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dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE



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A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet and Penny

Dear Reader,

This April-May 2007 issue completes the first 20 years of publication for *Dialogue magazine*. Whether you have been with us for a long time or have recently joined, thank you for your part in getting us to this milestone!

For those not familiar with *Dialogue*'s beginnings – the publication was created in 1987, under the auspices of the Chateauguay Valley English Speaking Peoples Association in Quebec,

originally serving a minority linguistic community of some 45,000 people. Within a few years, *Dialogue* had taken on a life of its own, published independently and supported by its subscribers, with Janet and I and the writers as its volunteers. As the readership expanded gradually across the country, it was published for many years from Apple Hill, Ontario, prior to our move to Nanaimo, B.C. in 2001. The magazine would never have survived, if we had had to rely on paid staff or paid writers! **So a big thank you to everyone!**

We would like to acknowledge, with special thanks, the readers who have been with us since the beginning (or very close to the beginning!). Since 1987: Elizabeth & Irvin Biggar, Malcolm Orr, Keith McPherson, Merrill Tan-nahill, Donald McKell, Leslie Forget, Gordon & Esther McIntyre, James & June Chisholm, Peter & Emily Almond, Richard Werenchuk, Malcolm Lunn; and Since 1988: Gordon W. Topp, Andrew Higgins, B. Fortier, Philip Garri-son, Lois E. Holmes, Dorothy Morison, John & Marge Donnelly, Winifred Potter, Ernest P. Amy. And in all, some 365 subscribers have been with us for 10 years or more! It is your dedication, support, and belief in *Dialogue* that has kept us going. God willing, we will all be here to celebrate the next mile-stone in *Dialogue*'s evolution.

Another honour in this issue: for the article, in *Dialogue*'s first 20 years, that has prompted the MOST FEEDBACK from readers! That would be Marie Gaudet's "*Two Official Languages – One United Country*," which appeared in the Feb.-Mar. '07 issue. Responses to this essay were received from no less than nine readers, across BC, AB, SK, ON, QC & NB (on pages 44-49).

Our cover in this issue highlights the BC-AB Trade, Investment & Labour Mo-bility Agreement, "*TILMA*" – which came into effect on April 1st, 2007 – sort of a "baby NAFTA," negotiated in 2006 by BC premier Gordon Campbell and Alberta premier Ralph Klein. The intent is for it to be 'sold' to all provinces, with serious consequences for communities across Canada (pages 5-6).

In this issue, you will also find a lot of differing opinions and suggestions on the subject of climate change – which is simultaneously becoming both more widely accepted and more controversial!

Thank you for your part in keeping *Dialogue* – and your **freedom of expression** – alive. 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

P.S. Our apologies for the lateness of this issue – work was delayed by festivities celebrating Maurice's 80th birthday, including visits from his daughter Ann and niece Patricia, all the way from Quebec!

dialogue is...

...an independent, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers: empowering their voices and, providing freedom of expression.

Dialogue, for 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 more information)

Dialogue was founded in

1987 and is published six times a year.

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

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From Near & Far

Boycotting elections not the answer!

Denny Petrik, Clearwater BC

On Page 8 of last issue of *Dialogue* was an interesting article, 'Party jackets can be turned inside out to suit the situation,' by Kenneth Tellis. The last sentence of the piece frightens me: "Perhaps, the next election will cause people to consider boycotting elections altogether in Canada."

While it is quite possible that such abstention may take place, and several of my acquaintances have indicated just such an idea, it would be the worst of all possible means of protest. Boycotting would accomplish absolutely nothing, it would only confirm to those in power that the population is not bright enough to find a way out of our current political morass.

A much better way of protest would be voting for other than one of the two "big" parties, perhaps even one of the, so far, insignificant parties. One should always remember the old adage: People get the kind of government they deserve.

We must all hold onto what is left of our democracy and we must all strive to propel it to where it should have been in the first place. As Bertrand Russell said, ".....but do not be silenced!" ♣

The Federal Budget

From John Wood, Morinville AB

To the PM & Finance Minister

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Flaherty,

[EXTRACT] Now that Canadians have digested your new budget, and most of the murmuring has died down, I am going to offer my comments. You will find this a long read, necessarily.

First, I am furious that you have gone to Quebec to buy votes with some 56% of the equalization transfer program. Is that really what Canada means to you? That one province, the spoiled brat of Confederation, is considered worth more than half of the total of our national equalization payments? Canadians (I do not include the Quebecois 'Nation') should be outraged that they are degraded to second class citizens in their own country! I know many are, as am I! You should be cited for contempt of Canada!!!

