

dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices **MAGAZINE**

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What
keeps
YOU
apart
from
your
fellow
beings
?

THE GODS OF WAR
nationalisms
religions
politics
power
beliefs
avarice
cultures
ego

The design of
'Rubin's Vase'
demonstrates
our mind's ability
to create our
reality by what
we choose to
focus on...

What do you see - man or myths?

A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet & Penny

Dear Reader,

The cover of this issue (*designed by Janet*) endeavours to remind us that, underneath all of our “identities” – opinions, beliefs, principles, aspirations, dogmas, likes & dislikes, etc. – we have a common humanity & soul. We are living at a time in history when ideologies, more than ever, are driving the destruction of the planet that we share with countless other species. To the extent to which we recognize each other as “self,” we

are compelled to treat each other humanely. One might say that the concept of ‘separation’ is the enabler of all violence, cruelty and wars.

So, as we explore and consider the (sometimes strongly expressed) ideas of each other, perhaps we could try to remember the human being, who is, in truth, our brother – no matter how different his/her views are! As it turns out, several items in this issue remind us of this, as you will discover.

Readers sometimes mention that reading *Dialogue* makes them depressed, because of all that is ‘wrong’ in the world. However, although the problems of wars and power struggles have been around for millennia, this is also a time when people in communities around the world are awakening to new ways of being and living – which you will also read about in these pages!

When you see something in this issue that makes you think, “I wish everybody could read that!” – take the ideas and pass them on to friends, neighbours, radio talk shows, community groups, in letters to the editor, local politicians, etc. The more people who hear about our journal of ideas, the stronger our network of informed Canadians will become! Contact information for Canadian politicians is featured on our website: www.dialogue.ca.

The website also now features a “pdf” extract of each issue – that you can download and share! And if you are not yet receiving our monthly “e-mail newsletter” or “discussion group” (prepared by Maurice), send an e-mail – to maurice.king@dialogue.ca – and we will add you to our mailing list.

[Note: the e-mail address for submissions to this print magazine is: dialogue@dialogue.ca]

Remember, if you are visiting (or living) on Vancouver Island, come over to see us (*and Penny, of course!*) in Nanaimo! [Perhaps call to make sure we are home: 250-758-9877.]

2-for-1 Gift Subscriptions! During the months of August and September, we have a special that lets you send TWO 6-month Gift Subscriptions for just \$15.00 (regularly \$15 ea). Can you help *Dialogue* grow?

The magazine relies on your support to keep going! Without your donations (almost 40 percent of our revenue) we would not be able to publish *Dialogue*!

Thank you for your part in keeping our publication going! For without your **support** and your **voice** as an independent thinker, reader/writer (and subscriber!) – there would be no *Dialogue*! Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and very much appreciated. *Thank you!*

Maurice, volunteer publisher

Janet, volunteer editor

*“Be isolated, be ignored, be attacked, be in doubt,
be frightened... but do not be silenced.” – Bertrand Russell*

dialogue is...

...an independent, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers
- empowering their voices
and the sharing of ideas.

Dialogue, for over 20 years, has been providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and an antidote to political correctness. We encourage readers to share with others – including our politicians – the ideas and issues gleaned from these pages.

If this is your first issue, please let us know what you think of it. If you would like to share your ideas and become a writer in

dialogue magazine

consider this your invitation!

We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue

(See P. 58 for details)

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Maurice J. King, President-Publisher
Janet K. Hicks, Volunteer Editor

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From Near & Far

Letter to my Member of Parliament

From: Denny Z. Petrik, Clearwater BC

To: Hon. Betty Hinton MP

House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Hinton,

We have received your leaflet regarding renewable power. It is quite amazing how similar its layout is to that received a day later from Mr. Jack Layton. Is the Conservative Party sharing a spin creator with the NDP?

Long time ago I decided not to respond to prefabricated questionnaires. They appear to be slanted in a way to produce a desired consensus.

Renewable power, the subject of your questionnaire is part of the environmental issue. To let you have my thoughts on the subject, I am enclosing a copy of an article I wrote for the *Dialogue Magazine*, published in Nanaimo BC. This very magazine had several excellent contributions on that subject, and other issues that should be of interest to our politicians. Reading such a non-partisan publication would give you much better insight into the vox populi than a trashy leaflet.

As to the performance of the Conservative Government, so far – well, we needed a change from Paul Martin, but we did not get what we really wanted or needed.

The search is still on: Responsible statesmen wanted! ♣

Canadian workers' paycheques in 30-year holding pattern: Study

*On June 28, the CCPA released *Rising Profit Shares, Falling Wage Shares* by Ellen Russell and Mathieu Dufour. The study finds that Canadian workers' average real wages have been stagnant for the past 30 years, despite economic growth and productivity gains.*

OTTAWA - Canadians are working harder and smarter, contributing to a growing economy, but their paycheques have been stagnant for the past 30 years, says a new study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

Rising Profit Shares, Falling Wage Shares finds that Canada's economy grew steadily and workers' productivity improved by 51 per cent in the past 30 years, but workers' average real wages have been stuck in a holding pattern all this time.

"Canadians are constantly being told they need to improve their productivity and grow the economy - which is exactly what they've done, but their paycheques aren't growing to reflect their work effort," says study co-author Ellen Russell, CCPA senior economist.

The study finds that Canadian workers' wage share of national income is the lowest it's been in 40 years. If

workers' real wages had increased to reflect improved productivity and economic growth, they could be earning an average of \$10,000 more each year on their paycheques (in 2005 dollars).

Instead, corporations – not workers – have been banking the lion's share of the benefits of economic growth and improved productivity.

"Corporate profit shares are the highest they've been in 40 years – and we're not talking peanuts here," says Russell. "In 2005, corporations banked \$130 billion more in gross profits than they would have if the profit share had remained at 1991 levels. Sharing those earnings with workers could have gone a long way to reducing Canada's growing income gap."

The full study, co-authored by Ellen Russell and Mathieu Dufour is available at www.growinggap.ca and www.policyalternatives.ca.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

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Tel: 613-563-1341 fax: 613-233-1458 ♣

Canada in Afghanistan

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

Have you noticed the switch from search and destroy operations to the Harper governments PR campaign highlighting Canada's reconstruction efforts there? Have you also noticed the radical change in our Canadian troops' operations – from seek and destroy to a more traditional guerrilla war but with support from backup tanks?

Canada's spending on the former search and destroy operations was \$6.1 billion, relative to the spending on reconstruction of \$600 million. We are spending 10 times more to kill and destroy than to help reconstruct this nation, which has been destroyed in this War Of Terror inflicted on it. In addition, another \$1.2 billion is being spent for replacement tanks to be used in this guerrilla war.

It is interesting to note that we can always seem to find money for war but have difficulty funding life sustaining activities such as health care, education, welfare, etc...

Our forces in Afghanistan have been forced to reorient their tactics from attacking high concentrations of Taliban to a Taliban which has retreated into the populated areas in a more conventional guerrilla war where the high fire power of our tanks, artillery and close air support are restricted.

