

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

OCTOBER 2009

Sharing from the **NOW** conference

Wednesday October 14th 7:30pm
Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)



Diane Janzen, Program Coordinator and Tracey Braun, Executive Board member of Ploughshares Calgary will be sharing what they learned attending the NOW conference held Sept 30—Oct 1 in Calgary.

Inspired by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's main commitments, the two-day NOW conference draws on compassion, connectedness and collaboration to work towards the goal of developing mutually beneficial partnerships for service, research, and community-based learning.



Singing for Peace

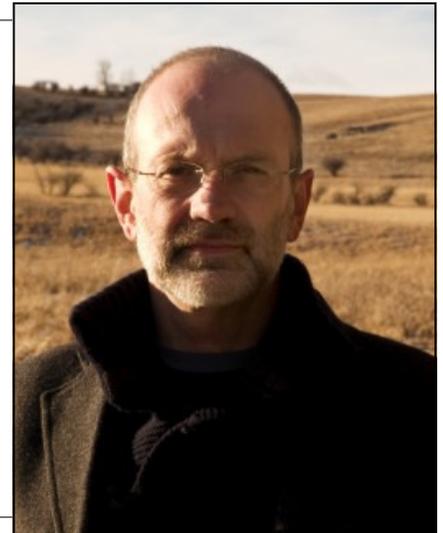
Singing a Story of Hope

Friday October 30, 2009 7:30pm—9:30pm
Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)

With folk/root singer/songwriter **Paul Rumbolt**

Tickets: \$15 at the door, \$13 advance
\$8 students / low income

At intermission: dessert \$2, beverages \$1
Call 403-270-736 to order your tickets



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

Monthly Public Meeting
Tuesday November 3rd, 7:30pm
Parkdale United Church

With **James Loney**,
Christian Peacemaker
Teams member who
was kidnapped in Iraq
in November 2005.

Suggested admission \$10



25th Annual Holiday Peace Fair

Saturday November 14th
9:30am—4pm

St. David's United Church
3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW

Buy unique gifts & seasonal
treasures from over 25 vendors
working for peace, social
justice or the environment.



Ploughshares Calgary News

Open Letter from Chair of Project Ploughshares Calgary

Dear Project Ploughshares Supporters,

We often talk about the cost of war, but rarely about the cost of building peace. In September alone:

- Calgary unveiled its Peace Pole and Plaza, connecting Calgary with 250,000 other peace poles in the world.
- A letter writing campaign in support of a Nuclear Weapons Convention (Treaty) was undertaken by many members, who sent letters to Prime Minister Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister Cannon during the week President Obama addressed the UN Security Council.
- The anti-bullying program Puppets for Peace undertook preparations to connect Calgary children with its anti-bullying message.

Project Ploughshares Calgary was the key player in each of these actions and projects. We rely heavily on volunteers and in-kind donations to keep our work going, but these actions also cost money. On average, it costs \$3000 a month to run Project Ploughshares Calgary. Some of these expenses may be covered with grants, but unlike many nonprofits we do not apply for funds that come from gaming (e.g. casinos) or other funds that do not fit our mandate. That means we need your donations even more as we continue our work.

Can you afford \$5 a month for peace? What about \$10 or \$25? We have a simple system that would allow you to make a monthly contribution to Project Ploughshares Calgary and allow us to know that our work will continue. If you prefer to make a one-time contribution, we can help you with that as well, contact Diane at 403-270-766. (Remember that all donations are issued a charitable tax receipt and your information is kept confidential.)

As always, we thank you for your support. Sally J. Hodges



Calgary's Peace Pole Unveiled!

At least 200 Calgarians came out to celebrate with the Calgary Community Peace Pole Committee on the unveiling of the peace pole the afternoon of Sunday September 20, 2009. The celebration, which occurred close to the peace pole site (along the Bow River pathway near the south side, where the C-train bridge crosses the river) began with a Peace Walk from Prince's Island. Walkers carried peace, UN and national flags and sang familiar peace songs as they walked to the peace pole site.

