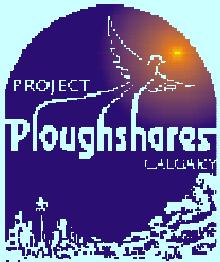


NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2008



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



24th Annual **Holiday Peace Fair**

**Saturday November 15th
9:30am– 4pm**

St. David's United Church

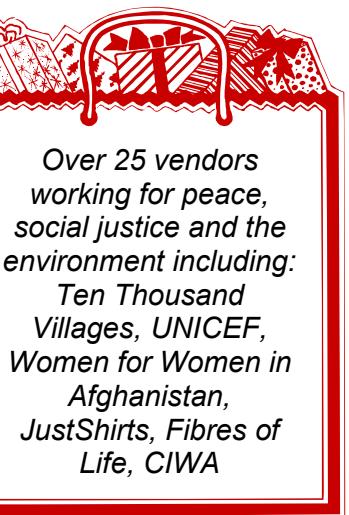
3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW
(near the University LRT)

\$2 Admission—Free for children under 12
Light lunch available

Buy unique gifts & seasonal treasures.

At the Ploughshares sales table you will find our usual selection of books and cooperative games from Family Pastimes. Cooperative concepts are beneficial in school, work, play, in personal relationships and are easily understood in the context of games. Here are several benefits:

- bonding, support and playfulness
- teamwork and shared decision making
- openness, trust and safety
- self-worth and personal power
- wellbeing.



Building Peace in the Horn of Africa, Piece by Piece

John Siebert, Executive Director of Project Ploughshares national

7:30pm Wednesday November 19th

Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)

The Horn of Africa has suffered through decades of destruction and extraordinary human suffering due to long and interrelated wars. All countries in the Horn, including Uganda and Kenya, still endure some level of armed conflict, though this varies in scope, intensity, and nature.

Over the past few years Project Ploughshares and Africa Peace Forum have undertaken a research and public dialogue project. Ploughshares Calgary is honoured to be able to host a public presentation by John Siebert of a recent trip he made with Ken Epps to Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan to do primary research on the relationship between peacebuilding, disarmament, and development programs.



Ploughshares Calgary News

Updates from our October Events...

Between 70-80 people attended the **All-Candidates Forum** for the Calgary West riding organized by Ploughshares at the Varsity Community Centre on October 10th. NDP candidate Teale Phelps-Bondaroff, Liberal candidate Jennifer Pollock, Independent candidate Kirk Schmidt and Green candidate Randy Weeks participated in the forum. Conservative candidate Rob Anders declined to attend and Marxist-Leninist candidate André Vachon was unable to attend. Moderator Diane Pask, Professor Emeritus of Law at the U of C guided the candidates and audience through the evening with candidates responding to several peace, security and development questions prepared by Ploughshares, and questions from riding residents.



Ploughshares held their annual **Singing for Peace** benefit concert on October 24 (UN day). Over a hundred people attended the concert that was mixture of familiar peace songs and Celtic-inspired music. Calgary folk musician Rod Walsh organized a talented group of local musicians to help him provide the entertainment—Graham Tait on vocals and accordion, Kathy Pepers on the harp, Christie Simmons on vocals and guitar, and Shirley Wright on cello. The concert was a financial success for Ploughshares, raising \$1,500. Ploughshares would like to thank the musicians, Parkdale United Church for providing the space, MC and kitchen, set-up and sound helpers, and the volunteer organizing committee.

Calgary News

Finger cymbals opened the fourth **Alberta Culture of Peace and Peace Education Conference**, held October 25, 26 at the Avatamsaka Buddhist Monastery on 10 St SW, Calgary - just on the other side of the bridge from the site of the future Community Peace Pole. So began an exploration of peace topics in an innovative and very affirming way.

Fourteen hours later the following three committees were struck, for continuing this visionary work. A peace education committee will focus on sharing school resources with teachers and presenting a show case in the spring. A peace cafe committee will take immediate steps to start a 'peace cafe' which will be a hub for peace resources, talk and meetings. The Peace Cafe will be modeled on the successful Peace Cafe in Hamilton, which links with artists' and social justice groups. A conference committee will work on networks, a Calgary 'peace scan', marketing, fundraising and preparing conferences in 2009 and 2010. The Monastery provided the right atmosphere for delving deep and recommitting to acting for peace in Calgary. Those interested in helping may contact Sally at 403-247-1653.

