

we Need a New map



**Carnegie**  
NEWSLETTER



JULY 15, 2001

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

Email: [carnews@direct](mailto:carnews@direct)

# we Need a New map

The map we inherited  
isn't any good.  
The old roads mislead  
and the landscape keeps changing.  
People are confused  
and drift from place to place,  
clothes scorched by fire  
eyes red with smoke.

The old map tells us  
to look for gold  
in the City,  
so we go to the City  
and find the garbage dump.  
We need a new map  
with new roads  
and a new destination.

Some people fear  
a new map, and  
they cling to the old one  
like flies to fly paper.  
But the old map  
leads to pepper spray  
tear gas  
gulags  
death camps,  
and the end of the world.

I don't have a new map,  
so I write stories.  
The stories draw lines  
dig holes  
and above all, remember.  
"Let people know who we are;  
tell them what happened to us,"  
an old Mayan woman  
in Guatemala said. (1)

"And in this harsh world  
draw your breath in pain  
to tell my story," Hamlet  
said to Horatio.  
"I seem not to speak  
the official language,"  
the poet Adrienne Rich said, so  
she created an unofficial language,  
the language of the heart.

Drawing a new map  
is like singing.  
Voicehandler asked Loon  
why she talked so much  
and Loon replied,  
"Well, Sir, i'm not just talking  
to my own cars.  
The spirit-beings tell me  
that they have no place to live.  
That's the reason I keep talking." (2)

Loon sings the sacred  
into the world  
and creates a new map.

Sing your song, friend.  
Tell your story.  
The map we inherited  
isn't any good.  
The old roads mislead.  
We need a new map.

Sandy Cameron

- (1) A Beauty That Hurts — Life and Death in Guatemala  
by George Lovell, pub. by Between The Lines, 2000.
- (2) A Story As Sharp As A Knife — The Classical Haida  
Mvhtellers And Their World by Robert Bringhurst,



# BUS RIDERS UNION

is holding a meeting to plan mass action of riders. We will force Translink to end the lock-out by accepting the Ready report and restoring service. Our goals include increased service, accountability to transit users, more buses and lower fares.

**TUESDAY, JULY 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

**Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House**

**800 E. Broadway**

**Cal 255-1597 for info.**

e-mail: [busriders@tao.ca](mailto:busriders@tao.ca)

Bus Riders Hotline (for information about upcoming Bus Riders Union events and actions):

682-3269 #8062



## Open Letter to Paul Taylor And the Carnegie Newsletter

I read with interest and some pride the article written by Paul Taylor cataloguing some of the new initiatives coming up in the DTES. [July 1, '01]

As the initiator and participant of two of the projects mentioned - Clothes Encounters Laundromat/Café and RJVE GAUCHE Market, I feel compelled to respond to the article with my observations related to the neighbourhood of the DTES.

The concept which has driven me to pursue these initiatives was the idea that everyone I've met in my three to four years in Vancouver, and specifically DTES, was perfectly capable of verbalizing their own hopes, their dreams, their goals for a better life for themselves and those around them. Everyone (children included) I have met in this incredible neighbourhood, and I do mean EVERYONE - no matter how pained, how damaged by life's struggles, no matter how attached to any addiction or illness - had these dreams, hopes, goals, and, if bureaucracies would just get out of their way and let them focus on these positives, many of them would be successful at reclaiming their lives.

Unfortunately, in order to make my ideas reality, I had to create a bureaucracy myself. I had to develop a not-for-profit organisation, I had to develop a Board of Directors, I had to do reporting to funders (who always were verbally supportive of what we were trying to achieve, but never would give

resources to assist). In essence, I had to create one of the very obstacles to the "entrepreneurial spirit" I was trying to fan the flames of.

On many occasions, I gave my power away to others. I was led to believe that a Board of Directors made up of random individuals, individuals who were not affiliated or powerful on any other Boards of Directors were not strong enough, worldly enough, educated enough to carry these projects through to fruition. So I, like others in the DTES, fell victim to the words of those who think they are more powerful, who think they know what's best for the lives of other people.

Over time, it became increasingly apparent that those who are "strong enough, worldly enough, educated enough" and are prepared to sit on Boards of Directors, are also sitting on several other Boards of Directors and cannot always remain neutral or unaffected by conflicting criteria, conflicting mandates and the original intention of projects become mutated, watered down, or just plain lost.

I have often marvelled at just what an astute observer of human nature George Orwell was when he wrote "Animal Farm". The original intent of the revolution on the farm was noble, but, over time, somehow the most powerful took over and began to oppress the very participants of the revolution in ways more oppressive than the original oppressor.

This is just an observation. And this is an apology to the wonderful, gifted, talented, creative, beautiful residents (in all of your rainbows or margins you may or may not sit in) of Vancouver's "Poorest Postal Code".

Clothes Encounters and RIVE GAUCHE will carry on. However, the original intent I had for them has changed, has been altered by others who have a different agenda.

I am sorry, and I apologize. I believe all of you can do anything you want to do if you want to badly enough.

There are others out there who don't believe you can.

**Ruth Meta**

Founder of Common Concerns Association  
Initiator of CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS  
LAUNDROMAT CAFÉ

Co-Ordinator  
RIVE GAUCHE MARKET

## Candle

The fire is talking.  
It says you have to go  
this way  
and that way  
and this way  
and that way  
and this way  
and that way  
and you have to go  
round and round.  
Burn colours burn.  
Grow. crow.

Devon Bird  
(dictated at age 3)



suspension of belief  
suspension of values  
tired of living  
frightened of living  
others live more  
words seem inadequate  
outdistanced by events  
concrete suffering  
blocked expectations  
blame other people

things are going wrong  
don't be stunned into silence  
burnout  
breakdown  
die  
survive  
conquer ideas  
live beyond compulsion  
charles fortin

## Navajo Buddha Gerry Garcia Rag

Boost me Buddha, let me shine  
This morning I got snapped at by a friend  
I got room in my heart to let it slide  
I (contrary to a long-held conviction) am not  
The Centre of the Friggin' Universe.

A man gave me a real Navajo hat  
It goes with the leather  
I'll wear it all Indian style when I walk  
back to the homeplace showing 'em all  
When it all comes down I'll still be around.

Goin' back to the bones that held the man  
the man who showed me what it is to be a man  
Going to tell him: You were right, I turned around  
You were the only one who ever had faith  
Here I am. Living proof.  
Hope this squares us for you –  
finding me in mom's closet in a pool of blood  
22 stitches.. missed the jug by a mm  
Never forgive myself for that, never.  
But I beg you to, Grandpa.  
To steal from the Dead  
"What a long, strange trip it's been."  
I'm finally coming down  
The handcuffs are off. forever. bank on it.

unknown



## We Shall 'Ovrcome

In a besieged community under bitter attack, the best way to over-come' is to hold fast to family...to an inner toughness born of past betrayals... to a healthy sprinkling of goodwill And never neglecting to harness the spirit of the young with the passion and know-how of the street-fighter veterans who have gone before.

