



October 2022 Newsletter

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Want to donate to Ploughshares Calgary? If you haven't yet made your 2022 donation, please consider doing so soon! Email office@ploughsharescalgary.ca for more information on how to donate.



You're Invited!

**PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY
40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, October 22nd 2022
2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
(PRESENTATION AT 3:00 PM)
Parkdale United Church

RSVP AT OFFICE@PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA





THE DAMAGING AND ALARMING WAR IN UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine has reached a new and alarming stage, despite (and even because of) recent Ukrainian victories. Russia, after staging forced referenda in some regions it partially controls, announced that it was annexing four areas in eastern Ukraine: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. It now regards these regions as part of its territory.

Russia has stated (2014) it would reserve the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it or its allies, as well as in the event of conventional weapons used in attack **when the very existence of the state is threatened**. President Putin stated that any attack on Russia would be met by all means available, implying that nuclear weapons might be used. He added, “This is not a bluff.” The newly and illegally annexed regions will be regarded as part of Russia.

Experts and commentators differ as to whether Putin’s threat should be taken seriously, with many urging that it should not. Others are more fearful, given that Russian losses in the war and discontent at home, with hundreds of thousands of Russian men fleeing the country due to military call-up, leave Putin risking serious humiliation, with no way out. Meanwhile, iodine-potassium pills are being distributed in Ukraine’s capital, Kiev, in case it should be subject to a nuclear attack.

Writing in *The Nation* (September 27, 2022), peace-minded strategic expert Michael Klare asked **whether dangerous escalations in the war can be prevented**. He urges that the U.S. government and other involved parties think of a **future peace agreement**, urging the following as elements for it.

- The demilitarization of the Donbas, with international peacekeepers to be installed there, and with an eventual referendum;
- the removal of all Russian forces from Ukraine;
- the Ukraine pledging to stay out of NATO for an extended period of time.

Klare urged that the U.S. should encourage Turkish and Indian presidents to continue their conversations with Putin and Zelensky with regard to a possible peace settlement.





INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER TRUDY GOVIER



To celebrate 40 years of Ploughshares Calgary Society, we are going to be featuring our founding members over the next few months. This month, staff person Haylie Smith interviewed past president, Trudy Govier.

Trudy Govier is one of the founding members of Ploughshares Calgary Society, which was founded in the fall of 1982. Her passion for working for peace was ignited in the 1980's due to the concern of the nuclear issue. She had just left her job at Trent University to move to Calgary where her husband was living and suddenly found herself without a job, but full of passion regarding nuclear issues. This is when she became actively involved in Ploughshares. She was extremely active throughout the eighties and most of the nineties, and she was chair of the board in the mid-90's. In the fall of 2004, Trudy moved to Winnipeg for work and at this time was inactive with Ploughshares. In 2005, Trudy moved back west for a teaching position in Lethbridge, which kept her there until 2012. When Trudy moved back to Calgary in 2012, she wasn't immediately involved and wouldn't resume her role as president until 2017.

In 2017, due to issues with the Canada Revenue Agency, the National Ploughshares group had to disaffiliate from the local groups in order to maintain their charitable status. Trudy describes how she was called upon by the current staff person to provide support, as the acting chair at the time was somewhat advising the group to shut down. Trudy stepped in as new chair and fought for the group to remain active. This was during the time of the Trump administration and Trudy did not feel like this was a good time for a peace group to die out. Trudy remained as acting president for Ploughshares Calgary Society for the last five and half years, stepping down from her role this summer.

When asked what her favourite part of being involved with Ploughshares was, Trudy responded that it has varied from time to time, but one thing she knows for sure is that she has enjoyed meeting a variety of wonderful people.



INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER TRUDY GOVIER

Trudy is a self-professed academic, so she has enjoyed being able to continue learning about specific issues such as topics regarding the nature of non-violence, trust, forgiveness, and reconciliation. One of Trudy's proudest accomplishments while acting as president over these last five years was seeing Ploughshares through the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the pandemic saw many non-profits and small businesses close their doors permanently, Ploughshare's continued on with regular monthly meetings and never once lost steam.

