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Kevin Annett's courage as a United Church minister exposed the struggle for justice for the Aboriginal victims of Canada's Residential Schools. Aboriginal Holocust Remembrance Day is held in April each year (Apr. 15, 07).



Linda Wall and Vera Gottlieb, co-creators of the 'Cherish or Perish' design on the cover, to encourage us to take care of our planet. See p. 5 (decals are available from Vera).



The Quebec-Canada debate rages on Cartoon received from Bill Spiers (see P. 35)



A Costa Rican coffee farmer - a Canadian community empowerment project; see p. 45

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### A word from the publisher and editor...

Maurice, Janet and Penny

Dear Reader,

We are very pleased to welcome many new contributors in this issue, including the Rev. Kevin Annett, with our cover story: his shocking and powerful indictment of **Canada's Untold Genocide Story** (on p.9), which shakes to its core our self-image of our *Canadian* inclusiveness and justice. Many other writers have their first letter in this issue, including Canadian students with their story of Community Empowerment (p.45)

We were very saddened to receive the news from Ernest Semple that our friend and long-time reader/writer, John Underwood passed away on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. As Emie noted, "John was a frequent writer on behalf of the downtrodden, and a long time member of the Equality Party, Alliance Quebec, & CVESPA, and defended his country as a military veteran. We will miss you, Big John." John's last letter to *Dialogue* is on p.13.

Vera Gott lieb and Linda Wall's "Cherish or Perish" design is also part of the cover (see p.5). The word "cherish," comes from the Latin word *carus* and French word *cher* – dear – and its meaning includes: to protect or tend lovingly, treat with fostering care, value, hold dear. In this issue, many writers share their thoughts about the things they cherish – whether it is the health of our Earth and our Communities or the Freedom to nurture our dreams. Whatever your passion, thank you for sharing your story and for listening to the stories that otherstell. *[By the way, see p.8 for What's New at Dialogue!]* 

Our hope for 2007 is that, together, we will find positive ways to address the concerns and aspirations that interest each of us. There is one subject that continues to be a source of angst for many Canadians and that is *Official Bilingualism*: more precisely "the way in which OB has been implemented" over the last three decades. In this issue, you will read Marie Gaudet's heartfelt plea for understanding of what her Acadian ancestors suffered. And Alma Jean Day gives an impassioned account of the impact that OB is having on the lives of many English-speaking Canadians, including her son. Whether we feel our French-speaking Canadians are a privileged minority deserving of our full support or a dominant minority that has 'grabbed more than its share' depends on our perspective, experiences and values. It is difficult to imagine how we may find a meeting of minds on this controversial topic, especially in light of the recent Globe & Mail poll, in which 64% of respondents said they have "come to believe Canada would be better off without Quebec."

We thank you for your part in keeping *Dialogue* – and your **freedom of expression** – alive. For without your **support** and your **voice** as an independent thinker, reader/writer (and subscriber!) – there would be no *Dialogue!* Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and very much appreciated. *Thank you!*As Peter Whitebone of Saint John, NB, reminded us recently: "I just ran across a quote attributed to Napoleon that are words of encouragement to *Dialogue* writers and all who speak out – "T en people who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent."

Maurice, volunteer publisher Tanet, volunteer editor "Be isolated, be ignored, be attacked, be in doubt, be frightened... but do not be silenced" – Bertrand Russell

## dialogue is...

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

Dialogue is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of 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 dia logue magazine consider this your invitation!

We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue (See P. 58 for more information)

Dialogue was founded in 1987 and is published six times ayear. Maurice J. King, President-Publisher Janet K. Hicks, Volunteer Editor

#### Date of Current Issue: Jan. 28, '06 Annual subscription: \$30.00 [\$28.30 + GST of \$1.70]

[The price has been rounded off to make our bookkeeping easier! Thank you.]

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#### Canadă

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#### Our world...

#### "Cherish or Perish"

The 'Cherish or Perish' globe, designed by Vera Gottlieb of Chase (BC) and Linda J. Wall of Kamloops. Vera says, "If we want our species to survive, ALL of us need to pull in the SAME direction. This is too serious a matter to be turning it into political upmanship." - Vera Gottlieb [veragott@ocis.net] P.S. 4-inch Decals of the Globe design are available from Vera Gottlieb, RR 1, S-11, C-88, Chase, B.C. V0E 1M0. They are \$2 each, postage included .

#### What Will We Choose?

Vilma Dubé, Nanaimo BC



Ovid (BCE43-AD17) in his Metamorphoses re-tells the story of Erisichthon, a Greek myth. This fascinating story, as retold by Bulfinch, in his Mythology Collection, can serve as a metaphor for our relationship with our social and natural environment.

Erisichthon, a profane person who despised the gods, sent his servants to cut down an oak tree so huge that it dwarfed all the other trees in the forest. It stood in a grove that was sacred to Ceres. This special tree was festooned with garlands and other tributes to the nymph of the tree. The Dryads loved to dance around it. In spite of being begged to spare the tree, Erisichthon ordered his servants to cut it down, even taking away the axe from one of them and burying it in the trunk himself after using it to kill the man who tried to restrain him. Blood gushed out from the tree. Suddenly the voice of the nymph of the tree was heard saying that Erisichthon would be punished for his act. A great noise was heard as the tree crashed to the ground.