Sam Roddan



## Blanco Blanket

Not like someone sleazing you  
 The Bar Archie shows up  
 I'm nervous, what does the giant  
 want from me? Revenge? Love?  
 Finally get to the point we talk  
 He's out of doors, homeless  
 Wants a blanket, that's all, just that  
 No hand out... no 'can I crash?'  
 I gave him a sleeping bag  
 and an old quilt I'd saved  
 for a moment just like this  
 He did me the favour  
 by letting me help  
 Pleasure shared is doubled  
 Cree thing to do - both ways.

White Crow

The ballroom is darkened, tinsel and twinkling.  
 Two shadows move across the wood, twirling,  
 spinning, laughing. The Bunny Hop hits the needle,  
 and the spectators join in, tapping, slipping, giddy.  
 This could be a high school dance from the fifties,  
 but as the my eyes adjust to the dark, I see that the  
 costumes are slightly off. A woman wears a Hawai-  
 an bathing suit with frill, and she's dancing with  
 Rasputin. Two hoods sit in plastic chairs, laughing.

A soiled angel wings his way across the room,  
 shakes my hand and bounces off to an internal  
 rhythm. It's Friday night at the Carnegie Library,  
 and everyone's having a good time the old fashioned  
 way. Actually, it's not a library anymore (I think old  
 man Carnegie would have rolled over in his grave if  
 he saw the state of his investments.)

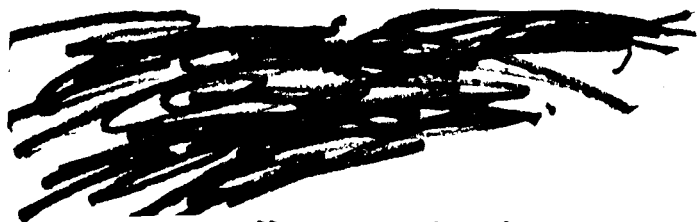
To get in here, I had to run the gauntlet that is Main  
 and Hastings, and the front steps of this building are  
 what the good citizens of Vancouver see on the  
 nightly news and 'Through A Blue Lens.' The police  
 station that is kitty corner grimaces down on the  
 nightmarish day, and flashes red light into its after  
 hours. The steps are always wet, especially when it's  
 not raining. A volunteer hoses them down every  
 afternoon, banishing urine and needle trash and  
 sometimes humans. But they always come back, to  
 buy and sell, to die and to be revived by the hover-  
 ing ambulances. This isn't my first time here, but  
 I'm no crusader or thrill seeker. I'm here to meet a  
 friend. It's dicey on the outside, but that image is  
 one I don't remember when I walk through the doors  
 into a strange kind of sanity. The marble staircase is  
 my favourite feature, curling upwards to the rafters.  
 It's a trip just to walk up it, as the sides have begun  
 to melt downwards, and the iron casings are warped  
 into gothic configurations. I don't know this place as  
 well as some, but I can tell you what you won't see  
 unless you walk through the glass doors.

I've played basketball in the empty gym, battling  
 with a wheelchaired baller whose hands used to play

against Olympians and now guide her chair from  
 meeting to meeting. I've wandered in the basement,  
 peeking in on the illicit Mah Jong games in the  
 senior's lounge, and admiring the twisted day sculpt-  
 ures in the ceramics room. I've taken books out of  
 the library and chatted about the dismal life expecta-  
 ncy of downtown paperbacks with a cheery volunt-  
 eer. I've eaten at the cafeteria for \$1.50, consuming  
 turkey and mashed potatoes and chocolate pudding  
 and leafy vegetables. I've served coffee and tea to  
 gracious patrons, and coaxed a surly diner into  
 giving me back a handful of forks. I've used the  
 underground washrooms, patrolled by an elderly  
 couple who keep order and dispense kindness in  
 equal measures. I've watched a lawyer in rolled  
 shirtsleeves, sitting for hours, listening to the partic-  
 ular legal woes of Eastside residents. I've spied on  
 the actor's group as they rehearsed with gusto in the  
 atrium for their next street production.

My friend has arrived. She hands me a manila  
 envelope filled with leaflets about Carnegie's history  
 and its services. I gather my things and we slip down  
 the marble staircase, and out into the jungle. The  
 steps are wet. The cops are out. The green copper  
 roof is covered in pigeons. Do you see what I see?

submitted anonymously



## Alternatives offer more than hope..

Some people are working on sustainability; if one is that much part of the solution then one is that much less of the problem. Hopefully.

I have seen how the federal government burns and destroys useful structures in rural areas, such as the West Coast Trail head at Pachecna Bay, Bamfield, Vancouver Island. I had hoped also that the NDP government under Mike Harcourt could enact sustainable development models such as eco-villages.

My concept of these places is progressive, using 'alternative' knowledge we already possess – Organic gardening and animal husbandry, education, spirituality, surviving on low or no income, having a good cross-section of age groups, alternative construction, encouraged creativity, music, friendliness.. and sharing common items like a village van, computer, television, etc.

I felt then (10 years ago) and still do that Canada could be at the forefront of sustainable development with model villages, each one unique, throughout the land.

There was a Canadian Forces base – Holverg – on north Vancouver Island about ten years ago. It was vacated by the military, leaving behind houses and buildings. Such a place would have made a good location for a living, working village model. Subsidies would exist only for the time needed to get a sustainable plan happening.

Wouldn't this be cheaper than paying SRO hotel owners or other landlords welfare with no hope of ever owning land, housing or being happy that one is working on an answer for many problems. That is positive change.

I would like to see people in the Downtown Eastside have options, and other low-income/no opportunity people. A sustainable eco-village needs pioneering, interesting, supportive types willing to make a place work. In the war of oppression, give peace a chance.. Thanks.

Mike Bohnert

## DIE, DIE, DIE

There are the Canadian  
Run businesses going under  
All over downtown Vancouver.

There are old people, dying  
Because that can't get to a  
Doctor or do their shopping.

Some poor people working  
On their Recovery downtown  
Stuck in the big rut, can die.

There are Poets that can't get to  
Their Digs that keep them alive  
Many more unfulfilled Morrisons.

A war between the rich and poor  
When the poor can't get to work  
And more deaths, for bike riders.

Poor who can't take their kids  
To summer places around the city  
Is it not freedom that really died?

What do you say to government  
That won't even put an end to  
The Bus Strike? DIE, DIE, DIE.

Daniel Rajala

## BEAT THE HEAT Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2001 Strathcona Park

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gathering that has, as the highlight, the baseball game of the year – **Beat the Heat**. Members of the local police constabulary up against local users, ex-users and sundry elements from the 'hood.

Names were only available after coercion, but last year there was the Complaint Commissioner (Score-keeper), Chief Coroner (Umpire), Deputy Chief (one of the grunts) and the Mayor (batboy?).

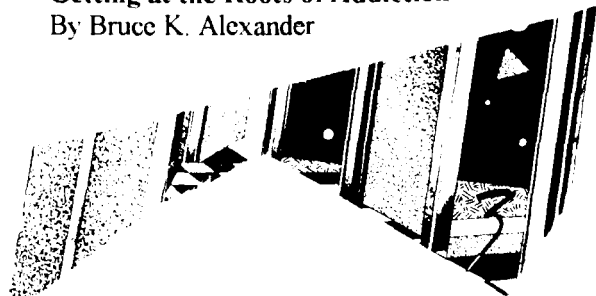
Something for everyone:

*Children's Games & Activities; Face Painting;  
Picnic for 1000 people; Local Entertainers.*

Call 687-1772 for information.

