

November 2022 Newsletter



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WAR IN UKRAINE AND CHANCES FOR PEACE?

It is hard to see hopeful signs, though rumours about peace talks abound. Ukrainian forces are achieving military successes in eastern regions, but such successes may (perversely) even make that country's position more dangerous, as they result in further attacks from Russia and increased risks that its humiliated leader will escalate further. Having few constructive suggestions of my own, I offer here a summary of an article 'So When will be a Good Time for Peace Talks in Ukraine?' by John Feffer, writing for Foreign Policy in Focus, Oct 28, 2022. The dilemma Feffer describes is one of 'justice versus peace'. If your side is the injured party and is, indeed, in the right, should you compromise for peace?

Feffer notes that Ukrainian forces are pushing back in eastern regions and have even launched several attacks in Russian areas just over the border. He also comments on severe energy risks for the Ukraine. A critical dam might be blown up, rendering inoperative a hydro-electric facility at Kakhouka. And there are continuing threats to the safe operation of a large nuclear power plant at Zaporizhzhia. Damage there, leading to radioactive pollution, could poison not only southeastern Ukraine, but western Europe more generally and, indeed, western Russia itself. Obviously the same can be said about any use, in the war, of nuclear weapons. Ukrainian president Zelensky has vowed to get Russian forces out of the Donbas (eastern) region of his country and out of Crimea (occupied by Russia in 2014) as well. There are voices in the West urging Ukraine to compromise and give up some land in order to arrive at a peace agreement, ending months of destruction, suffering, deaths, and high costs. Polls within Ukraine indicate that its citizens are not willing to do this. They are the invaded country; how and when to negotiate peace is a choice they must make. In the end, Feffer takes the stand that compromise will be needed, but it is for Russia, not Ukraine, to compromise.

Trudy Govier



INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER BEV DELONG



To celebrate 40 years of Ploughshares Calgary Society, we are going to be featuring our founding members over the next few months. This month, current president, Marya Jarvey interviewed founder Bev Delong.

Bev Delong, was the co-creator of Ploughshares Calgary Society (or Project Ploughshares Calgary, as it was originally known,) and our first Chairperson. Bev says that it was shortly after the birth of her daughter, Amanda, when she attended a workshop offered by Rev. John Guy at Parkdale United Church about the dangers of nuclear weapons. Her mother-bear energy was aroused, and she was determined to do all she could to ensure a peaceful world, not only for her own little child, but for all people. Bev's friend, Barbara Gamble, a Calgary teacher, introduced her to Trudy Govier, knowing that they were each very concerned about nuclear weapons. Over tea, they shared their mutual concerns and pondered how to move their concerns forward. When Bev worried that she was not good at answering tough questions from the media, Trudy announced that was no problem for her, so they plunged ahead and decided to form a group. This sparked what seems to have been a perfect match, as these two talented, intelligent, passionate women started the Calgary chapter of Project Ploughshares, and have carefully and thoughtfully guided our organisation over 40 years.

Some of Bev's early activities for peace were public rallies and marches. In June of 1982, she helped Rev John Guy organise a Children's Peace Celebration at the University of Calgary campus complete with helium balloons and a children's choir. In 1983, she participated in a Mother's Day rally on Prince's Island, followed in June by a Calgary Disarmament Coalition walk protesting cruise missiles, from Memorial Park to the Family of Man statues, and a Calgary Disarmament Coalition walk, at which John Guy and Grant MacEwan spoke. On October 22, of that same year, Bev helped to organise an International Disarmament Day Rally at the Federal Public Building. These early activities helped to forge connections within the Calgary community around common concerns for peace and disarmament.



INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER BEV DELONG

One of Bev's highlights over her career with Ploughshares Calgary sprang from an idea she had while swimming at a public pool in 1985. This was the creation of the Holiday Peace Fair, an event where local organisations working for peace and justice could come together in one location to offer a fair trade alternative to harried Christmas shoppers. At its height, the Peace Fair had 25 different vendors, including groups such as UNICEF, Ten Thousand Villages, and Minkha Sweaters, a fair trade enterprise started by Doreen Kot and Kathleen Gleeson. The Holiday Peace Fair ran for 32 years, although after the first year, with Sally Hodges offering leadership later for multiple years. It often had live music provided by local musicians such as Barry Luft, and often hot food, including, for several years, Indian chapatis that were made from scratch in the kitchen by Ploughshares member Swati Fernando. Ploughshares' booth offered T-shirts, notepads, notepaper, buttons, bumper stickers, Farmer Hodges honey, along with children's books related to peace and cooperative games. Bev was present at a political table, providing information about our organisation, and often had a petition ready for signing. Many Ploughshares members remember volunteering and shopping at the Holiday Peace Fair. Bev says that, although it was not a huge fundraiser for Ploughshares, it was always very enjoyable to connect with others working in the non-profit sector, to see old friends and welcome new faces. Without Bev kickstarting this inspiring idea, Calgarians would have missed out on this joyous annual event, a holiday shopping experience that lifted one's heart rather than draining one's energy.

Along with her ongoing active support and involvement with virtually all of Ploughshares activities, such as presenting workshops and talks, organising gatherings, creating brochures and briefs, organising letter-writing campaigns, reaching out to participate in important national and international issues such as the treaty to ban landmines, and throughout, being a key board member, Bev also took on very serious and demanding roles in national and international groups.



INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER BEV DELONG

She expressed particular gratitude to Doug Roche, whom she met when he was the Ambassador for Disarmament, for mentoring her in peacemaking activities. In 1986, Doug invited Bev, along with her father, Eric Tollefson, and Trudy Govier, to a meeting in Edmonton of the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament. Later Doug invited Bev to consult on the Steering Committee of that Group. She has also provided support to the Steering Committee of Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, a group of over 1000 recipients of the Order of Canada dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons. She became involved with Lawyers for Social Responsibility, serving as president from 1991 to 2013, and was Chairperson of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons between 1998 and 2017. She was invited to become a member of Canadian Pugwash Group around 2002, and has been on their board since 2013, helping with two international meetings held in Canada, and serving as liaison to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Bev continues to work hard nationally and internationally on peace and disarmament issues, spending many hours on a daily basis supporting these causes. We are so fortunate that Bev brings this informed wider perspective to Ploughshares Calgary.

With all of this dedicated service, along with an active family life, it is a bit surprising that Bev has any free time at all. When she does, she enjoys knitting, and also watching films. In particular, she enjoys tasteful and intelligent Scandinavian crime films, which feature far less violence than American films, have interesting plots, are full of forensic problem solving, are populated by complex well-acted characters, and in addition, allow for some armchair traveling, offering insights into foreign politics and culture.



INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER BEV DELONG

Bev believes that it is important for people to use their power to speak out and to influence change. She continues to believe that there is no more important issue on which to engage than the danger of nuclear weapons, the existence of which threatens every life on earth. She has certainly used her power to speak up, unwaveringly committing her energy, time, resources and intellect to her work for peace. She is a big part of the reason that Ploughshares Calgary exists at all. Her passionate love for this planet and all its beings, her well-informed and thoughtful contributions to our organisation, and her genuine care and kindness, have carried us through 40 years of engaged, wonderful, meaningful and important activities. Bev Delong has been a beacon of light and hope, not just for Ploughshares Calgary and those whom we reach, but also nationally and internationally. In speaking of the future of Ploughshares Calgary, Bev says that she hopes that younger people will find in our organization a place where their own deep concerns and creative ideas for positive change can be voiced, welcomed, supported and encouraged to thrive.





PLOUGHSHARES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Ploughshares Calgary Society held their 40th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 22nd at Parkdale United Church. Despite the snowy conditions in Calgary, we estimated a total of 75 attendees throughout the 3-hour long event. The formal portion of the event featured a wonderful powerpoint presentation of Ploughshares Calgary Society throughout the years, presented by founding member, Bev Delong. Following the powerpoint presentation, each founding member of Ploughshares Calgary Society (Bev Delong, Jean Tollefson, Trudy Govier and Sally Hodges) were gifted flowers along with a letter of recognition and achievement from Mayor Jyoti Gondek. Also recognized was Shinobu Apple, a dedicated member and the chair of Calgary Floating Lanterns. After the formal portion of the event guests were able to enjoy cake and music.

