

dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE

Vol. 23, No. 2, AUG.-SEPT. 2009 \$6.00

**Oil / Gas &
Resource Wars**

**Big Pharma
& GMO**

**WHO is setting
our goals?**

We know
what is best
for you!

**Where
are we
heading?**

**Global
Finance**

*"Your life is shaped by the end
you live for." – Thomas Merton*

"WHY is our economic system consigning billions of people to degrading poverty, destroying Earth's ecosystem, and tearing up the social fabric of civilized community? What must change if we are to have a world that works for people and the whole of life?"

*- from David Korten's new book, **Agenda For A New Economy:***

From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth (p.6) [Quote suggested by Gerry Masuda]

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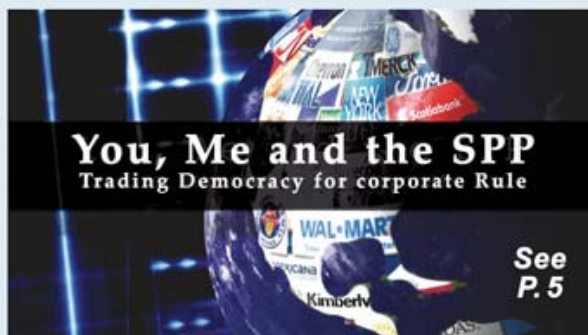
**Think, feel and dream for yourself, and look more deeply into the heart of things...
"We are the ones we have been waiting for"**

6227 Groveland Dr., Nanaimo, BC V9V 1B1 TEL. 250-758-9877

Alexandra Morton's campaign to save Westcoast wild salmon & the ecosystem that depends on them. Articles on p. 29-30, and p. 31.

Independent filmmaker Paul Manly of Nanaimo, B.C., in June '09, released his compelling new documentary, entitled "You, Me & the SPP" regarding the Security & Prosperity Partnership between Canada and the U.S.A.
See article on P. 5.

It's not just people who need BC's wild salmon...



A Winston Churchill Quote suggested by Denny Petrik:
"Everyone is in favour of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."

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Thank you for writing and reading and supporting dialogue!

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EXTRACT

www.dialogue.ca

A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet & Penny

Welcome to another edition of our on-going dialogue of ideas. While we are in the “*lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer*,” there are many disturbing events going on around us; and people are writing about many of them in this issue.

Oil/Gas and Resource Wars: directed, not only against other sovereign countries, but against our own precious environment. Big Pharma’s latest scam – the H1N1 Vaccine. Global Banking’s

legalized thievery on an unprecedented scale, enabled by our governments. Are we really paying attention to the impact that the “big players” are having on our lives? Do we set our goals? Or do they? And just where are they taking us? Can we choose a different path? Where do we start?!

In the many letters, articles and stories that follow, you will read about individuals who are taking a stand for something they value highly – whether it is our living planet, our fellow creatures, democratic principles, freedom of expression, or our health and well-being.

Among the many articles, local, national and global in scope, you may find some provocative ideas; but then, what kind of a dialogue would it be if you agreed with everything you read?! As always, it is for you to evaluate the ideas offered. Many will differ in substance from what the mainstream media serves up daily – regarding the exceptional times we are living in and what or who is behind the global events unfolding.

The Irish author George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) once said: “If you do not say a thing in an irritating way, you may as well not say it at all, because people will not trouble themselves about anything that does not trouble them.” However, you will likely find many things in this edition that trouble you, even without being said in an irritating way!

Unfortunately, these “*lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer*” and the current economic woes have taken a toll on our subscription renewals – hence our viability. *Dialogue* has always relied on the donations of its readers to survive – and no more so than now! If you are in a position to help at this time, your donation would be very greatly appreciated and will help to ensure we survive.

Thank you for your letters, encouragement, subscriptions, gift subscriptions and donations! Without your support and your voice, there would be no *dialogue*! Your help in finding new readers is so vital – *and greatly valued*. Remember that we will happily send a free introductory issue to anyone in Canada that you would like to suggest – to help the magazine remain viable and to grow!

Maurice, volunteer publisher *Janet*, volunteer editor/layout
...and Penny, of course!

* * * * *

From one of our readers...

Ain't it the truth...

From Glennis Sanders, Victoria BC

I've been a subscriber for several issues now and find there are things I agree with, whole-heartedly, and things I'm still mulling over. Oh yes – all issues are gone thru several times before being passed on. I came across this 'definition' the other day and want to pass it on.

“HISTORY (n) - An account, mostly false, of events, mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools.”

~ Ambrose Bierce, “The Devil’s Dictionary” (In *Atlantic Monthly*, Feb., 1862) ♣

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 22+ 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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Thoughts on Mass H1N1 Vaccination

Canada preparing to vaccinate entire population

From Global Research, June 26, 2009

As reported in the *Calgary Herald*: "Vaccinate Canadians under 40 & natives first: experts"

By Sharon Kirkey, *Canwest News*, June 21, 2009

Five-to-40-year-olds and Canada's aboriginal communities should be the first to get vaccinated against human swine flu, experts say as Canadian officials decide who gets priority for the flu shots. Under Canada's official pandemic plan, the entire population would ultimately be immunized against the H1N1 swine flu.

But the vaccine will become available in batches, meaning the entire population can't be vaccinated at once. It might take four or five months to get all the vaccine we're going to get, during which time a second wave of swine flu may well be underway.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is working on a priority list, deciding where the first batches should go, and who should get the injections first. All provinces and territories would be expected to follow the national prioritization scheme.

Unlike normal seasonal flu, the H1N1 virus appears to be disproportionately infecting older children and young adults. So far the largest number of confirmed cases have occurred in people between the ages of five and 24.

"It doesn't mean they're all getting sick and need to be hospitalized, but they're getting significant illness," said Dr. Noni MacDonald, a leader in pediatric infectious diseases and a professor of pediatrics at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Continue reading at:

www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14121
or <http://tinyurl.com/nypxxw>

Big Pharma cashing in with fast-tracked vaccine

From <http://brasschecktv.com>

The swine flu hysteria seems to have died down, at least as far as the news media is concerned. But the government-pharmaceutical industry machine grinds on. Terror threats and pandemics are being given the same weight legally and the government has granted itself new powers to deal with them. An important message for all thinking people:

www.brasschecktv.com/page/658.html from the National Vaccine Information Center (www.nvic.org)

Comment from Mercola.com

"Specialty drug maker Baxter International Inc. says it's in 'full scale' production of a swine flu vaccine. The vaccine will be commercially available in July. The company made its announcement one day after the World Health

Organization declared swine flu a global pandemic.

"The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 45 swine flu deaths nationwide. [To keep this in perspective, the regular flu (not the swine flu) has allegedly killed 13,000 in the U.S. since January, although there is strong support that these types of figures are grossly exaggerated to increase vaccine sales. However, the fact remains that the regular flu at this point in time is FAR more dangerous than the swine flu, and were you worried about the regular flu before the media started hyping up this exotic new "killer flu"?]

"The National Vaccine Information Center will hold its 4th conference (near) Washington DC, October 2-4 of this year. I will be speaking there as will some of the leading experts in vaccines in the world. Clearly the best vaccine conference in the world and it is only held every few years. If this is of any interest to you I would strongly encourage you to attend."

Read more of Dr. Mercola's comments:

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2009/07/04/Warning-Swine-Flu-Vaccine-Coming-Soon.aspx>
or at the shortcut: <http://tinyurl.com/lcsx3u>

Re: mandatory swine flu vaccinations (and video noted above)

Frank McGillivray, Sault Ste. Marie ON

[frankmc12345@yahoo.com]

Due to the over exaggerated severity of the situation vaccine developers will be able circumvent safety testing protocols established by governmental law. This poses a significant risk to our children and other vulnerable citizens.

This is a global effort by the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control to vaccinate 6 billion people across the globe.

Currently, there is an effort to lay charges against the ones behind this man made pandemic; ironically pigs are not the ones stricken with the swine flu and it appears to be affecting the native population the most. The origins of this specific flu strain has not yet been confirmed however there is a consensus amongst many that this unusual virus was designed in a laboratory. In fact a spokes person for the Center for Disease Control stated the virus was cultured in a lab, whether this was just a slip up or sincere I cannot say for sure but the CDC rep. did make this claim.

Give the concept of mandatory vaccinations some thought and openly discuss the subject with others because there is not much time left, maybe two months before the vaccinations are complete and ready to be injected in your children. This is a very informative article and video

[<http://tinyurl.com/lcsx3u>] – only 7 minutes in total; it would be in your best interest to review the message. ♣

Canada-U.S. Relations

Our weaponized borders

From: Jeremy Arney, Victoria BC

To: Peter Van Loan, M.P.

Cc: Stephen Harper; Michael Ignatieff; Jack Layton; Peter Mackay; Denise Savoie; Keith Martin



Re: Guns on the Canadian Border

I have been reading about the border crossing problems with the Kahnaiakehaka (Mohawk) Nation near Cornwall in Ontario, not of course in the regular media because no one has been killed yet so it's not sensational enough for them.

Then I saw you on CPAC in the pathetic excuse for question period of the house of chaos, and you stood up and what I heard you say was that: "there will be 4,000 armed guards at the border crossings for the protection and safety of Canadians".

My question, which no-one – from Stockwell Day (who seems to have given control of who crosses our borders to Israel - did you know that?) to Harper – wants to answer is:

Protection from whom?

Are we to be protected from American tourists?

Are we to be protected from returning Canadians?

Are we to be protected from Canadian Geese returning home in the spring?

Are we to be protected from Haliburton's Blackwater private army? They are welcome here anyway, thanks to an

agreement between US and Canadian heads of armed forces – unratified and undebated in the *Houses of Chaos* either side of the border. Surely you jest if you think CBSA [Cda. Border Service Agency] agents will stand up against them very well. Are we to be protected against the incursion of corporate thieves who want to steal our water and oil?

Our border with the USA, including Alaska, has been well looked after, all these years, without a massive display of guns, on our side anyway, and now suddenly you want to americanise our side of the border, arm everyone and say it's for our safety. Sounds very American and Israeli to me and totally not Canadian

I do not accept that "our safety thing" to be the case and I do not consent to you turning what used to be a welcoming and peaceful border into a confrontational zone awaiting disaster. We, the Canadian people who employ you, have the right to answers and real answers not sneering innuendos, about why you are doing this, not only to us but also to the Nation of the Kahnaiakehaka People who live at Akwesasne on both sides of the border near Cornwall, and do not wish to have armed foreigners on their territory. I support them in their choice, as I support the treaty made with them in good faith many years ago.