... As the real cost of living rises by double digits, your budget has nothing to offer to Seniors, disabled and working poor in light of the criminal gouging by your friendly petroleum industry. It's not only the price of gas at the pumps, it affects every commodity we buy, including our groceries. Do you care? (...)

John Wood's entire Commentary on the Federal Budget is posted at the Dialogue website, www.dialogue.ca ♣

The Quebec Election

For comments on the Quebec Election, see pages p.8-11.

The next election issue -

North American Union By 2007

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

It is becoming evident that North American Union (NAU) is being introduced with great secrecy due to the certain opposition it would create when the Canadian public becomes aware of it. To avoid opposition to prevent this traitorous act, NAU is being implemented by stealth. It is being introduced by bureaucratic regulation rather than through legislation. The regulatory approach is being used to avoid publicity and opposition. The corporate elite are stealing our sovereignty through bureaucratic stealth.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement (SPPA) which is designed to create NAU was signed with little publicity and no discussion - even by our elected representatives in Parliament. The corporate controlled media has imposed a media blackout on NAU.

What I find very disturbing is the lack of publicity on the part of the opposition parties and nationalist organizations such as the Council of Canadians. These organizations have spoken out about this Agreement but have not made it the primary focus of their efforts to inform and organize Canadians against this threat to our sovereignty.

This is in spite of the fact that, if NAU is achieved, all the important issues being fought such as childcare, homelessness, medicare, inadequate educational funding, the environment will no longer be relevant after we fall within the political control of the US. The informing of the Canadian public on NAU must be the primary focus of everyone. For, if NAU is achieved, we will lose our ability to affect all these issues currently being focused on

Making NAU the NDP party platform, will force the media to report on this critical issue.

Can you imagine the traditionally televised Leaders' Debate where Jack Layton keeps hammering North American Union by 2007 throughout the debate? All issues raised by the other parties would be overridden by NAU'07. It is and should be the single issue of the pending elections.

If the NDP party strategists thought of the possibilities, it would be quickly evident that NAU'07 could draw all lovers of Canada to the NDP. I predict an overwhelming majority would respond. The possibility of taking power should be enough to convince the NDP strategists to make North American Union THE ELECTION ISSUE in the pending elections. ♣

TILMA - BC-Alberta "trade" agreement a bad deal

BC-Alberta "trade" agreement a bad deal that should not be expanded to other provinces

CCPA release, Feb. 15, 2007

[Ottawa and Vancouver] The BC and Alberta governments should not implement the **Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement** (TILMA), according to two new studies from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. TILMA is scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2007.

The agreement is being promoted as a fairly innocuous deal that will ease the flow of trade and labour. In reality, it grants sweeping investor rights that could compromise provincial health, safety and environmental standards. The Harper government is aggressively promoting the deal to all provinces as part of its deregulation agenda.

The CCPA studies find that risks associated with the agreement greatly exceed any economic benefits. Of particular concern are provisions that allow corporations to sue governments over any measure that "restricts or impairs" their investment, with up to \$5 million available for compensation for each alleged violation.

The first study, **Asking for Trouble**, by Ellen Gould, carefully compares the legal language of TILMA to existing provincial regulations and public enterprises. She finds numerous examples where democratic decision-making could be second-guessed, or important public policies overruled.

"This agreement is extremely broad. It will create pressure to deregulate in important areas of public policy," says Gould. "The true meaning of its provisions will not be fully understood until the limits are tested by dispute panels."

Gould says municipal planning regulations (such as heritage conservation and building height restrictions), environmental protection measures, and efforts to restrict private health care could run afoul of TILMA. The agreement does allow a handful of exceptions, but they are very limited.

Supporters of TILMA, in particular the Conference Board of Canada, claim it will boost provincial economies by eliminating barriers to internal trade. The Conference Board recently published a report endorsing TILMA that was **commissioned by the BC government**.

However, a second CCPA study shows that there are actu-

ally very few obstacles to inter-provincial trade and labour mobility. **The Myth of Interprovincial Trade Barriers and TILMA's Alleged Economic Benefits**, by Marc Lee and Erin Weir, argues that business groups are falsely claiming that differences in public interest regulation amount to "trade barriers."

"There is no evidence that differences in regulation result in significant economic costs," says Lee, a Senior Economist at the CCPA. "Research on interprovincial barriers finds that they cost less than one-twentieth of one percent of Gross Domestic Product."

