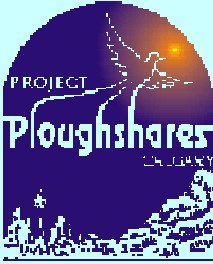


**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

[WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA](http://WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA)

**MAY 2007**



**WE ARE  
LOCATED:  
PARKDALE  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

**2919 8 AVE  
NW**

**270-7366**

**OFFICE  
@PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY.CA**

**VISIT US:**

**MON, TUE, THURS**

**10:30-2:30**

**WED 2-6PM**

## Relieving Global

## Tensions: Iran & Sudan

Registration is still open for our spring workshop.

Friday May 4 7:30pm &  
May 5th 9am-4pm  
**At Parkdale United Church,  
2919 8 Ave NW .**

Friday May 4 7:30pm  
Dr. Jim Whitman (Bradford  
University, Britain)  
Relieving tensions, focus on  
Global Governance

Saturday May 5th 9am-4pm  
Dr. Mike Wallace (UBC) Iran  
and Global Nuclear Issues  
Ali Rezaei Social Movements  
in Iran  
Grant Birks (Waterloo) Focus  
on Africa

\$40 for full workshop  
\$10 for Friday only

For more information call  
270-7366 or  
check our website  
[www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca)

## June 13

## Meeting

Ploughshares June 13 Meeting will be a showing of a Peace Film at Parkdale United Church. All are welcome. This will also act as our AGM. The AGM portion of the meeting will last only fifteen minutes. We hope many of you will join us for an uplifting evening with your peace community.

Film to be announced in the next newsletter.

## Progress on the Peace Pole

Over the last year a small committee has carried on our work to establish a peace pole in Calgary. The City of Calgary Parks department has offered a space along the river pathway downtown near the 10 St. LRT bridge. We are now working with community groups to raise funds and gather support. If you or a community you belong to would like to be a part of this lasting legacy for peace in Calgary please contact the Ploughshares office.



[WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA](http://WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA)

## Linda McQuaig

The Parkland Institute & Project Ploughshares Calgary present

Linda McQuaig and her new book

Holding the Bully's Coat: Canada and the US Empire

Thursday, May 10 7:30pm

Orpheus Theatre, SAIT Call Julie for tickets 270-9669 or Tracey 270-7366

As the Bush administration has turned the United States into a belligerent force in the world, the Canadian government has followed in close step. Attempting to please our powerful neighbour, Ottawa has abandoned Canada's traditional role as a leading peacekeeping nation, and instead adopted a more militaristic, warlike stance, battling insurgents in Afghanistan as a junior partner in the U.S. "war on terror." With her trademark combination of research, analysis, irreverence and passion, McQuaig shows how the elite has pushed us down a path with far-reaching consequences for us as a nation, and for our ability to find our own way in the world

## Art of Peace Day Camp

Day camp for kids 9-13 July 9-13<sup>th</sup> 9am noon \$50/child for the week music art and acting

For more information [www.carolynpogue.ca](http://www.carolynpogue.ca) Call Carolyn at 228-1791

## Ploughshares Calgary News

We had about thirty members at our April meeting. At the April meeting about 30 members appreciated an excellent taped speech by Dr Paul Rogers of Bradford University, Britain. Dr. Rogers pointed out four factors we should be looking at to understand the major trends in international security in the next five years. The first marker is Economic Growth without Economic justice. This includes the growing gap between the rich and poor. The second marker is Positive Development without equal opportunity. As more people are better educated a greater awareness of their marginalization creates frustrated expectations. The third marker is human impact on the earth, especially the growing crisis around climate change. And the fourth marker is the process of further militarization. This includes nuclear proliferation and an increase in impact area munitions. He predicts we have about four years to turn

Many folks at the meeting wanted to learn more about Dr. Paul Rogers and his views. Please consider purchasing his new book: Beyond Terror: The Truth About the Real Threats to our World and joining us when election time comes, in questioning our candidates.

For those who were not able to make it to the meeting and those who want to hear the speech again. We are making it available on disk for \$5. To order your copy call or e-mail the Ploughshares office: 270-7366. Please note that you need Windows Video player to view this speech. It will not play on a DVD player.

### ATTENTION NON-COMPUTER USERS

Are you a Ploughshares member who does not use computers or e-mail? We recognize that sometimes we are not able to get information out in time for the newsletter and sometimes have to send it by e-mail. Would you like to stay connected by phone instead? Please let us know and we will make sure you are called every time. Call the Ploughshares office: 270-7366 and leave your name and phone number letting us know you want to be on the phone contact list. Thank you! We appreciate your support.

**The Spring 2007 Ploughshares Monitor is now available  
on the Ploughshares website [www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)**

# Global News

## British Government Approves New Nuclear Weapons

On 14 March, Great Britain approved funding for a new generation of nuclear weapons. After a six hour debate, the House of Commons voted 409 to 161 in favor of a \$40 billion program that will replace Britain's existing submarine-based Trident nuclear missiles. In protest of the decision, three low ranking ministerial aids from the Labor Party resigned from their jobs declaring, "We must lead the world in campaigning for the eradication of the nuclear threat, and we must lead by example." The vote caused a rare fracture in the Labor Party and 90 members voted against the program, arguing that a reinvestment in Britain's nuclear weapon's stockpile will make it harder to convince countries like North Korea and Iran not to further pursue nuclear weapons. It was the first time the British government had voted on whether to remain a nuclear power. This has practically guaranteed that Britain will retain its nuclear arsenal until at least 2045. Patrick O'Donoghue, the Roman Catholic bishop of Lancaster, said: "In my judgment the U.K.'s continued possession of nuclear weapons is no longer simply maintaining the 'balance of terror,' but fueling the development of new nuclear weapons systems around the world."