## Getting at the Roots of Addiction

By Bruce K. Alexander



Vancouver recently made an important breakthrough by proposing the "four pillars" approach to dealing with drug addiction, recognizing the importance of harm reduction as well as treatment, prevention and enforcement. This is a step in the right direction. But unfortunately, it won't stop the rising tide of addiction because it doesn't get at the root causes.

Today when we talk about addiction, we generally mean substance addiction-to alcohol, and illegal drugs like heroin and cocaine. But this is a very narrow way of looking at the problem. A walk down Hastings Street will take you through Vancouver's downtown eastside, where the most visible forms of addiction can be seen. But it will also take you through the financial district, and past casinos, bars and restaurants. There are addicts here too-people with addictions to money, power, gambling, sex, work, and food, for example, that may be just as harmful as substance addictions.

People become addicted to harmful substances or behaviours when they are dislocated from the many intimate ties between people and groups-from the family to the spiritual community-that are essential for every person in every type of society. Today we are seeing rapid increases in the spread of dislocation and addiction. To understand why, we need to look at our rapidly changing society, and especially at the way the "free market" is becoming ever more prevalent in our lives.

Free markets wreak havoc on people and communities by demanding that we obey the "laws" of supply and demand. We used to live, work, play and build our communities within networks of loyalty to town, family obligations, social roles, guild or union, and spiritual ties. Today, in contrast, people are expected to move to where jobs can be found, to adjust their work lives and cultural tastes to relentlessly changing global markets, and to identify themselves as

independent economic actors who vote with their dollars instead of as citizens with roots and social obligations. The result is an epidemic of rootlessness and isolation. People often respond to their sense of dislocation by creating artificial lifestyles devoted to substitute gratifications-drugs, alcohol, money, power, gambling, and so on.

The best evidence for this psychological analysis lies in our own history. Native peoples in Canada, for example, today face epidemic levels of alcohol addiction. Close analysis of history shows that this is not because they are naturally prone to addiction or because native people were only recently exposed to "addictive" substances. Rather, it is because they have faced massive dislocation-resulting from cultural destruction and stolen lands, among other devastating changes-as colonization took place and market society was established.

Today, our society is based on the free market principles that mass-produce dislocation and addiction. And because Western free market society provides the model for corporate globalization, mass addiction is being globalized along with the English language, the Internet, and Mickey Mouse.

Attempts to treat or prevent addiction that ignore the connection between free markets, dislocation and addiction can only be band-aid solutions. If we are going to address the problem of addiction, we have to seriously question the road to ever-freer and more global markets that we are speeding down. True solutions require policies that help us to find a place in society, to better care for one another, and to build sustainable, healthy communities. For example, we need a social safety net and income support systems that allow people to stay where they have familial and community supports.

I believe we have actually under-rated the dangers of globalization. We need to recognize the potentially devastating effects of globalization on the human psyche along with its catastrophic ecological, economic, and political consequences.

*Bruce K. Alexander is a professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University and a research associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. He is the author of a recent study called "The Roots of Addiction in Free Market Society," available at [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca).*

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC – 219 Main; Monday-Friday, 10am – 6pm  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main; 8:30am-8pm every day  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes**

**City – 5:45 pm – 11:45 pm**

**Overnight – 12:30 am – 8:30 am**

**Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am**

**FREE – donations accepted.**

# Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.

Articles represent the views of individual  
contributors and not of the association.

**Submission Deadline  
for next issue**

**Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**2001 DONATIONS**

Libby D. -\$69  
Sam R. -\$30 Nancy W. -\$4 Eve E. -\$4  
Margaret D. -\$30 Shyamala G. -\$2  
Pam C. -\$20 Val A. \$20 Wm B. -\$20  
Harold D. -\$20 Pam. -\$6 Mary C. -\$30  
Rolf A. -\$75 Bruce J. -\$34 Peggy. -\$45  
Kettle. -\$20 Sonya S. -\$120 BCTF. -\$9  
Nancy H. -\$19 Bill G. -\$130 Wes K. -\$14  
DEYAS. -\$150 RayCam. -\$70 LSS. -\$230  
John S. -\$34 Paddy. -\$60 Sarah E. -\$20  
Rockingguys. -\$30 Anonymous. -\$173  
The Edge. -\$200 Celeste W. -\$22

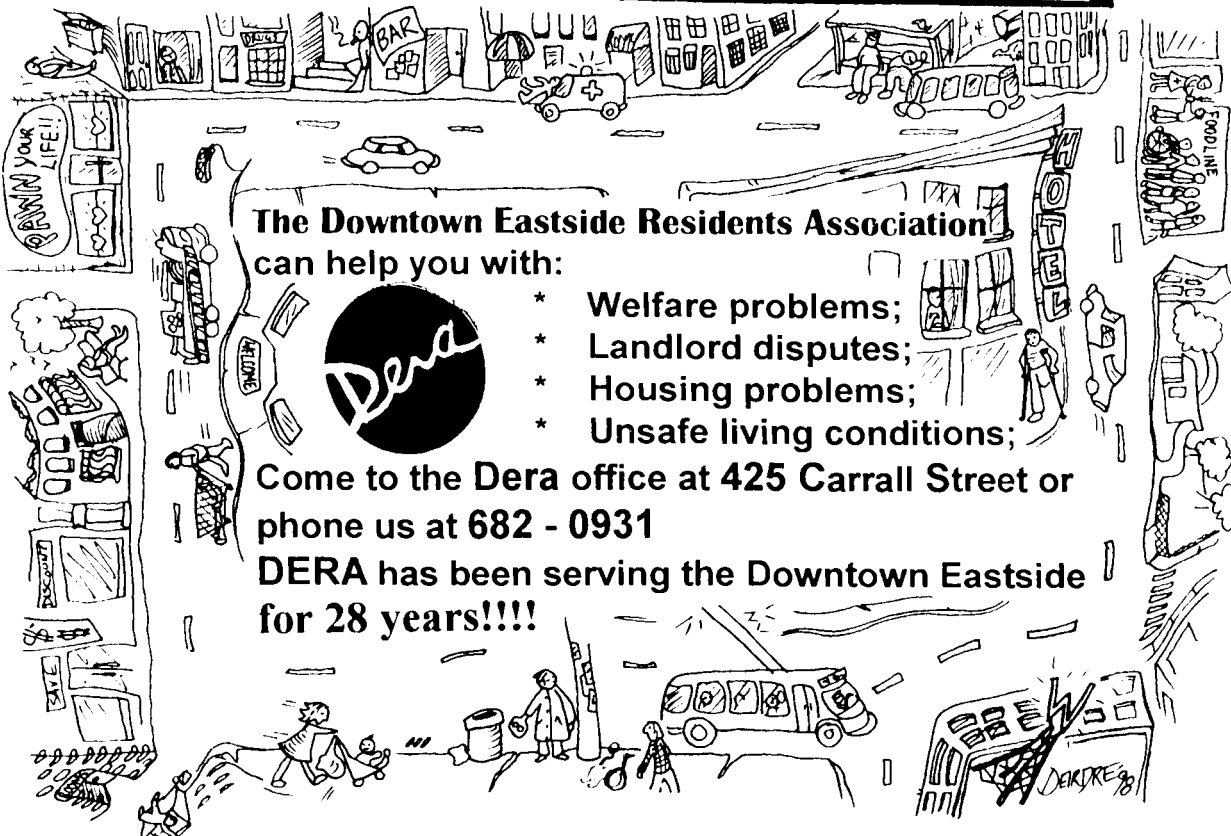
**The Downtown Eastside Residents Association  
can help you with:**