The Conference Board report, however, makes the grossly inflated claim that gains to BC would be almost one hundred times that amount. The BC government has relied on that report as its principal evidence in support of TILMA. Lee and Weir note that the Conference Board makes no attempt to list, or estimate the cost of, trade barriers between provinces. And rather than using standard techniques of economic analysis, the Conference Board infers huge benefits on the dubious basis of a tiny survey of business organizations and government ministries.

Furthermore, the Conference Board doubles its estimate of TILMA's benefits through a simple arithmetic error. Even after correcting this error, most of the projected gains are from industries exempt from the final agreement or from industries that barely engage in interprovincial trade.

Both CCPA studies recommend that TILMA not be implemented in BC and Alberta, and that other provinces resist pressure to sign on. Any real barriers to trade and labour mobility should instead be dealt with on a pragmatic case-by-case basis, rather than through TILMA's sweeping and dangerous legalistic approach.

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Both studies – **Asking for Trouble** & **The Myth of Interprovincial Trade Barriers and TILMA's Alleged Economic Benefits** are available at www.policyalternatives.ca.

TILMA: "Unmitigated arrogance on the part of the BC government..."

Russ Vinden, Errington BC

[EXTRACT] This latest exposure is yet more stunning evidence of the contempt with which the Liberal and Conservative (once Socred in BC) governments regard electors.

The Romans had it all worked out a couple of thousand years ago. They realised that authoritarian government worked best under a regime of Bread and Circuses – make reasonably sure that there are not too many really poor and homeless people around to cause trouble, then give them a

great big Exhibition (or the Winter Olympics) every few years, to create something to talk about and deflect their attention. Government then could do pretty much what it liked.

[...] Well, this is my declaration of downright disgust with a government that made such a big thing about honesty and open government in the last election; I hope there are many, many more protests to come – not least from the Association of BC Municipalities. ♣

[FULL ARTICLE IN THE APR-MAY ISSUE]

The Quebec Election, March 26, 2007

Liberals, ADQ ran on Quebec nationalism - not federalism

Election result "is good for Quebec" – says Parisella

By Peter Sauvé, Montreal QC

MONTREAL -- Lest federalist spin doctors in the Canadian media confuse you, this Quebec election result was far from a win for Canadian federalism, or the dawn of a new pro-Canada "enlightenment" in French Quebec.

The campaign, of course, excluded any talk whatsoever of changes to Quebec's draconian language laws. It followed another well-timed and sizeable cash handout from the federal government to Quebec, enabling Liberal Premier Jean Charest to promise Quebecers a \$700 million tax-cut in addition to other monies included in the payout.

English Canada is well-trained now. No need to threaten it with another sovereignty referendum.

Charest's campaign ads unabashedly listed the federal Parliament's recognition of Quebec as a "nation," and the agenda of "asymmetrical (or, unequal) federalism" among his Liberal government's accomplishments -- and those were the English-language ads.

Despite this, the *Montreal Gazette* reports that Charest's Liberals "apparently finished third among francophone electors."

Federalism? The word was completely absent in ADQ leader Mario Dumont's campaign. But "autonomy" wasn't -- the ADQ (Action démocratique du Québec) campaigned solidly on "autonomy" for Quebec in all important matters. As well, no English was to be heard in Dumont's election-night "victory" speech. He later said, it would be "a mistake to call me a federalist."

Late in the campaign, Charest warned that electing any minority government would weaken Quebec's negotiating position with the federal government. After winning a minority government, however, prominent Quebec Liberal insider and CTV News "political analyst" John Parisella said the election result "is good for Quebec."

In raw numbers, the Liberals won 1,310,362 votes, the ADQ won 1,222,624 votes and the PQ took 1,123,811. The Liberals won 33 percent of the popular vote, but took 38 percent of the seats -- a much higher ratio than their opponents. The ADQ had 31 percent of the popular vote, the PQ 28 percent.

Of Quebec's 125 seats, the Liberals won 48 (a loss of 26 from the last election), the ADQ won 41 (a gain of 36) & the PQ won 36 (a loss of 10). The ADQ was first in 41 ridings & second in 45.

The PQ's poorer showing was exacerbated by leader André Boisclair's personal issues -- homosexuality and past cocaine use didn't go over well among rural and regional French Quebecers. They identified much more with Mario

Dumont's groundedness and his hard line against "reasonable accommodation" -- the semi-official term for even greater tolerance toward new immigrants and religious minorities, particularly Muslims.