The unveiling celebration event was MC'd by Kelly Dowdell, Program Manager for the Consortium of Peace Studies at the University of Calgary, and began with a First Nations blessing by Cree elder Doreen Spence. The Honourable Kent Hehr (MLA for the riding where the peace pole is in) brought greetings from the province. Chris Eddy (SGI Canada) and Michael Embaie (African Community Association) shared information about Calgary's commitment to peace through the years and the efforts of the Peace Pole Committee. After Marc Boutin spoke of the meaning behind the design of the peace pole, Diane Janzen (Project Ploughshares Calgary) presented gifts of thanks to Marc, and Ron Choe from Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative for the generous donation of their time towards the project, and also thanked the ten other construction companies and The City of Calgary who were involved and provided in-kind donations to the project.

Eaglespeaker Singers, a First Nations group sang and drummed the audience over to the peace pole site using a traditional travelling song used to greet people returning from a hunt or important visit. Once all were gathered at the peace pole, Eaglespeaker Singers began the ceremony with an honour song. Alexander McLaren (10) read the charter that is inscribed on part of the peace pole monument, and was joined by Doreen Spence and Liza Lorenzetti to say "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Cree, Blackfoot and French as inscribed on the peace pole. Joe Ceci, Alderman and Deputy Mayor for the event, with the help of Alexander, cut the ribbon to unveil the peace pole monument.

The spirit of peaceful celebration at the event was aided by the efforts of many local performers and those working for peace: Taoist Tai Chi Society, Yvonne Schmitz, Keiko Hatch, DJ Geosphere, Anthony Burbidge, Shaista & Kayzra from Sitare Productions, Rhythm of the Rockies Choir, The Acholi Dance Group, SGI Canada Youth Lion's Roar Band, Shanti Amani Salaama the Peace Fairy, Puppets for Peace, Pinwheels for Peace made by students from Banting & Best School / Sherwood School and Peace Cranes made by Sunday School students from Renfrew United Church.

Thanks to all who came out to celebrate, all who have supported the project on it's journey, and all who volunteered their time on the Peace Pole Committee and for the unveiling celebration. The Peace Pole Committee presents this monument for peace to all citizens of Calgary and encourages you to visit the site by yourself or with a group and think about how you can 'engage' in building peace in our city and our world. May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Global News

Bill in Support of U.S. Iraq War Resisters introduced in House of Commons

September 17, 2009: Bill C-440, a bill in support of US Iraq War resisters, was introduced in the House of Commons today. MP Gerard Kennedy (Parkdale-High Park) introduced the bill, seconded by Bill Siksay (Burnaby-Douglas). This is an extremely important step forward for the campaign to ensure that US Iraq War resisters are allowed to stay in Canada. If adopted, the bill will give legal weight to the motion already passed twice in Parliament in support of war resisters, which has not been implemented by the government.

PLEASE take a moment to send a message to Gerard Kennedy and Bill Siksay, and copy the Opposition party leaders and the immigration critics – here are some points to include in your message:

- thank the Members and opposition parties for their efforts in passing two motions in the House of Commons in support of U.S. Iraq War resisters.
- thank the Members for introducing this important bill
- remind them that several Iraq war resisters are under imminent threat of deportation to the United States, where they face court-martial and jail time
- call on all Members of the Opposition to help move the bill forward as quickly as possible, and to work hard alongside thousands of Canadians to stop any impending deportations.



Send messages to: Gerard Kennedy (Kennedy.G@parl.gc.ca) and Bill Siksay (siksay.b@parl.gc.ca)

Please cc: Jack Layton MP (laytoj@parl.gc.ca), Michael Ignatieff (Ignatieff.M@parl.gc.ca), Gilles Duceppe MP (duceppe.g@parl.gc.ca), Thierry St-Cyr (st-cyr.t@parl.gc.ca), Olivia Chow (chow.o@parl.gc.ca), Maurizio Bevilacqua (bevilm0@parl.gc.ca)

From www.resisters.ca

Getting over our nuclear denial

Excerpts from an article by John Polanyi from *The Globe and Mail* September 25, 2009

Resolution 1887, adopted unanimously by the 15-member United Nations Security Council yesterday, embodies a sweeping call for nuclear disarmament. “The historic resolution we just adopted,” Barack Obama told a rare heads-of-state session, “enshrines our shared commitment to a goal of a world without nuclear weapons.” The Security Council is charged by the governments of the world to take “collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace.” Nuclear war is not the only such threat, but it's the most immediate. If we fail to address it, the hopes that we can find common ground on the other threats – resource depletion, climate change, poverty and oppression – will be gravely weakened.

