1968. He participated as a delegate to the Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Associations in Nigeria (1962) and New Zealand (1965).

On 7 January 1966 he was appointed Speaker and served for two years despite the death of his wife and his own poor health. During this time he acted as Chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation to Poland in 1966. He left the Chair on 4 September 1968 and resigned his seat in the Senate on 31 December 1968 arguing that his poor health no longer allowed him to make a satisfactory contribution. He retired to Victoria, British Columbia and died there on 15 July 1976.

## Jean-Paul Deschatelets (1912 - 1986)



*A lawyer, public servant and politician, the Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets was Speaker of the Senate from 5 September 1968 to 13 December 1972.*

Jean-Paul Deschatelets, born 9 October 1912 at Montreal, was educated at the Collège St-Louis, the Séminaire de Valleyfield and the Collège Ste-Marie of Montreal. He graduated in law from the Université de Montréal in 1937 and was called to the bar of Quebec the same year. He began to practise in Montreal, but his career was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. Unable to enlist in the Navy because of poor eyesight, he spent the years from 1942 to 1951 with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board as an enforcement counsel in Quebec. Later, he became permanent secretary of the Quebec Association of Architects and was a liaison officer with the RCMP for Black Market Investigations in Montreal and western Quebec.

First elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Maisonneuve-Rosemont in the general election of 1953, Mr. Deschatelets was re-elected in 1957, 1958, 1962 and 1963. During his period in the House, he served as a delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings in New Delhi, India, in 1957 and in Nigeria in 1962 and to the NATO Conference in Paris in 1960.

With the return to power of the Liberals in 1963, he was appointed Minister of Public Works and Minister in charge of Expo '67 on 22 April 1963. He held these positions until 12 February 1965 when he resigned from the cabinet for personal reasons and chose not to seek re-election in the general election of that year.

He was summoned to the Senate on 24 February 1966 and nine months later was appointed Deputy Government Leader. He held this position until his appointment as Speaker of the Senate on 5 September 1968. He continued to serve as Speaker until 13 December 1972. Senator Deschatelets resigned from the Senate on 10 January 1986 and died on 11 December 1986.

## Muriel McQueen Fergusson (1899 - 1997)



*The first woman to preside over the Senate or the House of Commons, the Hon. Muriel McQueen Fergusson was Speaker from 14 December 1972 to 11 September 1974.*

Senator Fergusson was born Muriel McQueen on 26 May 1899 in Shediac, New Brunswick. She was educated at Shediac High School, Mount Allison Ladies College and Mount Allison University from which she received a B.A. in 1921. Following her graduation she read law in her father's law office and was admitted to the bar of New Brunswick in 1925. She practised law briefly before her marriage in 1926 to another young lawyer, Aubrey Fergusson. For ten years she led the life of a traditional housewife, occupying her spare time with running a tearoom, forming the Grand Falls Literary Group, and gardening. When her husband became ill in 1936, she returned to the practice of law. She gradually took over his legal practice and assumed his duties as Judge of the Probate Court, Clerk of the County Court, and town solicitor of Grand Falls. After the death of her husband in 1942 she was confirmed in these positions becoming the first woman to hold them.

Senator Fergusson continued to establish precedents: in 1944, after a year as assistant, she became the only woman to serve as enforcement counsel for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. She applied for the job of regional director of Family Allowances and Old Age Security, a position for which she was well-qualified but was denied because the competition was open to men only. She challenged this dictum successfully and served as regional director from 1947 to 1953. In the meantime, she led another fight to win acceptance of women as aldermen on the City Council of Fredericton. She ran and was elected the first woman alderman in 1950. Two years later she was acclaimed alderman, so impressing her colleagues on the Council that she was chosen Deputy Mayor in 1953.

Her period as Deputy Mayor, however, was short-lived for on 19 May 1953 she was summoned to the Senate.

As a Senator, Muriel Fergusson continued her fight for women's rights, and she also worked tirelessly on issues concerning the poor, pensioners and the elderly. Her most notable early contribution was her work on the Special Committee of the Senate on Poverty.