- \* Welfare problems;
- \* Landlord disputes;
- \* Housing problems;
- \* Unsafe living conditions;

**Come to the Dera office at 425 Carrall Street or  
phone us at 682 - 0931**

**DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside  
for 28 years!!!!**





# Transnational firms are taking control of a basic element of life.

*By Maude Barlow*

The world is poised to make crucial, even irrevocable, decisions about water. We face a crisis. We all know that the supply of available fresh water is finite and represents less than half of 1 per cent of the world's total water stock. We agree that 31 countries are facing water stress and scarcity and more than a billion people lack adequate access to clean drinking water. By the year 2025, as much as two-thirds of the world's population will be living with a serious scarcity of water.

We even agree that instead of taking great care with the limited water we have, we humans are diverting, polluting and depleting it at an astonishing rate, as if there were no reckoning ahead.

On all these things we agree. Where there may be profound disagreement is around the nature of the threat, and the solution to it.

A growing movement of people believes that the imperatives of economic globalization — unlimited growth, a seamless global consumer market, corporate rule, deregulation, privatization and free trade — are the driving forces behind the destruction of our water systems, and must be challenged and rejected if we are to save the world's water.

Under the current system of market-driven economic globalization, there are no limits placed on where capital can go to harvest nature. In the global market, running out of a local resource can be quickly rectified. When the East Coast cod are depleted, we just move on to Chilean sea bass.

In the race to compete for foreign direct investment, countries are stripping their environmental laws and natural-resource protection regimes, including water protection. All through Latin America, China and Asia, massive industrialization is affecting the balance between humans and nature in rural communities. Water use is being diverted from agriculture to industry and agribusiness; factories and factory farms are moving up the rivers of the Third World, drinking them dry as they go. Already 80 per cent of China's major rivers are so degraded, they no longer support fish.

This is not sustainable. And it leads to the second area of disagreement: What should be the role of



the privatization of municipal and regional water services, including sewage and water delivery, the construction of water infrastructure, and water exportation. These companies do not view water as a social resource necessary for all life, but an economic resource to be managed by market forces like any other commodity.

The transnational water companies will assert that they are in this business for almost altruistic reasons. But elsewhere the message is different: Gerard Mestrallet, chief executive officer of Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, says that, taking a page from France's past, he wants to develop in his company the philosophy of "conquest" as Suez moves into new markets around the world. And one of his directors adds: "We are here to make money. Sooner or later the company that invests recoups its investment, which means the customer has to pay for it." Such comments might be appropriate if one is talking about cars or golf clubs, but are distressing to hear about one of the basic units of life.

In North America, the water companies are even more obvious about their frontier mentality. Global Water Corp. of Canada, which has a contract to ship 58 billion litres per year of Alaskan glacier water by tanker to be bottled in a free-trade zone in China, openly boasts that this venture will "substantially undercut all other imported products" (because of China's cheap labour). Global declares that "water has moved from being an endless commodity that may be taken for granted to a rationed necessity that may be taken by force."

These corporations argue that privatizing water is

the best way to deliver it safely to a thirsty world. I'm personally not opposed to private sector involvement in the building of infrastructure. What's at issue here is the private control and ownership of water services and delivery.

True, governments have done an abysmal job of protecting water within their boundaries. However, the answer is not to hand this precious resource over to transnational corporations who live by no international law other than business-friendly trade agreements. The answer is to demand that governments accept their responsibilities and establish full water-protection regimes.

The privatization of water is wrong on many counts. It ensures that decisions regarding the allocation of water centre almost exclusively on commercial considerations. It means that the management of water resources is based on the principles of scarcity and profit maximization, rather than long-term sustainability. Corporations are dependent on increased consumption to generate profits and are, therefore, much more likely to invest in desalination, diversion or export of water than conservation.

Pro-privatization advocates argue that they are transnational corporations in determining the future of water?

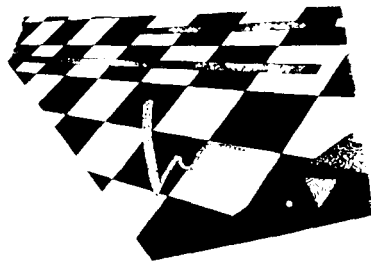
Just as governments are backing away from their regulatory responsibilities, giant transnational water, food, energy and shipping corporations are acquiring control of water. They do so through the ownership of dams and waterways, control over the burgeoning bottled water industry, the development of new technologies such as water desalination and purification, seeking private-public partnerships, and give assurances that governments will still be able to establish regulations. However, because the provision of water services itself does not provide sufficient return, water corporations are increasingly seeking exclusive control over water-service provision through acquisitions of infrastructure and water licences — creating huge monopolies against which local suppliers cannot compete.

In their support for large-scale project financing, the World Bank and others give preference to large multi-utility infrastructure projects that favour the biggest corporations, leading to monopolies. And they underwrite these giant corporations with public

money and often incur the risk while the company reaps the profit. Often governments are asked to assure a return to the shareholder. As a condition imposed by the World Bank, Chile had to guarantee a profit margin of 33 per cent to Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux — regardless of performance. The effect of the privatization of this scarce resource will lead to a two-tiered world — those who can afford water and those who cannot. It will force millions to choose between necessities such as water and health care.

There is simply no way to overstate the water crisis of the planet today. No piecemeal solution is going to prevent the collapse of whole societies and ecosystems. A radical rethinking of our values, priorities and political systems is urgent and still possible.

First, we have to declare that water belongs to the



Earth and all its species. All decisions about water must be based on ecosystem and watershed-based management. We need strong national and international laws to promote conservation, reclaim polluted water systems, develop water-supply restrictions, ban toxic dumping and pesticides, control or ban corporate farming, and bring the rule of law to transnational corporations who pollute water systems anywhere.

Second, water must be declared a basic human right. If this sounds elemental, it was the subject of hot debate at the World Water Forum in The Hague, with the World Bank and the water companies seeking to have it declared a human "need." The point is, if water is a human need, it can be serviced by the private sector. And if it's a "right"? You cannot sell a human right.

*Maude Barlow is national chairperson of The Council of Canadians and a director with the International Forum on Globalization. She is the best-selling author or coauthor of 11 books including Blue Gold: The Global Water Crisis and the Commodification of the World's Water Supply.*

# They're coming to take our water...

Dear Concerned Friend,

There's nothing more important in the natural world than that miraculous liquid which makes all life possible - fresh water. But right now Canada's water — our water — is under terrible threat.

Recently, a number of large corporations have attempted to extract enormous quantities of Canadian lake water and sell it abroad - the most recent attempt in a 40 year history of plans to export it.

