

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

OCTOBER 2007



WE ARE
LOCATED:
PARKDALE
UNITED
CHURCH

2919 8 AVE
NW

270-7366

OFFICE
@PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY.CA

VISIT US:

MON, TUE, THURS

10:30-2:30

WED 2-6PM

Oct. 10th 8pm Parkdale United Church A Big & Small Perspective of Palestine:

Changing concepts of Peace since the 1970's and
Life in the Village of At-Tuwani

Diane Janzen, recently back from her work with the Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine, will offer a view of daily life in Palestine. Ali Rezaei will offer a brief history and overview of the region to give perspective on changes in policy which will affect the future of the lives of everyone.

Singing For Peace: Songs of Joy & Justice

This is the last year Barry Luft will headline the Singing for Peace concert. Don't miss it!

Barry Luft and the dynamic Sunday Night Band
Friday, October 12, 2007 7:30pm

St. Andrew's United Church 924 Heritage Dr. SW
Tickets \$13 (\$15 at the door, \$8 student & low income)

Benefit Concert for Project Ploughshares Calgary
For Tickets call the office at 270-7366

Volunteers are needed for help in the kitchen for serving and clean up.

Please post the attached poster for this event in your commu-



Ploughshares Calgary 25th Anniversary Dinner

November 2nd 6pm at the Village Park Inn

Come celebrate with us. 25 years of making peace possible in Calgary. Ernie Regher O.C. founder of Project Ploughshares will be with us to share our memories and hopes for the future. He will speak about the next steps for peace from a Canadian Perspective.

Tickets for the Dinner are \$25 and available through the Ploughshares office
270-7366

MP visits about Canada's mission in Afghanistan

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to meet with their MP. We are having great difficulties making appointments to see the MPs which is why we have yet to follow up with you. As there continues to be a great deal of interest in meeting with MPs on this issue what we would like to do is to host a meeting for everyone interested in meeting their MP. From there we will outline our strategy and policy. You can follow through with making the appointment with your MP and we can set you up with another Ploughshares person.

If you are interested in attending a meeting like this please contact Ploughshares Calgary and we will let you know when the meeting will occur.

23rd Annual Holiday Peace Fair
November 17, 2007 9:30 am—4pm
St. David's United Church
\$2 Admission Children under 12 free

Buy unique gifts from organizations working for peace, justice and development. Give to a good cause and find great gifts for your friends. A win-win solution to Holiday giving!



Ploughshares Calgary News

See an article in this newsletter about our Peace Day events.

The **Peace Pole committee** has sent its design ideas to our architect Marc Boutin. We are also continuing to collect funds for this project. All members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

Puppets for Peace seeks volunteers and funding. We are delighted with our new puppets and props for the new Grade 4,5,6 show. All this takes time ...and money! Come join the team that is making this happen. For volunteers we are particularly looking for people who have experience or aptitude in: dramatic arts, graphic arts, marketing, grant-writing, human resources, policy setting, website management (not technical). Call Sally at 247-1653.



Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership! We have included an envelope to help those who have yet to renew to do so in the next couple of months. Tax receipts, as always, will be sent out in early 2007.

Ploughshares National News

Please check out a number of news items on the national website: www.ploughshares.ca

On it includes letters from the churches on the situation in Afghanistan and the transcript from the 30th anniversary, including the talk by Paul Rogers.

You can also link to Ernie Regher's blog articles using the links below:

"Some Canadians want to end the military effort in Afghanistan because it isn't working; others want to increase and extend the military effort because it isn't working yet." (July 18th)

<http://www.igloo.org/disarmingconflict/closingt>

"Afghanistan remains a difficult and faltering assignment, but the path to a more effective effort does not run through debates over withdrawal dates." (July 23rd)

<http://www.igloo.org/disarmingconflict/rethinki>

Peace Day Celebrated!

On Friday September 21, 2007, the International Day of Peace, a procession set out from Eau Claire Market and walked slowly west along the river path. Colourful flags, peace balloons, Ald. Joe Ceci, Ald. Druh Farrell, and people who have worked for peace in Calgary for 25 years led the way.

The group had been joined minutes before by 20 Sikh men (dignified elders of their community), a half dozen junior high students whose teacher had the vision to let them come as well as MLA's David Swann and Harry Chase. Representatives from faith groups including Muslims, Jews, Unitarians, Community of Christ members, United Church members and ministers, Baha'I members, and members of Trinity Lutheran whose historic church sits less than one block from the festivities lent their prayerful and peaceful steps along the river path-way.