Being a Senator also allowed her to contribute to various international humanitarian and feminist causes. She served as the national director of UNICEF and as a Vice-President of the United Nations Association of Canada. She also travelled extensively to attend conferences and give lectures on her favourite causes visiting such countries as Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and Iran.

The wide range of her Senate-related activities did not curtail Senator Fergusson's involvement in community affairs. She continued to work with such groups as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Canadian Council on Social Development and the 1967 New Brunswick Conference on Senior Citizens.



On 14 December 1972 Senator Fergusson became the Speaker of the Senate and, although she welcomed the new challenge, she regretted that she would have to restrict her outspokenness at least for the time being. The defeat of Prime Minister Trudeau's government in the House of Commons, general elections and a new Parliament brought her period as Speaker to a close on 11 September 1974. She resigned from the Senate on 23 May 1975. In recognition of her many contributions, Senator Fergusson was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1976. She lived in retirement in Fredericton, New Brunswick where she continued to be very active in local affairs. She died on 11 April 1997.

# Louise Marguerite Renaude Lapointe (1912 - 2002)



*A respected and controversial journalist, the Hon. Louise Marguerite Renaude Lapointe was Speaker from 12 September 1974 to 4 October 1979.*

Senator Lapointe was born in the Eastern Town-ships community of Disraeli, Quebec on 3 January 1912. She was educated at the Ursuline College in Stanstead, earned a degree in music from the Dominion College of Music and later took courses in literature, languages and sociology at Laval University.

Senator Lapointe got her first job in 1935 as a secretary in a lawyer's office because the lawyer happened at the time to be involved in a case which required a knowledge of music. Her knowledge of music also played an important part in her recruitment by Le Soleil of Quebec City in 1939. For the following twelve years she worked as music and drama critic for the newspaper at the same time as she wrote a column for teenagers under the nom de plume "L'oncle Nic." She gained such distinction that the editor-in-chief of Le Soleil often asked her to write editorials in his stead when he was unable or indisposed to do so. Between 1953 and 1957 she was the Quebec correspondent for Time, Life and Variety and was correspondent for the International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Service.

In 1959 she left Le Soleil to join La Presse of Montreal as a general news reporter, the first woman to work in this capacity for the paper. A year later, however, she left La Presse to join the newly launched Nouveau Journal only to return to La Presse in 1962 after the failure of the Nouveau Journal. Meanwhile, she had written an outstanding series of documentary articles on Mgr Joseph Charbonneau, the controversial bishop of Montreal who supported the striking Asbestos workers against Premier Duplessis. This work, later published as a brochure, won her the Bowater Certificate of Merit for journalism in 1962. In 1965 she became an editorial writer for La Presse. A journalist who happened to be a Liberal, but never a member of the Liberal Party, her editorials defending federalism and Canadian unity were widely reprinted, and in the same year (1965) she was named "journalist of the year."

She retired from La Presse in 1970, but quickly became an Information Officer for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. She was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and served on the Commission for Social Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Summoned to the Senate on 10 November 1971, Senator Lapointe became a member of the Senate committees on Foreign Affairs and on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. During her years in the Senate, she had a particular interest in fields such as Senate reform, old age security, bilingualism and the United Nations. On 12 September 1974 she became Speaker of the Senate, a position she held until 4 October 1979. Shortly thereafter she was sworn of the Queen's Privy Council.

Senator Lapointe was active in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Interparliamentary Union, the Association des parlementaires de langue française, the Canadian World Federalist Parliamentary Association, and the Association of NATO Parliamentarians. She retired from the Senate on 3 January 1987 and was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada on 20 April 1989. She died on 11 May 2002.

## Allister Grosart (1906 - 1984)



*The Hon. Allister Grosart was a journalist and a pioneer public relations and advertising agent before becoming a political organizer. He served as Speaker from 5 October 1979 to 3 March 1980 during the short-lived government of Prime Minister Joe Clark.*

Allister Grosart was born at Dublin, Ireland on 13 December 1906 and received his early education in Chefoo, China. He studied politics and law at the University of Toronto and became a Carnegie Fellow of International Law in 1928. He began working as a journalist for the Toronto Daily Star and in 1935 joined the Globe and Mail as a consultant and columnist.