It will be disturbing when the casualty figures start coming in as a result of the Taliban's spring offensive. Perhaps more Canadians will start questioning and demanding an answer of what vital Canadian interests are a stake in Afghanistan to justify the continuing destruction of that country and the sacrifice of Canadian lives. ♣

Canadian/Global Issue

Global food crisis emerging - lowest food supplies in 50-100 years

National Farmers Union, SK

SASKATOON, Sask. — On May 11, 2007, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its first projections of world grain supply and demand for the coming crop year: 2007/08. USDA predicts supplies will plunge to a 53-day equivalent—their lowest level in the 47-year period for which data exists.

“The USDA projects global grain supplies will drop to their lowest levels on record. Further, it is likely that, outside of wartime, global grain supplies have not been this low in a century, perhaps longer,” said NFU Director of Research Darrin Qualman.

Most important, 2007/08 will mark the seventh year out of the past eight in which global grain production has fallen short of demand. This consistent shortfall has cut supplies in half – down from a 115-day supply in 1999/00 to the current level of 53 days.

“The world is consistently failing to produce as much grain as it uses,” said

Qualman. He continued:

“The current low supply levels are not the result of a transient weather event or an isolated production problem: low supplies are the result of

a persistent drawdown trend.” In addition to falling grain supplies, global fisheries are faltering. Reports in respected journals *Science* and *Nature* state that 1/3 of ocean fisheries are in collapse, 2/3 will be in collapse by 2025, and our ocean fisheries may be virtually gone by 2048. “Aquatic food systems are collapsing, and terrestrial food systems are under tremendous stress,” said Qualman. Demand for food is rising rapidly. There is a worldwide push to proliferate a North American style, meat-based diet based on intensive livestock production. Turning feed-grains into meat in this way means exchanging 3 to 7 kilos of grain protein for one kilo of meat protein. Population is rising: 2.5 billion people will join the global population in the coming decades. **“Every six years, we’re adding to the world the equivalent of a North American population.** We’re trying to feed those extra people, feed a growing livestock herd, and now, feed our cars, all from a static farmland base. No one should be surprised that food production can’t keep up,” said Qualman.

Qualman said that the converging problems of natural gas and fertilizer constraints, intensifying water shortages, climate change, farmland loss and degradation, population increases, the proliferation of livestock feeding, and an in-

creasing push to divert food supplies into biofuels means that we are in the opening phase of an intensifying food shortage. Qualman cautioned, however, that there are no easy fixes. “If we try to do more of the same, if we try to produce, consume, and export more food while using more fertilizer, water, and chemicals, we will only intensify our problems. Instead, we need to rethink our relation to food, farmers, production, processing, and distribution. We need to create a system focused on feeding people and creating health. We need to strengthen the food production systems around the world. Diversity, resilience, and sustainability are key,” concluded Qualman.

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The National Farmers Union is Canadian farm families sharing common goals. Each family member – farmer, spouse and children, ages 14 to 21 – are full members of the Union and enjoy all rights and privileges within the Union. This

structure recognizes that every family member contributes to the farm by working on it, or providing supporting income through off-farm employment.

Associate Members are a valued part of the National Farmers Union family as well. Associate Members are non-farmers that understand that food issues are everyone's issues and want to help farmers build a sustainable and nutritious food system in Canada.

Member families of the Union believe that through an organization that represents all commodities produced in Canada, it is possible to promote the family farm as the most appropriate and efficient means of agricultural production. Our goal is to work together to achieve agricultural policies which will ensure dignity and security of income for farm families while enhancing the land for future generations.

Backgrounder to the NFU's May 11, 2007 news release:

The United States Department of Agriculture reports recent grain supply & demand numbers on its World Agriculture Supply & Demand Estimates (WASDE) website at: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1194>

The longer-term data on world grains supply and demand is at Production, Supply, and Demand Online (PSD) at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdhome.aspx> ♣

Canadian Politics

Canada and the Confederation of 1867

Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON

There have been many discussions and questions on the whole Canadian issue of the Constitution, which was the British North America Act of July 1, 1867.

Of course no one took the time to study how Canada ended up as a Confederation in 1867.

To begin with, there were various conferences that were held by the premiers of the three provinces that at that time were loosely united. Thus, all the meetings on Confederation were between the three provinces of British North America: the United Province of Canada (Upper & Lower Canada), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. But, it was then decided to once again separate the two sections of Canada, and create two new provinces, viz: Ontario and Quebec. The premiers of the four provinces, after all the haggling was over, then created the Canadian Confederation.

Since there existed no federal government in 1867, the premiers of the four provinces had to give permission for the creation of a federal government. Thus looking at the overall picture, we see that it was the provinces that not only created the Confederation, but also the federal government, to which it gave certain powers. Even the Supreme Court of Canada, came from the agreement between the four provinces. If the Canadian Confederation was a creation of the provinces, then surely the provinces had more power than the federal government. We must never forget that all the power still lay with the four founding provinces, and not the federal government that was created by them.

Now to 1982 Constitution Act, note that only the Prime Minister and two of his colleagues signed into law, something they had no power to do. If the British North America Act was a creation of the provinces, then it stands to reason that the provinces held the power, and not the federal government as claimed by Pierre-Elliott Trudeau and his surrogates. Why is the Question? How can the Prime Minister of Canada unilaterally change or alter a document to which neither he nor any other Canadian Prime Minister was ever a party? The B.N.A. Act belonged to the provinces of Canada and not the federal government, who had no part in its creation. For the federal government of Pierre-Elliott Trudeau to ask the Supreme Court of Canada permission to repatriate the B.N.A. Act from Britain, was well outside the scope of its jurisdiction. Since the Supreme Court of Canada, was not a party to the document in 1867, in fact the Supreme Court did not even exist at that time.

Thus, if the Prime Minister and his ministers were signato-

ries to a document, to which they had no jurisdiction, the document itself was invalid. It is quite clear that neither the Prime Minister, nor his ministers had the power to by-pass the rights of the provincial premiers, and sign it on their behalf. The only people who had any right to sign the document and give it any legality were the provincial premiers in Canada. Which brings up a point. Quebec's claims that it never signed the Constitution Act of 1982, is unquestionably a very valid point, but then, neither did any of the other provincial premier sign that document. This again brings into question the validity of the Constitution Act of 1982, and this is has been the cause of many problems regarding provincial and federal jurisdiction in Canada, since that time.

All in all, the Constitution Act of April 17, 1982 was not worth the paper it was written on.

Restore Conrad Black's Cdn. citizenship

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The Nickel Resolution of 1919 was never put into law. Even PM R. B. Bennett got a knighthood in 1936, which puts into question the reason why Jean Chrétien ever objected to Conrad Black's British peerage. One can only assume that it was the Québécois Jean Chrétien's way of showing how he could beat ENGLISH-Canadians, which, in Quebec, is considered a great achievement. Thus, Lord Black should never have been put into the position of renouncing his Canadian citizenship by a spiteful Jean Chrétien.

