

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

JANUARY 2009



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

Calgary's Energetic Peace Scene January 14th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church

At Ploughshares' January monthly public meeting come and hear about productive peace initiatives here in Calgary including:

- The Multifaith Walk Against Violence with Syed Soharwardy
- The Consortium for Peace Studies and the Parhad Programmes
- Peace Café with Sally Hodges
- War Resister's Support Campaign

Find out what these groups have worked on in the last year and their plans for the upcoming year.



For our March monthly meeting Ploughshares is pleased to work with the National Film Board of Canada on the Calgary premiere of a new film, *The Strangest Dream*.

The Strangest Dream tells the story of Joseph Rotblat (1995 Nobel Peace Prize winner), the history of nuclear weapons and the efforts of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs—an international movement Rotblat co-founded—to halt nuclear proliferation.

Watch for further information on the location, date and time of the screening!



Making Nonviolence Work:

History and Conflict Intervention Training

Ploughshares' Annual Spring Workshop

Friday evening April 17th and all-day Saturday April 18th

Our guest speakers will include:

- Madelyn MacKay, board member, Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada; Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI) workshop leader
- Sandra Hoenle, Prof of German, U of C; board member, Consortium for Peace Studies; will speak on non-violent resistance in Nazi Germany
- Diane Janzen, Program Coordinator, Project Ploughshares Calgary; will bring practical experience from her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams

Learning from the world's rich nonviolent history is a great starting point in practical nonviolence training. NCI training explores how nonviolent methods can lessen or prevent conflict—in your daily life, in your community, and around the world.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Thanks to our many Holiday Peace Fair volunteers!!

The 24th annual Holiday Peace Fair on November 15th was another wonderful success raising around \$3500 for Ploughshares and thousands of dollars for the twenty-three other organizations who attended. Our volunteers made it happen! Nancy Hetherington-Peirce coordinated the event with volunteers (organized by Shahin Bhura) helping in many ways; food provided by the kitchen crew (with Karen Dickson), sales by the Ploughshares table (with Larry Kennard), staffing the admission table, money changers, set-up and take down crews and many many more. Your work is peace in action! Congratulations to Joye Brown who won our volunteer prize draw for a peace T-shirt and a Hold Your Ground CD.

John Siebert's Visit to Calgary

Project Ploughshares national's Executive Director, John Siebert, visited Calgary on November 19th after spending time with the Ploughshares Edmonton group. During the afternoon John was the guest on CBC Radio's "Wild Rose Forum," a one-hour radio call-in show. The topic was, "Is Canada still in the peace business?", and John spoke about the shift that has happened in recent years from the traditional role of Canada's military supporting UN Peacekeeping missions to a combat role in NATO's mission in Afghanistan. All of the callers into the radio-show were also concerned about this shift in the role of Canada's military on the international stage—two of the callers were parents of military personnel that were concerned about how serving in Afghanistan has or could negatively affect their sons. Neither of these parents felt that there was a space for public dialogue about the Afghanistan mission where their concerns could be heard.



In the evening John presented at Ploughshares' monthly public meeting on the topic "Building Peace in the Horn of Africa: Piece by Piece." In September, John and Ken Epps, Senior Programme Associate at Ploughshares national, visited districts of Kenya, Uganda and Sudan to document the efforts of World Vision's peacebuilding and development projects.



John and a local World Vision staff person conducting interviews

In the Rift Valley in Kenya, the population is primarily pastoral, where young men feel compelled to steal cattle to provide a dowry for a wife. Around 1970, because of other conflicts in the area, raiding changed from using spears and shields to AK-47's and this greatly increased the number of people killed or injured.

There is a definite link between poverty and armed conflict in different regions around the world. One of these regions is the Horn of Africa who's countries are in the bottom 10% of the UN poverty index.

"Violence in response to conflict is the problem—conflict is a part of humanity." In interviewing many people in the regions they visited, John and Ken heard of projects that were effective and suggestions of further development and peacebuilding initiatives that would help to reduce both poverty and violence. One example of an effective World Vision project is the drilling of bore holes to increase the access to water so that during the dry season there is less conflict over water.



A bore hole drilled by World Vision

An excerpt from Ken's article about this trip in the Winter 2008 Monitor is available on page 3 and a full report is expected in spring 2009.

Ploughshares National News

These program updates are from the latest edition of Ploughshares' E-Newsletter from December 19, 2008:

Small Arms Working Group Activities — On November 18, Senior Programme Associate Ken Epps, Programme Associate Maribel Gonzales and other members of the Small Arms Working Group (SAWG) of Peacebuild met with government officials from the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in Ottawa. Issues discussed were Government priorities and plans for small arms control, SAWG's planned activities, and potential areas for cooperation between SAWG and the Government. Project Ploughshares is the coordinator of SAWG which includes as members, Amnesty International, Antennes de paix-Montréal, Group of 78, Kashmiri Canadian Council, Oxfam Quebec, Quaker UN Office, and the Small Arms Firearms Education and Research Network.

Afghanistan — Senior Policy Advisor Ernie Regehr participated in a November 18 briefing on Afghanistan with Lt. Gen. Michel Gauthier, Commander of Canadian Expeditionary Command, held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. He also participated in an Ottawa meeting on November 24 of the NGO steering committee, hosted by Peacebuild Canada, planning an international conference on reconciliation prospects in Afghanistan.