World War II interrupted his career. He served with the 2nd battalion of the Irish Regiment, eventually with the rank of Major. During the war he also created the War Effort Programs for the C.B.C. Following the war, he did not return to journalism, but formed Southern Music Publishing Company Ltd., Peer International Ltd. and Editions Sud Ltd. In 1953 he merged his growing public relations business with McKim Advertising Ltd., becoming Vice-President and Director.

His long-time association with the Conservative Party came about almost by accident in 1948 when he became a public relations consultant to the Ontario and federal wings of the party. He developed a close relationship with John Diefenbaker and was the latter's choice for national organizer following the 1956 leadership convention. As the National Director of the Party, he ran the campaigns in the general elections of 1957, 1958 and 1962. He quickly earned the name of "The Image Maker" because of his early realization that the media's image of a candidate can make or break a campaign. He therefore helped to create the populist image that John Diefenbaker would present in those campaigns. He grew closer to the Prime Minister and, despite the fact that he had no power, he gained considerable influence because of this relationship. He was viewed as the most important "back room boy" of the three campaigns he managed and therefore, rightly or wrongly, was credited with the success of the first two and blamed for the near defeat of 1962.

Senator Grosart was appointed to the Senate on 24 September 1962 and became Deputy Government Leader and, later, the Deputy Opposition Leader. Notwithstanding these duties Senator Grosart showed a great interest in science policy and technology, pointing out that they were important for social development. He helped create and headed the Committee of Parliamentarians, Scientists and Engineers which brought the two groups together to try and better understand each other. He travelled to many parts of the world to promote the importance of science policy and he was, for a time, the Canadian representative to the Science and Technology Committee of the Council of Western European Union, the Council of Europe and the European Community.

On 5 October 1979 Prime Minister Clark appointed him Speaker of the Senate. His period in that role was short-lived, however, because the thirty-first Parliament was soon dissolved

and Senator Grosart left the Chair on 3 March 1980. Despite the brevity of his tenure, he nevertheless was a more “activist” Speaker than customary, being more inclined than most previous Speakers to draw the attention of Honourable Senators to the rules of the House. He also spoke of administrative reform.

Senator Grosart continued to sit in the Senate until he reached the mandatory retirement age on 13 December 1981. He was appointed Privy Councillor on 16 February 1981, and lived in retirement in Toronto until his death on 8 February 1984 .

## Jean Marchand (1918 - 1988)



*A noted labour leader and organizer, the Hon. Jean Marchand, Speaker from 4 March 1980 to 15 December 1983, has been referred to as the Senate's "unlikeliest" Speaker.*

Jean Marchand was born on 20 December 1918 at Champlain, Quebec. He studied at the Académie commerciale de Québec and the faculty of Social Sciences at Université Laval, joining the Confederation of Catholic Workers (CTCC) in 1944 as an organizer and technical adviser. Two years later he became Secretary General of the Confederation. He was at the forefront of the prolonged, bitter 1948 strike of asbestos miners in southeastern Quebec. During the strike he met a young activist lawyer named Pierre Trudeau. They were to become lifelong friends and allies during their continuing battles with the government of Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec.

He remained as Secretary General of the Confederation of Catholic Workers until 1961 when he helped transform it into the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU) and became its first President. Under his leadership, the CNTU opened its membership to non-Catholics and the non-French speaking.

Between 1963 and 1965, Mr. Marchand was a member of the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Bilingualism and Biculturalism which provided the blueprint for the federal government policy of bilingualism. During these years he continued his role in the labour movement, representing workers as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, and participating in numerous national and international workers' organizations.

At the urging of Prime Minister Pearson, Mr. Marchand agreed to run for the Liberals in 1965. However, to reinforce the French Canadian presence at the federal level of government, he insisted that the party also support Pierre Trudeau and Gérard Pelletier as candidates.

First elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Quebec West, he held the riding of Langelier in the general elections of 1968, 1972 and 1974. He was appointed Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and later of Manpower and Immigration by Prime Minister Pearson. When the latter announced his retirement from politics in 1967, many expected Mr. Marchand to succeed him. Instead he strongly supported Pierre Trudeau in the leadership convention.