It is now up to you, no matter what Conrad Black did, to return his Canadian citizenship without haste. Surely Mr. Prime Minister you are not as petty-minded as Jean Chrétien, to hold back this Canadian born person's citizenship, are you?
– Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON ♣

Watch Michael Moore's health-care documentary, SICKO!

CanadianActionParty.ca

We are so lucky in Canada, thanks to the wisdom and perseverance of Tommy Douglas. And if we used our treasure, our Bank of Canada, as was intended, we could have the best healthcare in the world. There is no reason for cuts to our healthcare. Public-private partnerships are the worst thing that could happen to our universal healthcare. We must fight tooth and nail against that!

Three Cheers for socialized medicine... everywhere!

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Martin Luther King Jr. ♣

Canadian Politics

A View from Saskatchewan...

Frank G. Obrigewitsch, Glenavon SK

I'm sending you a copy of what I sent the National Citizens Coalition. I got so mad when I read their article, I just sat down and wrote what was in my mind. I'm also a member of WCC, the Western Canada Concept Party. And we are going to get ahead with the Western Block Party. I think I and a lot of people were really HAD by Manning! And now we will see if Harper is going to be any better. I've lost faith in him – He is all Quebec. He really wants to drive the bus! And it doesn't matter what he has to do, he will do it. So, I'll stick with Doug Christie – he is a BC boy and a Western Canadian. By the way, I enjoy the magazine!
– F.G.O.

Thoughts on how Canada works – or doesn't

Frank Obrigewitsch to the NCC:

And you think we should get the health care fixed? I have a suggestion. Why don't the medical people in the health departments check some of the alternate programs that are available? I know of cancer cures that work. I know of prostrate cures that work. But the doctors don't know anything about these cures.

The Cancer Society – Wow! Millions of dollars – they are a selfish bunch of people. If they would find a cure – or use one that is already working, what would all these people do? They would be out of work! Unemployed! I do not support cancer research. Why does our health minister not check out some of these alternative therapies? Can't he find trustworthy people to advise him? Or have the drug companies got him where the hair is short!?

There will never be any major cures as long as the health minister is not in charge. The medical people don't want these therapies either. They make lots of money the way it is now. I've been doing my own treatment. Knees – no operation – and they work good!

As long as we have people saying “Quack” – and politicians agreeing with this, we will not get a decent health care system. There is no reason why the two systems – allopathic and alternative – can't work side by side.

Why are our troops in the far east? Supposedly we are going to give them “democracy!” The way it works here is a laugh. We have a rule book, “Constitution Acts,” about the way the government should run the country. What a laugh! Why is it not mandatory to teach the children at school about the Constitution? I gave a copy to the principal of our school – he thought I was joking! I told him to read and pay attention to section 91 – Powers of the Parliament; Section 92 – Exclusive powers of provincial legislatures; Section 92A – non-renewable natural resources, etc.

What does Mr. Harper not understand about off-shore oil or the Saskatchewan oil patch? If Mr. Harper has not got a copy of the Rule Book, I can get him one.

I was one of many that got Reform going. I spent money and time and thought we had a fair chance of making for good government. But for selfish reasons, some people saw fit to join the Conservatives – you know, Joe Who, and now Stevie, the Wonder Boy. I wonder where Stevie gets his ideas? Or from whom? Maybe there should be time allocated to study the “Rule book” in the House of Parliament.

I'm tired – I'm only 82 years young. I thought if I know all this stuff, then surely the Members of Parliament should know it too! What the heck, I'll let somebody else try and do something. Forget about me! ♣

A View from British Columbia...

What is the Conservatives' real agenda?

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

The Conservative government has taken significant actions, which do not support Canadian values and desires.

Consider the War of Terrorism being imposed on Afghanistan. It was clearly evident that Canadians did not support this war. Yet, Harper extended the mandate for our troops. He was ‘forced’ to hold a debate in the House of Commons on this War of Terrorism. But MPs were not given enough time to consult their constituents and the debate was limited in time

Harper's motion, recognizing the Québécois as a nation within a united Canada, does not reflect Canadian values. It is just another political concession to win Quebec votes for the next elections.

Harper is proceeding with the Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement (SPPA) with the U.S., with little publicity and no debate in Parliament. I understand that the SPPA is leading to North American Union through bureaucratic regulation without the public's knowledge.

And consider Harper's 200 page ‘Dirty Trick Book’ issued to chairpersons of Parliamentary committees, telling them how to conduct their meetings in a very undemocratic, underhanded way.

I would suggest that the Harper government is driven by a thirst for power, in order to implement his ideologically driven program, which he is careful not to reveal until he wins his majority. Should this happen, we can expect to see radical changes, such as those introduced by Klein in Alberta, Harris in Ontario and Campbell in BC. ♣

NORTH AMERICAN POLITICS

RCMP, SQ, U.S. Army block public forum on the SPP

Council of Canadians

July 11, 07 – The Council of Canadians has been told it will not be allowed to rent a municipal community centre for a public forum it had planned to coincide with the next Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) summit in Montebello, Quebec on August 20 and 21.

The Municipality of Papineauville, which is about six kilometres from Montebello, has informed the Council of Canadians that the RCMP, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) and the U.S. Army will not allow the municipality to rent the Centre Communautaire de Papineauville for a public forum on Sunday August 19, on the eve of the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership Leaders Summit.

“It is deplorable that we are being prevented from bringing together a panel of writers, academics and parliamentarians to share their concerns about the Security and Prosperity Partnership with Canadians,” said Brent Patterson, director of organizing with the Council of Canadians. “Meanwhile, six kilometres away, corporate leaders from the United

States, Mexico and Canada will have unimpeded access to our political leaders.”

As well as being shut out of Papineauville, the Council of Canadians has been told that the RCMP and the SQ will be enforcing a 25-kilometre security perimeter around the Chateau Montebello, where Stephen Harper will meet with George W. Bush and Felipe Calderón on August 20 and 21. According to officials in Montebello, there will be checkpoints at Thurso and Hawkesbury, and vehicles carrying more than five people will be turned back.

Founded in 1985, the Council of Canadians is Canada’s largest citizens’ organization, with members and chapters across the country. The organization works to protect Canadian independence by promoting progressive policies on fair trade, clean water, safe food, public health care, and other issues of social and economic concern to Canadians.

For more information about the Security and Prosperity Partnership, visit IntegrateThis.ca.

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The Militarization and Annexation of North America

The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) unmasked

By Stephen Lendman, Chicago

07/20/07 "ICH" -- Besides the Bush administration's imperial aims and permanent war on the world, add the one at home, below the radar. Its weapons include the WTO, NAFTA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FBI, CIA, NSA, NORTHCOM, militarized state and local police, National Guard forces, paramilitary mercenaries like Blackwater USA, and all other repressive instruments of state power and control. They target the people of three nations slowly becoming one, headquartered in Washington. That's the apparent aim of those in power here wanting one continent, "indivisible" minus old-fashioned ideas like "liberty and justice for all" [...] This article only focuses on what we know about and how it's unfolding so far. It has a name, in fact, several, but they all aim for the same thing – one nation, indivisible, where three sovereign ones once stood.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America/Deep Integration/North American Union

SPP was formally launched at a March 23, 2005 meeting in Waco, Texas attended by George Bush, Mexico's President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin: a tri-national agreement hatched below the radar in Washington containing the recommendations of the Independent Task Force of North America. That's a group organized by

the powerful US Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), and Mexican Council on Foreign Relations. It advocates greater US, Cdn. and Mexican economic, political, social, and security integration, with secretive working groups formed to devise non-debatable agreements that, when completed, will be binding beyond the power of legislatures to change. It's also taking shape without public knowledge or consideration.