The Dryads, distraught by this turn of events, went to Ceres, askingthat Erisichthon be punished. Ceres ordered the Dryads to approach the goddess Famine, asking that a fit punishment be imposed. It had been decreed by the Fates that Ceres and Famine should never approach each other.

At Ceres' request, the Dryads travelled over barren wastes in her dragon-drawn chariot, until they found Famine in a stony field, eyes gaunt, face pale, using her claws to dig sustenance from the arid soil. She heard Ceres' request from the Dryads, who were in a hurry to leave that desolate place.

That night, as Erisichthon slept, Famine flew into his room, wrapped her wings around him and breathed her poison into him. Even before he awoke, Erisichthon was consumed by feelings of hunger. He awoke and began eating everything his servants could put before him. It was an insatiable hunger. He sold everything he possessed, including his daughter, to satisfy hishunger, but to no avail. Eventually he began to consume his own arms and legs and died a miserable death.

To quote Bulfinch, "and at last hunger compelled him to devour his limbs, and he strove to nourish his body by eating his body, till death relieved him from the vengeance of Ceres."

This was the only time Ceres was ever known to invoke punishment on anyone.

Long, long ago, someone had a vision of what the future might be if human beings failed to treat the earth (Ceres) with love and respect. Over time, the message obviously resonated with enough people that it survived. The majority, however, obviously did not heed the warning. The result? Greece was deforested. Mercifully, if today it feeds itself, it is because a new God, Tourism, has been invoked to keep Famine at bay.

In the meantime, what of the rest of the world? What will we do to stave off Famine? As we accumulate a great deal of capital and the power that goes with it through our high technology and industry, we do so at great cost to Ceres; and all the time Famine is waiting in the wings...

Is there a chance that we can re-establish our relationship with Ceres? Do we have a choice? Will we wait for Famine to wrap her wings around us and poison us with a hunger that can only end with our consuming ourselves? \*

### Thoughts on "The Great Turning"

Suan Booiman, Esq., White Rock BC

This book by David Korten sounds good to me, sadly my budget does not include those kind of expenses. Not complaining Doing fine, at 80; to rise each morning is a blessing. It is good to read that rebuilding starts from the bottom up, but sadly it does not work unless someone does lead the way. Martin Luther King "I had a dream" was enough to excite people, going along with the revival of Mandela, made the difference.

Politics is a boy's club, with the odd female, polluted by

desire for power at any cost, as we just have seen arriving in Ottawa with Harper's declaration Quebec as a Nation within a Nation: enough room for Quebecto demand more and more - regardless if the 'people' are opposing it. as they did in the Charlottetown Accord (in BC with some 76%) – and then to be handed all that was opposed

As we saw with the Calgary Conference, loud noises from speakers that first claimed "not me." We went through the circle from Reform, United Alternative, Alliance, Conservative, bringing us to more frustration than renewal as the people spoke from the bottom up, without success. \*

More on "The Great Turning" on the back cover.

#### **CANADIAN POLITICAL & ETHICAL ISSUES**

Citizens' Circle for Accountability

#### A Citizen's Guide to Public Accountability

by Henry McCandless, General Convenor of the Citizens' Circle for Accountability, Victoria BC **The Issue of Public Accountability** 

[EXTRACT from article in Feb-March Issue]

The purpose of public accountability is to increase the fairness of decisions made by people in authority. This includes authorities such as executive governments and corporate boards meeting performance standards for their important responsibilities that citizens are entitled to see met. Public accountability is a powerful and universal obligation, yet citizens have never imposed it on authorities. Public accountability means the obligation of authorities to explain publicly, fully and fairly, before and after the fact, how they are carrying out responsibilities that affect the public in important ways. These explanations, publicly validated, would produce useful information for citizens affected by the intentions, and would produce a beneficial self-regulating influence on the conduct of authorities.

The accountability obligation attaches to all important responsibilities. The intentions and decisions of executive governments and corporate and other governing bodies affect all aspects of society — safety, health, social and legal justice, the environment and others. Powerful governments and corporations affect people's lives across the planet, such as in unfettered arms sales, attempts to control farmers' crops, and actions that seek to override nations' own policies.

Today... authorities' explanations of what they intend and why they intend it fail to meet a standard of public explanation that citizens have the right to see met. They fail to produce what George Washington in 1796 said was needed: "I am sure the mass of Citizens in these United States mean well, and I firmly believe they will always act well, whenever they can obtain a right understanding of matters..." He spoke for all societies.

Holding to account means obtaining from authorities the public explanations we need, at the time we need them, validating the reporting for its fairness and completeness, and doing something sensible with explanations given in good faith. The question is whether citizens themselves are making use of powerful and available means to call authorities to account, to obtain a "right understanding of matters."