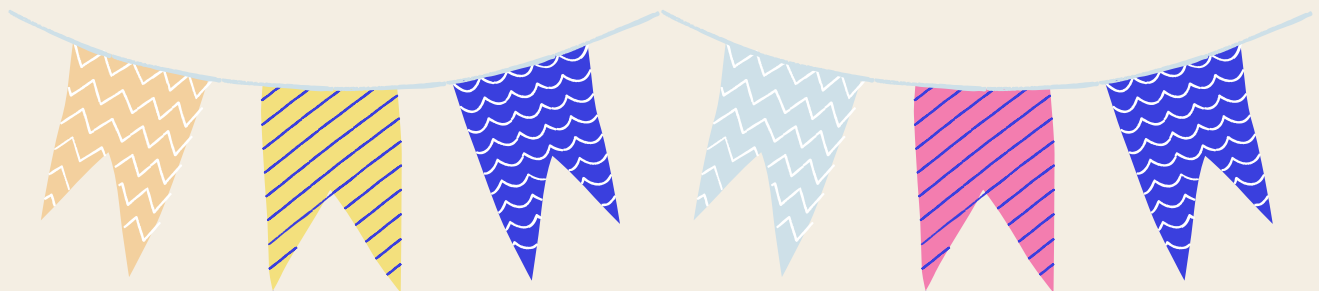
This event was planned and executed by Ploughshares party planning committee, consisting of current president, Marya Jarvey, vice-president Anya Pena-Egle, board member John Glenney and staff person Haylie Smith. Thank you to Brentwood Co-Op and manager, Colin Donoghue for donating the cake, and thank you to Parkdale United Church for hosting us, with many thanks to Hector, for all of his work bringing our ideas to life. This event would not have been possible without the hard work of our amazing volunteers, including kitchen guru Doreen Kot, Lynne Glenney, Chetna Hans, Kerry Smith, Dean Jarvey & Tatiana & Lev Oshchepkova.

A final thank you to those who were able to attend and made this event so special for our honourees.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Saturday, November 5th, St. David's United Church will be hosting the Ukraine Benefit Concert. Starts at 7:00pm. Tickets available on Eventbrite.
- On Sunday, November 13th, SAIT students are hosting a Dance party at Sunalta Community Hall, profits from which will be donated to Calgary Food Bank. Starts at 8:30pm. Tickets available on Eventbrite.
- On Saturday, November 19th, The Hose and Hound Neighbourhood Pub in association with SAIT & CIR Realty will be hosting an adult community night filled with food, silent auction, prizes & even pictures with Santa to raise money for PALS! PALS is a not-for-profit organization that specializes in providing volunteer pet therapy to a variety of workspaces and organizations in the Calgary area. Tickets available on Eventbrite.
- **The Calgary Justice Film Festival is back!** Saturday afternoon, November 19 and Sunday afternoon, November 20, starting at 1:30 PM films and documentaries focused on social and environment justice issues will be shown in the auditorium of River Park Church at 3818 - 14A Street SW. At the same time, they will be holding the Peace Fair where various nonprofit organizations including environmental, immigration and social agencies will have tables where they highlight their missions. Free event. **(P.S. Ploughshares Calgary Society will be there, so come say hi!)**