Contrary to Boisclair's liability, the ADQ triumphed simply because of Dumont himself; his candidates are all unknown novices. It's highly unlikely the PQ would have sunk so low this time had they a more charismatic leader such as Lucien Bouchard or Bernard Landry. ♣

The message from the Quebec electorate

Vince Pouliot, Montreal QC

I've always been amazed the political astuteness of the



Quebec electorate. It's as though everyone knows how everyone is thinking and everyone agrees on the best outcome for all.

The 1995 referendum is a case in point.

How better to say "we've had enough of the federal abuse of powers" without actually causing chaos or the rupture of society. (note: Don't confuse *the people's disgust* -- with our provincial government's *use of it* to bribe the feds so they can, in turn, use the money for political purchase.)

In 2003 Charest promised less government intervention and expense, a focus on the creation of wealth and entrepreneurship. Within days of his election he reneged on the tax break he promised. Within months his promise to permit municipalities the freedom to undo the mergers into which they were forced was so corrupted that those who voted out simply continued to pay for the agglomerations without any control over their expenses.

Within a year he began fudging the books to show he balanced the budget. In the last two years he gave up the struggle to get the union movement and other interest groups under control. In the last 8 months, his sole pre-occupation was buying our votes. Last week he promised to reduce our taxes through his "great success" in getting an extra \$700 million out of the Feds... Yeah sure! It's just more of the same.

The ADQ's political agenda in 2007 could be the Liberal's 2003 agenda updated to deal with today's more pressing crises. Their promises amounted to less: \$1.7 billion as opposed to the \$4-5 billion of the other parties.

It seems the people can't get the reforms they want from any political party. The government just keeps on growing out of control whatever party we elect.

Maybe the solution is to have the ADQ force and support the Liberal party to move on reducing the expense and intrusiveness of our government. ♣

The Quebec Election

The Quebec Election: Mario Dumont in - Quebec sovereignty out

Ernest Semple, Dollard-des-Ormeaux



It is the second day after the elections and the newspapers in Montreal give no sense that anything extraordinary has occurred.

There is a general recognition that things have changed in Quebec, but nothing that would indicate the attitudes in the Montreal and other urban centers

have changed. The same hopelessly repetitious griping is everywhere. City dwellers here as elsewhere across Canada seem to have grown used to their treatment as mushrooms. Provincial and federal politicians have long been accustomed to keeping city dwellers in the dark, and covering them with manure.

Monday night's results here in Québec have proven that the non - urban areas of Québec control any real change. All along the Saint Lawrence River, Mario Dumont's Action Démocratique Québec came in either first or second place. The total of such ridings was upwards of 82 seats out of 125. On the Island of Montreal and immediately adjacent there was no movement away from the dominant Liberals and Parti Québécois.

The next day, here is a quote which has been almost entirely ignored by the media except for Michel Auger in a Gazette general report.

"On the short term, sovereignty is impossible."

André Boisclair, Leader of the Parti Québécois, in a TV interview the day after the Québec elections of the 26th March, 2007. Not only is it impossible, but only a few die hard separatist coffee house dwellers are even interested.

The Charest debacle with mergers and de-mergers cost the Liberals dearly all across the province.

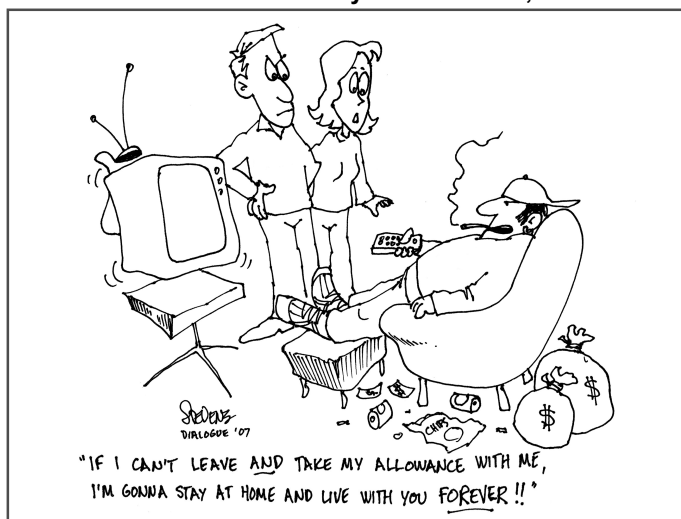
The hasty and impetuous assignment of \$700 million Ottawa booty to tax reduction, cost Charest all across the province.