"Nuclear Power is Not the Answer" - Dr Helen Caldicott's message to Calgarians on October 7 had many echoes of her speech here almost 25 years ago. 27,000 hydrogen bombs in the world, 5,500 of these on hair-trigger alert, 2000 in Russia. Anxiety and fear could well be the cause of an attack being launched.

Dr Caldicott labeled the cause of the lack of outrage about nuclear weapons, psychic numbing. She said that most countries are living with a war economy. She reiterated the dangers of radiation (discouraging having x-rays at the dentist annually because the radiation builds up) and spoke vehemently against nuclear power. CANDU reactors use unenriched uranium - 100 tons of it (the equivalent of 1000 Hiroshimas), needing a million gallons of water to keep it cool. The spent fuel is extremely radioactive and the water also potent. "And what will this," she said, "be used for in the tar sands project? TO BOIL WATER!!" The proposal in Alberta is for nuclear power to generate steam.

Dr Caldicott began Physicians for Global Survival which has 23,000 members world-wide, has received 19 honorary degrees, and been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Her final thoughts pointed to paths which would lead to solutions to our crises. *"Can we learn to trust? Can we get leaders who will inspire us to rise to spiritual and psychological heights?"*

The competition for the 2009-2010 **Research Fellowship in Peace Studies** at the University of Calgary's Consortium for Peace Studies is now open. This Fellowship is open to all disciplines so long as the research is directly related to peace studies or conflict transformation. The successful Fellow will be expected to conduct independent research while at the U of C and give a public lecture on his or her research. The application deadline is December 1, 2008 and the application is available at:

www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc/research_fellowship.htm

Ploughshares National News

Below are excerpts from the Fall edition of the Ploughshares Monitor. The full text is available at: www.ploughshares.ca

Preparing for the 2008 Biennial Meeting of States—By Maribel Gonzales

In April 2008 three policy papers were presented to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada by the Small Arms Working Group (SAWG) of Peacebuild. They explored key policy areas deserving of Canadian government attention as it prepared for the United Nations Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the PoA (programme of action on small arms and light weapons), which was held this past July in New York.

Armed Violence Reduction and Development Programming: The Canadian Experience and Status by Christina M. Yeung
 Dr. Yeung's paper examines the current government policy on support for armed violence reduction and development (AVD) programming, outlines government-funded projects, presents some lessons learned from disarmament programs, and highlights the conceptual challenges of armed violence reduction. Yeung acknowledges that the Canadian government has long funded research and projects related to the reduction of arms or armed violence. However, the government has been less successful in incorporating the concept of armed violence reduction into its own development programming.

Review of the Progress in Canadian Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms by Adam Parsons and Kenneth Epps

In their paper, Parsons and Epps evaluate Canadian implementation of the UN PoA on small arms and light weapons (SALW) by analyzing Canadian government reports to the UN and examining relevant Canadian policy and legislation. As this study reveals, Canada has made significant progress in meeting its international obligations in some areas, but is dragging its heels in others. "More seriously," the authors note, "there are significant contradictions between Canada's SALW policy priorities and Canadian action."

The Illicit Trade in Small Arms: Addressing the Problem of Diversion by Wendy Cukier.

Dr. Cukier's paper defines licit and illicit arms and analyzes the points of diversion of licit small arms to the illicit market and potential mechanisms to prevent diversion. She notes that "most illicit small arms begin as licit small arms." Diversion occurs through "illegal manufacture or reactivation of deactivated weapons, illicit sales by states, illegal brokering, illegal sales by dealers, illegal sales by civilians, theft from state and civilian stockpiles, and illicit importation."

Global News

Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs, October 27th-November 2nd

Five weeks before a groundbreaking new treaty banning cluster bombs opens for signature in Oslo, Mines Action Canada (MAC) is asking everyone to sign the **People's Treaty** banning cluster bombs to show Canada and other world leaders we are watching and expecting them to be ready to sign the treaty.

"The Canadian government along with 106 other countries made a promise in Dublin last May to make cluster bombs a thing of the past. Now it is time to turn that promise into a reality", said Paul Hannon, MAC's Executive Director. "We trust our government to take decisions to keep Canadians safe – especially our men and women in uniform serving overseas. Canada made us all safer by leading the world in banning landmines and we expect them to do it again with cluster bombs."