In 1998, the Nova Group of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario applied for a permit to sell up to 10 million (10,000,000) litres of Lake Superior water each day to Asia. Under public pressure, Nova agreed to withdraw its application, but this country came within a whisker of selling as much as six hundred million (600,000,000) litres of our precious water each year. Just months after Nova made its application, another company - McCurdy Group of Newfoundland - sought permission to export a staggering 52 billion (52,000,000,000) litres of water a year from Newfoundland's pristine Gisborne Lake. (That's over 86 times as much water as the Lake Superior deal involved.)

And now comes the latest blow: On March 27, 2001, Newfoundland Premier Roger Grimes said he may allow McCurdy to export even more Canadian water: over 59 billion (59,000,000,000) litres a year. So I urgently need your assistance right now. Please take a moment to sign and send me the enclosed "Save our Water" Petition.

I'll take your petition - and those from thousands of other concerned Canadians - and present them en-masse to Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew and Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley, urging them to enact legislation prohibiting large-scale water exports from Canada.

I'm tremendously concerned about bulk water exports for a number of reasons.

First, they can be terribly damaging environmentally: they can lead to destruction of animals' homes, accumulation of poisonous mercury in the water, and even changes in climate. (Yes, climate change. Because when you play with something as fundamental as water, you're starting to meddle with the very structure of nature.)

So far, Canada has not allowed these exports. But if

## CORNERED By Mike Baldwin



"In a further effort to increase profits, control costs and satisfy shareholders, we've decided to steal stuff."

we do allow them it will be impossible to stop them. (Yes, you read correctly: Impossible.)

You see, Canada is bound by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the NAFTA deal clearly says that once we start exporting water we cannot stop.

Furthermore, Canadian and American corporations will have the actual legal right to come in and buy as much of our lake water as they want — without restriction. And if our government tries to pass a law prohibiting these exports, corporations can sue our government for lost business. (In fact, Sun Belt Water Inc. of California is currently suing Canada for \$10.5 billion because the B.C. government banned water exports in the early 1990s.)

Is this an outrage? You bet it is. But with the help of concerned citizens such as yourself, we'll be fighting it every step of the way.

With your help, in the coming weeks and months we'll be:

- 1) Setting up local "Water Watch Committees" across Canada. Run by volunteer activists coast-to-coast, the Committees will monitor Canada's lakes and rivers, immediately publicizing and protesting any threatened water exports. They'll also push for legislation prohibiting these exports and, as a double

## Education Committee

meetings will be held regularly on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month  
at 3:00 p.m.

The next one is on  
**JULY 20<sup>th</sup> in Classroom II**

protection, they'll work to remove water from the NAFTA deal or kill NAFTA altogether.

2) Lobbying Ministers Pettigrew and Manley in Ottawa to develop a national policy that ensures control of our water remains in public, not corporate, hands. (We've already presented Ottawa with over 25,000 letters and petitions.) We'll also be working with like-minded organizations overseas to promote more efficient use and maintenance of water in developing countries.

(People sometimes ask me, "Wouldn't exports of Canadian water help people in poor, drought-stricken nations?" Unfortunately the water exports contemplated by the big corporations have nothing to do with helping poor people; the water would only be sold to the affluent.)

3) Continuing our cross-Canada "Save our Water" Petition Drive. We plan to approach hundreds of thousands of Canadians to sign our petition - just like we did in our successful campaign to protect pensions (when we collected over half-a-million signatures and played a key role in the government's decision to save Old Age Security.) We'll bring your signed petition and thousands of others to Parliament Hill - and make the politicians listen.

4) Running a National Media and Public Education Campaign to alert Canadians to the threats. The Council of Canadians has already held press conferences, spoken extensively to the media, and published newspaper articles describing the harmful effects of water exports. But unfortunately most Canadians still don't know the extent of the problem. With your assistance, we'll get the message out right across the country.

Founded in 1985 by a handful of idealistic citizens including Farley Mowat and Pierre Berton, The Council of Canadians is today Canada's preeminent public watchdog organization — with a membership of 100,000 individuals.

Headquartered in Ottawa and boasting some 60 local chapters across the country, The Council works tirelessly to protect our social programs, culture and the environment against government cutbacks and incursions by transnational corporations.

In the past 3 years alone, The Council has scored four major victories which protect people like you and me:

- 1) Blocked passage of the awful Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) (April, 1998). This Agreement would have paved the way for two-tier health care in Canada and left our culture at the mercy of U.S. mega-corporations.
- 2) Forced the government to withdraw its so-called "Seniors Benefit" (Summer, 1998). This program would have robbed seniors of millions of dollars in retirement income.
- 3) Successfully campaigned to stop the bank mergers. The mergers would have meant 40,000 Canadians losing their jobs, a huge increase in service fees and terrible new hardship for our small businesses. (December, 1998)
- 4) Successfully campaigned to block Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH). This product of the big drug companies — which may be linked to cancer — could have ended up in our children's milk. Thanks in part to The Council of Canadians, that won't happen. (January, 1999)

But now we face a new challenge: protecting our priceless lake water.

I'm somewhat optimistic because in the last year The Council has twice blocked the government's awful "voluntary water accord" - which would have opened the floodgates to bulk water exports, but I don't want to mislead you. Protecting our water will not be easy. The big corporations see a phenomenally profitable market here and are exerting tremendous pressure on Ottawa to let them exploit it. (I don't need to remind you about the sorts of money and lobbying power these big corporations can muster. They're very substantial, to say the least.)

So if you and I are going to succeed in getting the government to prohibit water exports — and remember, Ottawa could bring in a prohibition tomorrow, if it wanted — we'll have to work together.

Please take just a moment to sign the petition. It's the first step in this crucial campaign.

And please also take the second vital step and send

The Council of Canadians a generous donation of \$35, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford so we can run the largest possible campaign to save our precious lake water —before it's taken away from us and sold to the highest bidder.

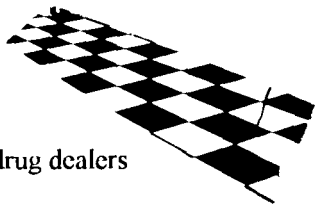
Thank you so much.  
Yours,  
Maude Barlow

Volunteer National Chairperson  
**The Council of Canadians**  
151 Slater Street, Suite 502, Ottawa ON K1P 5H3

### Sacred Copout

Spiritual empathy  
Like pushing through drug dealers  
Four Pillar perversion  
I like it.  
Try to take my stem away..  
Could it be the demoralized rich  
fear drugs  
because they empower the poor  
and have so brain-washed everyone  
We all fear ecstasy-inducing plants  
God and Her minions laugh at our suffering  
..or else She would have \_\_\_\_\_?  
Sacred copout is turning your cheek  
while you seethe inside.

A. Kostyniuk



### Night Time Comes

The nighttime comes  
After all the thousands  
Of tourists have left  
Many here to watch  
Some world sporting  
Event which takes all  
Their attention, away  
The niany restaurants  
And the guest services  
Take all of their money  
Not given much history  
Of GROUSE Mountain

All the brave. Pioncers  
There is all of the work  
Most { )eople have to do  
Battles between Minds  
When nighttime comes  
Crackle of cedar burning  
The whistle of the trains  
Carrying the box loads of  
The bull manure far away  
All problems, disappear  
And iii Peace i'm dancing  
Alone in the darkness with  
Pleasant tunes in my head.