Even in urban areas of Montreal and elsewhere, the ADQ scored at least several thousand votes per riding.

Any extra money from Ottawa should have been used to advance Health Care and hospital training. The Lakeshore General Hospital in Montreal West Island has been making elective surgery without a trained anaesthesiologist. Other specialists are still leaving the province because of pay restrictions! [CONTINUED IN THE APR-MAY ISSUE] ♣

Are Quebec politicians losing their appetite for outright independence?

Cartoon by Dave Stevens, Bocabec NB



Elect candidates from smaller parties who believe in rebuilding Canada!

Art Bradford, Orillia ON

Over the past 35 years, our two governing political parties have been amalgamating Canada with the U.S. How can patriotic voters even think of supporting either of them in the next election? Since 1997 the Canadian Action Party, from its Vancouver office, had been calling for doing away with the FTA, NAFTA and the large number of signed agreements, known and unknown.

The grand design of the Chief Executive Officers of the most influential corporations of North America is to make this continent theirs. In March of 2005, an agreement to implement this design was signed by Prime Minister Martin, President Bush and President Fox.

In 1974, our government handed over 95% of the creation of money to the banks and ceased to exercise control in that vital area via our own Bank of Canada. Unless our gov-

ernment has recently made the above agreement impregnable, we are still able to borrow from our jewel of a tool, the Bank of Canada. That was how Canada was quickly rebuilt after World War II. There was no or little interest charged.

Other countries such as India, Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia are fighting criminally exploitive and unelected corporate globalization with some success. Why are we not doing the same? Let us start by electing candidates that believe that the present world situation must be corrected.

There could be many among those who have not been voting because they felt that governments of the past would keep very few of their promises. Voting for candidates from smaller parties, win or lose, would give people a better picture of how Canadians feel. This would be very helpful in our second election from now. ♣

Poverty and Democratic Process in Canada

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

Maurice and Janet. I would like you to consider republishing this article by Robert Arnold which was published in the February issue of Victoria Street Newz [e-mail address: streetnewz@islandnet.com]. I got an electronic copy from the author and his permission to forward a copy to you.

I am concluding that the best way to help the poor is to help them self-organize for political action. I don't think having middle-class professionals representing the poor to be effective. The poor have to have voice and not have others speak for them.

I believe that one important aspect of the poor becoming visible is to self-organize them to register and block vote. As the article points out, they have the numbers to make a difference.

Although the numbers are for BC, the basic idea is applicable across Canada. I think his article deserves much wider distribution. *Dialogue Magazine* with its national distribution could be a very helpful way of getting Robert's ideas out.

I am not as optimistic as Robert to believe that our legislative representatives, elected by block voting by the poor, would feel "owned" by the block voters. However, should a number of members be elected due to the block voting by the poor, the poor would become part of the political process. All political parties and those who run for elections at all levels of government would have to consider the power of the poor and their block voting. The poor will have to be considered in the governing party's legislative program.

I would like more Canadians to give Robert's idea some thought. I believe that the best way to help the poor is to help them self-organized for political action.

Robert will be sending out kits to help organizers later. I am on distribution of a kit and will keep you informed.

I hope that you give this article consideration for your next issue of *Dialogue*. I am particularly interested in the poor and I am now seeing the odd fact that indicates we will be hearing more 'about the poor by the poor.' This is very healthy for a democratic society. — **Gerry**

gmasuda@telus.net

New group forming: anti-poverty electors Robert Arnold, Victoria BC

I'm sick of poverty! I'm sick of seeing it, hearing about it, talking about it and being angry about it. After 40 years of fighting poverty as an advocate and as an activist, who has seen governments do nothing good about the issue, I finally think it is time to do something new. I am starting up the Anti-Poverty Electors, a non-partisan voting block for poor people and our allies.

One fifth of the population of British Columbia is poor. That is one million people. Because some of them are too

young to vote, I figured there are 750,000 poor people in the province who could vote as a block. Add to that number the other five to ten percent of the population, who care about poverty because they know someone, who is poor or because they believe in justice and equality, and it becomes enough to make a big difference.

You might ask why we don't just form our own party and govern ourselves. I believe that would lead to being the same as the other parties. We would depend on the same sources to fund our campaigns and would end up owing the same people, and being unable to pass the legislation we need to pass. That is how the political parties have become so similar and so powerless. They are addicted to money.

