

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

APRIL 2008



We are located:
Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
(403) 270-7366

Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm
Wed 2 - 6pm

Sing with the Strathees

7pm Sunday April 20th Parkdale United Church

a Project Ploughshares fundraiser concert



celebrating peace work in Calgary

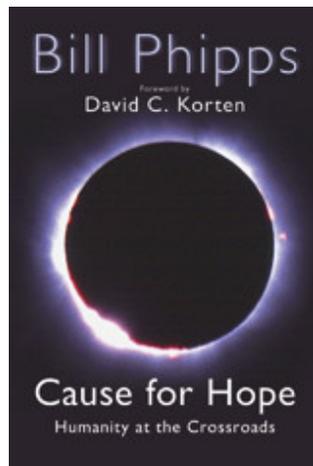
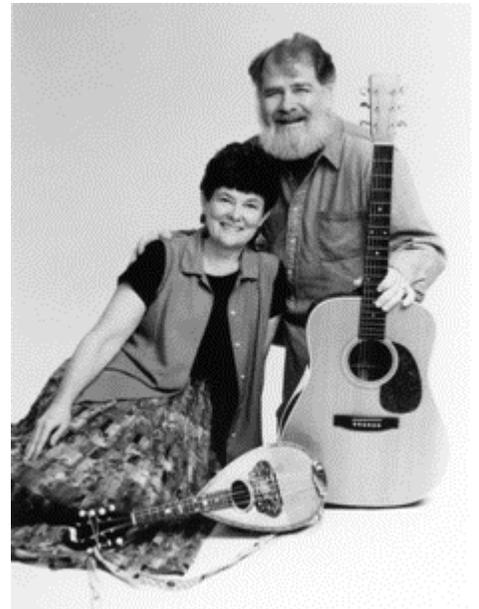


Jim and Jean's music is an offering of hope and encouragement for all people, bringing a message of compassion, justice and healing. Bring your whole family and join us for a time of singing together that is joyful, playful, prayerful and always heartfelt.

Tickets: \$10 in advance
\$12 at the door
\$25 for a family

Call 270-7366 for more information, to join the choir for the concert, or to book your tickets (you can also reserve free childcare for children under 4 years).

(Don't worry! We will still be having our fall Singing for Peace Concert.)
Co-sponsored by Parkdale United Church



Annual Ploughshares Spring Workshop

Project Ploughshares' spring workshop will be held on Saturday May 24th from 9am—4pm at the Village Park Inn.

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)
\$40 after May 10th

Rev. Bill Phipps will be our dynamic leader for a workshop on his new book *Cause for Hope: Humanity at the Crossroads*. **Carolyn Pogue** will be sharing about her experiences working and writing for peace in an afternoon workshop, and a third workshop leader is TBA.

Ploughshares Calgary News



Come Hear Angelina's Story

7pm Saturday April 26th, 2008

Woodcliff United Church (5010 Spruce Drive SW)

Angelina Atyam, a trained nurse and midwife and mother of six children, was living in Lira, Uganda when her daughter Charlotte was taken from St. Mary's College in Aboke by the rebel group Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Soon after that, Angelina banded together with other families to found the Concerned Parents Association (CPA), a group whose objectives include the immediate and unconditional release of all abducted children, peaceful resolution of the conflict, and creation of an awareness of the plight of children conflict.

Angelina became an outspoken campaigner for the return of her daughter and for the other kidnapped children. She traveled to Europe and the US to call attention to the situation in Uganda and petitioned the UN to intervene. In 1998, the UN Secretary-General awarded Angelina with a United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Angelina also addressed the Security Council on October 23, 2002, on the situation in northern Uganda and the plight of abducted children.

The event is organized by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta, and co-sponsored by Grandmothers for Grandmothers, GULU Walk and Project Ploughshares Calgary.

Ploughshares March Monthly Meeting—Cluster Bombs

Jamilah Joseph, Coordinator of the Humanitarian Issues Program for the Red Cross presented information about cluster bombs; comparing the design and impact of this weapon, and work done to reduce it's use, with that of landmines. Doreen Kot, a Ploughshares member who has visited areas in and around Cambodia effected by landmines shared information about how devastating and long-term the effects of anti-personnel mines are on a country and it's population.

Cluster bombs are large weapon systems containing dozens to hundreds of smaller bomblets. Housed like peas in a pod, the container opens in the air and scatters the bomblets over a wide area – sometimes the size of 2-4 football fields.

There are two main humanitarian concerns about cluster bombs;

- the impact on civilians at the time of use because of the broad area affected, targeting cannot tell the difference between military targets and civilians.
- the impact on civilians after a strike. High numbers of bomblets in each cluster bomb fail to explode as intended. These 'duds' must be treated and cleared as de facto landmines that can explode when disturbed.

Mines Action Canada (MAC) has been advocating for a prohibition on cluster bombs since 2000, forming the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in 2003 with other concerned non-governmental organizations. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) - the UN body responsible for banning or restricting the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately - has failed for 30 years to address this issue. As a result of this the Government of Norway offered to lead a process outside of CCW to negotiate a new treaty on clusters.

The first meeting of this group, called the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions, took place in Oslo in February 2007 and culminated with the signing of the Oslo Declaration, a commitment by states to negotiate a new treaty on clusters by the end of 2008. Countries that did not send representatives to this meeting or decided not to sign the declaration were not invited to attend the next meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand a year later. In the end, Canada did attend the Oslo meeting and sign the Declaration. Although Canada does not produce cluster bombs, the Canadian government does have a stockpile of the weapons.

For more information on what is happening and how you can help, please visit www.minesactioncanada.org.



