



Globalizing Peace & Justice

World Federalist Movement - Canada
Mouvement Fédéraliste Mondial (Canada)

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Montreal Branch BUZZ

World Peace Forum 2006 (by Inge von Glasow)

Vancouver has a long tradition of citizen and government peace activism to advance the cause for global stability and justice. This was proven again by the World Peace Forum at the University of British Columbia from June 23rd to 28th.

Approximately 4500 delegates from around the world gathered in the city to attend the countless seminars and workshops, discussing, reporting, and promoting ideas. International Parliamentarians presented news about the Departments of Peace in their countries. The International Peace Education Conference depicted various concepts of strategies to implement global peace education in the class-room with peace psychology, the arts, theatre, and dance circles with music from around the world. The “Peace Café” offered a much appreciated break to enjoy refreshments and a chat with delegates from various countries. Of special importance was the police escorted Peace Walk and Festival with the theme “No War Nowhere,” when thousands of persons from all walks of life and organizations paraded with their banners in orderly fashion from two directions toward the Sunset Beach for the big Peace Rally. (Onlookers watched from windows applauding, passing cars honked, and drivers presented the peace sign.) Of the variety of very active peace activists delivering speeches, Cindy Sheehan was likely the most well-known person present.

As a rule, the Peace Movement does not get much publicity. It was impressive indeed to observe the many very dedicated people from around the world, displaying their courage, determination and work for a better, and peaceful world. The organizers of the World Peace Forum did an extraordinary job, and deserve overall gratitude. Thank you Vancouver!

Vancouver WFMC Conference & General Members Meeting Highlights (submitted by Carol Greene)
Being in Vancouver for our General Members Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to meet other dedicated world federalists face-to-face. Many thanks to Montreal Branch members who generously supported my participation. Highlights for me were:

- ◆ the banquet, where many people gathered to honour Dr. Hanna Newcombe, recipient of the first Lifetime Achievement Award (named for her) and Ernie Regehr, recipient of the 2006 World Peace Award.
- ◆ the passage of resolutions 1) supporting Uniting the Democracies which the Council is now charged to pursue. [See article by Dieter Heinrich in the June issue of *Mondial*]. and 2) endorsing the creation of a Federal Department of Peace. Discussions were enlightening.
- ◆ the presentation by WFMC President Warren Allmand, expressing guarded enthusiasm over the prospects for the new and improved UN Human Rights Council.
- ◆ WFM executive director Bill Pace’s optimistic perspective on the growing influence of our movement. “The last 62 years of development of human rights represent an amazing accomplishment ... The World Federalist Movement is moving from analysis to action, becoming a servicing network for UN delegates, for regional progress on justice, human rights, and security. The challenge remains: trying to transform Generation 2 institutions, such as the UN, into Generation 3 institutions without the ashes of a 3rd world war.”
- ◆ council member Dr. H. Peter Langille’s presentation on “Emerging Trends in UN Peace Operations,” paired with a book launch: *A UN Emergency Peace Service: A Global Initiative to Prevent Genocide and Crimes against Humanity*. Details available at <http://www.globalactionpw.org/UNEPS/publication.htm>
- ◆ the dramatic presentation by Mike Nickerson, (associated with the Measuring Well-Being movement) on his new book *Life, Money, and Illusion*.

Marie-Berthe Dion Issues Action Group

Mark your calendar: Next MBD-IAG meeting, November 16, 6:30 pm, Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 boul. de Maisonneuve ouest (Métro Vendôme). All are welcome. Contact Carol Greene, cgreene@sympatico.ca or 514 426-4170, if you wish copies of our briefing papers.

Salut à la fondatrice du M-B.I.A.G.

Marie-Berthe, qui est née en 1912, a célébré sa fête de naissance le 16 août 2006 en assistant à l’assemblée générale annuelle de “l’Association canadienne des anciens fonctionnaires internationaux” (en anglais : “Canadian Association of Former International Civil Servants”). La réunion a eu lieu dans une des salles de

conférence de l'OACI, l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (en anglais : ICAO, International Civil Aviation Organization). À la fin de l'assemblée sa voisine espagnole a demandé la parole pour annoncer l'anniversaire de Marie-Berthe; sur ce, toute l'assemblée s'est mise à chanter "Happy Birthday to You". Quelle surprise!