Anyone who wants to play politics like that would be better advised to join one of the parties that already exist. We are taking a new and more powerful approach by being a voting block. We can deal with issues like poverty, the environment and health care. The political parties cannot.

Most elections in B.C. constituencies are won by pretty narrow margins. The winner gets something like forty nine percent and the loser forty three percent. Anti-Poverty Electors can add its votes to either side and it will win. Furthermore, really doesn't matter which side wins in any constituency; or which party governs after the elections, as long as they know that we have given them the victory.

We will, in fact, own the members who sit in the Legislature. They will do what we say about our issues or we'll fire them, by using recall a year and a half into their term. We can fire a few of them to show the others they better obey us; or the whole lot and have another general election. We really have that power. All we have to do is organize and vote as a block.

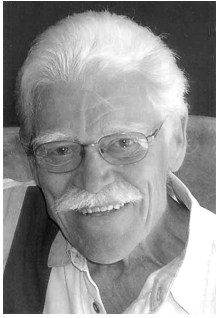
Anti-Poverty Electors hopes to hold public meetings in constituencies on the Lower (Vancouver) Island this spring. At these meetings, constituency chapters of Anti-Poverty Electors will be created. We will start by explaining the whole idea and answering any questions anyone has about it. We will talk about the kinds of things we will demand of the government once we elect it. We will elect an executive for the constituency chapter and create committees to do the work.

Right now we are forming the Provincial Steering Committee. Our job will be to create the written materials and set up structures that will assist in creating the Anti-Poverty Electors. We need to do some fundraising and finalize a vision piece and media materials for the organization. We will be registering the organization as a non-profit society soon as well. There is lots of work to do.

If you would like to help in some way, please contact me (W. Robert Arnold) at (250) 595-6871 or by email at greyknight@shaw.ca. ♣

Off the Beaten Path...

Bill Butcher, Montreal QC



Mount Washington, at 6,288 ft, is the highest peak in the Presidential Range of New Hampshire. It is sometimes subject to severe weather conditions and retains the record for wind speed of 231 mph. This mountain is of particular interest at this time of the year because of the ravine named after botanist Edward Tuckerman. Perched on the south-eastern side of the mountain this

ravine is noted for the great depth of its snowfields which frequently can be traversed well into June by daring downhill skiers. While it is an excellent hike, skiing its 45 to 50 degree angled slopes is definitely not for the faint of heart.

I have enjoyed hiking this mountain many times over the years. After a 1981 hike I wrote the following poem...

Ode to Mount Washington

Won't you wait now that Summer is coming?
Won't you wait till that last call of Spring?
When the snow gushes down from the mountain,
Where the Boreal Chickadees sing.

When we'll stop at Pinkham Notch parking,
Then we'll sip from a tin of cold beer,
And on with our packs to the Crystal Cascade
By the old Jackson Road very near.

Soon we'll be at the lake Hermit Shelter
And we'll gaze as we did once before,
At the Lion Head towering above us
Near great Tuckerman's snow dappled floor.

For the mighty Ravine will amaze us,
The snow clinging yet to its walls
With a myriad of cascading brooklets
And foaming-swift tumbling falls.

We'll share the first signs of wildflowers,
Midst the mosses and lichens that grow
'Neath hobblebush in the Alpine Garden
And there hark to the Lone Vireo.

At last from top Washington's splendour
We'll gaze at Mount Carter below,
Then rest near the "Lakes of the Clouds",
A place many a hiker will know.

So let us go now that Summer is coming!
Let us go at that last call of Spring!
To that place where the wild Eastern Hemlock
Shares space with Gray Jays on the wing.

Bill Butcher

[wbutcher1@sympatico.ca]♣

Mothers' Day

Where did Mothers' Day come from?

Anna Kirkpatrick, Nelson BC

Where did Mothers' Day come from?

When I was little I assumed the holiday had been invented by chocolate manufacturers to boost profits. The truth, it turns out, is quite different. While Mothers' Day has become another excuse for excessive spending, it was not always this way. In fact, Mothers' Day has its roots in movements for peace and equality. In 1870, American activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe issued her Mothers' Day Proclamation which reads in part:

"We women of one country will be too tender to those of



another to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, disarm.""