Daniel Rajala

# SAVE OUR WATER PETITION

To: the Hon. John Manley, *Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
and the Hon. Pierre Pettigrew, *Minister of Trade.*

WHEREAS corporations now have plans to export billions of litres of Canadian lake water per year;  
WHEREAS trade rules dictate that once Canada begins to export its lake water, no limit can be placed on the amount of water exported;  
WHEREAS Canada's water belongs to the people of Canada, not private corporations;  
WHEREAS exports of lake and river water can bring environmental devastation including mercury poisoning and climate change;

THEREFORE I JOIN WITH THE PEOPLE OF CANADA in asking the government to enact legislation which prohibits large-scale water exports.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

# Native Treaty Settlements

--By Darcie MacFronton

## A Little Quiz-

Do You Know Enough about the Native Treaty Process?

(The answers are throughout, and at the end of the article.)

1. In what year did women win the right to vote federally? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did Native people win the right to vote in BC? \_\_\_\_\_
3. First Nations people won the right to vote federally in what year? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year did the Nis'gaa people first approach the government in Victoria for recognition of their aboriginal land title? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did they go to the government in Ottawa to seek protection of their rights to their own land? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what year was the prohibition against First Nations peoples hiring lawyers or raising money to process land claims lifted? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The law which jailed Native people who practised their religion was overturned in what year? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Generations of native children were largely brought up in residential schools. Imagine it was your house, in your town, and a group of strangers arrived with government authority to take your children away for months at a time. Impossible, isn't it? Treatment of the children in those schools was often inhumane and has led to ongoing problems for their descendants; children were worked hard, often had little or poor food to eat, were beaten for speaking their own language, and were often sexually or physically abused. When was the last residential school for native children in Canada closed? \_\_\_\_\_

## Did You Know??

Do you know that, while women won the right to vote federally in 1918, First Nations peoples were denied the right to vote in BC until 1949, and federally until 1960? Do you know that, as early as 1881, the Nis'gaa people went to Victoria to demand recognition of their aboriginal land title? And in 1908 - even while denied the right to vote - they went to Ottawa to attempt to protect their rights to their own land? Native people were not allowed to hire a lawyer or to raise money to process land claims until 1951. Are you aware that their religious objects were stolen from them by early church representatives, that they were forbidden to practise their spiritual ceremonies and were jailed if they did? This law was on the books right up until 1951.

I read a recent article in my local paper entitled "Frustrated with the 'Treaty Process'". I had to laugh when I saw it was written by a new citizen from the USA who immigrated here in 1992. First Nations peoples have been frustrated with the treaty process for 150 years or more!

I keep reading and hearing about public reactions to First Nations negotiations of land title and future governmental relationships. I have to say I am very disturbed by the tone of many of these reactions. Much fear and racism has been stirred up by the misinformation campaign of one political party, which is irresponsibly stirring up people's fears for its own political advantage. Further criticism comes from corporations that thought they had BC's resources all tied up for themselves. Ordinary people seem to be going along with the angry outbursts. I believe this anger comes from fear and lack of knowledge. I think that if most people knew a few basic truths, they would be ashamed of themselves and others who rail so loudly against current attempts to right some historical wrongs. I also believe that any political party that speaks publicly should be compelled to inform itself, and be held accountable for the misinformation it promotes.

Everyone now knows that several generations of native children were largely brought up in residential schools. But try to really imagine being in your house, in your town, and having a group of strangers arrive with government authority to take your children away for months at a time? Impossible to think of it, isn't it? Most people now know that the treatment of the children in those schools was often inhumane: children were worked hard, often had little or poor food to eat, were beaten for speaking their own language, and were often sexually or



physically abused. Can you believe that the last residential school for native children in Canada was not closed until 1988?

There is a lot of fear about losing access to land, trees, minerals, and other natural resources that form the basis of much of BC's economy. It must have been pretty hard for First Nations people to see what has been done in their territories, to their resources. And guess what! Those resources do not belong to us. The average person seems to accept that he or she cannot log in a city park or in my back yard because it does not belong to him or her. Why does this same person have so much trouble understanding that the land we think of as "Crown lands", or "tree farm licences" or "mining claims" actually belongs to First Nation communities? If those communities had not been prevented from accessing the courts in the first place, the issues would have been resolved long ago. Instead, they are still needing to be settled.

Some people seem to want to start now and call it "equal". They seem to be saying, "Forget that we stole your children, your lands and resources, your ways of life, your pride. Forget that we brought you poor health, alcoholism, poverty, suicide. Let's call it even, now that we have the jobs and riches from the resources we don't acknowledge were stolen from you. 'Cause we don't want to give them back." Well, there are a lot of people who do not think that way, who want to see justice done. Like me, they have likely not wanted to take the time or step out publicly in a dialogue, because certain people are trying to charge the discussions emotionally by distorting the truth. But I believe it is time for everyone to take a stand, not based on our own narrow self interests, but based on the opportunity to change the course of future history. Instead of continuing a course of domination and injustice, we can right some wrongs and begin to plan our futures together as true equals.

Canada, as a young British colony, espoused the rule of law. Canada's disregard for First Nations lives and rights in the colonial days was arrogant, paternalistic, racist, and self-serving. Even so, due to some combination of factors, Canada had fewer of the massacres and attempts at annihilation than occurred south of the border in USA, Mexico and countries further south. We are lucky now that, in spite of the barriers heaped against them, First Nations people have survived as well as they have and have been able to hang on to wisdom and intelligence and humour. It is our good fortune that enough time has passed so that our sense of justice has caught up with us, in other words, we can no longer continue to deny justice and the rule of law to First Nations peoples. What this means is that we have to pay for lands taken; we have to give back some lands; and we have to acknowledge that our First Nations neighbours have ways of organizing themselves, their economies, and their societies that are equally valid but may be different than those we imposed upon them.

No amount of squawking, name-calling or fear-mongering will change where we are today. Justice will no longer be denied. We seem unable or unwilling to face the position we are in today. Unfortunately, in the past, our federal and provincial governments did not complete and uphold a legal treaty process. This is what happened, we cannot change the negligence of the past, but we have to deal with it now. It will not go away. If the treaties are not negotiated by our governments, they will be settled eventually by the Courts. If this happens, you better believe the emotional and monetary price tags will be higher.

Everyone seems to think they should have a seat at the Treaty table, to know all the details as they unfold. No self-respecting labour union or government negotiator would allow such a thing! Why should this be any different? Negotiations cannot be done in public. It is clear from public reaction that we don't comprehend what is at stake for First Nations people. We are alarmed at what we may be "giving up", without acknowledging that they have not agreed to give these things up, and we must return them.

Why should the average person be party to the details of the negotiations? We will all be affected by how it turns out. We are all affected now by the injustices of the past, (First Nations peoples most severely). We are also all affected by the Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA. I assert and act upon my right to have input into NAFTA and other agreements that affect me, but I do not expect to sit at the negotiating table. The proper way to give input is to simply do that. Give input as to what you hope and want and expect to see in the final agreement. Give the input to all the parties at the negotiating table, and then let them do their jobs.