The famous observation of the cartoon character Pogo sums up the answer: "We have met the enemy, and he is us." For example, citizens have never set performance standards for their elected representatives, let alone required public accountings from them to determine whether they are meeting reasonable standards both for informing themselves adequately for their responsibilities and for publicly explaining their intentions, reasoning and conduct.

When we require authorities to explain publicly, fully and fairly what they intend and why they intend it, we can more sensibly commend their intentions, or act to alter or halt them. It is no good judging the actions of government and corporate or other officials only after the fact — even with the help of audit — when it's too late for anything but recrimination and blame. Moreover, the blame will usually be directed to employees, not to the ultimately responsible and accountable directing minds of the authorities.

The requirement that decision-makers account publicly produces an important self-regulating influence on their conduct. Unless they are arrogant, authorities will want to report something praiseworthy, but if they lie about their intentions, or later their results, they can be exposed through public audit of the fairness and completeness of what they report. This is the force of 'holding to account' that we have overlooked.

The right of citizens to hold to account cannot be challenged. The accountability obligation is nonpartisan, tells no one how to do their jobs, and is only the requirement to explain intentions, performance standards, results of action taken and how the available learning has been applied. But citizens have yet to set basic performance and reporting standards for authorities, and standards for validating what authorities say. Moreover, citizens allow authorities to maintain barriers standing in the way of legislating these standards.

It is open to citizens to hold to account, moving beyond a tendency to simply "awfulize" about things to those who will listen and then to either defer to authorities or "hit the streets." [...] CCA Website: www.accountabilitycircle.org \*

– H. McCandless, Ladysmith BC

## Accountable Representative - a Political System

Thomas McArthur, Parksville BC

Not one Political Party, Provincially or Federally in Canada offers a political system which will guarantee that the Party's elected MP's or MLA's will first and foremost be accountable to the electorate of their constituency.

There is such a system available in Canada but the Parties were not interested. Therefore I ask the electorate, both provincially and federally: If such a system were offered to you, would you join and support the Party offering it, to make a true democracy? What we have at present is the Oligarchic system (governance by a few). If you wish to support such a movement, please write or e-mail me, with your name, address and phone number — and refer the website to a friend! www.accountable-representative.com/
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### New from Dialogue!

## How dialogue is using the Internet in 2007`... Maurice J. King, Nanaimo BC should be related to

#### Dialogue's e-mail Newsletter

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, I sent out *Dialogue's* first **Email Newsletter** - to all subscribers for whom we have recorded an e-mail address. The intent is to publish an e-mail Newsletter, between issues of the magazine, to provide its readers with items of interest. This is a free "subscription" - so if you would like to be on the Newsletter mailing list, please e-mail me at: maurice.king@dialogue.ca/. [Let me know if you missed the first one and would like to receive it by e-mail.]

#### Dialogue Discussion Group.

The Dialogue Discussion Group, started in December 06, provides another venue for "dialogue" between readers – in between the bi-monthly issues of the print magazine. The topics for discussion originate from within the group or, on occasion, are initiated by myself. E-mails sent to me – at maurice.king@dialogue.ca - as part of the ongoing discussions are circulated amongst the group. There are just two guidelines for the discussion group: The material submitted should be related to the Topic under discussion (or identified as a new topic); and Comments and Replies should not include personal remarks or attacks.

The January discussion group raised the topics of: Proportional Representation; Making Canada more democratic; and Senate Reform.

To participate: To receive the Newsletter and/or join in the Discussion Group, send me an E-mail with your request: maurice.king@dialogue.ca. We hope readers will forward the E-mail Newsletter to others, thereby helping to increase readers (and subscribers!) to Dialogue magazine.

New on the Dialogue website: www.dialogue.ca The website has been updated with a new layout and a new 8-page extract of the current issue (in a pdf format that can be downloaded). The site also contains an interesting list of links to other sites you can explore and a listing of many of the books we have available for sale. &

#### Of Politics and Parties

#### Party jackets can be turned inside out to suit the situation

Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON

Remember when Jean Charest was leader of the Federal Conservative Party of two? When all that was left of the Mulroney Conservatives was Jean Charest and Elsie Wayne. All Jean did was change his jacket from Blue to Red and become the Liberal Party of Quebec's leader.

Then we have Belinda Stronach, who was elected a Conservative, and wore a Blue jacket, then crossed the floor to the Liberals and changed to a Red jacket. [And don't forget David Emerson who switched from Red to Blue just moments after being elected in Vancouver last year!] Now, we have a man who represented Streetsville/

Mississauga, as an MP, Wajid Khan – who was elected in a Red Jacket, then for a price, crossed the floor and changed to a Blue jacket.

I wonder if there any reason why the people of Canada vote at all? If changing a jacket, means no loyalty at all, how can we the people of Canada put our trust in either political party? Federal elections have become meaningless to the point that sooner or later the people will not even enter a poll booth to vote. If people have no say in such a political system, can this rigmarole ever be considered a democracy by any means?

Perhaps, the next election will cause people to consider boycotting elections altogether in Canada.