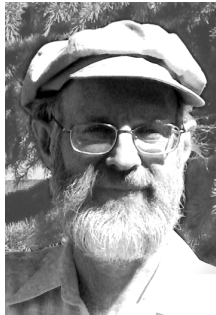
Cards celebrating the peaceful roots of Mothers' Day, Valentine's Day and other occasions are available for sale. The cards are printed on 100% recycled paper and feature original artwork on the front and historical information on the reverse. Cards are

\$2.00 each or \$1.50 each for orders of ten or more. For more information or to order contact Anna Kirkpatrick at: red_letter@mail.com ♣ [Card shown in colour on back cover]

"Climate Change"

Resolving Climate Change requires a new goal.

Mike Nickerson, Lanark ON



Now that politicians of all stripes are singing the green tune, our task is to make sure that they understand the lyrics.

It needs to be made clear that the growth phase of the human story is drawing to a close, that collectively, we are overwhelming the Earth's ability, both to provide natural resources, and to absorb our waste.

Continuing efforts to expand the material economy are self-defeating.

Is it proper, now that our biggest problems result from our size, to hold growth as a goal?

Would it be better to focus on securing necessities for everyone within the carrying capacity of the Earth?

It is a Question of Direction. We do not have to grow until we drop! The first step toward resolving Climate Change is to question the present goal. Broad public discussion about goals is essential if we are to meet the challenge of our times.

As a species, the human family has grown up. We have reached a mature size capable of seriously damaging our planet. It is critical that we take responsibility for our strength and set our sights on living well, within planetary limits.

For more detail see *"The Challenge and the Goal"* at: <http://www.SustainWellBeing.net>

Mike Nickerson has coordinated the Sustainability Project since 1985 and is the author of: **"Life, Money & Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay"** [available from Dialogue, see. P.59]

Air, Water, Soil and Energy are essential to all life.

"To call these things sacred is to say that they have a value beyond their usefulness for human ends, that they themselves become the standards by which our acts, our economics, our laws, and our purpose must be judged. No one has the right to appropriate them or profit from them at the expense of others. Any government that fails to protect them forfeits its legitimacy." – Starhawk; from "The Fifth Sacred Thing."

www.SustainWellBeing.net

Sustainability Project - 7th Generation Initiative

2799 McDonald's Corners Rd. RR #3 Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0
Phone (613) 259-9988 e-mail: sustain5@web.ca ♣

Thoughts from the Vagabond Writer

Wayne Russell, Clearwater BC

Here are my personal feelings of two "climate change" topics and other issues the world has today (stories were received from RefedBC - www.refedbc.com/)

#1 The Real Story:

"Ethanol from Corn – Just how unsustainable is it?"

http://pangea.stanford.edu/ESYS/Energy%20seminars/patzek_ethanol.pdf

This is 61 pages of very boring graphs, formula's, and details. I melt these down to the following few lines: These 61 pages show that, even though they do not condone the use of fossil fuels, the production of ethanol from corn is not only more costly but is far, far more harmful to our green earth than fossil fuels. If you wish, read this report and see if I got it right on above statement.

#2 The Ice Age Is Coming:

"Solar Cycles, Not CO₂, Determine Climate"

by Zbigniew Jaworowski, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.

http://www.21stcenturysciencetech.com/Articles%202004/Winter2003-4/global_warming.pdf

If you read these few pages you will see that our green earth will go from global warming into a new ice age.

Hang on folks, now comes my ramblings. This 69 year old, retired millwright and now a wannabee writer says this!

If we look at the Universe in its enormity, our blue planet is but a grain of sand. In your mind, take all the grains of sand from all of earth's beaches, throw in all the grains of sand from the Sahara Desert. Now dig and find the very smallest grain of sand in all this large pile. Imagine this is our earth. Drop it back into the sand pile and try to find it again? This is the size of our earth in all of our Creator's Universe.

Now, think of our snowy, icy, winter months, Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., and part of March. The Creator's winter is the ice age. Was it one million of our years? Was it one billion of our years? Now comes our spring, part of March, April, May, and part of June. Warm sun, melting snow and growing flowers. Is The Creator's Spring now upon us? Will it be a million years? Will it be a billion years? What of his Summer? What of his next winter? The next Ice Age maybe? My point in all of this! Man's bumbling ways and trying to correct them will not have much effect on the Creator's plan of things to come.

For example, The Kyoto Accord is like pissing into the wind. By the time it does any good it may well be too little, too late. We have as much control over this problem as we did over the Tsunami that hit Thailand. Or the control over the movement of the Continental Plates. Could we stop the flow from the volcano in Hawaii? What makes us think we can handle the earth's Ozone Layer? The Kyoto Accord? I don't think so. [CONTINUED IN THE APR-MAY ISSUE] ♣

Remembering WWI and WWII - April 9th and May 8th

V. E. Day: Re-remembering Anew

by KR Slade

World War II recedes into history and our memories, but still affects us: notably in the relations between the West and East—especially Russia.