Mr. Marchand held many senior portfolios under Prime Minister Trudeau. He was Minister of Forestry and Rural Development from 1968 to 1969, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion from 1969 to 1972, Minister of Transport from 1972 to 1975, Minister without portfolio from 1975 to 1976, and Minister of the Environment in 1976. He resigned from the cabinet over the non-use of French in communications between pilots and air controllers. In October 1976 he resigned his seat in the House of Commons and, presenting himself as an

opponent of the separatist program of the Parti Québécois, stood (unsuccessfully) for election in the Quebec provincial elections of 1976.

Senator Marchand was summoned to the Senate on 9 December 1976 and was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 4 March 1980. Because the Speaker is fourth in the line of protocol in Canada, Senator Marchand found himself fulfilling an increasing number of requests to represent Canada and Parliament at various international meetings. He quickly recognized the need to create a Senate position similar to that of deputy speaker in the Commons in order to balance the international obligations of the Chair with the internal demands of the Senate. At his urging, the Senate decided to amend its rules so that a Senator would be named in each session to assist the Chair as Speaker pro tempore.

Senator Marchand resigned both from the Speaker's Chair and from the Senate on 15 December 1983 to become the Chairman of the Canadian Transport Commission. He died at his summer home in St-Augustin near Quebec City on 28 August 1988.

## Maurice Riel (1922 - )



*A distant relative of Louis Riel and a distinguished lawyer, the Hon. Maurice Riel served as Speaker from 16 December 1983 to 1 November 1984.*

Maurice Riel was born on 3 April 1922 at St-Constant, Quebec and received his education at the Collège de St-Jean, Collège Ste-Croix and the Université de Montréal, from which he graduated in Law. Admitted to the bar of Quebec in 1945, he established his own law firm in Montreal and specialized in international private law and, over the years, developed a European clientele, mostly in France. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1958 and was a member of the Council of the Montreal Bar between 1961-1963. From 1965-1969 he was Chairman of the Metropolitan Montreal Corporation and also sat on the Board of Expo '67. He served on the Board of the Bank of Canada from 1969-1973. Since 1975 he has been associated as Counsel with the firm of Stikeman, Elliott of Montreal and sits on the Board of several national and international corporations.

Associated with the Liberal Party since 1947, Mr. Riel was President of the Montreal Young Liberals between 1951 and 1952: thereafter he served in various capacities at the Quebec and National levels. He participated actively in the establishment of the Délégation générale du Québec (Quebec House in Paris) during 1960-1961. He was called to the Senate on 1 October 1973.

As a Senator, he served as Joint Chairman of the Special Joint Committee on Immigration Policy in 1974-1975 and for many years was a member of the Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Agriculture, and on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. In 1982 he was the Head of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations World Assembly on Aging and in 1984 he led a delegation of Canadian Parliamentarians to the People's Republic of China.

On 16 December 1983, Senator Riel was appointed Speaker of the Senate, following the resignation of the Hon. Jean Marchand. He was the first Speaker to report to the Senate on his tenure, after leaving office on 1 November 1984. On 30 November 1984, he was sworn of the Queen's Privy Council. He continued to be an active participant in the work of the Senate until his retirement in 1997 on reaching the age of 75.



## Guy Charbonneau (1922 - 1998)



*The longest serving Speaker, the Hon. Guy Charbonneau presided over two Parliaments, becoming Speaker of the Senate on 2 November 1984 at the beginning of the 33rd and serving until 6 December 1993, near the end of the 34th. During his tenure, the size of the Senate was temporarily increased to its Constitutional maximum, and the Standing Rules and Orders were extensively amended to clarify and extend the powers of the Speaker.*

Senator Charbonneau was born at Trois Rivières, Quebec on 21 June 1922. He was educated at the Collège Jean de Brébeuf, received a B.A. from the Université de Montréal in 1941 and studied economics at McGill University. During World War II, he served with les Fusiliers Mont-Royal and was an Air Liaison Officer with the French Wing of the Tactical Air Force in Northwest Europe.

Following the war he joined Peerless Insurance Agencies of which he became the Vice-President and Director in 1948 and President in 1963. Later he became Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Charbonneau, Dulude and Associates Ltd., Insurance Brokers, and a limited partner in the Mer Banco Group of Calgary. Between 1961 and 1964 he was a director of the Canadian National Railways and served in the same capacity with a number of other companies.

