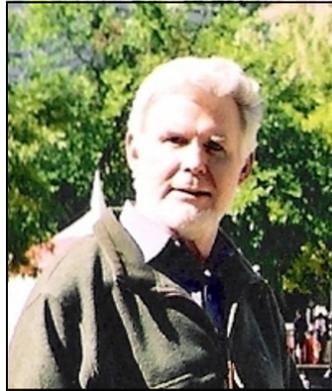


PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

SUMMER 2010



The ABCs of Human Survival *A Paradigm for Global Citizenship* Book Launch with Author Dr. Arthur Clark

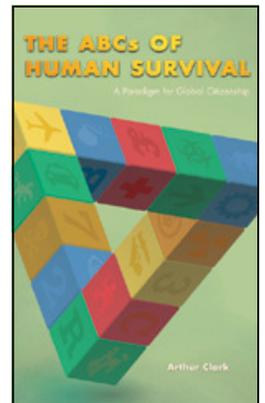
Wednesday June 9th 7pm

Reception beginning at 6:30pm

Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)

Dr. Arthur Clark will be sharing from his new book in addition to providing an update on the status of the Calgary Centre for Global Community and a short workshop on global citizenship. This event is co-sponsored by Ploughshares and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary. Please RSVP via email to peaceuc@ucalgary.ca. Books will be available for purchase - cash or cheque payment will be accepted.

The ABCs of Human Survival examines the effect of militant nationalism and the lawlessness of powerful states on the well-being of individuals and communities; and the essential role of global citizenship in that dynamic. Based on analysis of world events, Dr. Clark presents militant nationalism as a pathological pattern of thinking that threatens our security, while emphasizing effective democracy and international law as indispensable frameworks for human protection. Within the contexts of history, sociology, philosophy, and spirituality, *The ABCs of Human Survival* calls into question the assumptions of consumer culture and offers, as an alternative, strategies to improve overall well-being through the important choices we make as individuals.



Dr. Arthur Clark is a Professor of Neuropathology and Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Calgary, and an active staff neuropathologist at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. He carries lifelong experience with militant nationalist culture, having come of age during the Vietnam War and serving two years as Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. In 1995, in honour of his late wife, he established the Dr. Irma M. Parhad Programmes at the University of Calgary, which focus on ways to improve worldwide health and well-being within the framework of international law.

Project Ploughshares Calgary AGM

Following Dr. Clark's presentation the evening of June 9th, Ploughshares Calgary will hold a brief Annual General Meeting for supporters and interested individuals, sharing a summary of the previous year's activities in addition to the 2010 budget.



In support of Ploughshares Calgary

Saturday June 12th 9am—4pm

224 Silver Springs Green NW

See the next page for more details...

Ploughshares Calgary News

Garage Sale in support of Ploughshares Calgary Saturday June 12th 9am—4pm at 224 Silver Springs Green NW

Ploughshares Calgary is participating in the 2010 Silver Springs Community Parade of Garage Sales with the help of a supporter from that community offering their garage. For the sale we are collecting: housewares, children's toys, tools and gardening items, books (not textbooks or encyclopedias), hobby supplies, puzzles and board games, house plants, perennial 'divisions', summer sports equipment, small furniture. No clothes please! If you have items you would like to donate you can drop things off Friday June 11 at 224 Silver Springs Green between 12 and 5pm, or in the evening by arrangement with Sally at 247-1653. Or you can bring items along to our June 9th event or arrange to drop by our office, call 270-7366.

Special Feature! Bring your vintage jewellery to sell at the garage sale! There will be a special table for it and if it does not sell it will go with an experienced volunteer who takes vintage jewellery to fundraisers for worthy causes such as the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help for 2hr shifts at the garage sale on Saturday, phone Sally at 247-1653 if you are interested. Don't forget to come! Many useful and delightful items.



Mayors for Peace

In support of the efforts of the international Mayors for Peace organization to increase its membership prior to the May 2010 NPT Review Conference, Ploughshares Calgary initiated a membership drive in Alberta. We sent a letter to Mayors in Alberta already a member of the organization (Calgary-Mayor Bronconnier, Edmonton-Mayor Mandel, Lethbridge-Mayor Tarleck, Stony Plain-Mayor Lemke) asking them for a letter back encouraging other Alberta mayors to join. We added the letters that we received to the information packets we sent out to the 20 next most populated cities or municipalities in Alberta. Mayor Mandel sent us a letter noting that he was informing northern Alberta mayors about Mayors for Peace and encouraging them to join, and we've noticed that Mayor Coleman from Vegreville has joined. Of the 20 mayors that we contacted, the following mayors have joined: Spruce Grove (Mayor Houston), St. Albert (Mayor Crouse), Red Deer (Mayor Flewwelling), and Okotoks (Mayor McAlpine). We want to thank Mayor Bronconnier, Mayor Mandel, and Mayor Tarleck for their help in promoting the Mayors for Peace organization, and congratulate the new members from Alberta. This puts the total count of member mayors from Alberta at 9 out of 87 total for Canada. Total membership as of June 1 in Mayors for Peace is 3965 mayors from 143 countries and regions. There is still work to do in promoting Mayors for Peace and their disarmament stance in Alberta and Canada—we can look toward Nicaragua, which had by this spring all its municipalities join Mayors for Peace (a historic first)!