"All governments serious about protecting civilians in armed conflict will sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo on December 3rd and ratify it without delay", says Thomas Nash, Coordinator, Cluster Munition Coalition



The text of the People's Treaty:

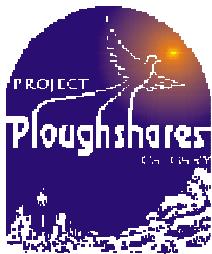
Cluster bombs cause predictable and unacceptable harm to civilians, both at the time of use and for many years after. It is my strong belief that these weapons are morally unacceptable.

I fully support the new international treaty on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, transfer, and production of cluster bombs.

Through their signature and ratification of this treaty, governments will legally commit themselves not only to ban cluster bombs, but also to clear contaminated land and provide assistance to victims and affected communities.

Through my signature on the People's Treaty, I commit to work to ensure that governments live up to their obligations.

The People's Treaty may be signed on-line at www.minesactioncanada.org/peoples_treaty. Look for a paper-copy of the treaty at Peace Fair on November 15th on the Ploughshares information table.



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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.

Happy 80th Birthday Hon. Douglas Roche!

Below are excerpts from a birthday address "It's the Future, Stupid!" to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons that Hon. Roche gave in Ottawa on October 16th. Contact the Ploughshares office if you would like a copy of the entire speech.

Much of my public career has been marked by dissent. I'm not stopping my protest now. I dissent from the anti-humanitarian policies of war for peace. I dissent from the perpetuation of poverty through the greed of the rich. I dissent from the despoliation of the planet by short-sighted industrialism. Most of all, I dissent from the fabric of lies spun by the proponents of nuclear weapons who would have us believe that these heinous instruments of mass murder make us safer.

As the human security issues play out, particularly in the inter-twined relationship of development and disarmament, I have found myself in many political battles. I have the scars to prove it. In my career as a parliamentarian and diplomat, the greatest lesson I learned was how difficult it is to get governments to focus on problems "upstream," i.e. before they have happened, while they react with alarm, often panic, when the problem occurs "downstream." Governments will devote political energy and money to dealing with the effects of a problem, but it is virtually impossible to obtain attention and finances to problems over the horizon. It is not hard to predict that nuclear weapons will one day be used if they continue to proliferate among countries, to foresee rising terrorism that exploits discrimination and inhuman living conditions, to anticipate that rising temperatures and waters will force the dislocation of millions of people who will swamp already overcrowded systems.

Despite the setbacks on the road to abolition, the net is gradually closing on the possession of nuclear weapons. The gains may seem slight, but they are occurring. Governments around the world have voted overwhelmingly at the U.N. for steps to a nuclear weapons-free world. The organization Mayors for Peace, now numbering 2,200 Mayors in 130 countries, has called for the implementation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention in 2020. That year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty – which was supposed to lead to a nuclear weapons-free world.

The end of slavery, colonialism and apartheid – all great evils of their time – came when a critical mass of public opinion arose. So too the end of nuclear weapons, the ultimate evil, can be achieved when enough activists and parliamentarians speak out, recognizing that time frames are necessary to energize political processes. Human rights for all and the abolition of nuclear weapons must become a single dynamic issue. Then we will know that hope can triumph over fear.

Upcoming Events in Calgary (See page 1 for Ploughshares events.)

Nov 3—Book launch of Vancouver author Stephen Hammond's book, *Steps in the RIGHTS Direction: 365 Human Rights Celebrations & Tragedies that Inspired Canada & the World*, 7-8:30pm at the Calgary Downtown Public Library

Nov 9—Building the Peace Movement in Calgary meeting 1pm at the Arusha Centre (223 - 12 Avenue SW)

Nov 12—author, documentary film maker and social activist Tariq Ali will be talking on *The Duel: Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Flight Path of American Power*, his new book at 7:30pm at Knox United Church, 506 4th St. SW, Calgary

Nov 14-16 Marda Loop Justice Film Festival at River Park Church Auditorium (3818 -14A St. SW, Calgary) For more information: www.justicefilmfestival.ca

Nov 17—YMCA Calgary 2008 Peace Medals Luncheon, 11:30 am—1:30pm at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, call 403-531-1660 for tickets (\$45 on or before Nov 3, \$60 after Nov 3)

Nov 17—The Parkland Institute of Calgary presents a talk by Joe Brewer "Revealing the Great Political Blind Spot" 7pm at the Kahanoff Centre (#200, 1202 Centre St SW)

**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 this year 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)