It was a beautiful, quiet walk along the river with hanging baskets of begonias still splashing red from curved lampposts and the trees strewn yellow leaves beneath the feet of the peace-walkers. It was as if those of us on the walk were encapsulated in a special plug of mindful peace which moved along only by common consensus. "Is it far now?" asked an elderly Sikh at one point. Several of them were walking in silent pain. Around two more bends and the destination was seen: a teepee and the beginning of a prayer to the four winds by Cree elder and celebrated peace activist Doreen Spence.

The Aboriginal Community gathered on this beautiful spot to invite the Peace Walk to join their homelessness awareness event- Finding Our Way Home.

Speeches from Carrie Neilson highlighted the how poverty and homelessness affect the peace of the Aboriginal community. They generously shared their resources and community with the Peace Day friends.

The Aldermen read a proclamation for peace and nuclear abolition from the Mayor. The President of the Sikh Temple, Mr. Avtar Singh gave a beautiful message of peace from their Holy Scripture

On the grass at 8th street and 2nd Avenue SW we heard how a large group of communities, which welcome further individuals and groups, will be installing a peace pole there by next September 21. We heard from the architect chosen for the project and that the edifice will have the words 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' in many of the languages that new and old Canadians have brought to Canada or languages of the First Nations. One fascinating moment in the ceremonies was when those working on the peace pole project said "May Peace Prevail on Earth' in a language that was meaningful to them: Arabic, Cree, Punjabi, Tamil, Hindi, Swahili, a Ugandan mother tongue, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Latin, Farsi, English, Welsh and more.

Vinay Dey, President of the Indo-Canadian Society and Lena Osman from the Muslim association of Calgary flipped burgers while members of the Mennonite Central Committee and Homeless Awareness Calgary served the crowd. The collaborative effort between the members of the Peace Pole Committee and Homeless Awareness Calgary Aboriginal awareness event- Finding Our Way Home made sure no one went hungry on the Day of Peace.

A range of human experience and emotion was reflected in the music which followed, from the strength and devotion of the Aboriginal drummers to the heart tugging Spanish song for peace from Ligia Portal and Pedro Torres and the sweetness of the Sudanese finger piano melodies of Kojo.

Through the speeches, through the ceremonies and music, and through the mingling of over two hundred people on a mild, Fall day, Peace Day was marked in Calgary and inspired all those in attendance. Our small sig-

nal was added to the Peace One Day website to join millions of others around the world.

More photos of the website can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/grantneufeld/tags/upcoming%3Aevent%3D269681/>





Project Ploughshares Calgary

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writing this issue of the newsletter

Global News

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation member Mary Becker has made a short film, *B is for Bomb*, which won first prize at the 2006 Cannes online competition. It provides a short history of the Nuclear Age. The film is now available to be viewed on YouTube, where you can also submit comments to the filmmakers. The film is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRvGwVkl8pA.

Project Ploughshares maintains the **Peace-I mailing list** for Canadian discussions of general peace issues including emerging crises.

To subscribe go to:

www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Listservs.htm

Public Forum on Cluster Munitions

A public forum hosted by Mines Action Canada, an organization working towards a ban on cluster munitions will take place next Wednesday, October 3rd, at the University of Calgary, MacEwan Hall, Bianca Room from 7-9pm.

**Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares
Calgary donor and partner in building peace.**

Here is my one time donation

\$35 ___ (includes 1 yr to newsletter)

\$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other \$ ___

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares

And give a monthly donation

(include void cheque)

___ \$10 ___ \$15 ___ \$20 ___ \$25 Other \$ ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

SUDAN: Refugees Left in Constant Fear as Violence Infiltrates 'Safe' Camps

The Times

The narrow, dusty alleyways and cramped stick-built huts once offered a haven to the people of Darfur as they fled a conflict that has claimed more than 200,000 lives. Then the women found themselves prisoners in Abu Shouk aid camp, unable to venture out for firewood or water for fear of being harassed, raped or murdered. Now not even the camp is safe. Tribes loyal to the Khartoum Government are being supplied with arms and ammunition in a cynical ploy to force out opponents of the regime, according to aid officials familiar with Abu Shouk. The same pattern is being repeated throughout Darfur. Kalma and Gereida in southern Darfur are virtual no-go areas for the international charities that try to keep lifelines open to more than two million people with no other support. Aid agencies have been warned to scale back their operations in three camps around the northern Darfur capital of el-Fasher. United Nations security officials gave warning that Abu Shouk, Zam Zam and al-Salaam had become tinderboxes. People such as Fatima Adam Yaoub, who fled her home almost four years ago, have no choice but to stay. Read the whole article here: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article2532302.ece>