A Letter to NDP leader Jack Layton:

#### Gas prices: profiteering by mutual consent?

It has taken me sometime and deep thought to write you this letter, for which you might be able to give me some answers after you have questioned the Prime Minister on it.

For years now, whenever the price of a barrel of oil rose on the world market, it was immediately felt at GAS pumps at the various stations. But, if on the other hand a barrel of oil dropped on the world market, it took a long time in being felt at the Gas pumps. Mainly because the Oil companies saw a good way to make a fast buck at the expense of drivers.

Of recent, with the price of OIL has going down on the world market, but it has not become apparent at the Gas pumps Now why should that ever be the case?

Unless of course the federal government is in bed with the OIL monopolies. Because, it is the duty of the federal government to see fair play in any industry that openly exploits citizens. So far the Stephen Harper Conservative government has been silent, because, the higher the price of Gas at the pump, the more money the federal government collects in taxes. So, it would seem that the federal government is in the business of profiteering in collusion with the oil industry.

Mr. Layton, I am hoping that you will pose questions in the house on the points that I have raised, and have some answers from the government.

Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON &

### Respectful dialogue and democracy go hand in hand

Jan Slakov, Salt Spring Island BC



I would like to share a rather different perspective from the ones I have been reading regarding the election of Stéphane Dion. Perhaps I should explain that I did not subscribe to *Dialogue* magazine because I agree with all of its biases (although I do share some!), but because I believe that democracy

needs to be revitalized and that respectful, informative exchanges between citizens is an essential part of that revitalization process.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend a francophone university in Nova Scotia (Ste-Anne) and to become so fluent in French that my daughter's first language is French. I have also been blessed to have several good Franco-Canadian friends and to have a particular love for some Franco-Canadian culture, including the work of Gilles Vigneault.

I have traveled much of the country by bicycle, bus, train and plane. Although I recognize that it is not ecologically sustainable to travel such distances, especially by plane, I cannot help but love this country. We are not a bio-region; that's for sure, but nonetheless I share something precious with people who live within our borders, be they thousands of miles away from where I live.

I wonder how many of the people who have expressed

dismay at Dion's election have read David Orchard's "The Fight for Canada." Orchard, as you may know, lovesthis country deeply and knows that we must struggle valiantly to protect our sovereignty, especially from commercial interests, both in and outside of our borders, who are working to bring Canada increasingly under US corporate rule. Orchard decided to support the candidacy of Dion, mainly because Stéphane Dion also lovesthis country and has the courage to work to protect it from separatist forces, even if he has had to pay a heavy political price for his stances, at times. I believe Dion is also an honest person. I believe we are extremely lucky to have him as leader of one of our major political parties. (To see why I see him as fundamentally honest, I recommend you read an article about him in the Dec. 2 Globe and Mail, by Alexander Panetta. I can send it by e-mail to any who request it.)

As for Bill 101, while I find it regrettable when behaviour

must be dictated by legal measures, I can also understand why the Quebec government wouldhave chosen to pass such a bill. Just as Canada has regulations to require a certain amount of Canadian content in its media, lest our media be engulfed by huge corporate media conglomerates, Quebec found it necessary to take some extraordinary measures to ensure that its francophone nature could survive despite its status as a virtual island in an anglophone sea.

There are so many points that have been raised by *Dialogue* readers, which I would want to respond to! For instance, a letter on p. 48 of the Oct/Nov '06 issue of *Dialogue* states that in order to be promoted above the rank of Captain "requires being fluent in French." (The writer clearly assumes it is unquestionable that any officer would need to be fluent in English.) If it is the case that officers are required to be bilingual, that would be a positive step, I think. I know, from having spoken with members of the CF about 6 years ago, that francophone members found it unfair that they needed to be able to work in English in order to advance their careers, while anglophone members could advance without acquiring a similar ability in Canada's other official language.

One of the things I most love about Canada is its tradition of recognizing minority rights. Justice Thomas R. Berger gives a moving insight into this tradition in his book, Fragile Freedoms, which I recommend for its highly readable and informative perspective on Canadian history. I hope this letter will help reinforce that tradition.

- js@saltspring.com ♣



[See Jan's "Heart" on P.59 and story on P.56.]

### Thoughts of a WWII Soldier

#### Let us put an end to war

What a great speech by a municipal politician, speaking on a national issue. I have never understood why, on occasion, when something is happening federally but affecting provincial MLA's constituents or our towns & cities we have not had individual Members or municipal representatives speaking out on issues that are urgent and dire. Harry Rankin was a courageous man. Stephanie McDowall

Written by and now In Memory of Harry Rankin, K52258, Service: Active Force, 5 September 1939 to 7 July 1945; Q.C., lifetime Bencher of The Law Society of British Columbia, Former Treasurer of The Law Society of British Columbia, practicing Barrister and Solicitor until his death in February 2002; 27 years of service as champion of the people as Alderman to City of Vancouver.

This plea against war could have been written today against Canada's participation in Afghanistan. Harry Rankin was the husband and political mentor of Connie Fogal, leader of the Canadian Action Party.

