Twitter Thread by Dr. Peggy Blair



Dr. Peggy Blair
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So I have a funny story about Governor General Jules Leger. I was working in the gardens on the grounds as a summer student in 1972 (might have been 1973, I can't quite remember, but it was the first year that women were hired as labourers by the NCC).1/

One of the things that we had to do was rake The pebble gravel on the paths and that was my task this particular day. I was out raking when I saw a Columbo type man dressed in a fedora and a crumpled raincoat approach me.2/

At that time the grounds were open to the public so it wasn't particularly surprising to have someone wander up and we chatted. I realized that he had recently had a stroke and that his English, while fluent, was a little slow. 3/

Anyway, we had a very nice chat and the next time I saw him in the garden, I showed him some baby rabbits that had a nest in the front rotundra. He thought they were pretty adorable.4/

I was able to pick one up for him to hold, but it was difficult for him because one of his hands was quite paralyzed. Anyway, he thought this was very lovely and our regular chats continued.4/

Sorry, that should have been five 5/. Anyway, it was only when the RCMP told me they had been directed by the chief of staff to stop all cars from going around the rotunda because of the baby bunnies that I discovered my friend was the governor general.6/

I had met him in such a casual way that there was no point in standing on ceremony from then on. Whenever he was in the garden he would come over to see how I was. He learned I was heading to Mount Allison for my degree, and so on.7/