From what's already known, SPP unmasked isn't pretty. It's a **corporate-led coup d'etat** against the sovereignty of three nations enforced by a common hard line security strategy already in play separately in each country. It's a scheme to create a borderless North American Union under US control without barriers to trade and capital flows for corporate giants, mainly US ones. It's also to insure America gets free and unlimited access to Canadian and Mexican resources, mainly oil, and in the case of Canada water as well. It's to assure US energy security as a top priority while denying Canada and Mexico preferential access to their own resources henceforth earmarked for US markets.

It's also to create a fortress-North American security zone encompassing the whole continent under US control in the name of "national (and continental) security" with US borders effectively extended to the far reaches of the ⇒

continent. The scheme, in short, is NAFTA on steroids combined with Pox Americana homeland security enforcement. It's the worst of all possible worlds headed for an unmasked police state, and it's the Bush administration's notion of "deep integration" or the "Big Idea" meaning we're boss, what we say goes, no outliers will be tolerated, public interest is off the table, and the people of three nations be damned. [...]

The third trilateral SPP summit (will be hosted by) Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper on August 20 and 21 in Montebello, Quebec. (Protestors) will target SPP overall as well as the Harper government's efforts to advance the corporate-friendly "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility

Agreement" (TILMA) as one more nail in the coffin of Canadian national sovereignty. The AB-BC agreement took effect April 1, 07 and mandates harmonizing regulations and standards between the two provinces, removing barriers to economic development. Saskatchewan is now being targeted to sign on as efforts advance for a borderless North America, with schemes like TILMA being used as stepping stones along the way... TILMA for all Canada will allow Canadian companies the right to challenge any provincial laws conflicting the NAFTA provisions. [...]

Read the entire article at:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article18044.htm>

Author: www.lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. ♣

Stirring the Soup

It's all about perspective

Marie Gaudet, Edmonton AB



In the last December/January issue, I wrote about meeting a homeless man and the new perspective on the homeless which I had gained subsequent to this meeting. Prior to this encounter, I had viewed the homeless in very general terms. They were people who had fallen on hard

times and had been unable to pull themselves out of that dark hole of despair they'd fallen into. They'd been forced to become intimately acquainted with the homeless lifestyle, I thought, and once you're in it, there's almost no way out. They were people you feel pity for, people you give your spare change to while not quite meeting their eyes, people you're scared to talk to because you don't know if they'll answer you politely or jump you for the Chicklets in your pocket.

Besides, I didn't like to feel guilty. My avoidance of them had more to do with making myself feel more comfortable, I think, than with simply having to say "no" yet again to another sorry-looking individual with his hand out. Because every time I said no, I'd feel guilty; this in turn brought about feelings of resentment. Why should I feel guilty I'd think, because I worked my butt off so that I wouldn't fall on hard times and end up homeless? They'd actually be quite surprised to know how close I actually came to that very end once, if they only knew.

That was the perception of the homeless I had when I went to my meeting with Dave (not his real name). Despite this, I went in with an open mind. After all, I had never been homeless so it would be arrogant of me to judge without walking at least a few yards in the guy's shoes, I told myself. I decided to get my information

straight from the horse's mouth. Imagine my surprise when I met this man who chose to live this life, not because life had beaten all vestiges of hope out of him, but on the contrary, because this allowed him to keep living on his own terms, with some semblance of dignity. No landlord to bug him, no rules to follow, no taxes to pay, no unexpected hikes in rent or eviction notices to deal with, no car payments, mortgage payments, power bills, phone bills and no myriad of other people legally dipping their hands into his pockets at every opportunity. He'd built his life in a manner which suited him.

I came to understand after he graciously allowed me to visit him, that he was not a man to be pitied. I would have never known this unless I had made the decision to approach him and kept an open mind in doing so. These days, I have a lot less trouble looking a homeless person in the eye, smiling and saying hello.

Another change in my comfortable little way of thinking came last month, during a visit to our Nation's capital. I arrived in Ottawa on an unusually dry Saturday afternoon, thinking to myself "Yeah, this is where all the fat cats live." A light breeze played across my face as I stepped out of the revolving airport doors. Very little humidity, I immediately noticed – and mouthed a short, silent and fervent prayer of thanks. I breathed deeply of the flower-scented air.

"Est-ce que je peux vous aider?" I smiled at the bilingual cab driver, pleased at this offer of help in my native tongue. As we drove into the tree-lined city I admired the greenery, surprisingly abundant in such a technologically geared society. Who says we can't have both worlds? I silently envied this metropolis, which I had expected to be bustling, cramped and filled to the brim, but which went along at a very pleasant pace. ⇒

My trip to Ottawa, **continued...**

All settled in my hotel, I couldn't wait to get out and explore! Supper with friends at the Green Papaya (a Thai restaurant with excellent food), then a drive across the river to Gatineau where my friends and I visited the famed Casino du Lac Leamy. Followed by the luscious Table de desserts at the Hilton Lac Leamy (just doing our part to help poor Paris get out of jail). "I don't speak much English," announced our waitress, which was just fine by me and my bilingual friends. Then sitting on the patio overlooking the Ottawa skyline as the stars slowly filled the sky and mischievously winked at us from above... what an enjoyable way to spend an evening!

The next day after a restful sleep at a hotel in the heart of this enchanting city it was off to an early breakfast (English servers, this time) and then I was whisked off on a whirlwind tour of the tourist sites. I took the French tour of Rideau Hall, an historic building initially built in 1838, which has been home to every governor general since Confederation. The tour was very professionally provided by a lovely and very knowledgeable young lady with a mass of flaming red hair (a fully bilingual Albertan, as it happens) named Josée, who then invited us to walk around the perfectly manicured grounds and gaze at the majestic trees planted over the course of the century in honour of visiting dignitaries.

Parliament Hill was next on the agenda. I was hauled all around the outside of the building first, for a highly condensed but highly informative history lesson by a bilingual RCMP officer who reminded me of the Energizer bunny and his petite wife who smiled long-sufferingly at his antics. Then begins the inside tour. This spectacular old building literally takes your breath away. As the English-guided tour brings you from one part of the building to the other, you discover the meaning of the phrase "these hallowed halls." Sure, at some level, you realize that many revolting deeds have probably been spawned from this building but it's easy, while standing in this place, to realize that those people will come and go but this symbol of our country will always stand tall and proud.

The more than 130-year old Library is an architectural

treasure cradling a collection of volumes that cover documentation from 140 years of Canadian history, from marble floor to walls of shining pine bookcases to the soaring Dome.