#### PLEA OF A FORMER CANADIAN SOLDIER, HARRY RANKIN, written APRIL 05, 1999

#### Arretez la guerre!!! Stop the war!!!

My name is Harry Rankin. I spent five and a half years of my life in the Canadian Army during WWII. I served over two years of that time as an infantryman in the Canadian contingent of the Eighth Army (British), from the landing in Sicily to the north of Italy, in what may in truth be called the "Last Just War." I was wounded twice. I oppose all war. Out of war comes the impoverishment of millions of people crippled, maimed and tormented for the rest of their lives.

I have struggled for the last several weeks to comprehend some rationale for NATO's war in Serbia. My conclusion is, it is Fascism revisited.

War is the worst cat astrophe of the human race. In war, everyone is expendable except the leading generals and politicians. There can be no war without the genocide of women, children and old men, not to mention the young (mostly male) who serve and die or are maimed for life. War is always an atrocity.

History is full of these integral losses. In the Boer War, the English set up concentration camps for the Boer women and children to let them die of plague, and lack of food and sustenance. In the Italian campaign for the colonization of North Africa, General Grazioni set up huge fences in Africa against which he drove the native peoples to slaughter them. In the Ethiopian war, Count Ciano, the son-in-law of Il Duce (the man who made the trains run on time in Italy) recounts bombing Ethiopian tribesmen on horseback watching them explode 'like the unfolding petals on a rose." In the Spanish Civil War, Hitler and Mussolini tried out

their new weapons at Guronica, devastating a whole city, as a prelude to that monster Franco. Franco slaughtered half of the Spanish civil population while the shabby diplomacy of the West practiced "non intervention."

At the time of the Second World War, after a year of the "Phony War," I recall England's Prime Minister Churchill finally deciding which side he was on. I remember the cynicism of U.S. President Truman who said, "Let the Russians and Germans kill each other off. We'll look after ourselves." He did this very well by dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, testing the bombs against a country already defeated

The US Clinton administration says the U.S. willtake 25,000 Albanian refugees on a "temporary basis". Does anyone in his or her right minds think the Albanians can go back to Kosovo after being used as pawns by the NATO beasts? NATO now is nothing more than a cover for US industrial-military might in the takeover of the world. The chance of the U.S citizens willingly risking American soldiers to put that theme in place is pretty slim. And good for the U.S. people. They should not risk a single life to this NATO Fascist army. They should go further to destroy economically that New World Order structure in process, which attempts to fulfill Hitler's dream.

At the end of WWII, we thought we had won by destroying Fascism, only now to discover that the Fascist's never really went away, but have re-emerged in a new guise. I remember Hitler's slogan: A Thousand Years of National Socialism! This was Hitler's language for conquering the world. running roughshod over national sovereignty and the people of the world. I was in England in 1940, only 19 years old. Five year later, Hitler died in a bunker after taking poison. In my naïveté, I thought a great new world loomed on the horizon. Instead, we have descended to an alliance of the lickspittle Tony Blair and the Social Democrats of the world, grovelling and slobbering before that great "Statesman" Clinton, all in a mad subservience to the New World Order, euphemistically named "Globalization." It is a submission to the money men, the new fascist elite, who are imposing their will on the people of the world.

It was always the case that the people of the world have a long hard struggle ahead of them. All I know is that the dream epitomized by Hitler rings as false in my earstoday, at my age of 78, as it did in England in 1939-40. Fifty two million people died for that charade.

With peace, everything good for people is possible. War only destroys. Let us put an end to war!

- Harry Rankin (1921-2002)
Submitted by Stephanie McDowall, Nanaimo BC ♣

#### "Rhymes and Reflections" - Larry Vaincourt

#### Of Nature, God and Man

From: Don't Burn the Biffy

There beside the placid waters, deep within a forest glade, I sat and sadly pondered, 'neath a mighty oak tree's shade On the evil wreaked on nature by this creature known as man.

Who claims God be stowed dominion o'er the waters and the land:

Who fills the streams with poisons and befouls the pristine air

And defends his acts as "progress" while he strips the forests bare:

Who guts the mighty mountains for the riches they contain And maintains that Mother Nature put the acid in the rain, While his smokestacks, ever taller, spread a pall across the sky,

To sear the lungs of mankind, while fish and forests die.

Is it really true that progress means a car of greater speed? And just how many treasures does the average fellow need?

Should we decimate the forests just to advertise our wares, Pile the landscape high with garbage? And does anybody care?

If the world should end tomorrow, through man's excess and his greed,

Would but one voice say, in sorrow, "for all this there was no need"?

Do the birds that ply the heavens, do the denizens of the lake.

Do the creatures of the forest know that man decides their fate?

They are all creation's creatures, all who swim or walk or fly,

Who are we that we may tell them whether they may live or die?

Then a butterfly softly lands on me... light as an Angel's kiss,

And I ask myself, in wonder, do I need much more than this?



Would more money in my pocket make the Sun more brightly shine?