A Progressive Conservative, Senator Charbonneau was summoned to the Senate on 27 September 1979 and was a member of the Conservative Caucus Task Force which investigated complaints about the tax collection practices of Revenue Canada. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 2 November 1984, and elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration on 11 December 1984.

A soft-spoken man accustomed to the political backrooms, Senator Charbonneau presided over a Senate that was abnormally partisan and fractious as it dealt with controversial legislation. He became Speaker when the lopsided majority of the Government in the House of Commons was counter-balanced by the majority the Opposition enjoyed in the Senate. Moreover, the Senate opposition proved willing to use its power more fully than had been the case in the recent past. As a result, there were occasional stalemates between the House of Commons and the Senate over legislation the Government considered essential. After the Government resorted to a never-before used provision of the Constitution to break a deadlock between the two Houses by appointing eight additional Senators, the Speaker had to intervene forcefully to maintain order and decorum.

In June 1991 the Senate adopted the most sweeping revision to its Standing Rules and Orders since 1906. Some of the amendments were very important and controversial. A number of changes clarify and extend the powers of the Speaker to ensure that sittings are conducted in an orderly fashion, and in this way further the evolution of the Office of Speaker in the direction of the Speakership of the House of Commons. The same can be said of the adop-

tion of rules imposing time limits on the speeches of Senators and providing for time allocation, a limit on the length of debates.

Senator Charbonneau was made a member of the Privy Council on 17 October 1996 and retired from the Senate on his 75th birthday the next year. He died on 18 January 1998.

## Roméo-A. LeBlanc (1927 - )



*The Rt. Hon. Romeo LeBlanc was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 7 December 1993. He resigned as Speaker and from the Senate on his appointment as Governor General, an office he assumed on 8 February 1995.*

Senator LeBlanc was born at L'Anse-aux-Cormier, Memramcook, New Brunswick on 18 December 1927. He was educated at St. Joseph University and the University of Paris. Early on in his career he worked as a journalist and then taught for a few years at Moncton's teachers college. In 1959 he returned to journalism, signing on as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Canada) correspondent for New Brunswick and later working in the Ottawa bureau before winning postings as a foreign correspondent in first London and then Washington.

Senator LeBlanc's political career began in 1967 when Prime Minister Pearson called on him to serve as his Press Secretary. He stayed on in this position when Pierre Eliot Trudeau replaced Mr. Pearson as leader of the Liberal Party and as Prime Minister in 1968. In 1972 he successfully ran for the Liberals in the New Brunswick riding of Westmoreland-Kent, a riding he continued to represent until 1984. As Minister of Fisheries in three of Prime Minister Trudeau's cabinets, he was responsible for extending Canada's coastal fishing zone from 12 to 200 miles. He also served as Minister of the Environment when this responsibility was grouped with Fisheries, and as Minister of Public Works.

Senator LeBlanc was summoned to the Senate in June 1984 on the eve of the general elections. He was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration in 1988 at the beginning of the 1st Session of the 34th Parliament. He also sat on the Foreign Affairs Committee and on the Sub-Committee on Security and National Defence and was a member of the Canada-France Parliamentary Association and the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians. He was appointed Speaker on 7 December 1993. After less than a year in office, he resigned as Speaker and from the Senate on his appointment as Governor General, a post which he held until October 1999.

## **Gildas L. Molgat (1927 - 2001)**



*The Hon. Gildas Molgat was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 22 November 1994 following the resignation of the Rt. Hon. Roméo Leblanc, and was re-appointed to serve as Speaker of the 36th Parliament in 1997. He was the first to be elected Speaker pro tempore in 1983 and again in 1988, giving him a longer association with the Speakership than any other Senator.*

Senator Molgat was born 25 January 1927 in Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba and was educated at St. Paul's College and the University of Manitoba. Graduating in 1947 with a Gold Medal and an Honours Commerce degree, he began a 20-year career as a Manitoba businessman.

Senator Molgat was attracted to provincial politics at an early age. He was first elected to the Manitoba legislature as a Liberal in the general election of 1953 and was re-elected at every election thereafter until he was called to the Senate on 7 October 1970. While a member of the Manitoba legislature, he served as Leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba and Leader of the Opposition from 1961-1968.