As our English group follows the guided tour, we regularly cross paths with the French group going the opposite way, sharing smiles and bantering remarks. Superb paintings of our past and present Queens look down on us from the walls and we think they are amused.

It is nigh impossible to leave The Hill and feel unaffected by its history... our history. Again, my perspective has been changed and I have learned something. Until this day, all I could remember were all the things I didn't like about my Country. But spending some time within those very old walls has reminded me what has been done, by whom and for how long, so that I can enjoy the Canadian lifestyle. I now feel more motivated to make this country better, perhaps by decreasing my belly-aching a notch or two, to begin with. I highly recommend this visit as a refresher course to all Canadian citizens.

Walking around Parliament Hill, indeed walking around Ottawa itself, seeing the highly-evident multicultural populace, being offered service in the official language of your choice at restaurants, art galleries, when taking a bus or buying a pair of shoes, you can't help but think what an incredible city this is and wouldn't it be great if the whole country were bilingual. At least, I couldn't help but think that. But then, that's my perspective.

P.S. For those who are counting, I used the word "English" 4 times in this column, the word "French" twice and the word "bilingual" 5 times. And I didn't plan it that way.

Addendum:

To those who responded to my article in the February/March issue: I agreed with many of your points and of course disagreed with others. I learned some new things from some of you who are more knowledgeable historically than I am so thank you for that. For others, it saddens me to think that you will never see all the beautiful shades of grey that surround the colors black and white. Thanks to all of you for helping me to help Dialogue achieve a new milestone.

- Marie Gaudet, Edmonton ♣

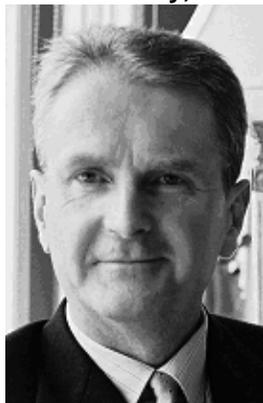


The Library of Parliament building, Ottawa, with my friends & fellow sightseers, Lorea and Ross Tvlor.

"The Fifth Columnist"

Goodbye, so long, auf wiedersehen, goodbye

Michael Neilly, Dunrobin ON



This will be my last column on Quebec. For one thing, so many Dialogue writers write so ably and eloquently on the topic that there is little that I could add. For another, I'm sick of what the Quebec "thing" has cost Canada in general. The biggest problems Canada faces today are globalization, social decay and pollution; yet for decades, we have been distracted by Quebec's puffed up, fascist politicians, who

are determined to goose-step over basic democratic and constitutionally-guaranteed human rights to get what, they will find, will bring them little satisfaction.

A headline in the Nov. 8/06 Ottawa Citizen read, Quebec to promote French from coast to coast. "We have a responsibility with regard to who we are and to what constitutes the Quebec nation", proclaimed Mr. Charest, unveiling his new policy on francophone Canada, stating further that "the active defence and promotion of Quebec's interests and identity within Canada is closely linked to the narrow cooperation with francophone communities." In other words, Quebec intends to support and defend (or meddle in) francophone minority communities across Canada, as does the federal government right now.

With this latest announcement, Quebec's naked nationalist aspirations are reminiscent of Serbia's longing for a Greater Serbia and one can easily draw parallels between Canada and the old Yugoslavia, both socialist countries with multicultural societies, both with one aggressive province bent on defending minority communities in the other provinces. Quebec's talk of independence is one thing, but actively interfering in the affairs of other provinces, this is something entirely different.

This interference is a natural evolution of Quebec nationalism, which, for some naïve souls, means strictly focusing on *if, how and when the province of Quebec will separate*. Experts say, for instance, that Quebec has no "right" to separate, since there is no mechanism to do this in our constitution. However, I think separation will happen, among other nasty things, but not in the way people think.

Let me say that joining a federation is like signing a marriage contract. Simply because a marriage contract itself does not contain a "mechanism" to dissolve the marriage, that doesn't mean that you can't get a divorce! Theoretically, Quebec's secession could occur with either negotiations prior to separation or a "spontaneous" Unilateral Dec-

laration of Independence (UDI) with negotiations afterwards. However, there will never be a negotiated separation for two reasons: First, no Canadian Prime Minister wishes to go down in the history books as being the one who negotiated the breakup of Canada. Second, the separatists won't negotiate either because, were they to negotiate up front, the true costs of Quebec's separation would at last be known to all Quebecers. These costs would be enormous: Canadian Forces bases, equipment and personnel, post office, central bank, currency and its valuation, real estate values, Western Quebecer's access to jobs, especially government jobs, in Ottawa and Ontario in general, standard of living, Indian reserves, Employment Insurance, loss of territory, etc.

Therefore, discounting a negotiated separation, either separation will be announced one morning in a Unilateral Declaration of Independence and frantic negotiations will occur afterwards; or attempts will be made to destabilize the federal government and precipitate the breakup of Canada. In either case, as with Yugoslavia (Serbia) and the USSR (Russia), a rump state will emerge, namely Greater Quebec, with or without the express permission of Quebecers. It will simply be done by those in power.

Over the decades, there haven't been many nation states that declared UDI without the collapse of the mother state around it, again like Yugoslavia and the USSR. So, were I a separatist strategist or a fan of a Greater Quebec, I would certainly encourage dissent and political instability in Canada proper using, say, our divide and conquer Charter, multiculturalism, the environista movement, etc. The Liberal party, intentionally or otherwise, has been quite instrumental in weakening English Canada along these lines. At the same time, Quebec's culture and language "purity" is maintained through Law 101 and selective immigration from French-speaking countries.

Charest's fascist proclamations raise another disturbing possibility, annexation. Again mindful of the breakup of Yugoslavia, watch for Quebec's annexation of New Brunswick in addition to UDI, to "rescue" the second largest concentration of francophones in Canada, the Acadian French, from "assimilation." It would be a mistake to think that Quebec's pacifist posturing with respect to world events translates into pacifism in its own "backyard;" think rather of a *manifest destiny* almost totally unobstructed by sleepy Canada. With few Canadian troops to speak of east of Quebec, save for the Royal Canadian Regiment, which I predict will be mysteriously confined to their barracks during the whole event, and the only route to New Brunswick for Western Canadian tanks and troops through the ⇒

Quebec “nation,” it would be quite easy for Quebec to annex that province with little interference from the rest of Canada.

But wait, there’s more! Imagine that you are separatists planning independence. Would you accept the risk of a diminished Quebec, minus all the territory you gained since confederation, with a debased currency, no government jobs, a ruined housing market, flight of capital, etc., as you would expect with pure separation? Or would you prefer annexation of not only New Brunswick, but also Ontario?

This would allow you to keep the Canadian dollar, preserve government jobs, a banking system, postal system and armed forces. You would get some very nice parliament buildings, too! In fact, Quebec is already taking Ontario by stealth. Useful idiot provincial Premier Dalton McGuinty is considering an Official Languages Commissioner and Official Bilingualism for Ontario. In Eastern Ontario, we are building segregated, French-only clinics, schools and community centres – the puffed-up politician’s siren call of purity is hard to resist. Ontario is the linchpin and once it is removed, Canada, as we know it (the Upper Canada run by Eastern robber barons anyway) falls et voilà, Greater Quebec.