And would you lake be more lovely, if I knew t'was truly mine?

Would the forest air be sweeter, were I wealthy as a king? Would I hear a finer music from the songbirds when they sing?

And the loons that laugh so loudly, or the beaver swimming by,

Do they care if yonder human is an influential guy?

The God of all creation placed this bounty in our care.

Should we leave, then, some small portion to our children as their share?

Or should we continue wasting and destroying as we go, 'Til there's nothing left for others, but some stumps and fields of snow?

And the waters, filled with poisons, are unfit for fish or man –

Ending, in one generation, what has been... since time began?

Is it not, now, time to pay some heed to moderation's call Before endless greed and avarice bring destruction on us all? •

Larry says, "This was written at five am, one beautiful August morning, sitting on the shore of a lovely little lake near Algonquin Park. The family were all as leep and I had the birds, the beavers and a noisy family of loons for company and inspiration. Lovely!"

Larry's second book, "Don't Burn the Biffy," can be ordered from *Dialogue*: \$10 plus \$3 postage (see contact information on p. 58).

#### You and your GM foods

#### Chris Gupta chrisgupta@sympatico.ca

In every FDA decision involving genetically modified foods, those making the decision were either former or future employees of the genetic-engineering companies. To determine the safety of these foods, the FDA typically just takes the word of the company.

Further, the FDA has increased the allowable residue of Roundup on crops by 330%. So Monsanto can make genetically engineered crops resistant to their toxic chemicals and sell more chemical as well as seeds. You get to eat both the genetically altered food and the added chemicals. What a scheme. Monsanto is making a killing

on these seeds and chemicals.

These corporations have lots of products for you in the pipeline. Here are just a few: Aluminum tolerance in papaya, tobacco, rice, and com (so they can grow the plants in soil contaminated with aluminum). Growthenhanced farm-raised salmon. Monosexed fish. Altering carnivorous fish to starch-based digestion. Antifreeze gene in warm-water fish to raise them in cold climates. And, if these companies have their way, their products will be labelled as organic if grown without the addition of chemicals." \*

## Green Drinks – a worldwide movement bringing together people interested in the environment and sustainability

Roger Colwill, Victoria BC

Green Drinks - Simple and unstructured, Green Drinks is a chance to meet monthly to chat, debate, connect and socialize over drinks with others passionate about the environment and sustainability. Many people have made friends, found employment, done deals, developed ideas, and experienced serendipity at these events. Green Drinks attracts a lively mixture of professionals from every sector and is active in 178 cities around the world, including: Halifax NS; Montreal, QC; Barrie, Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Mississauga, Oakville, Ottawa, Peterborough, Strat ford, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Waterloo, ON; Kelowna, Vancouver, Victoria, BC.

**Green Drinks Internation al** maintains a web site at www.greendrinks.org. The site has links to every Canadian city hosting Green Drinks. Green Drinks has rules, but there are precious few:

- \* no membership fees or formal structure.
- \* events are simple and unstructured; no agenda, or other formality; an inclusive assembly where respect for others is not just encouraged its expected.
- \* the Fixed Rule is the monthly event date. The 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- \* only cost is for the food or drink participants consume ( its a no host bar).
- \* only participant requirements are to meet new people, enjoy good conversation, learn a lot and have fun in the process. Participants fuel the continuous healthy growth of Green Drinks by inviting friends and other likeminded people.

#### An organic, self-organising network

Green Drinks is "an organic, self-organising network...
These events are very simple and unstructured, but many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity. It's a force for the good and we'd like to help it spread to other cities. Contact your local node to get the latest info about coming along.

The strength of Green Drinks lies in the diversity of the people it attracts. The following have attended previous events (i.e. in Victoria): Company Presidents, CEOs, authors, film-makers, lawyers, developers, contractors, architects, mediators, teachers/coaches/guides/mentors, Many PhDs and Masters students, recent graduates, students, musicians, songwriters, social activists, energy efficiency experts, environmentalists, consultants, numerous civil servants, ethical stockbrokers, various engineers, Executive Directors, professional fundraisers, marine and wildlife biologists, an environmental technologist, a systems person, angel investors, foresters, researchers, bankers, landscapers

composters, sustainable energy experts, railway enthusiasts, journalists, media folk, public relations people and artisans of all stripes. But they allhave one thing in common. A passion for the environment and sustainability.

You can also email edwin@greendrinks.org if you want some tips on how to set up Green Drinks in your City.

#### **Green Drinks Reminder - Victoria**

WHEN: 5-7 pm, every 2nd Tuesday of the month WHERE: The venue - bar and patio of the Queen Mother Waterside Cafe, 407 Swift Street (at the waters edge directly across from The Canoe Club) The Cafe web site: http://www.qmwaterside.ca

COST: There is no cost other than for the food and drink you yourself consume (its a no host bar)

WHY COME? For fun, contacts, drinks, snacks, info, gossip, inspiration, business and pleasure.