Where is the good will and faith from the Government representing the people of Canada now?

Jeremy Arney, Victoria [iamjema@gmail.com]

You, Me and the SPP: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule

On June 4, 2009, filmmaker, Paul Manly released his documentary on the Security & Prosperity Partnership - **'You, Me and the SPP: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule'**

"Manly has created an extremely thorough introduction to a set of issues that will increasingly affect every Canadian. As the film progressed, I was shocked at my own ignorance about the SPP and TILMA and their implications and I am indebted to this film for the research and revelations it presents." – Mark Achbar, Co-Producer & Co-Director of the documentary, **'The Corporation'**

Independent filmmaker, Paul Manly first grabbed the world's attention after capturing three police provocateurs attempting to thwart protestors legal rights by inciting violence at the protest against the Security, Prosperity Partnership (SPP) leaders summit in Montebello Quebec in 2007. This compelling footage was posted on youtube where it was seen by hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world and quickly became a national and international news story. Manly, who had started research and preliminary interviews for a documentary about the SPP two months before, was shocked by what he had captured on video but what was even more shocking to him was the scope of the Security

Prosperity Partnership and how almost everyone he talked to knew nothing about it.

The Canadian government says "The Security & Prosperity Partnership is neither an agreement nor a treaty but a dialogue." Proponents of the SPP claim that it is necessary to keep goods flowing across borders in the post 9/11 world.

Opponents of this secretive 'dialogue' claim that it is undemocratic and a direct threat to the sovereignty of the three countries involved, Canada, the United States and Mexico because it bypasses their parliamentary systems and places control of regulatory integration in the hands of large corporations. In addition to harmonizing health, safety, environmental and labour standards, the SPP also includes deep integration of military and security structures between the three NAFTA countries. For example, on February 14th 2008 the Canadian and US militaries quietly signed an agreement that allows these armed forces to cross borders into the neighbouring country in cases of civil unrest, pandemic, natural disasters or other emergencies. Canada has also adopted provisions of the US Patriot Act such as the no-fly-list; and data collected by the RCMP and CSIS is being openly shared with their American counterparts.

⇒

You, Me and the SPP: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule, CONTD.

'You, Me and the SPP' features interviews with Naomi Klein, Maude Barlow, Murray Dobbin and Joel Bakan, among a host of other opponents of the SPP including economists, lawyers, union leaders and politicians. Manly tried to get interviews with proponents of the SPP, including government ministers and researchers for the Fraser Institute, over an eighteen-month period but nobody who supported the SPP wanted to discuss this process on camera.

In addition to the opponents of the SPP, Manly also interviewed ordinary citizens who have been affected by the SPP agenda including; a retired elementary school teacher who is on the no-fly-list, a citizen who refused to participate in the Canadian census because Lockheed Martin, the world largest arms manufacturer, is part of the census process, a mill worker who has been laid-off because deregulation has allowed forest companies to close mills and export raw logs, and a mother of twins who is concerned about protecting her young children from contaminated products.

'You, Me & the SPP' DVD is available at www.manlymedia.com and through the distributor Vtape in Toronto: www.vtape.org/ The trailer for the film can be viewed on the Manly Media website or on the 'CanadiansNanaimo' YouTube channel which also features 20 other SPP related videos including the Montebello police provocateur raw footage.

Some notable quotes from the documentary include:

"... after the shock of Sept 11 ... that crisis was expertly manipulated by our political leaders to push through a range

of policies they actually had wanted to push through before Sept 11, but didn't have the political conditions that made that possible." - **Naomi Klein, Canadian award-winning journalist, author**

"... what the SPP really represents is a parallel government, so that the important decisions are either made outside of parliament and outside of legislatures ... democracy is slowly being gutted." - **Murray Dobbin, Canadian author, journalist**

"... the ultimate goal, quite obviously, is to create such tight integration that effectively we only have one North American political, security, military and economic place - that there really are no differentials between this country and the country next door." - **Michael Byers, Canada Research Chair, Global Politics and International Law, UBC**

"It disturbs us that democracy is actually being stolen away from us under this guise of this corporate, competitive global agenda." - **Ken Georgetti, President, the Canadian Labour Congress**

The SPP is a dumbing down, a reducing of quality of life, a reducing of standards, and there is absolutely no indication in any of the documents we've been able to obtain through hard pushing through access to information, and through diligent work, not a single indication that we're looking for a higher standard anywhere. - **Peter Julian, NDP International Trade Critic**

For further information, please contact: Paul Manly
paul@manlymedia.com / www.manlymedia.com
Box 1093 Stn A, Nanaimo BC V9R 6E7; 250 754-9254 ♣

OPP threatens arrests at Site 41, protesters will not yield

Council of Canadians, July 16, 2009

This morning, four OPP officers verbally warned people blocking the gates at controversial dump Site 41 in Tiny Township to leave immediately or face arrest, putting Site 41 opponents on high alert. Police had previously said they had 'no issues' with the ongoing protest. The protesters were directed to immediately leave the gates or risk being arrested for Mischief under the Criminal Code which carries penalties of up to \$5000 fine and/or six months in jail. Local residents, farmers, cottagers and First Nations people have blocked the four gates to Site 41 around the clock for the last 10 days.

"We have said all along that we will not let construction work continue on this dump, that we will protect the water," said Vicki Monague, one of the Anishnabe Kwei from Christian Island that have been camped at Site 41 for more than two months. "We have maintained good relations with the police, the county and the contractors. We let the security guards in and out and we allow access for the pump contractor and various engineering and Ministry people to monitor the site and keep it safe," said Monague, "and the county is welcome to come anytime and remove its machinery to put to work off site."

"Just yesterday the police said they had no issues with the protest. What has changed?" asks Council of Canadians chairperson Maude Barlow. The Council of Canadians is urging the OPP and local police not to arrest anyone, but rather let the matter be debated at Simcoe County council instead. "The way to resolve this is not by arresting peaceful protesters. This highlights the urgent need for an emergency session of Simcoe County Council, and an immediate moratorium on Site 41 construction."

"A woman in her eighties was here blockading with us yesterday and she said to me 'If I am going to get arrested once in my life it will be to protect the water.'" said Monague. "At her age, she is really protecting the water for the next generations. This touched me very deeply because that is my role as an Anishnabe Kwei."

Dump site 41 was originally rejected as a landfill site in the late 1980s by the Ministry of the Environment but their decision was overturned through an Order in Council by the Liberal government of David Peterson. For the last two decades, the local agricultural community has fought to protect the Alliston aquifer that lies beneath the proposed dump site, which contains the purest ground water ever tested. Serious

questions about the theoretical modeling in the engineering reports used to select the site have been reinforced by real facts revealed by the actual construction of the site.
For More Information:
Vicki Monague, Anishinabe Kweag, 705-305-8425
Dylan Penner, COC, 613-795-8685, dpenner@canadians.org

Background Information on Site 41: www.canadians.org/Site41
The Council of Canadians
700-170 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5.
Tel: (613) 233-2773; Toll-free: 1-800-387-7177
Email: inquiries@canadians.org / Web: www.canadians.org

Where is Stephen Harper taking Canada?

James Travers is a national affairs columnist at The Star (thestar.com); his column appears on Tues., Thurs. & Sat.

Where is PM taking us?

May 16, 2009, James Travers, Ottawa

'Harper used the Christmas crisis to paint a strikingly altered portrait of Canadian democracy on the dangerously blank canvas of public knowledge'

There's accidental comedy in new (in May) Conservative ads attacking the Liberal leader as a globetrotter who doesn't know the country and was only drawn home by opportunism. The dark laugh is that the Canada Stephen Harper is creating would be hard for Michael Ignatieff to recognize even if he had never wandered away.

If Ignatieff is just visiting the country, as (the May) TV spots claim, Harper is *more* than simply tinkering with the way it works. This Prime Minister's Canada is as unfamiliar to those who stick close to the neighbourhood as it is to expatriates. It grafts presidential powers and situational expediency to the Westminster democracy that has served well, if imperfectly, for 141 years and then wraps it in the rhetoric of Reform Party populism.

By incremental steps and leaps of logic, the Prime Minister is taking advantage of public confusion to advance a political hybrid. Worse, it's being finessed with little public debate and no national consensus.

There's nothing abstract about what's happening here. Piecemeal changes that erode Parliament's power are as recent as Ottawa's response to the recession and as real as the coalition crisis.

Under cover of hard times, Conservatives are distributing \$3 billion in stimulus spending from behind closed cabinet doors, further eroding Parliament's defining duty to protect the public purse. For policy and political purposes, that gives the Prime Minister spending freedom the envy of many presidents.

Less obvious, but at least as troubling, is how Harper used the Christmas crisis to paint a strikingly altered portrait of Canadian democracy on the dangerously blank canvas of public knowledge. With scant regard for process or national unity, he persuaded a remarkable number of Canadians that they directly elect prime ministers and that there can be no legitimate change of government without new elections. Both are false. Both are also central to the populist Holy Grail of making as many public officials as possible as directly accountable to as many people as possible. It's an appealing theory; it's just not the one that frames how

Canadians consent to be governed. Surprising as it is to those influenced by U.S. presidential contests, federal elections here are more than popularity contests for aspiring prime ministers. In our responsible way, voters decide who sits in the House of Commons and then leave to them all the messy stuff, including deciding which leader and party enjoys enough confidence among the elected members to rule and for how long.

Michaëlle Jean, the otherwise effective Governor General, missed an opportunity to explain the nuts-and-bolts details of an elegantly simple, wonderfully flexible system. With Conservative ministers muttering about "coups" and threatening to somehow go over the head of the de facto head of state, Jean could have turned a roiling crisis into a unique teaching moment. A calming, non-partisan address to the nation had potential to strip away much of the hyperpartisan, unity-stressing bluster. It could have usefully explored valid solutions while educating the country at a time of extraordinary political engagement. Instead she quietly agreed to the Prime Minister's exceptional request for a parliamentary timeout and the rest, as some constitutional scholars now say, is precedent.

