

Peace Fair 2016: Thanks for your ongoing support!

2016 has been a difficult year for many of us. Major events like the Calgary Stampede saw low attendance at the gate which impacted businesses throughout the city. Nonprofit organizations have also reported challenges in donations and fundraising, and our organization is no exception. The signs of the economic downturn was felt at this year's Peace Fair, with attendance and vendor sales both decreasing from previous years.



What wasn't down was the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers. We had more than 50 volunteers giving over 340 hours toward this event. The Peace Fair would indeed not have been possible without the help of these volunteers. It was great to see a mix of new and long-time volunteers coming together to prepare and serve food, staff the various tables, welcome people at the door, and simply be there to help in whatever way they could. We'll be celebrating them (along with all the other great volunteers at Ploughshares) later this month.

There were also a blend of old and new vendors this year. We had returning vendors and new vendors at Peace Fair this year supporting projects in Malawi, enabling young girls go to school, vendor from the First Nation selling indigenous jewellery and crafts to become self-sustaining, vendors providing info about Basic Income – a right for all, and Amnesty International providing new opportunities to contribute to the work of dedicated volunteers and projects around the globe. These were just some of the vendors who were at the Peace Fair, making a difference in the lives of so many people around the world. As a new feature in our newsletter, we will be sharing more about the vendors and the difference they are making in the coming months.

We are also very thankful to all donors for the stunning array for desirable gifts for The Silent Auction. The Ploughshares sales tables had brand new lines of cooperative games and the latest 'books' that are really activities, which we hope to bring in again for next year's fair. Ploughshares was also happy to provide a table where people were given a special opportunity to support the Floating Lantern event—scheduled at Olympic Plaza in August 2017— by buying beautiful cards.

We also thank Parkdale United Church for hosting us once again in their gracious space, to those who help support the Peace Fair through their annual donations, and a special thank you to the Peace Fair Committee members who helped make this year possible. And mark your calendars now: next year's Peace Fair will be happening Saturday, November 4, 2017. We hope to see you there!

Thank You



Volunteer Wall of Fame

We sincerely thank the following volunteers for their hard work and donation of their time, energy and effort. Indeed, The Peace Fair would not have been possible without your generous support, kindness and consideration leading up to the event and during The Peace Fair!

Anna Waller, Mr Waller, Ash Khan, Beth Workman, Bill Anderson, Bill Dickson, , Carl Svoboda, Chris Svoboda, Daniel Osman, Dave Greene, Donna Fallon, Garry Fry, Goeffrey Belleth, Isabel Miller, Janice Fraser, Janet McKinnon, Jean Reid, Jenn Dubon, Jess Holtsbaum, Jose Tenga, Joye Brown, June Kirk, Kay Adegoke, Kerry Duncan McCartney, Karin Nybo, Kristin Cathers, Lee Wertzler, Lena Osman, Mardy Roberts, Maria Zuniga, Margaret Fitch, Margaret Ann Anderson, Marion Jorgensen, Maureen Ewasiuk, Noemi Flores, Peggy Rait, Penny Young, Ryan Ewasiuk, Samia Osman, Sally Oddy, Sandy Zazelenchuk, Shirley Mann, Spencer Klettke, Sue Barnhill, Tracey Braun, Trudy and George Steber, Vicki Perkins

Baking: Margaret Ann Anderson, Joye Brown, Karen Dickson, Margaret Fitch, Alice Fedosoff, Karen Huggins, Marya Jarvey, June Martin, Sylvia Anderson, Kerry Duncan McCartney Trudy Steber and Sultana Virani

Special thanks go to Karen Huggins, Chairperson of the Peace Fair; Sultana Virani, Ploughshares Program Director; Lorna Greene, Kitchen Co-ordinator; Sally Hodges, Volunteer Co-ordinator; Maureen Ewasiuk, Silent Auction.

Dear Volunteers, Donors and Supporters of Project Ploughshares Calgary;

Your donation of time, resources, talent, energy and effort to and for Project Ploughshares Calgary has been our backbone and life blood. Without your generosity, it would be even more difficult to work towards a Peaceful World and make it possible to offer a platform for education and dialogue on peace as well to all who assist people living in poverty to help themselves thru Fair Trade, Social Justice and working to save the Environment and endangered species and animals.

Please join us on Saturday, December 10th at our Christmas Open House, themed "Celebrating Our Volunteers" in recognition of the many generous volunteers we are blessed with.

We hope to see you there!