As a Senator, he quickly established his reputation in the field of constitutional reform. He became co-chair of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada in 1971, co-chair of the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform in 1983, and chair of the Senate Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord. He also served as chair of the Senate Task Force on the Meech Lake Accord and Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Senator Molgat has maintained his close links with the Liberal Party while a Senator. He has served as Government Whip, President of the Liberal Party of Canada, Deputy Opposition Leader and Deputy Government Leader. He nevertheless was chosen or "elected" to be Deputy Speaker of the Senate by a selection committee in 1983, and re-elected to the post in 1988. He was appointed Speaker of the Senate in November 1994 early in the 35th Parliament and was called on to preside over the 36th Parliament as well, making him one of the longest-serving Speakers since Confederation. His long tenure as Speaker and his reputation for fairness and warmth helped to accustom the Chamber to the new rules. Senator Molgat died suddenly in February 2001.

## Daniel Philip Hays (1939 - )



*With wide experience as a Chairman in private business and the Senate, Senator Hays was appointed Speaker of the Senate on 26 January 2001 at the beginning of the 37th Parliament.*

A farmer and rancher, a prominent lawyer and a politician, Senator Hays was born in Calgary, Alberta on 24 April 1939. He received his B.A. in History and English from the University of Alberta in 1962 before studying law at the University of Toronto and being admitted to the Bar of Alberta in 1966.

As a farmer and rancher since 1957 he has continued to improve the Hays Converter breed of beef cattle which was developed by his father, the late Senator Harry Hays, and which remains the only Canadian pure-breed of cattle marketed throughout North America. As a lawyer he rose to prominence as a partner in Macleod Dixon, an international firm of Barristers and Solicitors, and as Chair of the Executive Committee of their Calgary offices.

Senator Hays was called to the Senate on 29 June 1984 where he has served as Chair of both the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. These responsibilities have been complemented by his interest in Canadian relations with the countries of the Pacific Rim: he has served as Chair of both the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group and of the Canadian section of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

A past President of the Liberal Party of Canada, he was appointed Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate in October 1999 and Speaker on 26 January 2001. Senator Hays is the first Albertan to serve as Speaker of the Senate.

## Noël A. Kinsella (1939—)



*Senator Noël A. Kinsella was appointed the Speaker of the Senate of Canada on February 8, 2006 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.*

Duties of the Speaker are multifaceted. It is the Speaker's function, according to Senate Rules, to preserve order and decorum and to decide points of order subject to an appeal to the Senate. He is also called upon to perform diplomatic duties at home and abroad consistent with the Speaker of the Senate's fourth overall position in the Canadian Order of Precedence. Receiving visiting dignitaries and hosting official diplomatic events are all part of the Senate Speaker's day. Additional responsibilities come with each visit to Canada by a head of state, and with invitations from abroad.

Parliamentary Service began with his appointment to the Senate by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on September 12, 1990 while serving as a senior public servant in the office of Associate Under-Secretary of State of Canada. He became the Senate Opposition Whip in 1994 and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in 1999. Senator Kinsella was elected the Leader of the Opposition for the Conservative Party of Canada in October 2004.

Academic work commenced with elementary and secondary schooling in Saint John, New Brunswick, and has involved university studies in several European universities including: University College, Dublin, Ireland (B.A.); St. Thomas Aquinas University, Rome, Italy (L.Ph., and Ph.D.), Pontifical Lateran University, Rome, Italy (S.T.L., S.T.D.). He is a licensed member of the College of Psychologists of New Brunswick. Dr. Kinsella spent 41 years as a faculty member at St. Thomas University, Fredericton, N.B. where he has taught psychology, philosophy and human rights.

Human rights is a field in which Senator Kinsella has been active. He served as the Chairperson of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission for 22 years, beginning in 1967, as President of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, and is well-known nationally and internationally as a human rights advocate and academic including such cases as *Malcolm Ross*, and *Lovelace v. Canada* at the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Born in Saint John, N.B. on November 28, 1939, he is married to Ann Conley Kinsella.

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