Where that leaves the country is tracking down the same old rut towards diminished accountability. Prime ministers who can't command the confidence of the Commons have found in proroguing yet another tactic to prolong their supremacy. Parliament's capacity to replace an infant government without resorting to a time-consuming and costly election – a useful remedy in a period of unstable minorities – has lost vital public opinion legitimacy.

Power continues to flow unabated to the Prime Minister and his appointed officials, some of whom distinguished themselves this week by "taking a day off" from running the country to unveil the attack ads.

While hardly unique to Conservatives, extreme partisanship is now the Ottawa norm. It makes nonsense of those other populist principles of accountability and broad-spectrum participation in polishing public policy. After promising transparency and open democracy, Harper is delivering arguably the most closed and controlling government of modern times.

Conservatives have a political interest as well as a right to ask where Michael Ignatieff has been. A more pressing question for the rest of us is where, exactly, is Stephen Harper taking this country and its declining democracy.

James Travers / Article Online at:

www.thestar.com/comment/columnists/article/635364 ♣

Finance & Economics – In Canada and Around the World

Standing Committee on Finance Pre-Budget Consultations 2009

NEWS RELEASE, Ottawa, June 10, 2009 [EXTRACT]

When Parliament returns in fall 2009, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance will begin its pre-budget consultations for 2009, with hearings in Ottawa and in selected communities across Canada (see below).

The recent financial turbulence and economic difficulties worldwide have been unprecedented, at least in recent history. While the Canadian financial system has been more resilient than that in most other industrialized countries, the impact of the world economic slowdown has affected, and continues to affect, our nation. That being said, monetary & fiscal stimulus measures have been taken by governments in Canada & in other countries, although views vary on the extent to which they are effective & are having the desired results. Going forward, decisions must be taken about the measures needed to ensure prosperity & a sustainable economic, social & environmental future. In this context, the Committee invites all interested Canadians to participate in the pre-budget consultations and to share their views on the following two questions:

1. What federal tax and program spending measures are needed to ensure prosperity and a sustainable future for Canadians from an economic, social and/or environmental perspective?

2. What federal stimulus measures have been effective and how might relatively ineffective measures be changed to ensure that they have the intended effects?

The Committee hopes to hold public hearings in Ottawa the weeks of September 14, October 26 and November 2, 2009, and to meet with Canadians in the following communities:

Vancouver: Sep. 28; Edmonton: Sep. 29; Yellowknife: Sep. 30; Summerside: Oct. 5; St. John's: Oct. 6; Quebec City: Oct. 7; Regina: Oct. 19; Winnipeg: Oct. 20; Toronto: Oct. 21, 2009.

If you wish to make an appearance before the Committee during the pre-budget consultations, please send an email to the Clerk of the Committee, indicating three locations where you are willing to appear... no later than 31 July 2009. [...]

The deadline to submit the accompanying written brief is no later than **Friday, 14 August 2009**, in order that the brief can be translated and distributed to Committee members. You are able to submit a brief even if you do not wish to make an oral presentation. Briefs should be no longer than five pages in length, should include an executive summary, should contain a **maximum of three recommendations that reflect your most important federal tax or program spending priority**, and should – where possible – indicate the expected federal cost of your proposal... Requests to appear, as well as briefs, can be sent to: Jean-François Pagé Clerk, Standing Committee on Finance, 6-14 131 Queen Street, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6; E-mail:

fina@parl.gc.ca / For more information, visit the website: www.parl.gc.ca/FINA / [613-992-9753]

The Committee continues to believe that your contribution to the pre-budget consultations is critically important, and – on behalf of the Committee – I look forward to hearing from you and having you identify your priority issue for the next federal budget. *Sincerely, James Rajotte, Member of Parliament*

Chair, Standing Committee on Finance

THE PRICE OF EMPIRE & PROSPERITY – PAID BY HUMANS IN FAR-OFF LANDS

For 300 years Britain has outsourced mayhem, finally it's coming home

Opium, famine and banks all played their part in this country's plundering of the globe.

Now it's over, we find it hard to accept

By George Monbiot, UK [www.monbiot.com]

[In "The Guardian" June 9 09] – Why now? It's not as if this is the first time Britain's representatives have been caught out. The history of governments in all countries is the history of scandal, as those who rise to the top are generally the most ambitious, ruthless and unscrupulous people politics can produce. Pushing their own interests to the limit, they teeter perennially on the brink of disgrace, except when they fly clean over the edge. So why does the current ballyhoo threaten to destroy not only the government but also our antediluvian political system?

The past 15 years have produced the cash-for-questions racket, the Hinduja and Ecclestone affairs, the lies and fabrications that led to the invasion of Iraq, the forced abandon-

ment of the BAE corruption probe, the cash-for-honours caper and the cash-for-amendments scandal. By comparison to the outright subversion of the functions of government in some of these cases, the current scandal is small beer. Any one of them should have prompted the sweeping political reforms we are now debating. But they didn't.

The expenses scandal, by contrast, could kill the Labour party. It might also force politicians of all parties to address our unjust voting system, the unelected Lords, the excessive power of the executive, the legalised blackmail used by the whips, and a score of further anachronisms and injustices. Why is it different?

I believe that the current political crisis has little to do with

the expenses scandal, still less with Gordon Brown's leadership. It arises because our economic system can no longer extract wealth from other nations. For the past 300 years, the revolutions and reforms experienced by almost all other de-

veloped countries have been averted in Britain by foreign remittances. [...] **Read Online:** <http://informationclearinghouse.info/article22800.htm>] ♣

How Bad Will the Economy Get? Really, Really Bad

By Thomas Greco, Jr., AlterNet. Posted July 14, 2009

[EXTRACTS] **Historically, every financial and economic crisis has been used to further centralize power and concentrate wealth.** This one is no different, and in fact the moves being promoted by the Obama administration and the central banks of the Western powers will take the whole world to the pinnacle of financial despotism – unless enough people wake up and claim their own "money power." [...]

Read full article online: <http://tinyurl.com/ma27o8>

Thomas H. Greco, Jr. is the founder (1992) & director of the non-profit Community Information Resource Center, dedicated to economic equity, social justice, and community improvement, specializing in community currency. His newest book is The End of Money and the Future of Civilization. ♣

Reading suggested by Richard Moore: including about FDR's "bank holiday" in 1933: <http://tinyurl.com/n7czse> ♣

Why Canada no longer works!

B. McNeill, Winfield BC

In the Feb. March issue of *Dialogue* there was a great deal of correspondence about our system of Government. This is understandable, because the country has grown so much, our Constitution no longer fits.

Instead of two political parties, there are now four or five. Not that long ago, the West had a much smaller population, so the votes from the West were of very little significance. This has changed dramatically.

Canada cannot be regarded as a Democracy, it is more of Feudal System, where some provinces have more rights than others. This is true for representation in both the Parliament and the Senate. The biggest example is the relationship between Quebec and BC-Alberta combined.

Population	Representation in Parliament	Senate
Quebec: 7.5 million	75 seats	24 seats
AB +BC: 7.6 million	60 seats	12 seats

Elections: The present voting system was designed for a two-party system. With four parties, a huge number of votes are lost, as only the winning votes are of consequence. To correct this, we either return to the Two-Party system or change the voting system to make it fair. To change these problems, requires an amendment to the Constitution. The time has come to do just that.

The amendment would give each province equal status and seats in the Parliament, based on population figures. The Senate appointments would be based on the same figures.

A new Election System should be adopted to make the system compatible with the number of parties participating. Either that, or return to the Two Party System. Only National Parties should be allowed to run in Federal Elections. Provincial Parties should be limited to Provincial Elections. With a new voting system and fairer distribution of Parliamentary Seats, voters may be more inspired to vote. ♣

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MELTDOWN OF WALL STREET?

Sold Out: How Wall Street and Washington betrayed America

March 2009, by Essential Information & Consumer Education Foundation – www.wallstreetwatch.org

Who was responsible for the meltdown of Wall Street? A 231-page detailed report – long but worth reading. [Starting on page 109, the conclusions are really good - then, on p.111 the recommendations begin.] PDF report available online at: www.wallstreetwatch.org/reports/sold_out.pdf

[EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT]

Introduction: A Call to Arms

by Harvey Rosenfield

[EXTRACT] America's economy is in tatters, and the situation grows dire by the day... What caused this catastrophe? As this report chronicles in gruesome detail, over the last decade, Wall Street showered Washington with over \$1.7 billion in what are prettily described as "campaign contributions." This money went into the political coffers of everyone from the lowliest member of Congress to the President of the United States. The Money Industry spent another \$3.4

billion on lobbyists whose job it was to press for deregulation — Wall Street's license to steal from every American.

In return for the investment of more than \$5.1 billion, the Money Industry was able to get rid of many of the reforms enacted after the Great Depression and to operate, for most of the last ten years, without any effective rules or restraints whatsoever. The report, prepared by Essential Information and the Consumer Education Foundation, details step-by-step many of the events that led to the financial debacle. [...]

Read the full report online:

www.wallstreetwatch.org/reports/sold_out.pdf

Primary authors of this report are Robert Weissman and James Donahue.

Essential Information: PO Box 19405, Washington, DC 20036; Tel. 202.387.8030; E-mail: info@essential.org/
Website: www.essential.org

Consumer Education Foundation: PO Box 1855, Studio City, CA 91604; cefus@mac.com ♣

REFLECTIONS ON THE INHERENT FLAWS OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM

Capitalism's Self-inflicted Apocalypse

Michael Parenti, U.S.A. (January 2009)

[EXTRACTS] After the overthrow of communist governments in Eastern Europe, capitalism was paraded as the indomitable system that brings prosperity and democracy, the system that would prevail unto the end of history. The present economic crisis, however, has convinced even some prominent free-marketeers that something is gravely amiss. Truth be told, capitalism has yet to come to terms with several historical forces that cause it endless trouble: democracy, prosperity, and capitalism itself, the very entities that capitalist rulers claim to be fostering. [...]

Capitalism vs. Prosperity

The corporate capitalists no more encourage prosperity than do they propagate democracy. Most of the world is capitalist, and most of the world is neither prosperous nor particularly democratic... A prosperous, politically literate populace with high expectations about its standard of living and a keen sense of entitlement, pushing for continually better social conditions, is not the plutocracy's notion of an ideal workforce and a properly pliant polity. Corporate investors prefer poor populations. The poorer you are, the harder you will work – for less. The poorer you are, the less equipped you are to defend yourself against the abuses of wealth. [...]