I think that the average Quebecer, like the average Canadian, has little to do with the elites that run our respective governments and has, in effect, gone along for the ride. This inaction, apathy, or “delirious abandonment” will have

serious consequences down the road for all concerned and the spontaneous goodwill seen from Canadians in 1995 during the last referendum has all but gone.

Considering all of the above, wouldn’t you rather negotiate terms now, if only to underscore the real cost of separation. It would be very powerful to set a separation date with a “separation” clock, like the Doomsday clock, to countdown to secession. So let’s just say good-bye now and remain friends, shall we?

Enough with the maudlin hearts and minds campaigns that culminated in the sponsorship scandal, the buses to Montreal and the saccharine “gosh, if only we Anglos spoke French, we could all get along” mantra. Write the whole experience off now as the cost of our monstrous apathy and incredible wishful thinking.

Alert readers will remember that I did say earlier in this piece that there would never be a negotiated separation – by politicians. But considering the alternatives I’ve just described, we, the common people, should at least try. Quebec will still be there in the morning, in one shape or another, just as there is a Serbia and Russia. After all, a nation is more than its puffed-up politicians or lines on a map. It’s a state of mind. Let’s try using that mind.

Mike Neilly

*dialogue always welcome, contact me at:
fifth_columnist@magma.ca ♣*



“Rhymes and Reflections” WHAT I’LL LEAVE BEHIND

**Larry Vaincourt
Deux Montagnes QC**

’Tis a roundtrip ticket that I hold,
both to and from this grand old
earth,

And half of which I have cashed in
the day my mother gave me birth.
The second half I hold in trust,
until that day when I must go
Unto that spot that has no name,
that place no living man may know.
And on the day I must depart,
I know I’ll leave with some regret.
There will be so much still to do,
so many jobs unfinished, yet.
I’ll leave behind me no great wealth,
just several offspring, straight and strong,
And knowledge that I’ve done my best,
have played it square, done no man wrong.
I want no mausoleum grand,
nor seal my ashes in an urn,

For I was formed from dust of earth
and to that earth I must return.
But if you would, cremate my bones
then cast my ashes on the breeze,
That they may land on field and stream
and some may lodge among the trees.

And that which lands on waters, swift,
must someday reach the rolling sea.
But always, upon God’s green earth,
there will remain a part of me.
The product of my time on earth
may not be great, as such are weighed,
I only know I did my best,
will face my Maker, unafraid.
And if my epitaph you write,
I wish no eulogy so grand.
But if, perhaps, you spare a line,
then let it read, “Here was a man.”

Larry Vaincourt ♣

From Larry’s first book, “Rhymes & Reflections”

Larry’s books, “Rhymes & Reflections” and “Don’t Burn the Biffy,” can be ordered from *Dialogue*: \$10 plus \$3 postage [Dialogue Magazine, 6227 Groveland Dr., Nanaimo, BC V9V 1B1]

Quebec Politics

In 1995 the separatists cried, in 2007 they are furious

Ernest Semple, Dollard des Ormeaux QC



The Québec hard-core separatists know when the jig is up.

There were tears as the final referendum results rolled in late on October 30, 1995. It wasn't only the mothers holding babies at a victory rally that never saw victory. Many hard working PQ militants, were dragooned from union organizations.

They, and the many ordinary people and part time workers depending on political connections for their livelihood, were equally tearful. Political patronage is for the Québécois first and foremost. It is not well understood outside the province of Québec, that Québec Francophones have always looked on political patronage as their personal source of income. That has rarely been explained to outsiders as a mainstay of the Québec economy.

The plum jobs in all municipal administrations, the provincial and federal civil services, the large engineering groups associated with public works, bridge building, dam building, the Olympic installation, the water services, and town infrastructure or maintenance are not generally offered or permitted to non-Québécois.

Traditionally, the non-Québécois were expected to work mainly for large foreign investment, banks, private firms, manufacturing, consumer goods sales and marketing, and small businesses with store fronts and plate glass windows.

The Québec economic system grew with patronage designated for Québécois only, and for a sprinkling of non-Québécois for specialty positions.

It is not well understood outside Québec that the 1959 death of Maurice Duplessis marked the end of economic stability based on the above picture.

The religious orders had provided teaching brothers and nuns at poverty-vow wage levels for much of the Québec education system. Similarly, hospitals had much of their nursing staff based on religious orders.

That culture of service by religious orders, and their prominence in public activity had been dampened by Cardinal Léger in 1958 when he declared that Catholic Bishops and clergy exerting control in political groups would no longer be tolerated. The religious personnel roles in education and hospitals would gradually be replaced by bureaucrats and civil servants.

These two most expensive elements of provincial

responsibility are today overloaded with bureaucrats, technicians and a host of unionized service providers.

The new religion: Quebec nationalism 1974
The social engineering in Robert Bourassa's repressive Bill 22 in 1974 was followed by the Parti Québécois' Bill 101 in 1977. Loi Cent-et-Un was even more repressive of English in every phase of Québec life. It closed up all the loopholes left in Bourassa's hastily drawn up Bill 22. The Parti Québécois detailed policy proposal was described on the CBC as "Lunatics taking over the asylum."

Bourassa had safely escaped after calling an election a year and a half early in order to guarantee the Parti Québécois victory rather than risking the resurgent Union Nationale returning to power. The Union Nationale might have gone back to the principles of Bill 63 and thrown away the draconian language gains made by the separatists through Bourassa's Bill 22. Bourassa's dream was to have a completely French language state encompassing all of the present Québec territory.

The Union Nationale stomping grounds were in the identical Québec territory now dominated by Mario Dumont's Action Démocratique du Québec party. That is, along the Saint Lawrence River Valley and farmlands outside greater Montréal.

For the Parti Québécois to lose any territory dominated by Francophone votes was a patronage disaster.

The Catbird seat – The Official Opposition
As the Official Opposition party in the last session of the National Assembly, the Parti Québécois still had much influence on infrastructure contracts and plum positions.

This dominant position was guaranteed by special privileges granted to the Official Opposition party.

These privileges also include more easy access to the press, to publicity, and to common services shared by all members.

In the parliamentary system, the Official Opposition members have a choice of more exclusive locations and more luxurious offices than other members. They have special budgets and some limousine privileges reserved for shadow cabinet members. These permit a show of power and influence not granted to a third party in Québec's essentially two-party system.

To be usurped in this position by the ADQ almost certainly marks the end of the era of Parti Québécois hegemony that was created by Robert Bourassa and Claude Ryan.

The two of them on November 16, 1976, handed over the government of Québec on a silver platter to the extreme nationalists populating the Parti Québécois at that time. ⇒

Quebec Politics

Ernest Semple, continued

Bourassa had no purpose in staying, because the Parti Québécois had more enthusiasm for his goals than his own party had. Claude Ryan took over the prestigious position of Leader of the Official Opposition Liberals, after having advised all and sundry to vote for the Parti Québécois, while he was Editor-en-Chef for the nationalist newspaper Le Devoir.