Source: Cowell, Alan, "Despite Labor Revolt, Blair Wins Vote on Nuclear Deterrent," International Herald Tribune, 15 March 2007.

For more information go to: [www.basicint.org/nuclear/beyondtrident/greenpaper.pdf](http://www.basicint.org/nuclear/beyondtrident/greenpaper.pdf)

## Russia threatening new cold war over missile defence

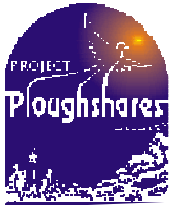
Russia is preparing its own military response to the US's controversial plans to build a new missile defence system in eastern Europe, according to Kremlin officials, in a move likely to increase fears of a cold war-style arms race. The Kremlin is considering active counter-measures in response to Washington's decision to base interceptor missiles and radar installations in Poland and the Czech Republic, a move Russia says will change "the world's strategic stability". The Kremlin has not publicly spelt out its plans. But defence experts said its response is likely to include upgrading its nuclear missile arsenal so that it is harder to shoot down, putting more missiles on mobile launchers, and moving its fleet of nuclear submarines to the north pole, where they are virtually undetectable. Russia could also bring the new US silos within the range of its Iskander missiles launched potentially from the nearby Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, they add. Source: Luke Harding, The Guardian, Wednesday April 11, 2007

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: Number of People Made Homeless by Conflict Soars

The number of people driven from their homes by conflicts around the world more than doubled in 2006 to 4 million, with the Middle East being the worst hit, the Norwegian Refugee Council said on Monday. In its annual report on internally displaced people (IDPs) -- individuals who do not cross frontiers -- the council said over three million people returned home during the year. The total number of displaced people was 25 million, more than twice the number of refugees -- people who have left their country -- worldwide. The two-month war between Israel and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah guerrillas and ethnic bloodletting in Iraq were the two single largest causes of internal displacement last year, the non-governmental organisation said. The council, which runs the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in Geneva, issued its report on the eve of a two-day United Nations-organised conference here on the Iraqi refugee problem. Some 2 million Iraqi refugees have fled their homeland, while a further 1.9 million are displaced within the country, some 700,000 of them within the last 14 months during which sectarian violence has worsened. Source: Reuters

## Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom to Meet in Vienna

The Preparatory Committee for the review of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be meeting in Vienna, Austria. Project Ploughshares Calgary executive member Bev DeLong will be there. This meeting, which will be held at the beginning of May, will consider statements, working papers, and reports in preparation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. NGOs like the Ploughshares Calgary play an important role in bringing the perspectives of civil society to this intergovernmental meeting.



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special Thanks to Sylvia Hawkins,  
Tracey Pickup and Sally Hodges for  
proof-reading and editing this issue!

## Humans Becoming Less Violent

### Lecture by Steven Pinker:

In the decade of Darfur and Iraq, and shortly after the century of Stalin, Hitler, and Mao, the claim that violence has been diminishing may seem somewhere between hallucinatory and obscene. Yet recent studies that seek to quantify the historical ebb and flow of violence point to exactly that conclusion.

This doctrine, "the idea that humans are peaceable by nature and corrupted by modern institutions—pops up frequently in the writing of public intellectuals like José Ortega y Gasset ("War is not an instinct but an invention"), Stephen Jay Gould ("Homo sapiens is not an evil or destructive species"), and Ashley Montagu ("Biological studies lend support to the ethic of universal brotherhood")," he writes. "But, now that social scientists have started to count bodies in different historical periods, they have discovered that the romantic theory gets it backward: Far from causing us to become more violent, something in modernity and its cultural institutions has made us nobler." Pinker's notable talk, along with his essay, is one more example of how ideas forthcoming from the empirical and biological study of human beings is gaining sway over those of the scientists and others in disciplines that rely on studying social actions and human cultures independent from their biological foundation.

STEVEN PINKER is the Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. His most recent book is *The Blank Slate*.

Full article at: [http://www.edge.org/3rd\\_culture/pinker07/pinker07\\_index.html](http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/pinker07/pinker07_index.html)

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

**Here is my one time donation**

**\$25 \_\_\_ (includes 1 yr to newsletter)**

**\$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_**

**I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares**

**And give a monthly donation**

**(include void cheque)**

**\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$25 Other \$ \_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Buy a Day For Peace

**For only \$25 you can buy a day for peace!**

**A great Birthday or Anniversary Gift**

**Buy your loved one's birthday in the  
name of peace. The day and name will be  
recorded on our calendar for display.**

**You will receive your choice of a  
beautiful peace card to show the day you  
bought for them. The card can be mailed  
by us or by you to the recipient.**

**It's a great way to support the work of  
Project Ploughshares and it  
acknowledges the importance of peace in  
the world.**

**You can also buy a day for special  
occasions like Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day or for Gandhi's birthday! A great  
way to remember those who inspire you.**

**Call Today  
270-7366**