It is ironic to credit capitalism with the genius of economic prosperity when most attempts at material betterment have been vehemently and sometimes violently resisted by the capitalist class. The history of labor struggle provides endless illustration of this. [...]

A Self-devouring Beast

The capitalist state has two roles long recognized by political thinkers. First, like any state it must provide services that cannot be reliably developed through private means, such as public safety and orderly traffic. Second, the capitalist state protects the haves from the have-nots, securing the process of capital accumulation to benefit the moneyed interests, while heavily circumscribing the demands of the working populace, as Debs observed from his jail cell.

There is a third function of the capitalist state seldom mentioned. It consists of preventing the capitalist system from devouring itself. [...] To maximize profits, wages must be kept down. But someone has to buy the goods and services being produced. For that, wages must be kept up. There is a chronic tendency – as we are seeing today – toward overproduction of private sector goods and services and underconsumption of necessities by the working populace.

In addition, there is the frequently overlooked self-destruction created by the moneyed players themselves. If left completely unsupervised, the more active command component of the financial system begins to devour less organized sources of wealth. Instead of trying to make

money by the arduous task of producing and marketing goods and services, the marauders tap directly into the money streams of the economy itself. During the 1990s we witnessed the collapse of an entire economy in Argentina when unchecked free marketeers stripped enterprises, pocketed vast sums, and left the country's productive capacity in shambles... Some years later, in the United States, came the multi-billion-dollar plunder perpetrated by corporate conspirators at Enron, WorldCom, Harkin, Adelphia, and a dozen other major companies. Inside players like Ken Lay turned successful corporate enterprises into sheer wreckage, wiping out the jobs and life savings of thousands of employees in order to pocket billions. These thieves were caught and convicted. Does that not show capitalism's self-correcting capacity? Not really. The prosecution of such malfeasance – in any case coming too late – was a product of democracy's accountability and transparency, not capitalism's. Of itself, the free market is an amoral system, with no strictures save caveat emptor.

In the meltdown of 2008-09, the mounting financial surplus created a problem for the moneyed class: there were not enough opportunities to invest. With more money than they knew what to do with, big investors poured immense sums into nonexistent housing markets and other dodgy ventures, a legerdemain of hedge funds, derivatives, high leveraging, credit default swaps, predatory lending, and whatever else. Among the victims were other capitalists, small investors, and the many workers who lost billions of dollars in savings and pensions. Perhaps the premiere brigand was Bernard Madoff. Described as “a longstanding leader in the financial services industry,” Madoff ran a fraudulent fund that raked in \$50 billion from wealthy investors, paying them back “with money that wasn't there,” as he himself put it. The plutocracy devours its own children. [...]

Worse still, the ensuing multi-billion dollar government bailouts are themselves being turned into an opportunity for pillage. Not only does the state fail to regulate, it becomes itself a source of plunder, pulling vast sums from the federal money machine, leaving the taxpayers to bleed.

Those who scold us for “running to the government for a handout” are themselves running to the government for a handout. [...]

When left entirely to its own devices, capitalism foists its diseconomies and toxicity upon the general public and upon the natural environment – and eventually begins to devour itself... If the paladins of Corporate America want to know what really threatens “our way of life,” it is their way of life, their boundless way of pilfering their own system, destroying the very foundation on which they stand, the very community on which they so lavishly feed.[...]

Read in full, online at:
www.michaelparenti.org/capitalism%20apocalypse.html ♣

On the value of entrepreneurship

Subject: Column by Gerry Nicholls in the (July) Report Magazine; received from John Gray, Montreal QC, with his comment: "Gerry Nicholls writes clearly and eloquently on the value of Entrepreneurship and its importance in building prosperity in a society such as ours."

Entrepreneurs must stop apologizing by Gerry Nicholls, Southern Ontario

In Ayn Rand's famous philosophic novel, Atlas Shrugged, leading entrepreneurs and businessmen go "on strike" as a way of protesting socialism.

Eventually this strike causes the economy to collapse which in turn causes politicians to finally understand the true value of those who actually create wealth and prosperity.

It's a good story, but alas it's only fiction.

In real life, the majority of politicians, and for that matter most of the general public, have virtually no understanding as to how capitalists and entrepreneurs, when allowed to operate in a free market, benefit society.

In fact, if anything an anti-entrepreneur bias permeates our culture. Or least it permeates our popular culture. Just consider, for instance, how in movies and TV shows, successful business people are inevitably portrayed as "greedy" or "corrupt" or "heartless."

Indeed, these days the prejudice against the free market and those who make it work, has reached a near hysteric level, as pundits, politicians and others seek to pin blame for the current economic slowdown on what they like to call "corporate greed".

What these critics don't understand, of course, is that the same free market system they like to rail against is also the same system which has made our society the most prosperous in history. And besides being the most efficient way to create wealth, the free market system also happens to be morally superior to its main economic alternative -- socialism. Free markets are based on choice; socialism on compulsion.

So why don't people get that? Well to fully answer that question would probably take a book or two.

But here's one key reason: the people who make the free market system work --- i.e. entrepreneurs --- are often like the rest of the population; they don't understand the values which underpin capitalism.

Consequently, they all too often fail to defend themselves in the market place of ideas.

They cede the moral high ground to leftists, to politicians and to assorted other anti-free market types. Rather than standing up for free markets, business people often become defensive, sometimes even apologizing for being capitalists.

This is a problem because if business people don't stand up for capitalism, who will?

This is why an organization in the United States called the

Bastiat Society exists. Named after the famed French economic theorist Frédéric Bastiat, the society's purpose is to "educate other wealth creators on their right to the moral high ground."

The motto of the group is "Those who work in freedom should know how freedom works."

Canada should surely use a group like the Bastiat Society. Entrepreneurs in this country need to be convinced that they are the good guys.

But of course, having principled arguments is not enough. It's also necessary for business people to know how to get their message across to the media.

Unfortunately, for many entrepreneurs and business people, the media is nothing but a massive mystery. Indeed, if they think about the media at all, it's how to avoid it.

This is a mistake. Business people should be using the media to get their message out; just as the left uses it so effectively to get out their message.

Only in this way will supporters of free markets win the war of ideas. Only in this way will they change public attitudes about the value of the free enterprise system.

In other words, rather than watching the current economic debates from the sidelines, entrepreneurs must be active participants.

The bottom line is entrepreneurs are truly the heroes of our free market system.

It's time they started acting like it.

(Gerry Nicholls is a writer and political consultant -- and as his website refers to him, "Canada's Post-Partisan Pundit ...and communications expert")

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Website: www.gerrynicholls.com

Gerry Nicholl's Book: Loyal to the Core

[From his website] Gerry has also authored the book "Loyal to the Core: Stephen Harper, me and the NCC." In it, he reveals the story of how he went from being a friend and close ally of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to one of his most fierce and unrelenting critics. The book provides a frank assessment of Stephen Harper the man, and Stephen Harper the leader, tracing his evolution from hardcore conservative ideologue to partisan, pragmatic politician.

In addition to the candid portrait of Harper, Nicholls offers an unauthorized history of the National Citizens Coalition, Canada's largest independent, pro-free market organization. Who created this unique advocacy group and why? How did this organization, using political guerrilla warfare tactics, help change the face of Canada? We learn how the NCC fought to expose government waste and oppose arrogant politicians, how it battled both in the court of law and the court of public opinion to protect our most cherished individual freedoms.

But most of all, Loyal to the Core is a cautionary tale for Canada's conservative movement. Principled conservatives must, Nicholls explains, resist the corrosive influence of partisan politics and focus on what matters: winning the war of ideas. ♣

Thoughts on Free Enterprise

David Boese, St. Catharines, ON

To Friends of Modified Bubbelsm

When I was a boy, I did boyish things and when I became a man I engaged in manly things, like becoming a capitalist and naively purchasing a car and truck rental business (Avis Franchise) from two friends of mine. I say naively because it was 1975 and I didn't even know we were in a recession. Also, because I purchased the business from (what were then) friends of mine, I felt secure in the viability of the business and the financial information they provided me.

However, it didn't take long to realize that the books they showed me had been doctored or fabricated, which I eventually proved in court, but lost the case because the judge said there was a provision in the law, called "Puffery" that allows the vendor of a business the leeway of enhancing its status and actual performance. Nevertheless, not wanting to fail, I plodded along for seven years, never making a profit; and part of this was the result of Avis picking my pockets (legalized stealing). I eventually fired Avis and became an independent and within five years became the largest rental agency in the Niagara Peninsula. This was after, and in spite of, going through a prolonged inflationary period in the 80's and paying interest at the rate of 24 percent. I was always heavily in debt to the bank, because it was a capital intensive business and after 20 years of never missing an interest or capital payment, the bank withdrew my credit and I was forced to sell my real estate and enough vehicles, so as to make the operation again unprofitable. Subsequent to all this, I had my first of seven heart attacks and had to

find other means of supporting myself.

Why do I tell you this? Well, in 1957 I purchased a paperback book "*Atlas Shrugged*" by Ayn Rand and, being a "a dyed in the wool capitalist," I hung on every word she wrote. I actually read and re-read the book and purchased a hard-cover book of Ayn Rand's lexicons. It goes without saying that I was totally hooked on the story premise of "John Galt" the main character in the book, who brought down the whole world economy by giving up and giving in to the working man.

Without going into great detail about the machinations of the "far right capitalist elite" of more recent times, I think that Ayn Rand is turning in her grave and if she were alive today, she would re-write "*Atlas Shrugged*" and turn it on its head! I also read "*The Fountainhead*" which had basically the same ideologist theme.

I am still a free enterpriser, but now, not at the expense of the well being of rest of humanity; and to this end, produced what I call "New Age Monetary and Economic Model" (*in the last Dialogue*, p.20) which would more readily fix our economic malaise than bolstering our existing monetary titans. We all know and are aware of the problem of honey bees (workers) dying off at an alarming rate and, if continued, could lead to a world food shortage catastrophe. The analogy being that we can't survive as a society without workers and, to the same extent, without entrepreneurs. That is the balance I've tried to achieve in my model.