The Calgary Community Peace Pole NEEDS YOUR ACTION!

Architect Marc Boutin, has created the blueprint for an amazing peace pole! It is a 20' tree/human figure design with the many languages found in Calgary laser cut through the stainless steel structure, back lit by LED lights at night. It will be set in a plaza with benches spelling out the word 'engage', along the Bow River pathway in an area named by the City in 1992 as the Peace Park, next to the 10th St LRT bridge, SW. It is a beautiful location for an incredible sculpture.

This was a Project Ploughshares Calgary initiative which now involves over thirty groups in the community and growing. The peace pole will be a source of inspiration for those who sign on to its charter and others who lead in this city. It will be an on-going gathering point for peace-minded Calgarians and a thought-provoking attraction for visitors.

- The communities involved have met 12 times since April 2007 to discuss their common vision, the location and design of the pole, fundraising, and outreach.
- Architect Marc Boutin and his staff have contributed 240 hours of time
- Project Ploughshares Calgary has provided 175 hours of staff time
- City Parks staff have provided 25 hours' work
- Volunteers have provided 750 hours to the Peace Pole project
- On September 21, 2007, 200 people gathered at the future site of the Peace Pole to celebrate the International Day of Peace. First Nations elders, Aldermen and MLA's acknowledged the need for more efforts for peace and the benefits of having a Calgary Community Peace Pole.
- On the same date in 2008, the exciting new Calgary Community Peace Pole will be unveiled. Join us!

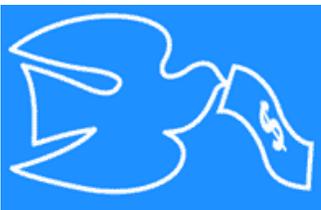


How Can You help?

- Volunteer help is need. We will welcome you!!
- Community groups of all kinds are needed to spread the commitment to peace. Please call or email to tell us of more groups, organizations, and educations and charitable institutions that we should contact.
- \$50,000 is needed in 2008! Be part of the excitement! Please donate! And ask those in your community. Please make cheques payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary and indicate 'peace pole'.

Communities and businesses making donations or contributing volunteer time will be acknowledged by name on a dedication plaque. Individuals making donations will be recognized in the unveiling ceremony and on the website. Every donation is greatly needed and appreciated; in-kind donations are welcome, and anonymous donations will be honoured and acknowledged as such. Corporate or individual donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

More information about the 250,000 poles world wide can be found at: www.worldpeace.org/peacepoles.html



Conscience Canada—2008 Tax Season Campaign

Project Ploughshares Calgary has a copy of Conscience Canada's **Work for Peace: Stop Paying for War** a DVD on conscientious objection to military taxation, by award-winning director/producer Sarah Zammit. Contact the office if you would like to borrow it.

The following is from the website of Conscience Canada www.consciencecanada.ca

THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

This form is for those who **object to military spending on grounds of principle/conscience** and wish to declare their objection to the Canadian government.

Insisting that our taxes be used to build peace directly, through nonviolent peace-building measures, and refusing to pay for militarism, is one way we can help turn the tide and make our voices heard.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges, and Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Upcoming Event on Nuclear Power

C.A.U.S.E. is co-hosting, with Pages Bookstore, a public presentation by Dr. Jim Harding on Thursday, April 17 at 7pm at the Memorial Park Library (1221-2nd Street, SW).

Dr. Jim Harding is author of ***Canada's Deadly Secret: Saskatchewan Uranium and the Global Nuclear System*** (Fernwood, 2007).

Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly donation of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$_____

(please attach a void cheque for monthly donations)

Here is my donation for this year of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)

Mail (requires \$35 donation)

Ploughshares National News

Below are excerpts from two articles that are part of *The Ploughshares Monitor Spring 2008* issue available at: www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/monitor/mon08list.htm

Canada's latest report on military exports

The Canadian government belatedly released its *Report on Exports of Military Goods from Canada* in December 2007. Unlike all other reports since the first in 1991, this latest does not document details for a single calendar year. Instead, the report is a triple issue that contains military goods export figures for the three-year period 2003–2005.

The report also reveals that, despite the existence of clear export control guidelines that direct otherwise, during the three-year period Canada shipped military goods to countries experiencing armed conflict and to governments with a persistent record of human rights violations. In addition to minor military shipments to several states affected by armed conflict, Canada shipped military goods valued at \$100,000 or more to four states at war during the period of the report.

The 2003–2005 report fills in none of the gaps of earlier government reports. Like earlier reports, the latest document contains no information on shipments to the United States, the largest recipient of Canadian military goods. There is also no data on “dual-use” goods and technology—equipment that has both civilian and military markets—that Canada exports to military end-users.

If Canada plans to maintain a credible voice for stricter controls on the global arms trade it must improve its own export control and reporting standards. Not only should the government commit to regular, reliable, and transparent reports on military exports, it should implement arms export controls that meet the standards it advocates internationally.

Addressing armed violence in development programming

Armed violence and poverty are not inextricably linked, but there is a correlation between the two that challenges official donor agencies like the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to take account of conflict when supporting poverty alleviation strategies. Canada's recent focus on aid-receiving countries such as Afghanistan, Haiti, and Sudan makes this doubly important.

The relationship between violence and poverty is widely acknowledged at CIDA, if currently inadequately integrated into its programming. In the top-to-bottom CIDA reorganization now taking place, there is a danger that research and financial support for armed violence reduction and development processes will be lost in the drive to “focus.”

CIDA needs an up-to-date internal policy and an assigned point of responsibility within its newly reorganized shape to ensure that Canada is not only a player, but a leader in this international discussion.