WHO WILL COME: Typically, Green Drinks people are those with personal or professional interests in fields such as: Sustainable energy, Consulting, Green buildings, Education, Planning, Engineering, Psychology, Journalism, Law Students, academics, government and business people interested in the environment are especially welcome.

CONTACT: Questions? Comments? Call Roger Colwill (250) 598-0077 Want to be on the listserve? Write to <greendrinksvictoria@yahoo.ca> with "subscribe" in the subject line (The Green Drinks Victoria mailing list is confidential and used for no other purpose.)

RSVPs ENCOURAGED: If you know you will be coming (and have not already RSVPd) please email <greendrinksvictoria@yahoo.ca> October's attendance exceeded 122 people!

ARRIVAL TIME: When 100 people get together to talk about sustainability, it can become noisy and crowded. Those who wish to avoid the crowd and noise may choose to come early at 4:00pm to enjoy a tea or coffee and a quiet chat about Green Drinks and the loose net work of 500 people it represents. For more info: contact Roger Colwil, Victoria; Tel: (250) 598-0077 – greendrinksvictoria@yahoo.ca

NEW! Youth & Teen Green Drinks in Victoria
Green Drinks Victoria will Host a Youth & Teen Green
Drinks from 3:30-5:00pm, on Tuesday Feb.13th, for college, high school students, home schoolers and university students from 14 to 22+ (working youth also invited) This event has been designated an alcohol-free event. Free socas will be available courtesy of our sponsor. At the Queen Mother Waterside Cafe, 407 Swift St. (Opp. Canoe Club).

**NEW in NANAIMO!** At the **Lighthouse Bistro Pub** (on waterfront) – 4th Wednesday of each month, 5-7 p.m. For more information, e-mail: rev jellis45@y ahoo.ca



#### Canadians for Language Fairness

P.O. BOX 40111, 2515 B ANK ST., OTTAW A ON K1V 0W 8 clf1@sympatico.ca (613) 321-7333 lang uagefair ness.ca

#### Kim McConnell, President, CLF

The first CLF meeting of the year (was) on January 16th (7:30 pm) at the Ottawa Citizen Hall (1101 Baxter Road). Our speaker was the President of the Libertarian Party, Serge Brisson. Serge has supported CLF in many ways – he acts as our Spokesperson when the occasion arises and he was part of the Rogers Cable show on Official Bilingualism last May. Those who saw that show would have heard Dyane Adam, Commissioner of the Office of Official Bilingualism (now retired) & Brian Gibbs of the Canadian Parents for French defend the policy of Official Bilingualism and French Immersion. On the other side were Serge Brisson and myself. It was a good show - if you want a copy on CD, contact me.

Serge Brisson is a Francophone (and there are many just like him) who believes that forcing French on the majority is not reasonable. All it does is put people's backs up and cause a lot of resentment. It is also against the principles of Libertarianism!! Serge will talk about the Libertarian Party

& what it stands for. One of the topics he will touch on is "Net Neutrality" – what is this?

It started in the United States but it is here also. "Net Neutrality" is the ability for everyone to have equal access to the internet. Some major telecom corporations, who are Internet Service Providers themselves, are now trying to have access restricted based on the amount of money you pay to your ISP. If you are paying a certain amount for storing and getting your information out to the electorate but the people who are against you pay a higher rate, the situation might arise where your site will not load as quickly onto the web surfers browser. As your site would load slower, people, especially those on high speed access, might just surf to another site because they pay the higher fee which might be paid for with your tax dollars. In effect they would freeze you out. To learn more about this topic and the Libertarian party: http://www.libertarian.ca/

#### Why English-speaking Canadians are upset about Official Bilingualism

#### Alma Jean Day, Bright's Grove ON

I hope this letter warrants printing. My son was recently one of those pushed aside because he isn't bilingual. He is a pilot and was teaching on the simulator in Toronto. Ten pilots were shoved aside, with the loss of considerable salary, and replaced with new bilingual hires. He said he never needed French; English is the language of the airlines.

My family came to Canada as soldiers in the war of 1812. We have been here for generations. This does not make any difference because we have been discriminated against, as government employees, since the beginning bilingual hiring was enforced even where French was not needed When unilingual-English individuals are replaced by newly hired bilinguals, this causes a lot of anguish, frustration and loss of salary. If French is studied in school and is not used, people forget it. Canada is not a bilingual country, except for New Brunswick. Quebec is unilingual French, but they

expect the rest of Canada to provide French services across Canada for them, while denying English their rights.

Many careers have been shattered and much pain has been inflicted by these Language Laws. Unfortunately, it also causes a limited pool for employers to choose from: excluding many capable people while hiring those who are good in languages but may not be the best person for the job; this makes for a less efficient workforce.

In Sarnia, both the public and Roman Catholic school boards have had to cut millions of dollars and programs; and schools have been closed... Teachers have to buy their class supplies and parents fund-raise to get money for musical instruments, etc... While English schools are being cut. French and Immersion schools are being renovated. enhanced and expanded – at great cost. [...]

