



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

**90 Seconds to
Midnight**
P.1 & P.2

**Thoughts on The
Ukraine/Russian War**
P.3

Black History Month
P.4

**Ploughshares Meetings
in 2023**
P.5

Events
P.5

Good News
P.6 & P.7

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February 2023 Newsletter

Ploughshares Calgary Society Presents:

People in the Streets and Seats at the Table: How nonviolent resistance and peace building tactics can work together to build a just, free, and peaceful society

Join us for an educational meeting featuring Dr. Jonathan Pinckney



Join Us On Zoom

Wednesday, February 8th

7:00PM MST

Co-sponsored by Project Ploughshares (National)

Contact Us:



90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

2023 Doomsday Clock Statement Science and Security Board Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Summarized by Haylie Smith

- The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was founded in 1945 by Albert Einstein and scientists at the University of Chicago.
- In 1947 the Doomsday Clock was created.
- The Doomsday Clock is set every year by the Bulletin and has become universally recognized as an indicator of the world's vulnerability to global catastrophe at the hands of manmade technology.
- **Due to the increasing dangers of the war in Ukraine, the Bulletin moved the Doomsday clock forward to 90 seconds, the closest to midnight we have ever been.**
- Russia's threats of nuclear weapon use have reminded the world that the escalation of conflict, whether by accident or intention, is a terrible risk.
- The last remaining nuclear weapons treaty between Russia and the United States, New START, could be in jeopardy. The treaty is set to expire in February of 2026 unless the two parties resume negotiations. If the treaty expires, it would eliminate mutual inspections and deepen mistrust, which could accelerate a nuclear arms race and lead to nuclear exchange.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned in August 2022 that the world has entered “a time of nuclear danger not seen since the height of the Cold War.”

To read the full article, click [here](#).





90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

Written by Trudy Govier

Experts engaged by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists have set the Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to midnight, warning of increased risks of nuclear weapons use in the Ukraine/Russia war, climate change hazards, and the breakdown of norms and institutions.

Regarding the Doomsday Clock, Doug Roche wrote about **Canada's response** in "Canada quiet as Ukraine war inches the Doomsday Clock closer to midnight. (Hill Times, January 30, 2023). Roche calls both the government response and the public response in Canada passive and fatalistic, noting that despite the ongoing threat of nuclear weapons use in the war, it is very hard to find a path to serious peace negotiations.

How could these risks be reduced so as to provide a basis for rolling back the Doomsday Clock?

- Encourage talks to lessen great power competition and get strategies for risk reduction.
- Establish that the deterrence of nuclear use by others is the ONLY purpose of nuclear weapons.
- Seek public and general action to strengthen the nuclear taboo and express consensus on this matter.
- Strive for agreement that nuclear weapons states should participate in regular dialogue on measures that would reduce the risks of conflict involving nuclear weapons.
- End the human obsession with war and instead use tools to attain sustainable peace.

Thanks to Peggy Mason, President, Rideau Institute, for this analysis.



THOUGHTS ON THE UKRAINE/RUSSIAN WAR

Written by Trudy Govier

Prospects for peace talks do not look positive. The Russians are against them. The Ukrainians are willing but only under strict conditions which include all Russian forces leaving Ukraine. Some outside commentators support Ukraine on this issue, saying that peace should be achieved only when justice for Ukraine is achieved. Others urge that the incredible destruction should end now and note that wars end with diplomacy, not victory in battles. Ukraine is being destroyed with devastated infrastructure and land, millions internally displaced and further millions leaving their country. There is a risk that seeking a just peace could be counter-productive with destruction resulting in a worse outcome, ultimately. The war is destroying farmland and habitat, consuming vast amounts of fossil fuels, and is very damaging to efforts regarding climate change. Those efforts require international cooperation. Obstacles to peace negotiations include the following:

- Both sides believe they can win on the battlefield.
- Ukraine has strong backing from many western countries including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the Netherlands. Russia has international backing from China, India, Turkey, and some African countries.
- In the Ukraine there is strong support for the war. The same appears to be true in Russia, though with limits on expression there, it is rather hard to tell.

Veteran U.S. advisor Henry Kissinger warns against efforts to destroy Russia as a state, saying that this would open up the vast area of its eleven time zones to internal conflict and outside intervention at a time when there are 15,000 and more nuclear weapons on Russian territory. It is dangerous to represent this war as a battle for the survival of the West. Though he is often deemed hawkish and cynical, it is noteworthy that Kissinger maintains that in the present context, both security and reconciliation are required.