The 1974 Bill 22 clampdown on use of English in the Québec workplace, in advertising, on storefronts, in schools, and even in universities, spelled disaster for the Quebec economy.

The “Lunatics taking over the asylum” with Bill 101 in 1977 was in no small way aided by Pierre Trudeau’s mild-mannered Official Languages Act of 1969.

A naïve electorate entrenched the separatists for almost a decade.

Prime Minister Trudeau obstinately opposed the Québec separatists in almost every way possible. But Trudeau failed to recognize the Fascist and undemocratic use of English-language repression resulting from the Official Languages Act. The OLA encouraged discrimination outside Québec by favouring Québécois for hiring, as opposed to favouring facility in languages from the non-Québécois public.

The distress and anger of the hard-core separatists, today, has little to do with language. It has to do with being pushed out of prominence in patronage distribution.

Inside Quebec their fixation with suppression of English had hoisted them by their own petard.

Recent developments federally have had some influence on the ADQ achieving prominence in just one election. Economic facts have shown there is no pot of gold at the end of the once shining separatist rainbow.

But the poker game of language and financial blackmail continued long after the defeat of the Charlottetown Accord in 1992 proved to Bourassa that Québec could never separate in one piece.

The blackmail and extortion of the rest of Canada continued because of the perfidy of the Federal Liberals in boldly pursuing extreme legislation, in 2003, to limit access to employment in the federal government unless one could present credentials proving facility in French.

This calumny occurred despite the fact the Supreme Court had ruled in August 20, 1998 that a UDI was impossible for any Canadian political entity without the consent of practically everyone in Canada.

In 1998, the UDI-and-separation basis for language black-

mail thus had disappeared, leaving behind a purposeless and powerless Bloc Québécois in Parliament.

The cowardly Quebec Liberal Party refused to take advantage of this decision. Instead, its leader, Jean Charest referred to this decision as “A black hole,” an astronomical term meaning nothing in politics.

Facing re-election in March 2007, Mr. Charest found that his derisive comment about the law permitted the ADQ to obtain favour through more discreet statements.

The Parti Québécois was shoved into third position by the electorate, but the Liberals lost twenty seats, twice as many as the Parti Québécois.

The Parti Québécois now represents no particular purpose for the modern population of Québec, at least for several years, as declared by its leaders!

Thus Québec now has two political parties that have been recognized by the voting population as having little relevance to the future of Québec.

Québec’s future depends on resolution of its economic dependence on Patronage.

Since there is no advantage in espousing the separatist cause, or in English language suppression, Mario Dumont has abandoned the policy statements that might have been commonly favoured by Québécois twelve years ago.

His voting public agrees with him.

The dramatic change in Québec politics lies in the Catbird seat of the Official Opposition.

Everything in Québec is changed now in terms of patronage influence.

Even the expectation of influence has influence.

The people in the 85 ridings where the ADQ came in first or second position in the March 26, 2007 elections are gaining confidence that Dumont will form the next government.

That is Influence! ... That is real Influence! ♣

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More on Healthcare & Health

From Connie Fogal:

This is the junk that they want to put in our Canadian women... C.F.

Gardasil: More reasons why not to vaccinate your daughter

Three girls died, others hospitalized, after HPV (human papiloma virus) Vaccine

Dr. Mercola's Comment re:

Should young girls be required by the government to take Gardasil, when possible side effects include hospitalization and death? There have also been reports from the National Vaccine Information Center about fainting and dizziness reported by dozens of patients as side effects of Gardasil, and there are even some concerns that Gardasil may cause infertility.

These are steep risks for a vaccine that only sometimes protects against HPV, which is virtually 100 percent avoidable without an expensive and potentially fatal vaccine.

Please realize that Merck has manipulated the medical and political system to FORCE children to get this dangerous vaccine for their own bottom line profit. The potential promised reduction of cervical cancer is the bait they use.

Remember Merck, the manufacturer of this vaccine, is the same company that made Vioxx that killed over 60,000 people. More at: www.mercola.com/2007/mar/10/growing-controversy-over-new-merck-vaccines.htm ♣

Sunscreen ingredients harmful

NewsTarget Insider Alert

Mike Adams (www.NewsTarget.com)

Did you know that most sunscreen products are actually harmful to your health? The Environmental Working Group recently released a survey of sunscreen product ingredients showing widespread use of toxic chemical ingredients. The EWG didn't tell the whole story on sunlight, vitamin D and cancer prevention, but they sure exposed the toxicity of brand-name sunscreen products (which I've been warning consumers about for years!). For the full story, see: www.newstarget.com/021927.html (and please, for the sake of your own health, stop using toxic sunscreen chemicals on your skin!). ♣

Plants Uptake Antibiotics

In a greenhouse study involving corn, lettuce, and potato grown on soil modified with liquid hog manure containing Sulfamethazine, the antibiotic was taken up by all three crops. – Chris Gupta, See: <http://tinyurl.com/2kwvtv8> ♣

From John McCullough:

**Danger from Dioxins in plastics
Cancer Update from Johns Hopkins University
(This information is also being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Ctr.)**

PLEASE NOTE!!

- **No plastic containers in microwave**
- **No plastic water bottles in freezer.**
- **No plastic wrap in microwave...**

A dioxin chemical causes cancer, especially breast cancer. Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

Recently, Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers... This especially applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body...

Instead, he recommends using glass, such as Corning Ware, Pyrex or ceramic containers for heating food... You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else.

Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons...

Also, he pointed out that plastic wrap, such as Saran, is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food. ♣

Then let us pray that come it may
(As come it will for a' that)
That Sense and Worth o'er all the earth
Shall have the first place and all that!
For all that, and all that,
It is coming yet for all that,
That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for all that.

- Robert Burns

Is There For Honest Poverty (1795)

History & Memories

Calvin Skuce, Ottawa ON

We had real pollution in the "Dirty Thirties"

Pollution here! Pollution there! We're in pollution everywhere! This is all you read about in newspapers, magazines and on TV. I am now 80 years of age and have lived through a long life of so-called "pollution" without any ill effects. I clearly remember during the 30's, just how much "pollution" we really had!

Large cast iron cook stoves, gigantic fireplaces that gave little heat, and "pot-bellied" stoves that gave 'too much heat!' These all burned wood, paper, coal and coke, day and night and emitted black columns of smoke up the chimney.

Candles, coal oil lamps and kerosene stoves were used in nearly every home. These emitted heavy smoke and odor, inside and outside of the house.

A large furnace in the basement needed a special shovel to throw in tons of coal or coke, resulting in a large, heavy "klinker" that had to be removed with steel tongs, when the fire subsided. The "klinker" could only be broken up with a heavy sledge hammer and the ashes were deposited in the laneway for winter traction.

Everyone burned leaves, wood, and sometimes garbage, in their back yards. Factories and stores all burned coal or coke. All luxury cars had large six, eight or even twelve cylinders which gobbled up "leaded" gas and belched out heavy black smoke when starting up. Ocean-going vessels relied on coal for their furnaces and had two or three large smoke stacks, which blackened the sky behind them.