David Boese, Tel. 905 646 9143 dash@vaxxine.com ♣

The Future of Human Societies

Imagine: prosperity without growth

By Murray Dobbin [June 19, 2009, rabble.ca]

It is ironic that homo sapiens, we big-brained and clever species, can trace almost every tragedy and failing to one generic cause: a failure of imagination.

We seem to be an idiot savant species -- stunningly clever at so many things, capable of greatness, creativity and sacrifice for others, melding genius and love when we are at our best, and greed and hate at our worst.

But whether it is the individual who fails to imagine the consequences of punching someone in a bar or a whole society which fails (like California) to imagine the consequences of starving itself of the revenue needed to function, observers from another world could easily conclude that we are terminally stupid. Or, as John Ralston Saul put, unconscious as a civilization.

Read Article online at:

www.rabble.ca/news/2009/06/imagine-prosperity-without-growth

Murray Dobbin is a Vancouver author and journalist and a guest senior contributing editor for **rabble.ca**. Murray has been a journalist, broadcaster, author and social activist for 40 years. His column, State of the Nation, appears in rabble.ca and the Tyee twice monthly. Read his Tyee articles at:

http://thetyee.ca/Bios/Murray_Dobbin/ ♣

Links/Footnotes:

(1) Sustainable Development Commission

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/prosperity-without-growth-background.html>

(2) CCPA Sr. Economist Marc Lee is the Co-Director of the *Climate Justice Project*, a five-year research partnership with UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, examining the links between climate change policies and social justice.

(3) Economic De-Growth For Ecological Sustainability And Social Equity Conference (Paris-2008):

<http://events.it-sudparis.eu/degrowthconference/en/> ♣

Canadian Banking Policy

The Canadian Government should return to the Bank of Canada as it was between 1935 and 1974

A question to my MP that requires a real answer

Karl Jones, CedarHill, ON

Below is a copy of an email I sent to my MP Gordon O'Connor. It seems that the subject of government finances and finance in general is a topic that needs to be brought to the attention of the general public and people need to be educated, questions asked and answered properly by the powers that be. I hope that the examples I included are informative and eye opening to those who don't understand the realities and I want the information to be available to people to research for themselves.

I would appreciate it if this could be included in your publication and I will forward the response when receive it from Mr O'Connor.

<Start Quote>

To the Right Honourable Gordon O'Connor,

In light of the recent and ongoing financial crisis I felt I should become more educated in the workings of the financial system and as such have found some very interesting and diverse sources of information namely;

<http://www.michaeljournal.org/appenB.htm> from as far back as 1995, also Canadian Monetary Policy and History from <http://www.dialogue.ca/2008%20aug%20sept%20extracts/Vol.22%20No.2-AUG-SEP08-extract.pdf>

[<http://tinyurl.com/mw4hvk>] in Sept' 2008 as the financial crises was coming to a head and the most illuminating information came from <http://www.webofdebt.com/> and the book of the same name, along with many other texts spread out across the internet.

All of these sources recommend the governments of each country return the power to create and issue money back to the Governments and away from the Banks who currently create and issue the money; in nearly all cases these are privately owned banks that print and issue the money and charge the governments interest. These same banks also issue loans to companies and citizens of countries and charge them interest too; however, these loans are created out of thin air by the use of accounting entries on their books. They issue the principle as a loan but don't create an amount including the interest; the interest has to be found elsewhere.

As an example and to simplify as much as possible we have 'the bank' 'the government' '2 companies' and a 'citizen' - the bank loans the government \$100 with simple 5% interest, thereby owing the bank \$105, the government can't pay that back because the bank only loaned \$100 so the bank also loans \$100 at 5% interest to the companies and the citizen (expanding the money supply) all loans totalling \$400, during the course of doing business with each other the government gets \$105 and pays back the bank,

company 1 earns its \$105 and pays back the bank, company 3 and the citizen between them owe \$210 but there is only \$190 left in 'the economy' now if both split that between them then neither can pay their debt so both go bankrupt... the upside to the bank is that they now own the company/and or its assets and whatever money the citizen has left, not bad considering that the bank created the original \$400 from thin air...!!!!

This is the banking process as it stands and of course it is inflationary as the banks have to create more money in the form of loans/debt to pay back principle and interest of the existing loans. Contrary to popular belief, creeping inflation is not caused by the government irresponsibly printing dollars. It is caused by banks expanding the money supply with loans.

The alternative is for the governments to issue the money including an amount equalling the interest, in the example above that would mean \$420, \$400 in loans and \$20 interest that could be used to pay for labour and materials for infrastructure such as railroads, highways, social programs etc. and that would be paid to the companies and citizen for materials and labour thereby giving the companies and citizen the money to pay back the loan including interest.

What's more, the government gets to maintain or increase infrastructure and social programs, No Inflation!! And no requirement for taxes!!!

The Canadian Government should return to the Bank of Canada as it was between 1935 and 1974, in essence a true Government bank, issuing principle and interest into the economy, although at the time it was in direct competition to other countries whose money was supplied by private banks, these banks want all countries of the world to have money issued by private banks. In 1974 Canada's national debt stood at a mere \$18 billion dollars. The Fraser Institute, in Nov. 2006, listed our current direct national debt as \$798 billion, upon which we collectively, with our tax dollars, pay over \$40 billion a year in interest (to private bankers). Taxes were only ever created to help pay for the interest incurred by governments on the loans created by private banks.

In the mid-1970's, the private bankers once again "induced the representatives of the people to restrict the right of government" to issue and control the national currency. Canadians now are deeply in debt, public assets are being sold to help fund the social programs that are cut back for want of money. Gambling, lotteries and marathon runs are now promoted to help fund hospitals and research programs. It seems inconceivable to me that any person, group or gov-

ernment would willingly support the system that pays interest to private bankers to the detriment of the government and the citizens of the country and the examples above clearly show the differences.

The banks have had 500 years to get their system right and in their eyes it is, but it obviously isn't working for governments or us, the people. At the time of writing this, June 2009, the world is in the midst of a financial crisis the likes of which have not been seen and the banking sector itself has lost control of the system as there are too many banks with smaller sub sections trying to take advantage of the opportunities, (greed) but these banks not knowing the true, bigger picture brought the system to it's knees. Sec' Paulson and Greenspan of the Federal Reserve in the US, both in the know, expected and stated that banks can and would regulate themselves. They were wrong and we are all paying for it now and for years to come if we don't make changes. I recently asked a question 'If Governments get their money from private banks, then where are the governments getting the money from to bailout those same banks???' I haven't received an answer yet.

I recently enquired with Mr. John Aris in your office, during a recent visit, about why the Canadian Government cannot return to the Bank of Canada as it was between 1935 and 1974? John remembered another constituent asking the same question last year, referring to a *Dialogue magazine* article published in September 08 and managed to produce a letter in reply which upon reading seemed to be a stock reply from someone in the finance department who either didn't understand the question and just spouted the corporate response or was very aware of the circumstances and didn't want to change things. The reply was based on the bank and the government being separate entities as they are now, not one and the same as suggested in the article referred to so all of the examples quoted become moot.

Many nations have successfully issued their own money, at least for a time; (Guernsey, a small Island still creates its own money) but the bankers' debt-money has generally infiltrated the system and taken over in the end. These con-

cepts are so foreign to what we have been taught that it can be hard to wrap our minds around them Let's face it, the private banks are making a killing and will be the last people who want to change things. Half the people who work for the banks and in the financial sector don't even understand the financial systems and are not aware that there is even another option.

This Problem really has to be approached at the same time by many of the strong economic countries of the world to remove the power to create money from the private banks and give it back to the governments, I would like to propose, especially in light of the most recent revelations about banking and their financial dealings, that immediate steps are taken to move The Bank of Canada – and later if possible, other world economies – to monetary systems based on complete government creation and control of money, not private banks, thereby bringing stability and prosperity to itself, its companies and citizens. I hope that in reading into the TARP in the US they may already have started to nationalise the banks 'too big to fail' in an attempt to start this process. The laissez faire style of Capitalism will not work any more than Communism.

I may not be able to receive a reply telling me that plans are underway for obvious reasons but I would hope that any response from the government finance dept would not insult my intelligence, or that of the readers of the publications willing to print my letter in the first place. The stock reply ignores and does not answer the questions asked about Government created and controlled money as opposed to private bank creation and control of money. May I also suggest that advice is sought from knowledgeable sources outside the government and that discussion of this topic be brought to the House (of Commons) as soon as prudent.

I am hoping to have this letter published and would appreciate a reply that I could also reproduce for publication with answers to the points I have raised and answers to questions I have put forward.

Thank-you, Karl Jones, CedarHill, ON ♣

Who Will Save Canada's West Coast from Corporate-Government Predators?

Protecting Wild Salmon is a federal responsibility

According to a recent BC Supreme Court decision by Mr. Justice Hinkson, the Province has no mandate to protect wild fish and this is the crux of the mismanagement that both the industry and the rest of us in BC have faced for 20 years. The farms are now sited in the wrong places, ensuring social conflict and degradation of our wild salmon. To fix this the industry will have to down-size at the very least and be removed from the crucial wild salmon migration

routes. Federal Fisheries Minister, the Honourable Gail Shea, will need all the support we can give her to deal with this monumental mess that she inherited. ... In response to all of you who have written asking "what can I do" I have posted a new page on our website "Actions." [As noted above] two gigantic fish farms are attempting re-zoning right on Johnstone Strait, guaranteeing all wild salmon that travel that route will be traveling through fish farm effluent.

For more information, please go to "updates" at:

www.adopt-a-fry.org/

~ Alexandra Morton ♣

Letter to the Environment Minister

From: Jeremy Arney <iamjema@gmail.com>

To: Jim Prentice, M.P. <PrentJ@parl.gc.ca>

[Minister of the Environment] **Sent:** June 24, 2009

Cc: PM, Party leaders, other MPs

The West Coast Environment is in danger

On 11th June 2009 I wrote to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans concerning the plight of the wild salmon off the coast of British Columbia and what is threatening them. To my surprise I have not even had an acknowledgement that her office received the letter. Thus I have to conclude that she is not interested in either the fish or the ocean here in British Columbia. This did surprise me, as I would have thought that she would be concerned about the imminent extinction of the wild salmon. Either she is not interested or Mr Harper has her under a tight rein to ignore such dangerous situations, which is not what either of them is employed by us to do.