Yesterday's resolution could mark the date we finally came out of denial regarding the dangers of a nuclear-armed world. In 1996, the Canberra commission made the essential point: “The proposition that nuclear weapons can be retained in perpetuity and never used – accidentally or by decision – defies credibility.” Three years ago, the Blix commission hammered home the brutal fact: “Twenty-seven thousand nuclear weapons are not an abstract theory. They exist.”

The impetus for Resolution 1887 came from the realization that the dam that keeps civil nuclear capabilities from spilling into military ones is in danger of bursting. As with any such erosion, it can sweep away years of restraint. Nuclear weapons in North Korea or Iran will be met by widespread increases in nuclear armament in both regions. But yesterday's affirmation went far beyond that; Iran was not the focus. “This is not about singling out an individual nation,” Mr. Obama said. “International law is not an empty promise, and treaties must be enforced.” Prominent among the treaties in need of enforcement is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which has been law since 1970 with almost universal endorsement (the notable exceptions being India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea).

Attempts to bolster the NPT by enforcement and by subsidiary treaties banning the testing of nuclear weapons (there is a tenuous moratorium on testing) or banning the production of fissile material for weapons have foundered on a major obstacle: the reluctance of the nuclear weapons states to disarm. This, despite the fact that the NPT bound them to do so.

Beginning with his April speech in Prague, and continuing yesterday at the Security Council, Mr. Obama has pointed his administration in the opposite direction: “I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” The recent U.S. withdrawal of a European missile defence proposal that stood in the way of future agreements with Russia was surely intended as a first step along the difficult path to a disarmament agreement.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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

In Memory of Eric Tollefson



Project Ploughshares has lost a beloved founding member and one of its greatest advocates in Dr Eric Tollefson. Eric was deeply interested in and gave much support to Ploughshares from its inception in 1982 until his death. He will be greatly missed. Below are excerpts from the obituary that the family wrote.

Eric Lars Tollefson passed away in Calgary, Alberta on September 20, 2009. Eric was born October 15, 1921, in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He earned his B.A. Honors and M.A. from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Toronto. Following his graduation from the U. of T., he worked with the National Research Council in Ottawa. In 1951, Eric and Jean moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he worked with Standard Oil of Indiana. In 1956, they returned to Canada, where Eric accepted a position with Chemcell Limited in Edmonton and enjoyed teaching occasional courses at Camrose Lutheran College. In 1967, Eric was invited to join the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Department of the University of Calgary. He ultimately became Head of the Department, and was responsible for a number of research projects and graduate students.

Eric was very concerned about the impact on the environment posed by the burning of fossil fuels, and the threat to civilization from nuclear weapons. He served as the first Chairperson of the University of Calgary Peace and Conflict Resolution Study Group and on the Executive of the Canadian Pugwash Group. Eric's recreational activities involved composing and playing music, painting, or writing about his youth. He loved the simple pleasures of visiting with family and friends, and sharing a meal. He was a wonderful, loving husband, father and grandfather. For the last nine years Eric was in fragile health, and the family wishes to extend sincere thanks to [those] who gave him such compassionate care over that period of time.

A celebration of Eric's life [was] held on September 30, at Parkdale United Church, where Eric was an active member for many years. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made to Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundation, Project Ploughshares Calgary or the Add Your Light Charitable Foundation (c/o Dr. Jan Tollefson).

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)

Ploughshares Volunteer help needed!

1. **Donations of baked cookies/squares for the Singing for Peace Concert**—contact Jean Tollefson at: 403-282-7538 or tollef@telusplanet.net if you would be able to do this.
2. **Volunteer Coordinator for the Peace Fair.** About 4-6 hours of time in total to contact volunteers from previous Peace Fairs by phone or email to check on their availability to help this year and put together a volunteer schedule for the day. Contact the Ploughshares office if you are able to help with this.
3. If you haven't volunteered at the Peace Fair in the last couple of years and are interested in doing a shift this year, contact the Ploughshares office.