Locomotives, steam rollers and steam shovels all used coal or wood and puffed out heavy black smoke which caused fine ash to fall down like rain, from the sky. Aircraft used high-burning fuel that left a long black trail in the atmosphere. Countryside roads were often sprayed with oil in the summer, to keep down the dust. Horses even contributed to "personal pollution" and people were warned to be careful not to step in the "exhaust"!

Our air today is 100 percent cleaner due to less pollution than in the "Dirty 30's!" I know... because I was there!

And a memory from 70 years ago...

We actually saw the "Hindenburg" on that Fateful Day

On May 6th 1937, my mother took me to the Bronx Zoo to celebrate my 10th birthday, which was to be on May 10th. It was a bright sunny day and we were on the highest area in the Bronx Zoo when we heard a heavy drone getting louder and louder. The sky darkened over us and we both looked up to see what caused the big shadow.

I shouted to my mother, "It's the Hindenburg, look at the

two swastikas on the tail!" It slowly came low over us, from right to left, and it was all silver with "Hindenburg" printed in black letters on the front. The tail had two red panels with black swastikas in the white circle. We could easily see the people in the gondola, waving at us, as it passed slowly out of sight.

On our way back by bus to my uncle's home in Newark, New Jersey, the sun disappeared and it began to rain heavily, with thunder and lightening. As we entered his home, my uncle shouted to us that the "Hindenburg" crashed and caught fire in Lakehurst, New Jersey. I told him that it passed over our heads a few hours ago! We spent the night listening to the many radio reports about the terrible tragedy. I will never forget this awe-inspiring experience of seeing this beautiful airship and the passengers waving at us on their last fateful voyage.

The "Hindenburg" made many trips in Europe and to New York City – mainly as propaganda to bolster Germany's newly-elected Nazi Party.

The Empire State Building had a mast to anchor incoming dirigibles while they waited their turn to land at Lakehurst. The US Navy erected it for their dirigibles. I think the famous "Hindenburg" anchored on to it as well. The mast is still there.

Apparently, a lightening bolt struck the steel cable when it was being attached to the mooring mast in Lakehurst, NJ, and the dirigible immediately exploded in flames, allowing only a few lucky survivors who immediately jumped from the burning inferno and fell to the ground. ♣

On Remembering...

Mike Harvey, Langley BC



The newspapers I read, the television and radio newscasts I watched and listened to totally omitted the news item that dominated the world scene 62 years ago. Yesterday was the 62nd anniversary of D Day, June 6th, 1944, when Canadian and Allied forces swept ashore on the coast of Normandy.

On its 60th anniversary, extensive coverage was given as veterans and the leaders of nations gathered to celebrate the invasion of Europe and the eventual ending of the war. But that was then. This is now. And, I suppose, time has passed my generation by.

I well remember that epic day as an 18-year old paratrooper replacement. Although not jumping into battle on that invasion morning, my comrades and I understood that our time in action would soon arrive.

I still talk to the sparse remainder of that era. It is usually =>

a phone call to ask how my ex-comrades feel after their radiation therapy or if they are going to attend Tiny's Celebration of Life at the Royal Canadian Legion next Saturday.

Celebrations of Life are more pleasant events than funerals, I find, and I am glad this is so as they are a big item on my calendar of things to do, these days.

I note that I have a great interest in the REMEMBERING Section. An interest that a few years ago didn't exist. But, of course, it is more poignant when you know people who are written about, or when you can feel fortunate, when others described there have had a much shorter span of life than your own.

It is a strange feeling to know that you are approaching the Great Beyond and there is no way to slam on the brakes. But as I believe there is much evidence that life continues beyond the void, in some fashion, I must accept the fact that all will be well. Just like the days when I trusted my parachute to open as I left the aircraft.

And on Mind and Brains...

Frequently I tell people that I have no brains when it comes to business. Unfortunately, this is true as can be testified by my utter lack of savvy in business dealings.

That is probably the reason I cannot understand the Income Tax forms. As far as I am concerned, they may as well be written in Swahili. The same thing applies to my computer. I may as well be piloting a 747 airliner, as my understanding is so meagre.

Encouraging scientific advances in brain research, however, at least gives me an excuse to use. Much of the best

scientific research states that the brain is not the mind. And where the mind is located is a matter of conjecture.

Most of us have read of a case in an operating room where the patient has died and then has been resuscitated. To the medical staff's amazement, the patient is able to describe the complete procedures followed as he or she floated above the body on the table. Not only this but the apparently "dead" patient often can describe his anxious loved ones in the waiting room, while others relate more absorbing tales of meeting dead relatives in beautiful settings, and being told to go back to their prostrate body, as their time for transition had not yet arrived.

Thousands of authenticated stories of this nature abound. Equally strange tales circulate of people who have undergone organ replacement operations who have inherited the passion of the dead donor. Two brief tales relate the woman who inherited the kidney of a dead motorcyclist and found that she had a new interest in Harley Davidson's, a pastime she had never pursued. The other story, of a sadder affliction, was the teetotaler who received an organ from an alcoholic, and found herself desiring liquor.

A new theory is that the brain is only a receiver/recorder much like a computer or television set. The input comes from outside, wherever that outside is, and the brain functions in the processing of the input.

So I can now use the excuse that there is nothing wrong with my brain. The blame is placed upon who is running the transmitter. – *Mike Harvey* ♣

Thoughts on global warming and sustainability

Richard K. Moore, Wexford, Ireland

One point that often gets forgotten is that nothing we can do will make any noticeable difference in global warming in the next 50 years or so. Even if we stopped all emissions totally, which is not at all possible, it would take many decades for the excess CO₂ to begin to go away.

Another point that needs to be kept in mind is that all the solutions being considered by governments will make things worse rather than better. In particular, an emphasis on 'renewable energy' rather than 'less energy usage' encourages people to think that our current lifestyles can somehow be made sustainable.

For these reasons, I see all the debate about global warming, in the media and on the Internet, to be a distraction from what we really need to be concerned about, which is achieving overall sustainability. If we move toward sustainability, we automatically will be doing our best about global warming. If we focus too much on global warming alone, we will continue destroying the Earth. ♣

Seeds for Change

Mike Nickerson & Donna Dillman

Surprisingly, on our recent tour through central and southern Ontario, we ran low on sustainability cards and had to ration them. We had printed two batches of 6,000 each in recent months, yet willingness to help pass them around exceeded supply. Since returning home, our trusty printer has remedied the situation. Now we can encourage you, wholeheartedly, to participate. Please consider helping to raise awareness about sustainability and the **Question of Direction**, by distributing sustainability cards. The full story, about the cards, is available in "Seeds for Change" at: www.SustainWellBeing.net/scards.html

If you would like to help in this way, please let us know approximately how many cards you would like, and of which type: Type 1: Asks people to pick apart the basic outline of sustainability. Type 2: Asks the Question of Direction: questioning whether sustainability might be a better goal at this time in history than perpetual economic expansion. Is it time to question where society is heading?

Sustainability Project - 7th Generation Initiative

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20 years - and our next 20!*