So now I appeal to you as the Minister of the Environment, to do something to stop the dictator in British Columbia from destroying the wild salmon. I did send you a copy of the letter I sent to Ms. Shea but in case you misplaced it I will give you the highlights:

1. Due to Norwegian corporate methods of fish farming using nets in the ocean rather than secure and separate pens, the wild salmon are being infected with sea lice from the fish farming areas as they swim by. This is making them sick and often unable to make it to spawning rivers. They are also making the other animals in whose food chain they suffer from lack of food, or getting sick from the lice too. Our BC Dictator has ignored all suggestions that there might be a problem because in this case he is only interested in selling the rights to foreign fish-farming corporations, not in the future of BC and our oceans.

2. Our BC Dictator is also determined to turn every river in BC into a power generating plant to export hydro to the USA. It seems he is unable to understand that, thanks to FTA and NAFTA, once we supply the US with any percentage of our power we must supply the same percentage for the rest of the year when these 'Run of the River' plants will be producing nothing. Not only will this mean we will be short of hydro power for ourselves but another byproduct of this is that the salmon spawning will be even more difficult as there will be little or no water in the rivers for them to swim in to get to where they are supposed to spawn.

3. Thanks to an incredibly environmentally dirty method of creating "oil" in Alberta, approved of course by Harper, there is now a surplus of oil we HAVE to ship south (see above mentioned FTA and NAFTA and 60% of our production belongs to the USA), that the pipelines cannot handle, and so we are expecting the moratorium to be lifted on huge oil tankers off our coast.

Gary Lunn promised that would not happen, which is the same as saying it would.

Our BC dictator, not content with turning northern BC into a mining, oil and gas drilling mess, also wants to start drilling for oil and gas off our coast (see the BC Energy Plan). Did you know that? Are you in agreement with it?

Along with these tankers, the LNG ships and container ships from China all using Kittimat there is bound to be at least one collision a year, which is a death sentence for our coast and everything that depends upon it. Our wild salmon, seals, orcas, sea otters, crabs, eagles, grizzlies and wolves, to mention just a few. If you have the time to read "Sea Sick" by Alanna Mitchell of Toronto, you will realise how sick our oceans really are and do not need spills of this magnitude to happen anywhere, never mind here off the coast of BC.

I am sure that, as Minister of the Environment, you are aware that the oceans remove some 85% or so of the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and therefore the health of the sea is paramount to the survival of our grandchildren and their descendants too. A sick sea a much larger concern than we are being told.

I do understand that your government is only interested in corporations and their gratification, but I feel that I must remind you that even Mr Harper has not yet found a way to have corporations vote instead of the Canadian People. This means that your employers are still the people of Canada, and as such we do not expect to be rudely brushed aside so that these corporations with powerful lobbyists can ruin our country, as they have so many countries around the world.

If you have any independence from the PM's office in your Ministry, and any heart in your body, surely you can see what is about to happen and indeed is already happening to the west coast of Canada, and do something to question or, better yet, to stop it in the name of your ministry - the Ministry of Environment.

My grandchildren will thank you if they have a coast left inhabited with anything other than black blobs of Albertan tar.

I personally do not approve of these actions presently being taken in my name without my permission or agreement by both the Canadian Federal and BC Provincial governments and urge you to step up - and stand up for Canada.

Response from the Office of Jim Prentice

[Jun 25, 2009] Mr. Arney, Thank you for your email to Mr. Prentice. As your email is specific to his portfolio as Minister of the Environment, I have forwarded it to Environment Canada. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

From: Sarah Campbell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP; (613) 992.4275 direct; (613) 947.9475 fax; Email: prentice.j@parl.gc.ca

Further response from Jeremy Arney

To: Sarah Campbell, PA to Hon. Jim Prentice

Thank you for your e-mail. Does this mean that Mr Prentice has not and will not see this letter addressed to him? If the answer is yes (he has not and will not see it) then what do I do to bring it to his attention? ♣

LANGUAGE ISSUES IN CANADA

Must all Supreme Court Judges be Bilingual?

Opening Up The Silence About Language Demands

Dr. Marguerite E. Ritchie, C.M., Q.C., Ottawa



I am deeply disturbed by the current steps to deal with bilingualism of judges in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Bill C-232, first introduced by Yvon Godin, M.P. for Acadie-Bathurst, on November 26, 2008, is now before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

What is it intended to do? What differences will it make? How will citizens learn and how will they have a voice?

Canadians have the right and duty to know. As Kim Lian, of Canadians for Language Fairness, has pointed out in her article (of June 26, 2009, *above*), eight out of nine judges on the Supreme Court of Canada are now bilingual. Is this new proposal intended as another way to strengthen the French presence in the Supreme Court?

Will it involve teaching of French at any level? If so, it will almost certainly ensure that the false history of Canada will be imposed or taken for granted.

I know how that is done, from my own experience. Many years ago, when Trudeau had come to power and began to eliminate English-speaking people from important areas of the Civil Service, I was among a collection of bureaucrats and ambassadors who already spoke French and were selected for the highest level of teaching in French. We were taught, among other things, that the French discovered Canada. That the Indians had no claim because they had no permanent locations and simply roamed around like animals. That the British were deceitful at the Plains of Abraham. That under the Treaty of Paris, Great Britain and France became two nations in Canada.

We had to write an exam, on Canada's two Founding People. So I did. The Indians and the Eskimos. Needless to say, I was failed, but others in our group revolted the same way. Let us not be naïve. Any potential appointee to the Supreme Court would similarly get the full treatment of today's falsified history. We must no longer tolerate it.

Nor should Helen Forsey denounce Kim or others who express their concern. They have not only the right, but the duty, as citizens, to know what is happening to our country. And contrary to her views about her father, he was one of the strongest, most learned, and most outspoken of Canadians against what has been done to Canada in the name of keeping Quebec and of gaining votes in Quebec.

The Honourable Eugene Forsey has been gone from us for 18 years now. But he did pass on his knowledge. I remem-

ber well the time he came to our office to talk to our students and volunteers. He had tea and a biscuit and told stories in *Newfoundlese*. The students and volunteers learned and they loved him.

I had been the Constitutional and International Law specialist in the Federal Department of Justice. He was the national expert in Canadian history and international law. We respected each other's work. And he never hesitated to change his mind if someone could convince him to do so.

The most unforgettable point was the Meech Lake Accord. At first, Forsey accepted it as paying a high price but a necessary one. Prime Minister Mulroney quoted him, as assurance that people could accept the Accord despite what it would do. Then I asked Forsey to come to see me. He did. We discussed the Accord. Forsey withdrew his support. Mulroney never quoted him again.

Forsey became one of the strongest opponents of the Meech Lake Accord. When Prime Minister Mulroney was bludgeoning Parliament into accepting the Meech Lake Accord, Mulroney set up the Senate-House of Commons Special Joint Committee on the Meech Lake Accord, stacked to support the Accord, regardless of political party.

I had prepared a brief that attacked certain basic claims for the Accord, and knew that the Committee would attack me. I had seen them shred witnesses who did not support the Accord. I asked Eugene to come over and read what I intended to say. He did, then looked at me and said, in words I have never forgotten, "They will be after you for this." He paused, and then declared: "But it has to be said."

I did not ask him to support it before the Committee. I felt that I should take their attacks alone. They did attack me. Suddenly their tone changed. They asked a polite question of Senator Forsey. I started to say that he was not part of our delegation, and realized that he had moved up from the public seats and taken a seat beside me, to show his support against that poisonous gang. I have never forgotten that remarkable man.

If Forsey were alive today, I am sure that he would be supporting exactly the positions that Kim Lian and *Canadians for Language Fairness* are taking today. I invite all readers of *Dialogue* to get a personal copy of his book, "[A Life on the Fringe](#)", published in 1990, one year before his death. Read it. Read especially the chapter on Quebec Nationalism. You will see how dedicated he was to Canada. You will read about his quitting the NDP for deciding to please Quebec by removing the word "National" from their Constitution and substituting the word "Federal". He could not accept such a change. ⇒

The Honourable Eugene Forsey was consistent. He denounced the idea that Quebec could be independent within Canada. He saw where the continuous surrenders to Quebec would lead.

I have no doubt that Forsey would have welcomed Kim Lian and *Canadians for Language Fairness*. Far from thinking that the tone of their words was unacceptable, Forsey's words were stronger.

Here were his words to Canada about caving in to the demands of Quebec: "When the First World War broke out, Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, said: 'The lights are going out all over Europe.' They did. I hope the lights are not now going out all over Canada."

His last pages discussed the demands by Quebec. His last paragraph was one of encouragement to Canadians, to face the future, including a new Canada, without fear.

I urge Kim and *Canadians for Language Fairness* to continue their work. I urge Canadians across the country to support them. What better inspiration could they have than

the words of Eugene Forsey himself.

(Dr.) Marguerite E. Ritchie, C.M., Q.C.

PRESIDENT, HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Website: www.humanrightsinstitute.com/ ♣

QUOTED FROM "A LIFE ON THE FRINGE"

"And each fresh Quebec 'demand' would be urged upon us as the only way to stop the separatists, to 'keep Quebec in the Canadian family'. Each demand granted, each increment of sovereignty surrendered, would leave Canada weaker and weaker, more and more at the mercy of the people who make the demands;" (p.222) ... If Quebec separated, could a truncated Canada survive? Yes. It could even flourish. But there would be a new balance of political power." (p.225) ... But I have faith that Canadians, both English-speaking and French-speaking (of whom there would still be over a million), would be able to face the future united – 'One equal temper of heroic hearts / ... strong in will / To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.' (p.226) – **Eugene Forsey** ♣

"Your Health Matters"

GOOD NEWS ABOUT HEART DISEASE

Derrick Lonsdale, M.D.



As I have written in these pages previously, modern medicine is largely stuck in Newtonian physics. By this, I mean that mechanical devices are used predominantly in the treatment of coronary heart disease (CHD). Bypass surgery and the placement of stents are both Newtonian in concept in that they relieve the arterial obstruction mechanically. Although these procedures require a great deal of training for the cardiologists, they do nothing toward arresting the progress of the disease that underlies the arterial obstruction. Also, they provide a large income for surgeons and cardiologists, so there is a natural resistance to something as relatively simple as diet.