We have to have justice. When we look at rival factions anywhere in the world, we see that people who were treated unjustly never forget it. How fortunate we all are for the strength of native elders who upheld true

wisdom for their communities, and prevented the young warriors from engaging in hopeless wars. It is because of the courage of those elders that we have this amazing opportunity here and now to put right some of the many wrongs done to First Nations peoples. An opportunity to make history not just a story of who dominated whom, but a story of growth and learning by each and everyone of us. An opportunity to someday meet all of our First Nations brothers and sisters eye to eye with mutual pride in our accomplishments, having finally dealt honourably with and let go of the hurt, shame, fear, and anger of the past.

*Answers to quiz:*

1.1918 2.1949 3.1960 4.1881 5.1908 6.1951 7.1951 8.1988

## THEATRE WORKSHOPS

at Carnegie

Fridays, 1-3pm, Classroom II

401 Main St @ Hastings

**Learn to Act, Direct or Write a Play**

Become familiar with the Nuts&Bolts of Theatre

*Drop-In Coffee served*

Coordinator: Jay Hamburger of Theatre In The Raw

**Ask for Rita 665-3003 or Jay 708-5448**

## SASKATCHEWAN SONG

Frozen men along the road

(Something's wrong in Saskatchewan)

Winter's cold but hate is hot

(Something's wrong in Saskatchewan)

One-way rides in the middle of the night

Dropped off when the city's out of sight

The last thing you see is the Mountie's taillight

(SOMETHING'S WRONG IN SASKATCHEWAN)

There's something evil neath the prairie sky

(Something's wrong in Saskatchewan)

It spreads like a plague but who knows why

(Something's wrong in Saskatchewan)

Neighbors turn their heads to hide the shame

Lawyers calmly say there's no one to blame

Unless they get caught with their hand in the flame

(SOMETHING'S WRONG IN SASKATCHEWAN)

Garry Gust

## Southwest Rebellion

No rambling, rumbling buses flowing

King Georgie Puil believes he rules

In his own little private fiefdom.

However, the Emperor Has No Clothes

and so his knickers aren't showing.

Nurses' strife marches on and on

Very simple to solve:

just pay the brothers and sisters what they're worth.

They've been ripped off for far too long

Take the High Road,

let the politicians & bureaucrats take a hike.

Let's make some noise Bang the drums

Gather en masse at City hall

The PRIDE Centre is shutting down – no cash,

no rhyme, no reason

What's nest on Gordo's shopping hit list?

Four Corners bank converted to a destination casino,

The drpnes and bean counters may decree that the

Dugout drop-in be sold outright, cash-on-the-table,

to the Starbucks Coffee Grinding Corporation .

We simply cannot allow these travesties to happen,

and so we have no choice –

peacefully rebel against these crimes

tossed and spattered on the poor and wanting.

As a last resort and course of action -

civil disobedience on a large scale.

Let us organize and become activists

and not wait until the dust settles,

from the BC Liberal onslaught, to react.

Our final choice, an often unsuccessful failure

in this day n' age: passive resistance.

It's up to us!

That's enough said... for now.

Robyn





---

## Free Lawyer's Assistance –

- initial half-hour appointment with lawyer
- follow-up appointment with lawyer
- step by step advice on resolution

You qualify if you cannot afford a lawyer and you cannot obtain legal Aid. Lawyers do not appear in court but assist you in court preparation.

## At Carnegie on Thursdays.

*Call 665-2274 or drop in to the Program Office to make an appointment.*

---

## Free Legal Advice

### UBC Law Students Legal Advice Program

Small Claims / Consumer / W.C.B. / E.I. / Debts  
Criminal / Employment / Wills & Estates / Social  
Assistance / Landlord-Tenant / Human Rights

**Monday-Friday, 10-4, Drop-In**  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Carnegie, 401 Main

---

## The Doors

Which door will I enter this time  
There are so many doors  
It's just picking the right door.

So many doors to choose from  
Which one, which one?

The one on the right  
the one on the left?

How about the red door?  
How about the blue or neon-coloured one?

I don't know which one to choose?  
What if I choose the wrong one again?  
What if I'm not ready to enter that one?

There are so many doors  
They are swarming in my mind  
Opening and then shutting  
Which door, which one?  
God there are so many doors.

Chooch

## HEPHIVE Forum:

### Lifestyle and Alternative Therapies

**Thursday, July 19, 3-5 pm** in the Theatre.

This forum will look at lifestyle choices, nutrition, exercise, diet and supplements and complimentary therapies.

Dr. James Pau will talk about Chinese herbs, how they work, and what ones are good for liver and living with hepatitis.

The Carnegie Hep C Support Group meets on Mondays from 4:30-6 in Classroom 2.

• *This is the transcript of the ACTUAL radio conversation of a US Naval ship and the Canadians, off the coast of Newfoundland, Oct 95. Released by the Chief of Naval Operations Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South, to avoid a collision.*

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North, to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: Negative. I say again, You will have to divert your course.

Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS, AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN, THAT'S 15 DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTERMEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

Canadians: We are a lighthouse. Your call.

# CANADA DAY, EH?

Let me say, before I get started, that where I grew up, Canada Day was an "iffy" holiday. You wondered IF someone's hands were gonna get blown off by an FLQ bomb in a mailbox.

My favourite version of th National Anthem goes: OKA = NADA Our home's on native Land.

On th July 1<sup>st</sup> long weekend, th Vancouver Sun put out an issue "134 Reasons Why I'm Proud To Be a Canadian" with a picture of Micheal J. Fox on th cover. I thought it would be fun to read, immediately thinking of Niagara Falls and beavers and Mounties. But no, it was a list of Canadians who had "made it big", actors and writers, politicians and "war heroes". People like John A. Mac but not a mention of Louis Riel or Elijah Harper.

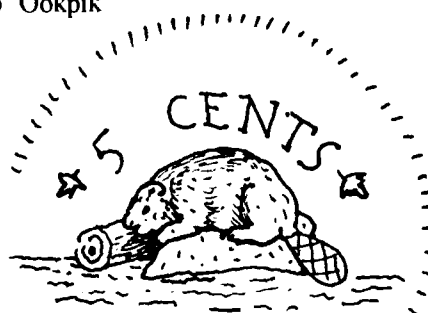
I'm NOT proud of Conrad Black or Jim Pattison! I got upset and started crossing out names and adding others. Pamela Anderson? Why not Buffy Ste. Marie and Laura Secord? Neil Young and th Guess Who, great! So where's Th Band, they played with Bob Dylan when he first went electric, and Robbie Robertson who's still breaking new ground writing songs about his ancestry. And they forgot th political courage of Sven Robinson and Dr. Henry Morgenthau.

So here's my list, th things I don't experience when I'm out of th country, th things I'm proud to come home to. I got 68, feel free to add your own -

- 1 Th April Fools' Parade
- 2 B.C. Salmon
- 3 Beaver dams
- 4 Our Beer
- 5 Bingo
- 6 Button blankets
- 7 Th Calgary Stampede
- 8 Canada geese
- 9 Th CBC
- 10 Th smells & sounds & flapping coloured paper price tags of Chinatown
- 11 That Communism is legal
- 12 Co-op Radio
- 13 Coureurs du bois
- 14 That Cuban cigars are legal
- 15 D.O.A.



