

Rafe Mair

A Personal Bio

I have come to be seen as a broadcaster who does hard hitting interviews and tough, perhaps on occasion, bombastic editorials. I'm seen, I hope rightly, as a man of causes who fights them through to the end. This has brought me many honours including election to the Canadian Broadcasters Hall Of Fame. I'm very proud of what I've done, and am comfortable with it, especially considering the fact that I didn't begin this career until my 50th year.

There are though, I think, a number of other things I bring to the broadcasting table. I have a strong commitment to social issues which is partly demonstrated by my record in consumer affairs while in government. I am told, and believe, that as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs I brought in more consumer legislation and policy than any minister before or since.

I have a strong environmental record which is not just confined to matters I got involved in as a broadcaster such as the Kemano Completion Project, the Pitt River gravel pit controversy or fish farms. It was I, as Minister of Environment, who negotiated the salvation of the Skagit River from being made into a lake in 1979.

I have a sports history. I was once a scratch golfer but, more importantly, am a student of golf history. I can stand toe to toe with the best of them on baseball history and trivia and hold my own concerning most sports including, would you believe Cricket which right here in Vancouver I played as a youth. (My big sports hero, as a kid, was Don Bradman and if you need to know who he was, just give me a call!)

I'm considered enough of a jazz "expert" to warrant regular appearances on Dal Richards show, Dal's Place on 600AM.

I have considerable knowledge and understanding of constitutional affairs having served as B.C. Minister responsible during the run-up to the Patriation of the Constitution and spokesman for the "no" side of the Charlottetown Accord. I have been asked to advise provincial governments of both persuasions on constitutional considerations and have done so.

I practiced law for 15 years in this, my native Province, and am able to comment upon legal matters both in the sense of current issues and along more philosophical lines such as what reforms must we as a society make to our legal system.

Along with others, I presented the brief to the leader of the opposition, now Premier Gordon Campbell, that led to the Citizens' Assembly, which in turn led to the referendum on the Single Transferable Vote.

I have long been a student of American political affairs and, in 1984, was given a State Department grant to study the American budget process and the relationship between States and the Federal government.

I am considered an expert on Sir Winston Churchill and been asked to speak to Churchill societies and other on several occasions.

I have been very involved in mental health concerns, have been honoured for my contributions and was asked to make a presentation, and did so, to the Senator Michael Kirby Senate Inquiry on mental health.

I was asked to appear before the John Gomery Commission, and did so, to present my views as to what impact the “sponsorship scandal” had in British Columbia and what needed to be done to avoid a re-occurrence.

I’m a former Health Minister of BC and as such appeared before the Emmet Hall Commission in 1980 leading to the Canada Health Act (which I have not always supported).

I am a native of Vancouver and know that I don’t live in the “West” but, in Jean Barman’s wonderful phrase, “the West beyond the West”.

Finally, in my career I have done much more than just “tough” interviews but have talked to them all from Santa Claus to Salman Rushdie, from Jimmy Carter to Jim Green

Resume of KENNETH RAFE MAIR

Born December 31, 1931 in Vancouver, B.C. Educated in Vancouver Public and Private Schools graduating with Junior Matriculation from Prince of Wales High School in 1949.

Attended University of British Columbia and graduated with LL.B. in 1956.

After a brief visit to the oil industry in Edmonton and an even briefer sojourn with a lumber company, spent 3 1/2 years as a claims adjuster with a large automobile and casualty insurance company.

Law career

Commenced articles in May of 1960 and was called to the B.C. Bar on May 15, 1961.

Practiced in own partnership in Vancouver then moved to Kamloops ultimately forming Mair and Co (now Mair, Jensen, Blair) the largest law firm in the B.C. Interior.

Political career

*** 1973-4 - Alderman in the City of Kamloops

*** December 11, 1975 - Elected to the B.C. Legislature

*** December 22, 1975 - Sworn in as Minister of Consumer Services

*** October 29, 1976 - sworn in as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

*** December 4, 1978 - sworn in as Minister of Environment;

*** May, 1979 - re-elected to the B.C. Legislature

*** November 23, 1979 - sworn in as Minister of Health

*** From 1977-80 was responsible for Constitutional Affairs and from 1976 on, attended all meetings of Western Premiers, Premiers, and First Ministers as adviser to Premier Bill Bennett.