Trudy and I discussed how difficult it can be to find a sense of hope in today's society and that when things run smoothly, they aren't exactly "news worthy". This is why Trudy is so focused on her Peace Museum idea, because it showcases there have been rescue efforts, humanitarian groups, successes at peace keeping and diminishment of nuclear weapons from over 60k to around 14k around the world. She wants to focus on showcasing the people who have heroically worked and fought for these things. Trudy explains that even when the news isn't meant to be deceiving, there will still be an over emphasis on the negative and that it is worrisome to only have a picture of when things go wrong, as it distorts our reality.

To avoid focusing solely on the negative, Trudy turns her attention elsewhere. She enjoys living a balanced lifestyle, which includes having other things to work on, such as Philosophy, particularly in the area of the Theory of Argument. Besides working, Trudy loves spending time with her family, and says her children are a large beacon of hope to her and bring her inspiration. She is also an active swimmer, singer, piano player and reader.

Trudy has high hopes for the future of Ploughshares. She would like to see the membership grow, have more people attend our meetings, and even bring back some of the things they used to do, including being invited into schools to teach children about peer mediation and conflict resolution. Trudy would love to see some younger members join because she says we could use some youthful enthusiasm. What Trudy hopes for most of all is seeing the Peace Museum become a reality with the support of Ploughshares.





WHAT IS HAPPENING IN IRAN?

On September 13th, 2022, an Iranian-Kurdish woman, 22 year old Mahsa Amini, was arrested in Tehran by Iran's “morality” police. She was violently beaten in a police van. Mahsa was taken to the hospital in a coma and died three days later. The death of Mahsa sparked outrage amongst women and men across Iran, leading to protests country-wide. Women in Iran have been burning their hijabs and cutting off their hair in response to the “morality” police. The protests have been met with deadly force by the Iranian police, with recorded deaths of dozens of citizens (men, women and even children), and hundreds of individuals reporting injuries.

Iranian women have been using the internet to share their stories and shed a light on the dire situation they are facing; however, similar to the rioting in 2019, the Iranian government has been shutting down the internet in an attempt to hide their crimes. This is very concerning, as women in Iran have been using social media in order to organize protests, as well as share their stories with others around the globe. Individuals in other countries, such as Canada, Australia and the United States have been seen organizing and attending freedom rallies in support for the people of Iran. Women in particular have also been shaving their heads to stand in solidarity with Iranian women.

Please visit: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/end-the-protest-bloodshed-in-iran/> to sign the petition and learn more about the current situation in Iran.



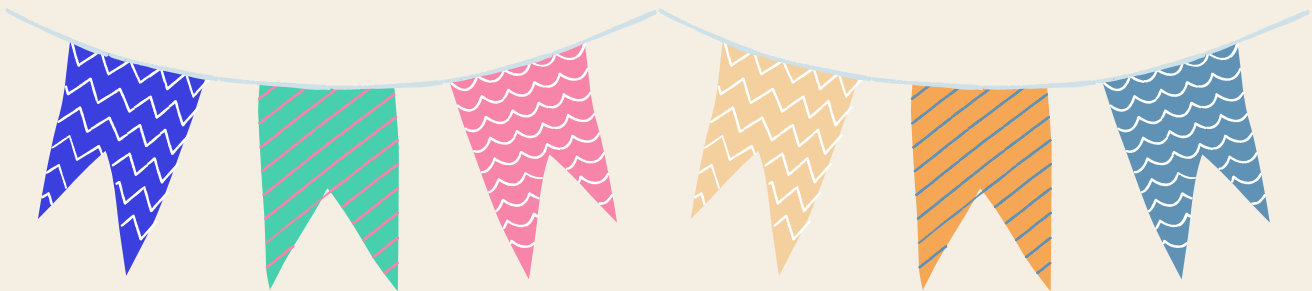
Photo Credits: Calgary Herald. Photo by Gavin Young





UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Saturday, October 8th, Hudson's Bay Calgary Downtown will be having their Giving Day. Save on Beauty, Fragrances and items throughout the store when you purchase a \$5 Giving Day ticket. Your \$5 donation will go towards Hudson's Bay Foundation Charter for Change, a 10- year commitment to accelerate racial equality.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Ploughshares Calgary Society's 40th Anniversary celebration will take place on October 22nd at Parkdale United Church. Please email our office at: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca to RSVP!
- Saturday, October 29th, Sewing Seeds Canada 2022 Gala will be held at The Hamptons Golf and Country Club; tickets are available on Eventbrite.
- Saturday, October 29th, attend the Monster March + Market and support some of Calgary's best local artists, makers and small businesses to help raise funds for the Children's Cottage Society. Located at Clear Water Academy.



 **GOOD NEWS**

- “Calgary -area MLA stares down bull at Strathmore Stampede”. Leila Aheer was watching a running of the bulls event at which a man was charged, struck, and being trampled by a bull. She hopped the fence to push the bull off him and helped the man out. Spurred by her brave effort, others joined in. No one was injured. Leila Aheer was a candidate for the leadership of the United Conservative Party. (Calgary Herald, August 1st, 2022)
- The International Crisis group reports that “Notwithstanding the Ukraine war, work at the UN continues”, with special regard to Afghanistan, Mali, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo and, where possible Ukraine itself. From “Ten Challenges for the UN in 2022-2023”, (September 14, 2022)
- Yvon Chouinard has donated a \$4 billion company to a trust and non-profit dedicated to protecting the environment. The name of the company is Patagonia, and Chouinard says “Earth is now our only shareholder”. One hundred percent of the voting stock has gone to the Patagonia Purpose Trust and 100% of nonvoting stock had already been given to the HoldFast Collective, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting the environmental crisis and defending nature. “We can save the planet if we commit to it” said Chouinard. Commentators observed: The news is “shocking in the best way possible.”



Yvon Chouinard
Photo Credits: Forbes. Photo by: Peter Bohler

- Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community hub that puts together literacy hampers twice a year. The hampers include books, colouring pages, activity sheets, and information in various languages on community resources. Lukas Park, Literacy Outreach Coordinator for Literacy Now Burnaby, says that they purchase books from First Book Canada, and they used to receive donations from Libraries before the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers sort the books into non-fiction and fiction. Once they have enough books, they start to distribute them. Every hamper receives three new books, but people are allowed to take as many donated books as they want. Park figures that Burnaby Neighbourhood House has given away over 3000 books this year. (Calgary Herald, September 24th, 2022).
- On Sunday, October 2nd, over 2,000 Calgarians took to the streets for the 28th annual CIBC Run for the Cure. The organizers of Calgary's event said that they had raised close to \$600,000 before the race on Sunday morning. According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed diseases among Canadian women (affecting about one in every eight women). One in thirty two women will die of it. Funds raised will continue to support research and help improve treatments; they will also go towards continuing research to find a cure. Since 1992, the event has raised more than \$480 million for breast cancer research. (Calgary Herald, October 2nd 2022)



Photo Credits: Calgary Herald. Photo by Gavin Young



CHOCOLATES FOR PEACE & MUSEUM INITIATIVE UPDATE



Photo Credit: Villages Calgary

We would like to invite you back for another event this year!

Ploughshares Calgary Society is pleased to announce an upcoming partnership with Villages Calgary.

Ploughshares Calgary Society are excited to have exclusive shopping nights in November for our members, patrons and the public. Villages Calgary will provide the refreshments (coffee/tea) at no cost and open the store to your group outside of our regular store hours.

This year they will be offering Sundays in November from 4pm to 6:30pm.

Museum Initiative Update

A prospectus has been sent to a potentially sympathetic member of the Glenbow Museum staff. It is hoped that this person will be keen on it and raise the matter with others. No guarantee, of course. Shinobu Apple has joined the museum support committee and has enlisted assistance for us from several board members of Humainologie. We are working to develop a business plan, though details are hard to specify, given uncertainties about space.