Wishing you Peace and Harmony,
Project Ploughshares Team

A holiday request, from me to you...

As someone who works in the nonprofit sector, I know the importance of volunteers. But I also know that organizations require dollars to keep the doors open. That's just one of the reasons I donate every month to Project Ploughshares Calgary. A consistent donation helps the organization plan its budget and because it's all automated I never have to scramble to find a cheque amongst the packages hiding in my office. (No one tell my kid that's where they are, ok?)

I also know that many of our members prefer to donate once or twice a year, and I'm glad that we have that option available. (See the back page of this newsletter for our donation form.)

Regardless of how or when you donate, I hope that this year you'll be able to give generously so we can continue to work for peace in the coming years. Our success is truly your success, and at our board meetings I am always in awe of what we are accomplishing together.



In peace,
Tracey Braun, Past Chair, PPC

Save These Dates Project Ploughshares Calgary Events:

December 10th: from 1—2 pm
Christmas Open House
Parkdale United Church, 2919—8 Avenue NW

January 11th 2017; from 7—8:30 pm
PPC Public Educational Meeting
Parkdale United Church, Conference room in the basement
Topic to be announced

February 8th 2017; from 7—8:30 pm
PPC Public Educational Meeting
Topic to be announced

March 30—April 1st 2017
2020 Vision for Humanity Symposium on Human Security
Details to follow

Our Peace Fair attracts and supports a wide variety of vendors, each with their own unique story. We'll be sharing more about them in the coming months to help highlight how our event helps support so many causes and impacts so many lives. By supporting us, you too are making a difference to them!

Animals Asia: The mission of Animals Asia is to end the farming of bears for bile in Vietnam and China, provide sanctuary for bears, end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, and ensure humane treatment of dogs and cats.



Information from the Animals Asia website reveals suffering beyond belief. Bear bile has been used in traditional Asian medicine for thousands of years. In the 1980s bear bile farming began to be practiced as a way of constantly extracting bile for the duration of the bear's life. More than 12,000 bears are believed to be on these farms in China and Vietnam. Extracting bear bile from live bears causes unimaginable suffering and long-term health problems for these physically and psychologically damaged bears. While crush cages and bears locked into metal jackets are now illegal in China, bear bile farming is legal albeit with regulations aimed at curbing the worst cruelty of the industry. Among the many ailments endured by the bears are starvation and dehydration. In Vietnam, the industry has been technically illegal since 1992 but sadly, it still persists due to legal loopholes, plus the continuing demand.

Animals Asia has rescued more than 500 bears in Vietnam and China from the cruelty of bear bile farms and is committed to ending this barbaric trade. The sale of items such as Moon Bear calendars, pencil cases, and notebooks is to raise awareness for these bears - so many people are not familiar with bear bile farming. The monies raised from the sale of these items will be used to provide humane care for the bears in the sanctuaries. For more information please visit www.animalsasia.org or email americaqueries@animalsasia.org.

MoreThanAid: MoreThanAid is addressing Poverty in remote villages in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. We don't take donations, we don't sponsor children, and we are not a charity, we don't talk on the phone and we have no western people on the ground in Malawi. However, since launching MoreThanAid in March of 2016, we have helped over 30 people in a remote village in Malawi. We are helping them by helping them help themselves. They get something for something. We started simply, with exporting canvas paintings they painted. We sell the paintings and the money from the art sales go back to the artists' families and a portion goes to support girls in high school. Then we launched a bead bracelet program. Where we have girls that want to attend high school, work with a women's HIV group and together they make bead bracelets that they ship to Calgary that we sell. A portion of the money goes to the women's HIV group and the rest goes back to fund the girls to go to high school. Within 7-8 months, we already have three girls going to a high quality private boarding school, fees funded through bracelet and art sales! When you purchase jewellery and art work from MoreThanAids, you are helping to fund the education for these young girls who have made the bracelets or done the art work themselves.



MoreThanAids leadership team is all volunteer and comes from four countries (Canada, UK, USA, Malawi). To keep everyone on a common communication playing field we don't use voice calls as it is too expensive for the Malawi team. Our weekly meeting is facilitated through "whatsapp", we use texts vs talking our main collaboration and communication platform is FaceBook.

We are not just educating girls in high school, we implemented a mentoring program where Chifundo, a female Malawi University graduate is mentoring the girls - recognizing male oppression, dreaming big, self esteem, and working hard. These girls are being mentored outside the academic world so they can start to build the confidence and skills to return to their village to bring industry and prosperity to the village. These girls will also mentor younger girls in primary school to get the younger girls motivated to work hard. MoreThanAid is not dealing with addressing symptoms instead we are transforming how girls and women in Malawi take control of leading their village out

of poverty. This model we are building can be leveraged for other areas in the world.