*** January 1981 - resigned to take position as morning Public Affairs Talk Show Host with CJOR, 600AM Vancouver

Broadcasting Career

*** From 1981-84 hosted the "Rafe Mair Show" on CJOR

*** October, 1984 joined CKNW, B.C.'s most listened to station.

*** 1984-5 - hosted "Nightline B.C.", Midnight-2:00AM talk show on CKNW

*** 1985-6 - hosted 6:30-9:00 PM talk show CKNW

*** 1986-8 - hosted 12:30-3:00 PM CKNW

*** September 1, 1988 – June 6, 2003, CKNW host of "Rafe Mair Show", 8:30-11:00AM public affairs and talk show, the highest rated radio program in Western Canada

*** September 2, 2003 – November 2005, host of the Rafe Mair Show at AM600, 8:30-10:30AM, public affairs and talk show

*** September 2003 – September 2004 – editorial on 6:00PM Newscast of CityTV

*** October 2004 - present, guest commentator on CBC-TV, frequent panelist with CTV

*** September 2005 - present – editorial three times a week on Omni, Channel 10 (Standard Broadcasting)

*** frequent political commentator on national Radio and TV

[Writing career](#)

*** for many years monthly columnist for [Equity Magazine](#), now defunct

*** many years, weekly column for [Financial Post](#), a national publication

*** past, twice weekly column for [Vancouver Courier](#), (syndicated to eleven other local papers)

*** past, monthly for [Easy Living magazine](#), a lifestyle business magazine published in British Columbia

*** past, regular columnist for the [Georgia Straight](#)

*** 1995-2002, columnist for the [Vancouver Province](#)

*** contributor to [National Post](#), [Globe and Mail](#) and other papers

*** 2001- present, monthly columnist in [Metro Valley Newspaper chain](#), 17 papers covering Lower Mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island

*** May 2005 – present, weekly columnist in www.thetyee.ca

[Books](#)

*** 1995 wrote "[The Last Cast](#)", a book on fly-fishing reminiscences published by Hancock House, Vancouver.

*** 1998 wrote [Canada: Is Anyone Listening?](#) published by Key Porter and a National Best Seller

*** 2000 wrote [Rants, Raves and Recollections](#) published by Whitecap Books

*** 2002 - wrote [More Rants](#), published by Whitecap Books.

*** 2004 - wrote [RAFE, A Memoir](#) published by Harbour Publishing August 2004

***2005 - wrote [Hard Talk](#)

Awards

*** 1977 Queen Elizabeth II [Coronation Anniversary Medal](#);

*** 1984 Received [US State Department bursary](#) to study US Government procedures at both the Federal and State level

***1992 [125th Anniversary of Confederation of Canada Medal](#)

*** 1993 B.C. Association of Broadcasters "[Broadcast `Performer of the Year](#)"

*** 1995 [Haig-Brown Award](#) for Conservation work

*** 1995 received prestigious [Michener Award](#) from the Governor-General of Canada for courageous journalism, the first radio broadcaster to do so (nominated on two other occasions).

***1997- BC Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association "[Media Person Of the Year](#)"

***1997 National Canadian Mental Health Association [Media Person of The Year](#) (shared with Pamela Wallin)

*** 1998 BC Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association "[Media person of The Year](#)

***2002 Queen Elizabeth II [Golden Jubilee Medal](#)

*** 2003 [Bruce Hutchison Award for Lifetime Achievement](#) at Jack Webster Awards Dinner

*** November 7, 2005 – inducted into the [Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame](#)

*** September 22, 2005 – named by readers poll of Georgia Straight (78,000 responses) as [best talk show host](#) in Vancouver

Family Married (Wendy) with four children (one deceased) and eight grandchildren.

Hobbies Fly-fishing and fly-tying, sailing and reading.

Clubs Vancouver Club, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

Website <http://www.rafeonline.com>