[END OF EXTRACT: letter continues in print issue]

#### Cost of bilingualism climbing Bill Spiers, Fenelon Falls ON

My renewed interest in *Dialogue* was from a copy given to me recently by my friend Jim McKee of Woodville. Here is a copy of a letter I wrotet our local newspaper, two years ago, printed in the *Daily Post*, Feb. 25, 2005:

I see and read by the Toronto Sun and CTV that the feds are forcing our (Toronto) Go Train system to put up French signage. Once again, the French language is being forced down Ontarians' throats to the tune of \$8.5 million over three years and \$2 million a year thereafter for the upkeep of the signs. Bilingualism is already costing billions a year, so what's a paltry few million more? Mind you, there is no money for health care, etc., but that's okay – we must keep Ouebec happy. By the way, the City of Ottawa will soon become officially bilingual, then the province, and guess who's next? If you think our taxes will be high here in the City of Kawartha Lakes, just wait and see. Eventually our staff whiz kids will get the idea.

Maybe we will have to see the Fleur-de-lis on our flag before Canadians will wake up.

My worst fear may come true sooner than we think. I just came across a copy of the Nov. 29th 2006 issue of Toronto Sun and in the editorial section is an illustration of the Canadian flag with a Fleur-de-lis set in the middle of the Maple Leaf. \*

### Another Threat to Democratic Principles

TILMA NO laughing matter...

#### New trade pact (TILMA) gives away provincial rights

## Comment & documentation from Connie Fogal, Leader CAP/PAC, Vancouver BC

Final proof that our current system of electoral process is not just useless to us but is harmful to us is illustrated by this corporatocratic agreement between BC and Alta - (TILMA) designed to be a model for all our provinces. Our BC Legislature did not sit this session. Our BC government no longer considers it necessary to have debate. Much more efficient to function as a dictatorship. And our opposition does nothing about it!!! They should be organizing us into the streets!!!

TILMA is final proof positive that the corporatocracy (coined and defined by John Perkins in Confession of an Economic Hit Man) i.e., - corporations, banks and GOV-ERNMENTS are rapidly advancing their global empire and we the people are being slaughtered. Unless we get together and organize ourselves and our country into a form of direct democracy, to wrest back our control over our political apparatus, we are doomed to a deliberate increasing impoverishment foisted on us by the very people we elect. This is treasonous, unconstitutional restructuring of our country. We should be marching in the streets!! Are we going to continue to sleepwalk into our own oblivion while the corporatocracy laughs at us??

Connie Fogal, Leader, Canadian Action Party

Next is a summary done by Janet Eaton from Nova Scotia of relevant information from the CUPE press release, followed by the Municipal Resolution.

#### **Summary Excerpts from CUPE Release**

Would you be surprised if you woke up one morning to find that your provincial government had signed away many of its rights to govern, including the right to have economic development programs? Would it shock you if the government also signed away the right of towns and cities to regulate on behalf of their citizens, including zoning?

This is what residents of British Columbia and Alberta woke up to in April 2006. It is what people in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario may wake up to if their provinces sign on to the British Columbia/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

The trade and investment provisions of the agreement contain elements that go far beyond those found in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)....

The trade and investment provisions of the agreement contain elements that go far beyond those found in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). How far does the deal go? The Canada West Foundation's Todd Hirsch told the Winnipeg Free Press that for all intents and pur-

poses, TILMA erased "the provincial boundary for all purposes except voting and the colour of the license plate."

The agreement's language is explicit. The parties want to eliminate measures that restrict trade or investment. TILMA covers more than just provincial rules: local governments, school boards, colleges, universities, health institutions and social services are all included in the deal. While municipal governments are not covered by the agreement until 2009, TILMA says that during the transition period, local governments cannot change or even "renew" any measures that don't conform to the agreement.

Many of the differences between provinces reflect different realities and legit imate decisions made to serve citizens. They are not trade barriers: they are democratic choices.

Canadians should have a say in decisions that fundamentally change not only the political reality of their governments but the balance of power between corporations and those governments. British Columbians and Albertans should demand public hearings on this agreement. People in other provinces considering TILMA should demand a higher standard of democracy than our two western provinces are willing to allow. [CUPE press release, www.cupe.ca/]

## Council of Canadians' Sample municipal resolution on TILMA

In November 2006, a Council of Canadians member in Ottawa booked a meeting with a local city councillor to explain the dangers of Ontario signing onto the Alberta-B.C. Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement. It only took 10 minutes before the councillor was convinced that something needed to be done.

Within a day, that councillor had drafted a resolution asking municipal staff to look into the consequences for Ottawa of Ontario signing the deal.

Almost every province in Canada has shown some interest in signing TILMA, and they will likely not consult with municipalities before doing so - even if the Alberta-B.C. free-trade agreement severely undermines local democracy.

[Print off this draft resolution – 2 below] and show it to your local city councillor. Working together, we can build a strong grassroots movement against TILMA. All it takes is 10 minutes.

Our municipalities need to know what their provinces have planned for them. They need to demand that they be consulted before signing away the ability to govern in the best interests of their local communities. [COC draft municipal resolution follows]....\*

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