You can help by purchasing or selling bracelets or artwork. Visit www.facebook.com/morethanaid or email Tim Barnes, the founder in Calgary at MoreThanAid@outlook.com

The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) organized a series of events in Ottawa last month. This was the context: 15,350 nuclear weapons existing with 1800 of those on alert and a US election to occur two weeks later. The first event was a conference entitled "**Building Momentum for Nuclear Disarmament**" held on UN Disarmament Day, October 24th, 2016. Approximately 45 people attended including former diplomats, current and former officials from Foreign Affairs, academics and experts from within the NGO community. Officials from DND were invited but did not attend. Speakers provided their views on how to get NATO member states to adhere to the obligation to disarm set out in the NonProliferation Treaty (NPT), how to encourage better relations with Russia to enable the process of disarmament to continue, what are the current diplomatic options before the international community, and actions that parliamentarians and those in civil society can take to encourage disarmament. The conference programme, Report and most of the presentations are now (or will shortly be) [available here](#).

A **Parliamentary Forum** over breakfast was proposed by CNANW to **Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)** for October 25, 2016 to encourage new parliamentarians to become informed about, and join, PNND Canada. Dr. Hedy Fry's office advertised it among all parliamentarians. Only two MPs participated in the meeting. (Dr. Fry was ill and could not participate.) Two former Ambassadors for Disarmament, Paul Meyer and Peggy Mason addressed the meeting. Paul spoke on recent progress on key resolutions before the First Committee and Peggy described her concerns with modernization of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, fearing this issue would arise for parliamentarians working in associations with European parliamentarians. Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator for PNND, provided (by skype) an update on PNND global activities. Elizabeth May M.P. received help on a question she was scheduled to raise in the House that day. Linda Duncan MP encouraged us to work through Mayors for Peace getting them to encourage work by parliamentarians.

Representatives of the CNANW member groups met later on October 25th, 2016 in Ottawa to discuss next steps. A major point of discussion during the conference was Canada's anticipated vote against the start of negotiations on a prohibition on nuclear weapons. While the merits of this legal instrument may not be agreed upon by all, clearly there is strong momentum for using this as the next step toward an eventual treaty eliminating nuclear weapons. Indeed Canada did vote against the resolution (along with all but one NATO member states). We have written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that Canada should, as a good UN member state, participate in those negotiations to ensure Canada's views are reflected in the outcome.

In addition, we have agreed to make (or renew) our requests of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that:

- a) the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs be tasked with organizing sessions for speakers to update the Committee on the nuclear weapons situation and particularly to consider how to implement the unanimous motion of the Canadian Parliament from 2010 ; further, that the Committee should resume its practice of scheduling an annual briefing by the Ambassador for Disarmament; and
- b) the Government-Civil Society Consultative Group on Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament be re-established to enable an open exchange of views on Canada's position with respect to the upcoming NPT Review cycle and to update participants on other work being done by officials within this issue area.

Canadians supportive of this work are encouraged to write to the Prime Minister and to their own MP urging them to take leadership on a major international campaign for the urgent de-alerting of nuclear weapons and for their elimination.



The Project Ploughshares Office will be closed from

December 24th to January 3rd 2017

Wishing You Happy Holiday Season

And a Very Happy, Peaceful New Year!



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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Tracey Braun for editing this issue of the newsletter.



Welcome to WINTER

Hope you have had a great and peaceful FALL
 The Office is now open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am—3 pm and Wednesday from 2 pm—7 pm.



We are very grateful to all our donors for their continued support of the important peace work that we do here at Project Ploughshares Calgary. During the month of November we received \$ 1,060 in donations. This is the lifeblood of our organization, please consider PPC your charity of choice.!

We would like to encourage you to continue your support by signing up for a monthly donation plan. This type of sustained donation is very beneficial for the day-to-day running of Project Ploughshares, as we know more clearly from month-to-month exactly what is coming in. This helps us immensely in planning our programs for the year! If you are interested in this option, please contact the office: 403-270-7366, or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.

Project Ploughshares Calgary

Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Project Ploughshares!



- \$ 50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000
- Other Amount (Specify) \$_____
- I'd like to make a monthly donation of \$_____
- I'd like to volunteer

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal.

Please mail completed form with donation to:

Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8

(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)