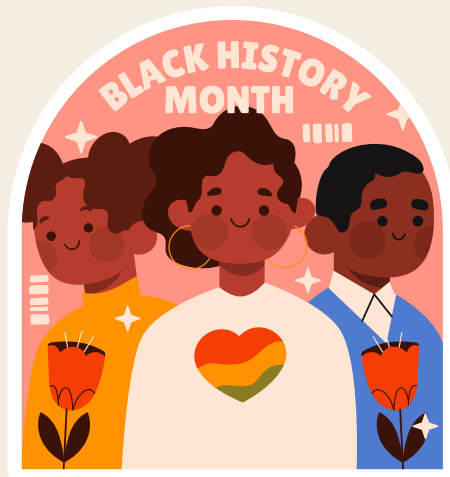
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Summarized by Haylie Smith

What is Black History Month? Black History Month is celebrated from February 1st to February 28th and is an opportunity for the people of Canada and around the world to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black individuals who have helped shape society today. Black Canadians have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage since the early 1600's, when Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, arrived on Canada's East Coast. The role of Black people has been largely ignored in Canadian History, and some Canadian's aren't even aware that slavery took place on the land that we call Canada.

In 1978, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) was established. Its founders presented a petition to the City of Toronto to have February formally proclaimed as Black History Month. In 1979, the first-ever Canadian proclamation was issued by Toronto. In 1993, the president of the OBHS, Rosemary Sadlier, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized Canada wide. In 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. And finally, in 2008, the first Black man appointed to the senate, Senator Donald Oliver, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval.

To learn more about Black History Month and how you can celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians, click [here](#).





UPCOMING PLOUGHSHARES MEETINGS 2023

- **March 8: Militarization and Climate Change. Presented by Emily Gilbert PhD.** Emily Gilbert is a Professor at the University of Toronto, cross-appointed between the Canadian Studies program and the Department of Geography and Planning. Her research focuses on securitization and militarization, with respect to borders, the economy, and climate change. She is an editor at Security Dialogue, and the Vice-Principal of University College.



EVENTS

- On Thursday, February 9th, Multicultural Trail Networks will be throwing an Outdoors For All Fundraiser at Eatcrow Kitchen & Bar located in Kensington. All proceeds raised from the evening will go directly towards supporting their programming. The event is 18+ (No minors). Tickets are free but you must book your spot! To learn more head to eventbrite.ca.
- On Saturday, February 11th, The Calgary Farmers Market (both North and South locations) will be offering Candygrams! All proceeds go to support the Heart & Stroke Foundation. To learn more head to eventbrite.ca.
- On Sunday, February 26th, Made by Momma will be hosting a Cook & Connect event. The event is located down in the Kensington area. Tickets are \$35 and available on eventbrite.ca.
- On Friday, March 3rd, a live & silent auction will be taking place at Jamieson Place featuring 50 pieces of art from artist Carol Cowan. The event is free but you must book your spot! To learn more head to eventbrite.ca.



- Maria Ressa is a courageous Filipina journalist who wrote about killings and other abuses by the Duterte regime in her country. She was charged with tax fraud and, if convicted, could have spent many years in prison. She was not convicted of these charges. (Globe and Mail, January 18, 2023) and will be able to continue her highly important journalistic investigations and activities. Maria Ressa was a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2021.
- The French beauty brand YSL has partnered with The Nature Trust of B.C. to oversee and complete the preservation and restoration of 65 hectares of grasslands in the South Okanagan. The White Lake Basin is found in the traditional territories of the Penticton Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. Members of the community were consulted regarding the project. The White Lake Basin is home to a diverse array of plants and animals – including 27 plant and 57 animal species at risk – such as the American Badger, Western Tiger Salamander, Pallid Bat, Western Rattlesnake, Nuttall’s Cottontail and the Lewis’s Woodpecker. (Calgary Herald, February 6, 2023).



White Lake Grasslands.
Photo Credits: Graham Osborne / YSL Beauty



GOOD NEWS

- The Big Ball, held on January 27th, had over 650 attendees and raised over \$300,000 for for the continued development of the Kawakami Pre-rehabilitation Clinic and the Men’s Health Centre of Excellence at the Prostate Cancer Centre (PCC). The event was presented by Women for Men’s Health (WFMH) and Hotel Arts. WFMH was founded in 2017 by Dr. Shelley Spaner. WFMH's mission includes creating awareness and removing barriers preventing men from living their healthiest lives and also wants to empower women to be key players in helping changing men's behaviours towards taking care of their health. (Calgary Herald, February 4, 2023).
- A rare Indigenous Canadian jacket believed to be 170 years old has been found in a thrift shop in the UK. It is believed that the jacket was made in the 1850's by someone in one of the Métis or Cree First Nations in western Canada. The head of marketing for the thrift store, Alice Leadbetter, has been in contact with experts within Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in order to learn more about the jacket. The investigation is still on-going but Leadbetter wants to make sure that the jacket is returned to its rightful community. (Good News Network, January 31, 2023).



Photo Credits: Good News Network