GOOD NEWS

- Among other developments, there is an 81 megawatt solar development project planned by TC Energy, near Aldersyde; it comes with a battery storage system. There is also a smaller solar initiative planned for near Spruce Grove and a large wind farm planned for the Pincher Creek area. Industrial customers are demanding cleaner energy, and there is no problem getting marks for the wind and solar projects. Living in Alberta, we'll be familiar with the fact that our province has lots of wind and sun that can be put to use. The former NDP government initiated a Renewable Electricity Program, called the REP. Initiatives were government supported but obliged to put money back into the government when they became profitable. Varcoe reports that a study by the U of C's School of Public Policy said this program had led to about \$100 million in payments to the province. (Calgary Herald, October 27th, 2022).
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada has launched a fundraising program in an effort to save one of the province's most biodiverse landscapes located near the hamlet of Twin Butte (near Lethbridge). The program represents a final push to purchase and conserve The Yarrow, a 1,650-hectare plot of land. The Yarrow is home to 27 wildlife species, including the Grizzly bear and endangered little brown bat. The Yarrow is also home to pristine wetlands. (Calgary Herald, October 25th, 2022).



The Yarrow. Photo from Calgary Herald.
Photo Credits: Brent Calver

 **GOOD NEWS**

- A Calgary park formerly known as James Short Park and Parkade will be renamed on November 1st. The park and parkade sit next door to Chinatown and was named after a prominent Calgarian in the late 1800s and early 1900s who held anti-Chinese views. The City of Calgary stated on their website that James Short was a leader in Calgary who petitioned against the construction of the first commercial Chinese-owned building in 1910. Prior to the renaming, a pop-up public art display called A park without a name, was presented until October 28th. The artwork was created by artist Annie Wong and the display consisted on seven banners with quotes on them in both English and traditional Chinese. Both the city and the artist are hopeful that the art will give a voice to the Chinese people. (CTV, October 25th, 2022).
- An Alberta man grows the largest pumpkin in Canada. Don Crews, a pumpkin farmer in Lloydminster grew a 2,537 pound pumpkin and won first prize at the Smoky Lake Great White North Pumpkin Weigh-off and Fair. Don Crews has been growing pumpkins for over two decades, and been attending the Smoky Lake Pumpkin Festival for almost just as long. His love for growing pumpkins began when his wife brought home some pumpkin seeds and he grew a 50-pound pumpkin. Crews started growing his prize winning pumpkin this year in mid-April, he took it out of the ground two days prior to the the October 1st weigh-off. Crews said he's not looking to win first prize, he's just looking to improve from the year before. (Canoe, October 6th, 2022).



Don Crews with his pumpkin.
Photo Credits: Canoe. Photo by Tina Crews



CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS PROVIDES 60 YEARS OF LESSONS

Robin Collins and Sylvie Lemieux wrote an article “Cuban missile crisis provides 60 years of lessons”, which appeared in the Hill Times on Oct 13, 2022. Here is a very brief summary.

Collins and Lemieux note that the UN Secretary General U Thant was an important behind-scenes conflict resolution person in this context, and he encouraged communication and collaboration between the US and the USSR to resolve the crisis. The US removed missiles from Turkey and the USSR removed them from Cuba, as a result. Appreciating the severity of nuclear dangers, the leaders and staff of the two countries worked out no less than eight nuclear weapons related treaties over the next dozen years. Collins and Lemieux note that even a ‘small’ nuclear exchange could cause significant global cooling, resulting in a nuclear famine. Nuclear use must be ruled out, absolutely. Eventually there will have to be peace in the Ukraine.

Summarized by Trudy Govier.

NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE ACTIONS IN UKRAINE

Since March 2022, 235 nonviolent resistance actions in Ukraine have taken place. The information has come from analyzing the trends, impacts and challenges of nonviolence in Ukraine between the dates of February 24th to June 30th. In partnership with the students from the National University Kyiv-Mohyla, , the International Institute for Nonviolent Action (Novact), the Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP), and the NGO Corridors found that nonviolent resistance has successfully achieved the following: 1) has hindered some of the long-term military and political goals of the Russian authorities; 2) has protected many civilians; 3) undermined the Russian narrative; 4) built community resilience; and 5) strengthened local governance. (PaxChrstiusa.org, October 28th, 2022).

Click [here](#) to read more or visit:

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2022/10/28/new-report-documents-235-nonviolent-resistance-actions-in-ukraine/>