This past winter I read two WWII histories, both from the British perspective: notably different from what I had known from the history written from the U.S. perspective. I found two major differences.

First, Canada's participation was more obvious. Canadian forces were everywhere in the war: in France, Belgium, Norway, assembling in UK, Africa, D-Day, China, Italy, the Pacific, etc. Canada's contribution was more evident; a country of comparatively small population, having to protect its own vast territory and coastlines. I had not known about Canada's role in protecting convoys (notably to UK and the USSR), engineering designs, and manufacturing output. Moreover, statistics identified Canada separately, instead of being lumped together with 'UK and Commonwealth countries'.

Second, I learned about the massive losses of the USSR; I had been quite unaware of the huge scale of 'The Eastern Front'. While all history is written from a perspective, I concluded to question how my Cold-War-learned view of WWII history was propaganda, or even perverted, to make us hate Russia and Russians.

Some facts became more important to me and enabled a different view of post-WWII to the present time.

- WWII caused 55-60 million deaths.
- V.E. Day is celebrated in the West on May 8. In Russia, as with the former-USSR, V.E. Day is celebrated on May 9; this is because the Soviet participation in the signing took effect at one minute past midnight.
- Shortly before V.E. Day, President Roosevelt died and P.M. Winston Churchill was defeated in UK parliamentary elections. However, Stalin remained in power, until his death in 1953 (some years after his physical and mental decline). In WWII, the USSR lost 70-80% of its industrial capacity. Why did the Soviets think that they 'needed' to keep Stalin? Because Stalin won WWII for Russia.
- The USSR is born from the deficiencies of Czarist Russia, but it was the Russian losses in World War I that actually began the Russian revolution(s) that led to the Russian civil war(s). Yet, at the beginning of WWII, compared to the end of WWI, the Soviet losses are larger—in military personnel, civilians, and territory. Stalin had been in unchallenged, absolute power by the early 1930's. Stalin had received repeated warnings that Germany was going to attack, but he did not accept the warnings. An average

of 19,014 dead was incurred by the USSR every day of WWII. Why did the Soviets keep Stalin? Because he killed everyone who could have replaced him.

- Stalin exterminated more people than Hitler, and, more notably—more of his own people. He was one of the cruellest dictators in history. He left an overwhelmingly negative legacy. Why did the Soviets keep Stalin? Because Stalin won WWII and there was no one else to replace him. In the USSR, and in Russia today, what we call WWII is called 'The Great Patriotic War'.
- The very first thing that Stalin's successor, Khrushchev, did was to vigorously condemn Stalin.
- In WWII, the people of non-Soviet Eastern Europe were

physically between Hitler and Stalin; some of these Eastern-Europeans fought against both, and some others fought for one and against the other (and thus against themselves)—depending on how they saw the greater threat, from their individual place and time, often without complete or accurate information.

- Gorbachev denied the existence of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (also known as the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact), which precipitated the outbreak of WWII. However,

he could no longer deny when the Chancellor of Germany put the signed document on the table. Then, the Soviet/Russian view of history began to change; there are many necessary changes yet to be accomplished.

On our observance of Victory in Europe Day this May 8, we should continue to remember the losses of our own country. On May 9, perhaps we could be more aware of the losses of the Russians in WWII, and before and after from Stalin. And, maybe say a prayer for the Russians, and for Russia. [All Rights Reserved: 2007 kencommunications@gmail.com]



"The Fates Decide"
Artist unknown

90th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, Apr. 9

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began on April 9, 1917 when 20,000 Canadian soldiers advanced on the battlefield. Canadian troops captured Vimy Ridge, a feat which other allied forces were unable to accomplish. By April 12, the Canadians controlled the entire ridge, however, victory came at a great cost: 3,598 Canadian soldiers were killed and 7,104 were wounded. Vimy Ridge was the first Allied victory in almost a year and a half and the ridge provided a leverage point behind the lines from which an extremely effective counter-attack was launched. There are two Canadian veterans of the First World War still living, both are more than 100 years old. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial was built on land donated to Canada by France. It was unveiled on July 26, 1936. The Memorial has recently undergone massive renovations and, on April 9, 2007, will be the site of a major commemorative event for the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

- EXTRACT Received from the Government of PEI

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