

Bios - who is spinning who forum

Lynne Van Luven

has taught journalism and creative non-fiction at the University of Victoria for the past 15 years. She worked on newspapers in Alberta in her early years, and now edits and writes in her spare time. She's the editor of several books of essays, including *Somebody's Child*, published in 2011

Dennis Finaly

began his communications career as a journalist. He worked for both the Montreal Gazette and the Montreal Star in the 1970s. He was covering Parliament Hill for the Montreal Star when it folded in 1979. A few weeks later, he joined the Correctional Service of Canada on a six-month contract as a Media relations Officer, and wound up staying with CSC for almost 30 years. For 11 years, he worked as a Media Relations Officer at NHQ in Ottawa, and from 1990 until retirement in 2008, He was Communications Manager for the CSC's Pacific Region.

Born in Rivers, Manitoba, Les Leyne was raised in Qualicum Beach. Leyne attended Carleton University and UVic, where he graduated after working on the university newspaper. He worked at weekly newspapers in Duncan, where he covered the incineration of 13 tons of marijuana, and the west shore before joining the Times Colonist. Leyne was banished from the newsroom to the Legislature bureau in 1985 and has been there ever since.

His budget scoop in 1995 got him nominated for a Jack Webster Award and he claimed a share of the TC's 2003 Webster Award for political coverage.

He was nominated for a National Newspaper Award for column writing in 2008 and won the Jack Webster "City Mike" Award for commentary in 2009.

He writes four days a week on provincial affairs.

Nick Russell

worked for years as a reporter and editor in a variety of newsrooms in Britain and Canada including the BBC, CBC, CFCF-TV, one weekly, one every-other-daily and Canadian Press. Along the way he gathered a BA in English from McGill and an MA in Medieval English from the University of London. He ran Vancouver Community College's journalism program (later Langara), for years. In 1983 he moved to the School of Journalism at the University of Regina, leading to a Doctorate and his book, ***Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism***.

In 1998, he took early retirement as full professor, to move to Victoria and expand an interest in heritage buildings. Nick and his wife Sharon continuously restore their 1891 house in James Bay and helped restore an 1861 house in Fernwood. Nick is very active in the heritage community (immediate past-president of the Hallmark Heritage Society), and was honoured in 2007 for his volunteer work with The Land Conservancy, restoring Ross Bay Villa. (He has won some half-dozen heritage awards –municipal, provincial and national.)

Russell has been Senior Editor of a 4-volume series, ***This Old House: Victoria's Heritage Homes***, and was co-editor of ***Victoria Underfoot***. He has just published ***Glorious Victorians: 150 Years/150 Houses: Celebrating Residential Architecture in the BC Capital***.

For fun, he transcribes old Plumbing Permits and old Water Permits from Victoria City archives.

Ian Haysom

is a lifelong journalist in print and broadcast journalism. He worked in Fleet Street before coming to Canada, working on leading daily newspapers as reporter, feature writer, columnist, movie critic and city editor. He was editor-in-chief of both The Province and The Vancouver Sun. For the past decade he has been news director of Global BC, one of North America's most successful TV stations. The News Hour has won the Gemini for best newscast in Canada for the last two years. He also continues to write a weekly column for the Times-Colonist.