- 16 Don Messer's Jubilee
- 17 Draft Dodgers
- 18 Eskimos, oops, sorry Inuit
- 19 Th first snowfall
- 20 Free bread in th DTES
- 21 Free th Five
- 22 Hitch-hiking th Trans Canada Highway (with th exception of Wawa)
- 23 Hallowe'en
- 24 Hockey Night in Canada
- 25 Ice castles in Quebec City
- 26 John & Yoko in a bed-in for peace in Montreal
- 27 Kensington market
- 28 Our traditional food: Kraft Dinner
- 29 Le Chateau
- 30 Leonard Cohen songs
- 31 "Little India"
- 32 East coast Lobster
- 33 Long Beach
- 34 Loons
- 35 Loonies
- 36 Maple syrup
- 37 Margaret Trudeau and th Rolling Stones
- 38 Folding Money that's blue & red & purple as well as green
- 39 Newfie jokes
- 40 Th NFB
- 41 Niagara Falls
- 42 Th Giant Nickel in Sudbury
- 43 93 cent pizza slices
- 44 North of 60
- 45 Ookpik



- 46 Pea Soup (not to be confused with #28)
- 47 Th Red River Jig
- 48 Rochdale
- 49 Th Rockies
- 50 Screech
- 51 Skidoos
- 52 Montreal Smoked Meat on rye
- 53 Outside Staircases in Montreal, th spiral ones  
you hate on moving day
- 54 Stanley Park
- 55 "Still Sane" by Persimmon Blackbridge
- 56 Stompin Tom Connors
- 57 Our centennial Song: "Ca-na-da"
- 58 Taiko drummers at th Powell St. Festival
- 59 THIS Magazine
- 60 Tortiere (not to be confused with #28)
- 61 Totem poles
- 62 Trappers
- 63 Tudor houses in Victoria
- 64 Two-nies (will th middle pop out if you freeze  
them?)
- 65 222's
- 66 Welfare
- 67 Wood-carvers
- 68 Wreck Beach

Diane Wood

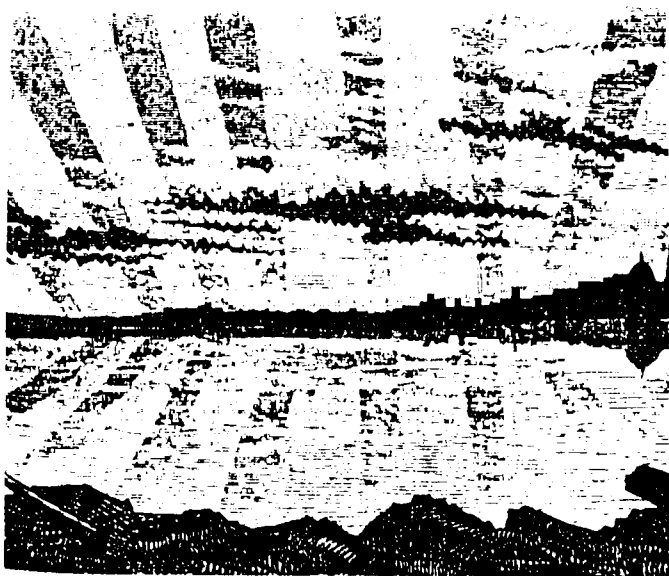


‘What to do, what to do, what to do...

Do you get jaded? Does it seem pointless to go to one more meeting, have another rally, demonstrate, protest, see progress only in terms of not losing more?

For the last month or more it has been a time of waiting.. and reading of meetings, rallies, protests, demonstrations, and sensing the seeming futility of it. But that may just be brain-washing !?

The demonstrations in Quebec City at the Free Trade Area of the Americas thing – and you have the power of the richest, most powerful people on the planet meeting inside the largest security operation in Canadian history, with an enclosing steel fence and an army of police and tear gas and water cannons and complete repression of civil society's response. It's *presented* as a sideshow by media, all reports focused on the seeming mindlessness of crowds just trying to force their way past a "protective" barrier. It was pre-set by the demonstrations in Seattle in November 1999, when the World Trade Organisation was stymied by tens of thousands of people protesting the exclusion of the majority by the elite minority. The *presentation* has the civilized trade delegates being accosted by unruly, incoherent and often dangerous radicals. The whole idea is to generate disdain for the protestors. The issues and reasons for so many people voicing outrage are impossible to convey in 3-5 second sound bytes or even in the space of a newspaper story. That these very reports and stories are biased and edited to convey the same kind of *impression* of the dissidents



being kind of whacko is so pervasive that the point is too obvious to state or even rail against.

And the *impression* is that it was pointless, that nothing came of it all but a few people getting gassed. The non-reported and unrelated outcome is the education gotten by those involved, experience with the status quo power and the real lengths that are being taken to fundamentally change the way things (Star wars, Kyoto, corporatism v democracy)

There is no magic wand. Every issue – the transit strike and the labour movement and management playing a shell game with accountability and the obvious pain and suffering of the poor, seniors, disabled, working people and a hundred thousand other reasons to settle it at once fall on unmoved ears of those who are intent on another agenda of big auto companies, gas, breaking a union, of seeing a different result that isn't in the best interests of anyone but the already well-to-do.

-clearcut logging and the stupidity of denuding all old growth and allowing the biggest companies to be as brutal as profit-maximization warrants, while smaller scale and more labour intensive selective logging is laughed at as uneconomical – by the owners of the same biggest companies.

-homelessness and the need for low-cost, decent housing and governments' refusals to make it a priority or even address the real need. Rallies and declarations of "not taking it anymore" seem almost futile again, but it's listening to each other and trying to find a way to get what's needed. What gets to be hum is hearing people ranting the good rant and of course nothing changes.

And here's the rub: the *perception* is that nothing changes because the instant gratification we've been getting programming to expect has the picture not changing much from yesterday or last week to today or this week.

Struggle is the essence of life. We join together to first learn what the present situation is – forming a vision of a better future can be just so much wishful thinking without a practical way of achieving it or even taking steps towards it. Just protesting that everything in the present is wrong can leave you bitter and very much disappointed at the futility of rants and rallies, but that's outlook too. The actions over the transit strike have gotten no immediate resolution, but they have been in no way useless.

On a note equally close to home, the *perception* is that nothing done so far about the drug problem in this neighbourhood has changed anything – that it just gets worse. "We have to take a stand. We have to decide on what has to happen and keep at it."

What this usually translates as is not wanting to see the evidence of drug use, nor having to walk through the street scene of drug use, dealing, rootlessness, poverty, and 'why aren't they being arrested' and 'why aren't (whoever) doing their job' and so on. Maybe before blaming everybody, ask yourself "What solution do you suggest? What are workable and practical steps to take? Who or what will you be up against if you follow that course?"

The creativity and talent of residents is boundless, yet we have to be careful not to turn on each other. In the coming months there are going to be so many changes brought in by the Campbell government that a whole new era of citizen response will begin. I used the example of Quebec City at the start of this, and the civic responses to actions of the Harris government in Ontario are also an example. Harris cut education welfare, gutted scores of social programs, and all the negatives rose dramatically – poverty, homelessness, suicide, evictions, slave labour, drug testing to get assistance, literacy tests to get work, and so on being met with demonstrations that are brutally put down by armed police.

You and I and all of us have to respond, but keep making plans for a better time.

Advice can be a joke, but don't give up.

By PAULR TAYLOR