Letter from Sally Hodges, Chairperson of Project Ploughshares Calgary

Dear Ploughshares Supporter,

Happy Spring! Just as daffodils can not flower without someone planting the bulb, Project Ploughshares needs its nurturers to plant donations at this time so that our peace work may bloom in the next year. Please send in your \$35 to plant a bulb for peace, and consider making it several bulbs! Thank you for your past nurturing of the Ploughshares garden and we look forward to a beautiful display in the next month! Every bulb counts. Without the nurturers, the garden does not grow.



In peace and the joy of spring!

Puppets for Peace

Puppets for Peace ended the school year with a full schedule in schools for the last month. One teacher described their show as 'absolutely fabulous!' Bookings are being accepted for the Fall, phone Helen at 547-4975. See www.ploughsharescalgary.ca/puppets for play descriptions and age details. Puppets for Peace is overseen by a committee, and new committee members are welcome at this time!



Puppets for Peace is seeking a new coordinator and one puppeteer (two days per week), for the new school year. Contact Helen at 547-4975 for information.

Ploughshares Calgary News continued...

Addressing Armed Violence in Communities

During the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence (May 10-16), Project Ploughshares (the national organization) and Project Ploughshares Calgary, co-hosted two events. On Friday evening, May 14, about 35 Calgary residents attended the screening of the documentary film *Devil's Bargain Journey into the Arms Trade*, by Emmy Award winning Canadian director Shelley Saywell. The Consortium of Peace Studies at the University of Calgary co-sponsored the film screening.

On May 15, a workshop on *Small Arms, Big Impact: Addressing Armed Violence in Communities*, was held at the Bow Cliff Seniors Centre to discuss various measures to prevent and reduce armed violence from several perspectives: international, regional, national and local. Project Ploughshares staff Ken Epps and Maribel Gonzales served as resource persons at the workshop, as well as Joyce Hewett of Woman Inc. Joyce is the Public Education/Legal Reform Coordinator for Woman Inc., a Jamaican women's organization and one of the Caribbean partners in Ploughshares' CIDA-funded project, *Building Peaceful Communities in the Caribbean*.

At the end of the day attendees at the workshop had a better understanding of the complexities and impact of the unregulated international trade of small arms (both on development and community safety). International agreements such as the *Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, And Other Related Materials* and the *United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, and Canada's implementation of them, were explained. The need for a UN Arms Trade Treaty was outlined, progress in this area is continuing with a preparatory conference this summer leading up to the UN's 2012 conference on this issue. Canada's Firearms Act was explained by Bernie Coles (Firearms Officer for the Calgary area), who answered several questions pertaining to the implementation of this sometimes controversial legislation.

It was encouraging to hear of community efforts both in Jamaica and here in Alberta to improve community safety. Const. Robert Humphries from the Chestermere RCMP informed us about the increase in gang violence several years ago in Chestermere that prompted programs to address this. The combined efforts of the RCMP's Gang and Habitual Offender Suppression Team (monitoring the streets and making it difficult for gangs to operate in the area) as well as the community's Turn Around Program (which works with referred at-risk youth in providing counseling and support, often helping to improve the self-esteem) the community has seen a dramatic decrease in the level of gang related violence. Other communities across Canada are paying attention to these results in Chestermere, and comparable results in Calgary—hoping to implement similar programs.

In responding to the presentations of initiatives to improve community safety, Alderman Ric McIver encouraged attendees to read the report from the Alberta government's 2007 Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force, of which he was a member. Alderman McIver stressed the importance of education relating to community safety as well as respecting and thanking the police and RCMP for their work. Staff Sergeant Patty McCallum from the Calgary Police Commission's Domestic Conflict Unit shared that domestic violence should continue to be a concern for Calgarians as 20-30% of the city's homicides are as a result of a domestic dispute. Nadia Traya, Community Development Coordinator for Ethno-cultural Communities at the Alliance to End Violence highlighted the importance of bringing together the various front-line workers to coordinate efforts, provide professional development training, and to educate the public.

The final section of the workshop included a brainstorming session on suggestions for action in the areas of public awareness and action relating to community safety (encourage media to mention resources available as part of their coverage of instances of violence, support projects that empower youth) and raising awareness about the need for and progress towards an international Arms Trade Treaty (inform MP's, write an op-ed).

Attendance at the workshop was smaller than expected, however attendees included long-time Ploughshares Calgary supporters as well as representatives from several rifle/firearms associations in Alberta. Question and answer times with the various speakers and presenters were lively and informative. A full summary of the material covered at the event will be available soon on the Ploughshares Calgary website.

Ploughshares Calgary gratefully acknowledges support from Parkdale United Church and the George Weaver Memorial Fund for the workshop.

Summer Closure During the summer the Ploughshares office will be closed as usual, beginning June 28th. Members of the executive will be checking phone and email messages during this time. Regular office hours, meetings and the newsletter will resume in September. We wish our supporters a wonderful and peaceful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