For this reason I commend the reader's attention to two books that complement each other. Both are concerned with the fact that an enormous amount of disease in Western civilization is brought about by our infamous diet. This is now pretty well known by people that are keeping up with health news, but these books produce the overwhelming evidence that many individuals seek. The first book is entitled "The China Study" by T. Colin Campbell (Ben Bella 2006). The study was done in rural China where cardiac disease is almost unheard of, and he shows in convincing and straightforward language that a plant-based diet is the right food for homo sapiens. Praise for the book in the flyleaf is expressed repeatedly in superlatives. The text includes some comments on the second book I am recom-

mending. The title is "Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease" by Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr. (Penguin Group. First trade paperback edition 2008)

Dr. Esselstyn spent his professional life as a surgeon. One day, as he describes it in his book, he came to the conclusion that he was not really addressing the underlying cause of disease, only treating symptoms. As I have noted in these pages before, surgery is an admission of medical failure if a diseased organ has to be removed. Hippocrates in 400 B.C. said "let food be your medicine and medicine be your food". So Dr. Esselstyn turned to a detailed research in the field of nutrition. He then persuaded his cardiologist colleagues to refer to him any patient with cardiac disease who was considered by them to be beyond their help in the face of advanced disease. His 20-year study showed in dramatic terms that the epidemic of heart disease in the West could be prevented and in many cases reversed by diet alone. Like Campbell, he advises a strict plant-based diet, without sugar. The message in both of these books is that the patient can empower himself to cure his own disease without the turmoil and stress of modern medical approaches based on mechanical relief. Even better, as the old proverb goes, "prevention is better than cure".

The recommendation of a plant-based diet may come as a surprise to some who have concluded that it does not supply enough calories to provide the normal energy requirements for an active life. It is, however, salutary to be aware that the only way of extending youthful vigor in animal studies is by a restricted calorie diet. There is no doubt at all that we on the North American continent eat too much and

it seems ironic that this occurs while huge segments of the human population are starving. Campbell notes in his book why plant-based protein is better than animal-based protein and Esselstyn agrees, pointing out the fat content of meat. It is striking to see what happens to blood cholesterol using Esselstyn's diet and his book contains 150 recipes that make the switch at least bearable. When we look at the extreme cruelty to animals to provide us with our bad diet, such a switch would be a great humanitarian improvement. Both Campbell and Esselstyn mention the disaster of sugar ingestion but I do not believe that they place enough emphasis on it.

I know Dr. Esselstyn personally so I called him for a little discussion. I asked him why eggs are bad, for he advocates that we do not eat "anything with a mother". His reply was that "there are only two things wrong with eggs; one is the white and the other is the yoke". The yoke contains all the nutrients required to make a chicken, so it may not be eggs that are the problem so much as what is fed to the chicken in its egg-laying wire prison. The other fact that puzzled me is that we are omnivores, for we have canine teeth designed for eating meat. Perhaps our ancestors only had this rarely since they were known by anthropologists as hunter gatherers. Also, their prey lived on the pure vegetation of that time. Again in our world today, perhaps it is the disastrously high intake of poor quality hamburgers and hot dogs, together with the hormones and antibiotics given to the animals, that create the undoubted harm to our health. However, after reading these books, if I were a victim of

coronary heart disease, I would embrace the plant-based diet fully and without question.

Dr. Lonsdale's book, "A New Model for Disease," can be found at our website, www.prevmedgoup.com – by clicking on the link for "The Soil and Health Library" or by Googling the library link. The book was written for doctors but it has enough information to interest anyone that is looking for Alternative Medicine news. My book entitled "Why I Quit Orthodox Medicine" is also available in the medicine section of the library.

The Soil and Health Library is the wonderful work of Steve Solomon in Tasmania, who has built the library to publish useful books that have, for one reason or another, gone out of print.

The role of nutrition in medicine is still poorly promoted and there are major blocks to its acceptance, not the least of which is **Codex Alimentarius** that ordains the curtailment of therapeutic doses of nutrient supplements in Europe. This pernicious organization is powerful and their drug protective policies may spread to the American continent. Run by a group of drug company executives, this organization is limiting nutrient supplements to the RDA doses. Larger doses have to be by prescription from a physician and it is an obvious way of limiting health freedom and protection of the drug industry. As in the Clinton campaign, "It's the economy stupid".

Everything is connected to everything else.

– **Derrick Lonsdale** ♣

Derrick Lonsdale is a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition and a Certified Nutrition Specialist. www.prevmed.com ♣

Videos & Books

Superpower – the Movie

Global Research, July 14, 2009

SUPERPOWER is an award-winning movie by Barbara-Anne Steegmuller.

SUPERPOWER

A comprehensive film that asks tough questions and goes behind the scenes of America's national security apparatus and military actions.

Synopsis

Superpower: Far from a conspiracy film about the dangers of government secrets and regime change, this well-balanced film straddles the philosophical divide and allows viewers to understand the US quest for global dominance through economic and military strategy that is exposed through review of historical events, personal interviews, and analysis of US foreign policy.

The heart of Superpower lies in the analysis produced from a re-examination of history through a series of interviews with historians, documentarians, and academicians such as Bill Blum, Chalmers Johnson, Michel Chossudovsky, and Noam Chomsky, and others with expertise in this subject

such as the Executive Producer of The Unit, Command Sergeant (Ret.) Eric Haney; former Chief Economist for the US Department of Labor, Morgan Reynolds; three-time Noble Peace Prize nominee, Kathy Kelly; and Lt. Col. (Ret) Karen Kwiatkowski. Examining key moments in America's history elicits a more consistent and plausible set of motives for US foreign policy actions guided by global expansion and military dominance, rather than the hyperbolic calls for democracy and totalitarian *regime change* that we have become so accustomed to hearing.

Should citizens trust that their government will keep them safe, a government that keeps secrets, and lies, in the name of national security? Does the simple act of withholding information lead to a world of eroding civil liberties and corruption? Superpower presents a view of US foreign policy, which lies in stark contrast to that depicted by corporate media, popular pundits, and US heads of state.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the US has emerged as the pre-eminent superpower of the world. Superpower illustrates how the United States has chosen to ⇒

leverage that position to pursue a grand strategy which will ensure itself unilateral world domination through absolute economic and military superiority. It shows a consistent pattern of government deception.

The United States emerged from World War II with its industrial base still intact and the only nation with the atomic bomb. It was without question the most powerful country on earth. What was done with this unprecedented power, the effects it's had on our Republic and the rest of the world is the story of Superpower.

Read more online:

www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14083

THE MOVIE IS AVAILABLE TO ORDER THROUGH

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[Prof. Michel Chossudovsky, Director, Editor of GlobalResearch.ca

Email: crgeditor@yahoo.com] ♣

The "free press" in America

Brassecheck TV, San Francisco

Even the most wild-eyed conspiracy theory underestimates to the extent to which the "news" media controls the flow of information in the land of the free. The reality would make even a gangster blush. Here's how it works in real life: www.brasschecktv.com/page/648.html ♣

X Files anticipated 9/11

Brasscheck TV, San Francisco

There's a popular "urban myth" that a March 2001 episode of the X Files predicted 9/11 to a "t." It's not a myth.

View at: www.brasschecktv.com/page/663.html

Hysteria is the real threat, not global warming

Reading suggested by S. McDowall: Heaven And Earth:

Global Warming, The Missing Science, by Ian Plimer, Emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences at The University of Melbourne and Professor of Mining Geology at The University of Adelaide. Article in the DailyMail.co.uk, online at: <http://tinyurl.com/nuulur> ♣

Home – the Movie

From Stephanie McDowall

Without doubt this is a magnificent film regarding the beauty of the earth. Very breathtaking and worth watching for the amazing photography. Still, I ponder Malcom's comment ["This is a psy-op to further tax the global population! There is no global warming! There is no climate

change! Ask yourself what would you do about climate change if it were true? Would you begin development on hydrogen vehicles, alternate power sources such as wind or solar or would you increase taxes and keep everything the same?"]. Surely those at the very top of our Western governments would be aware of the truth.

Online: www.youtube.com/homeproject ♣

The war against your health: video

Taking a stand to stop The CODEX/WTO threat to health freedom & sovereignty

From BrasscheckTV.com

Video (28 min.) narrated by Dame Judi Dench: **It's not enough** that they pollute with real toxins including dangerous substances like mercury... **It's not enough** that they push food that's not only non-nutritious but also injurious to health... **It's not enough** that they approve drugs that not only don't work, but also create dangerous, side effects... They (the medical-industrial-food complex) also want to take away your ability to opt out of their madness. Details (from the Real Food Channel):

www.therealfoodchannel.com/page/24.html ♣

William Engdahl's Full Spectrum Dominance – Totalitarian Democracy in the NWO

Reviewed by Stephen Lendman

Global Research, June 22, 2009

For over 30 years, F. William Engdahl has been a leading researcher, economist, and analyst of the New World Order with extensive writing to his credit on energy, politics, and economics. He contributes regularly to business and other publications, is a frequent speaker on geopolitical, economic and energy issues, and is a distinguished Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization.

Engdahl's two previous books include "A Century of War: Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order" explaining that America's post-WW II dominance rests on two pillars and one commodity – unchallengeable military power and the dollar as the world's reserve currency along with the quest to control global oil and other energy resources.

Engdahl's other book is titled "Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation" on how four Anglo-American agribusiness giants plan world domination by patenting all life forms to force-feed GMO foods on everyone – even though eating them poses serious human health risks.

Engdahl's newest book is titled "Full Spectrum Dominance: Totalitarian Democracy in the New World Order," it discusses America's grand strategy, first revealed in the 1998 US Space Command document – Vision for 2020. ⇒

Later released in 2000 as DOD Joint Vision 2020, it called for “full spectrum dominance” over all land, surface and sub-surface sea, air, space, electromagnetic spectrum and information systems with enough overwhelming power to fight and win global wars against any adversary, including with nuclear weapons pre-emptively. Other means as well: including propaganda, NGOs and Color Revolutions for regime change, expanding NATO eastward, and “a vast array of psychological and economic warfare techniques” as part of a “Revolution in Military Affairs”.

September 11, 2001 served as pretext to consolidate power, destroy civil liberties and human rights, and wage permanent wars against invented enemies for global dominance over world markets, resources, and cheap labor – at the expense of democratic freedoms and social justice. Engdahl’s book presents a frightening view of the future, arriving much sooner than most think.