Space Security — Program Associate Jessica West participated in the annual Canadian Space Society Summit, November 21-23, in Montreal. Titled "What's Next for the Canadian Space Industry," it explored future opportunities for the Canadian commercial space sector and concluded with a session on the need for a national policy on space. For more on why Canada needs a comprehensive national space policy, read Jessica's Winter 2008 Monitor article, "A Common Priority: A Space Security Policy for Canada".

Nuclear Nonproliferation — Ernie Regehr and Jessica West participated in a November 5-7 conference of the Nuclear Energy Futures Project, a collaborative research project between the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance on the implications of a nuclear energy revival for nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation. Ernie chaired a panel on South and Central Asian Perspectives.

*The Winter 2008 edition of the Monitor is available at www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/monitor/mon08list.htm
Here are excerpts from one of the articles:*

Advancing development while reducing violence: Lessons from the field

By Kenneth Epps

Armed violence is a global problem creating widespread devastation. Beyond its direct victims, armed violence can profoundly affect prospects for development. Violence can erode development in rural or urban settings in countries in conflict or nominally at peace. At the same time, armed violence is often linked to or shaped by poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. Recognizing this connection has led more than 90 states to endorse the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

To support the case for joint armed violence reduction and development programming, Project Ploughshares is working with World Vision Canada to document and analyze World Vision's peacebuilding programs in East Africa. In September, Ploughshares Executive Director John Siebert and I, accompanied by World Vision Canada staff person Suzanne Cherry, traveled to East Africa to conduct comparative field research in World Vision peacebuilding and development projects in Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan.

Initial research findings are:

- The disarmament process for civilian populations is not simply a matter of recovering guns. Many factors in the acquisition and use of small arms must be understood first. In conflict-affected regions, people need to feel secure before they will voluntarily give up guns.
- Civilian disarmament cannot be effective in isolation from measures to reduce both the supply and the demand for weapons.
- Development initiatives can be structured to reduce tensions and the demand for weapons.
- More generally, there is strong evidence that the World Vision peacebuilding projects we visited have contributed to recent reductions in armed violence, especially in areas of the North Rift Valley in Kenya and in the Tubur district near Soroti in Uganda. We heard consistent reports of lower levels of violence, higher levels of trust within and among communities, and, perhaps most importantly, more opportunities to resolve disputes and differences without the resort to violence. The changes were attributed to the integration of World Vision "peace" activities with development programs.



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.

The U of C's Consortium for Peace Studies 3rd Annual Calgary Peace Prize Dinner

Honouring **Ms. Louise Arbour**—Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Monday, **March 30, 2009**, Calgary Zoo—Safari Lodge
Cocktails 6pm, Dinner & Presentation 7pm

Tickets \$150.00 (see www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc/pprize_2009.htm for a ticket order form)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2009 of:

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

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

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)

Mail (requires \$35 donation)

Abolition News

Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) meetings were held in Ottawa October 16th and 17th in conjunction with the launch of the Memoirs of the Hon. Douglas Roche entitled "Creative Dissent: A Politician's Struggle for Peace," and second, a special seminar given by The Hon. Douglas Roche on October 16, 2008 entitled "*Nuclear Disarmament on the Occasion of Doug Roche's 80th Birthday: It's the Future, Stupid!*" [excerpts from Roche's speech were in the Nov-Dec issue of *Peace News*].

As part of the 2-day events, CNANW members also organized an Ambassadors' Panel Discussion on NATO and Nuclear Weapons which involved a panel of Ambassadors (or high level diplomatic staff) representing NATO states that are progressive in working toward nuclear disarmament. The panel participants were from Norway, Germany, Netherlands and Britain.

"Canada, Nuclear Weapons and You" – The CNANW factsheet has been updated by Jessica West and others within Project Ploughshares national. It highlights the good and bad steps taken by the Canadian Government. Contact the Ploughshares Calgary office if you would like copies of this factsheet.



Global Zero—A New Initiative to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

In recent months, the threat of proliferation and nuclear terrorism has led to a growing chorus of leaders calling for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Global Zero will support these leaders in this endeavor by combining high-level policy work with global public outreach to achieve a comprehensive agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide through phased and verified reductions. Global Zero is a new international initiative that launched in Paris, Moscow and Washington December 9-11, 2008.

Global Zero's international team of policy experts has developed a draft step-by-step plan addressing the critical issues necessary to reach the end state of zero nuclear weapons. Global Zero is committed to building broad-based and sustained public support for political leaders to pursue and achieve the vision of eliminating nuclear weapons—through worldwide media and online communications and grassroots organizing. At its public launch, Global Zero released the results of its recently commissioned poll of 21 countries that shows overwhelming worldwide support for an international agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons according to a timetable.

Global Zero is spearheaded by more than 100 political, military, business, faith and civic leaders from around the world and from across political lines. Beginning with its inaugural conference in Paris December 8-9, Global Zero will conduct a series of international events, including a World Summit for 500 leaders in January 2010.

For more information about Global Zero go to their website: www.globalzero.org