En plus, un nouveau membre a proposé que dorénavant l'Association devrait envoyer des fleurs et un gâteau de fête pour bien célébrer l'anniversaire de ces membres. Une semaine plus tard, Marie-Berthe a reçu une belle plante. Nos souhaits tardifs à Marie-Berthe Dion.

***The Collapse of Globalism and the Reinvention of the World* by John Ralston Saul**

(excerpted by Inez Pugliese)

It was originally conceived that Nation States would be replaced by the power of global markets and that economics, not politics or arms, would determine the course of human events and in turn abolish poverty and change dictatorships into democracies. However, little has transpired as predicted.

- 1) U.S. appears to ignore its international critics.
- 2) Europe is faced with problems of immigration, racism and terrorism.
- 3) The world looks for answers to African debt, AIDS and epidemics.
- 4) The return to fundamentalism and terrorism, all of which refuse to disappear despite the rise in global prosperity and growth in World Trade

Was the corporation created to dominate humanity and the earth to their ruin or, does humanity have a duty to be caretaker and protector for both the planet and humanity? It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their own satisfaction.

Media notes & other points of interest:

T-shirts with "Globalizing Peace & Justice: World Federalist Movement-Canada (55%hemp, 45% cotton) have been produced by Vancouver Branch member Blake MacLeod. Anyone interested, contact Carol Greene to order. Approximate cost is \$25 + shipping.

Recommended reading: *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations*, by Paul Kennedy, HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN-13978-0-00-255757-3. "a thorough and timely history. ...The UN emerges here for what it is: fallible, human-based, oftentimes dependent on the whims of powerful national governments or the foibles of individual senior UN administrators, but utterly indispensable ... Kennedy ably proves that 'it is difficult to imagine how much more riven and ruinous our world of six billion people would be if there had been no UN social, environmental, and cultural agendas—and no institutions to attempt to put them into practice on the ground.' " —Book jacket.

World parliament: "The Global All-Stars: What the world needs now is ... a Parliament" by Elizabeth Snell (a WFMC member from Guelph) at <http://www.aquarianonline.com/Values/globalparliament.htm>

Who's on the 2006-2007 Executive?

Carolyn Heltne: After 30 years of teaching, I started my real education at MILR (McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement) where I met Marie-Berthe Dion, who is a great teacher of life, and who invited me to come to the Issues Action letter-writing group. Here, I found many informed people who were intensely concerned about the world. From this contact, then, I joined the World Federalists and have found it a very productive experience.

Blair Rourke: Following training in Canada and the United States as an economist, I have followed an international career, spent almost entirely outside Canada. I was employed by the University of Ghana for seven years, worked in London with the International Cocoa Organization for six years, and was based in Washington, DC with the International Monetary Fund for 19 years. I have also served as a consultant on a short-term basis with the International Labour Office and with the World Bank and have worked for relatively short periods in Ottawa for the Canadian Government and in London for the British Government. On retirement from the International Monetary Fund in September 2001, I decided to return to Canada to settle with my wife in Montreal. (My retirement party was scheduled for 9/11 but, due to circumstances beyond my control, it was cancelled!).

Carol Greene: A retired librarian and CEGEP teacher, I first learned of World Federalism in college in the United States. After immigrating to Montreal in 1970, I learned that WF was alive and well here through Ross Smyth's letters to *The Gazette*. Long discussions in a carpool with active WF'er, Patricia McGraw, led me to join the Montreal Branch. In 1992, Marie-Berthe Dion asked me to co-convene the first Issues Action Group and I have been happily involved ever since!

Bill Hartzog stepped down as Branch President, because of the extensive travel required in his recent appointment as one of the Senior Adjudicators in the Indian Residential Schools Resolution-Canada programme. We can look forward to news about this important assignment in a future issue of the *Buzz*. He will continue to serve as Branch Past President.

Ross Smyth's new book, *One World or None* is to be launched on Saturday, November 18th, 2-4 pm. Please phone for confirmation of the place. All are welcome.

.... watch for more executive profiles and more interesting tidbits in the next *Buzz*.