Read full review online at:

www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14046

♣

Remembering Larry and his “Rhymes and Reflections”

Larry’s final poem, written in April 2009

WHEN GRAND-PÈRE CUT THE CHEESE

Grand-Père Leveque was from Quebec, his command of English, small,
While Grandpa Joe was from Buffalo and spoke no French at all.
Their lack of understanding was, at times, a source of fun,
And if you’ll bear with me a minute, I would like to tell you one.

One day our Mom hung up the phone, then asked us, with a grin,
If we’d like to go to Canada to visit with our kin.
Both me and brother, Timmy, we both answered, “Yes of course,”
Because when we go to Grand-Père’s farm he lets us ride a horse.

When we crossed the line at Watertown, we kids were raising heck,
And when asked our destination, we both shouted out, “QUEBEC!”
The Customs man just smiled at us and asked, “Where were you born?”
And little Timmy answered, “In Iowa, in the corn.”

When we reached the Town of Oka, where they’re famous for their cheese,
Mom said, “Let’s stop and buy some, Grand-Père will be so pleased.”
So we stopped and bought a hunk of cheese, all wrapped up in a box,
And I wondered why our father was grinning like a fox.

When we gave it to our Grand-Père he unwrapped it on the spot,
And he placed it on the table, though the room was very hot.
There was a strange smell in the room and the smell was far from sweet,
I noticed Tim kept glancing down at our Grandfather’s feet.

Our Grand-Mère served a real good lunch, dessert was apple pie,
I couldn’t eat another bite, no matter how I’d try.
Then Grand-Père said, “Lets cut the cheese,” Tim said, “You mean we’re able?”
Back home, our Mother always yells, “DON’T DO THAT AT THE TABLE!”

SEE STORY ON P. 59, ABOUT THE MUSICAL “BORN LUCKY” – BY LARRY’S SON RANDY, BASED ON LARRY’S BOOKS. ON STAGE IN AUGUST IN ONTARIO: <http://randyvancourt.com/index2.html/>

*Larry Vaincourt (1923-2009)
April 2009 ♣*

A Mariner's Travelogue

MV ISA to Belgium, Holland...

[CONTINUED FROM THE LAST ISSUE]

By Don Parker, Georgetown ON

The ISA is under the command of Captain Waldemar Szeder who is ably assisted by his three deck officers, 1st Mate Andrzej Bujakowski (Andy), 2nd Mate Krzysztof Gorlas (Kris), 3rd Mate Jerzy Stankiewicz.

As Chief Engineer, Jan Hoffman is responsible for the safe and continued operation of all that goes on in the engine room and then some. He has about five other men in his department.

Several images provide a brief inkling of what sort of work (Chief Engineer) Jan Hoffman and his men do. **Photo 10:** Jan and his 1st Engineer Zbigniew Matyjasiewicz (Ziggy) appear to have a real poser on their hands.

Photo 14: Engine rooms on vessels of this sort are equipped to be entirely self-supporting, hence the lathe which Ziggy is about to use. Engine rooms are also noisy; ear protection must/should be worn. (Chief Engineer Jan, thank you for sharing.)

Photo 16 shows Captain Walde and 1st Mate Andy 'pouring' over the latest weather report as they try to determine the best route to take to avoid a nearby hurricane. The ISA could easily ride out such a storm but having to do so increases costs due to reduced speed, hence longer shipping time. The cargo might also take a beating, especially the steel coils, should one or more break loose. In addition, there is the concern for crew safety. No small matter!

The strongest winds we endured were Force 9 in the North Sea. The seas were so rough Captain Walde was reluctant to lower the anchor for fear of damaging the ship. We had to wait for a berth in Ijmuiden ... so we sailed on ... and on.

Photo 17: Some rough weather in the North Sea.

Back to the work that is done by the various crew members on board the ISA. Needless to say, much of it is very serious and necessary. For example: NAVIGATION is a red letter task and skill, hence, in **Photo 18** you see yours truly giving 2nd Mate Kris and 1st Mate Andy some tips on world navigation (!!!)



Photos from Don Parker's trip on MV ISA from the Great Lakes to Belgium, Holland and back again. Story began in the June-July 2009 issue of Dialogue (on p.51)

On each of the three vessels I have sailed on, the deck officers were assigned pretty well identical tasks. The 1st Mate is responsible for the loading of the ship.

Although stevedores are responsible for the physical part of the task, the **1st Mate** is responsible for seeing that the job is done correctly, especially where the distribution of weight and the security of the cargo is concerned. The **2nd Mate** is responsible for all the navigation charts and must keep them up to date. The **3rd Mate** is responsible for all things pertaining to safety on board. This is a very brief sketch of the duties and responsibilities of these very important officers.

Photo 19: 2nd Mate Kris checks ISA's position. **Photo 20:** 3rd Mate Jerry makes repairs to a life vest.

And of course there other very important jobs that must be done on the ISA along with the men who do them. For instance, where would the ISA be without a cook? Unfortunately, I only know Adam by his first name. Be that as it may, Photo 21 shows Cook Adam with our steward, Marek Olszewski, two absolutely essential men. Adam bakes bread from scratch, prepares salads, soups, meat dishes, etc. It is a

maxim of the sea: if a ship does not have a talented and diligent cook, the ship will have an unhappy crew. Marek served us at our tables and his attitude towards his job had to be unblemished, too.

Of the three ships I have sailed on so far, the preparation and the serving of meals on the ISA has proven to be excellent.

Like any place of business, the ISA must have electricity and an electrician to keep everything in proper repair.

Photo 25: Włodzimierz Suwala (Vlad) fulfills that task on the ISA, here repairing a cable.

[This brings us to the end of the first album. The ISA story continues with Volume 2 in the second album.]

~Don Parker, world traveller

(In Georgetown, ON, when not voyaging)

[More in the next issue] ♣

Laughter & 'Lightenment

From John McCullough: **Old Farmer's Advice**

Sure Makes sense to me!

- Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
- Life is simpler when you plough around the stump.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
- Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
- Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Most of the stuff people worry 'bout ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Never fight with a woman. You'll lose.
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.
- Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just humiliate you.♣

How's Your Sense of Humour?

From Mike Harvey

Staying mentally young is helped by having a sense of humour. As I age I find that I can get away with things that I would have never attempted while youthful. For instance: Cashiers in most stores ask the same mundane question "How are you today?" that requires an often untrue response of "fine, thanks."

When the naughty left side of my brain is in the mood, I sometimes reply in a grouchy old voice "I'm not too good today. My piles have been giving me hell for three weeks so that I have been very constipated. An awful feeling, isn't it?"

The cashier's immediate reaction is that of stunned bewilderment. Then,

as she notes that I am pulling her leg, so to speak, there is a look of relief and sometimes a chuckle. I've had cashiers tell me that my answer has broken the tedium of the day even though the answer floored them.

I admit to being a silly man. One day my wife and I preceded my mother-in-law in the cashier's line-up. She was then a little old lady of ninety and as skinny as a rake handle. I whispered to the woman at the till in a confidential manner, "Do you see that little lady behind us? Well I saw her place a watermelon under her sweater."

All hell broke loose. A store detective was on site as quickly as you can bag frozen peas. He examined my bewildered mother-in-law and turned to the cashier. "This is the woman?" he

Old is just Old ~ Old is not Dumb!

This could be advice for some people I know.

A strong young man at a construction site was bragging that he could out-do anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen.

After several minutes, the older worker had had enough.

'Why don't you put your money where your mouth is,' he said. 'I'll bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that building that you won't be able to wheel back.'

'You're on, old man,' the braggart replied. 'Let's see you do it.'

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said, 'All right, Dumb Ass, get in.'

Never mess with old people. ♣

asked in an incredulous tone. The cashier looked accusingly at me. I stammered that it was only a joke and the three of us packed our groceries as quickly as we could, as the participants glared.

Neither my wife nor her mother spoke to me during our drive home.♣

A Moral Lesson

From Denny Petrik

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin and Ryan. The boys were arguing about who would get the first pancake.

Mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson. She said, "If Jesus were here, He would say 'let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!" ♣

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Shari Seymour with a dog receiving hydro therapy rehabilitation (Gore's Landing, ON). Frank Blackwood's story is on p. 52.



ABOVE: The cast of "BORN LUCKY": Desiree Beausoleil, Trevor Campbell, Randy Vancourt.



Read about Randy Vancourt's trip to the Grand Canyon, on p.47



Read about "Superpower" on p.16
dialogue AUG.-SEPT. 2009



[ABOVE] Wayne Chaulk, Frank Blackwood, Kevin Blackmore, Ray Johnson, "Buddy Wasname and the Other Fellers," on May 15, 2009, Markham Theatre, Ontario. Frank says, "Great Performance and an evening to remember forever... They are excellent entertainers who are so magnetic in their music and humour, they make you feel as if you are back home having a cup of tea with your family, friends and neighbours, or just taking a walk along the landwash where once we caught tommy cods and paddled our little feet in the cool Atlantic ocean. There was always that soft voice from the back porch veranda calling 'you young rascals are going to fall in the water and drown or the monsters will gobble you up.'" ~Frank Blackwood

"BORN LUCKY" - A musical based on the books of A. Lawrence (Larry) Vaincourt

From Randy Vancourt, Toronto [Photo left]

On stage, August 13 - 29, 2009, at the Showboat Festival Theatre, Port Colborne, Ontario [Tel: 1-888-870-8181]

Critics say, "BORN LUCKY is a witty comedy, suitable for both the young and old." - "Whether it's a song about secrets overheard on a party line or an ode to outhouses, BORN LUCKY recalls life growing up in the country." You can see some video clips from the show on the website: http://randyvancourt.com/BornLucky_Videos.html



Sea-going 'vacuum cleaner' sucks up pollution.

An innovative new anti-pollution ship has hit the high seas off western France. The 'Catamar' can collect debris & more importantly help clean up oil pollution that destroys flora and fauna along the coastline. Watch a news video online: <http://tinyurl.com/mhgupr>

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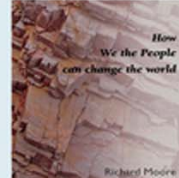
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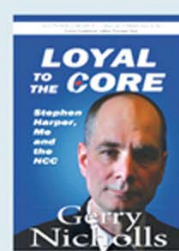


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In his book, Gerry Nicholls reveals the story of how he went from being a friend and close ally of PM Stephen Harper, to one of his most unrelenting critics. More on p.19.