

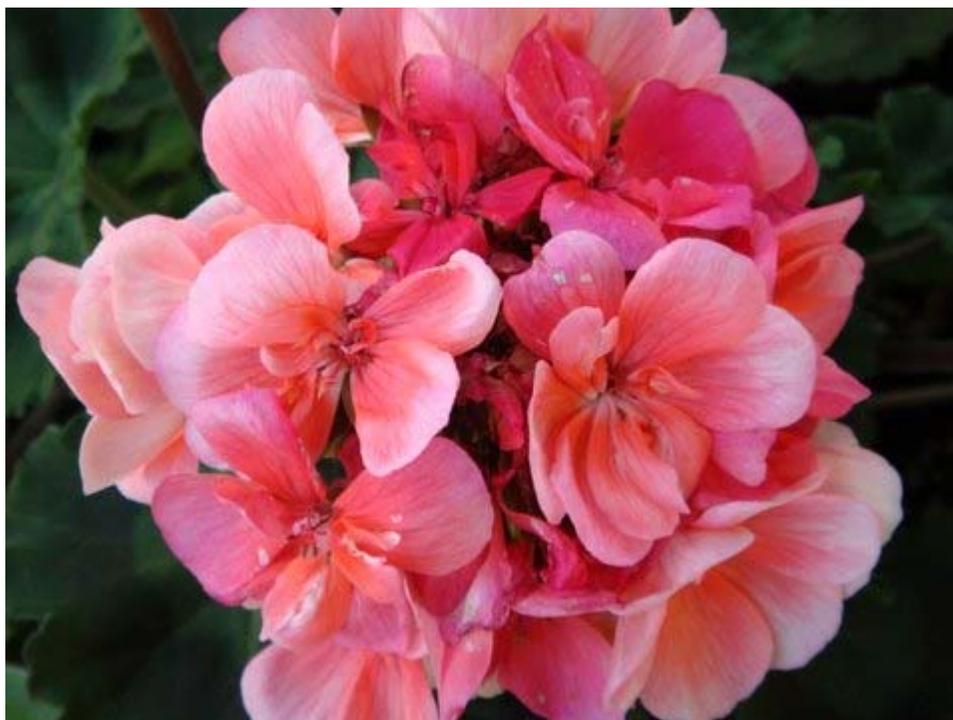
The K.R.T. Bridge

Spring 09

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Our motto: "It's great to remember but the bliss is to forget."



Seven haikus on current affairs

Polar ice melt down
flora and fauna are gone
degree by degree

Brown clouds twist the sky
blackened lungs choke blood of air
tears burn eyes blind

Uploaded pictures
create a cyber face
forever hollowed

Wireless keyboard
digital wireless screen
works with ten digits

Graphic display plays
concerto of electrons
conductor wired

Disasters abound
intelligent design rules
the deaf and the blind

Those suicide bombers
we're trying to drop bombs on
never miss themselves (F.V.)

In memoriam: Catherine Hirschfeldt



Photo by Marie Laroche



And the renewal of wonder



Pictures by Timea Szabo of her daughter, “Sparky”

Fun and business mixed well at our October 31 meeting

Presentations, book exchange, Halloween fun, combined with good news over a decent meal in the company of our peers guaranteed that a good time was had by one and all.



Bev Maxwell, Donna Walsh, Norma Brown, Donna Sharpe, Janet Doubt, Babs Enns



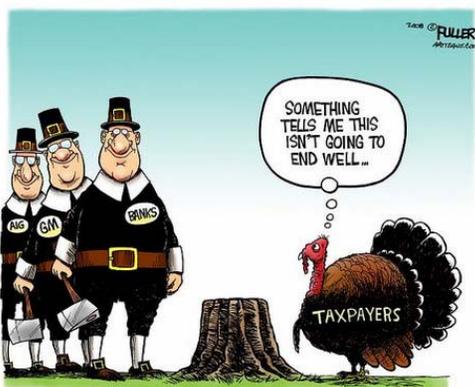
Retirees show how to have fun at Halloween. Seems more girls want to have fun than guys!



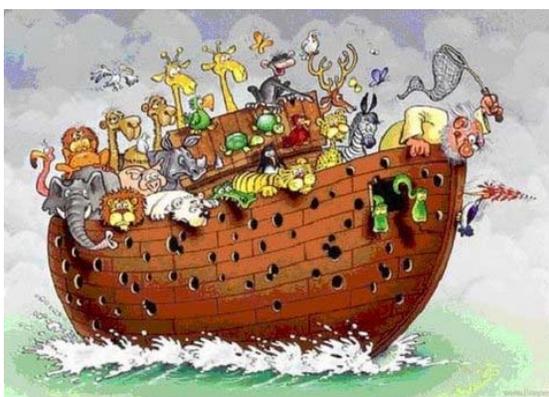
Sheila Park with trustee candidate Joan Cowden and Rick Turner at our October lunch.

Joan is running for trustee, one of two of our colleagues to do so (along with Nancy Beppe). Joan said she thought long and hard about running during her cross country bicycle tour! Rick explains the myths propagated about health care, and the landmark Chaouilli decision... what's that? See the article about Rick's presentation! Thank you Rick for your clear and concise presentation illuminated by graphs and charts galore.

The Funny Page



OH MY!



Question: Which was the most dangerous animal in Noah's Ark? Answer: the woodpecker!

Below left: A picture that redefined your editor's concept of devotion to a hobby, as well as the meaning of absolute DETERMINATION: The Alaskan Surfer!

Below right: Internet artist's vision of the office scene after raising the retirement age. Aren't you glad you are retired?



I noticed my old father was watching a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, and blue. When the teenager had enough of my father staring at him, he sarcastically asked, "What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?" In his classic style Dad responded without hesitation: "Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son."

Report on Rick Turner's Presentation

Rick spoke out against the many myths (a. k. a. lies) created to drive Canadians to abandon public health care in favour of private health care. Many turned out to be statistical manipulations and misinformation, and all leave out two basic facts: 1.) Public health care is both less expensive and more accessible, and 2.) it provides a significant competitive edge to Canadian businesses who don't have to cover their employees health care costs. As to the myths, we have heard them all and heard them often, but Rick's presentation exposes them all:

1. Public health care is unsustainable. Not so. Real costs are stable. "Current total public health expenditures represent about 38 % of provincial budgets. Without tax cuts, spending would remain stable at 32 %." The argument rests on statistical manipulations showing how health care consumes a larger portion of the provincial budget. But this is the result of government cutbacks, not increased costs.
2. We can't afford public health care. Not so. "Our government's health expenditures as a percentage of the GDP have been fairly stable since 1990, which strongly suggests there is no crisis."
3. Canada's system is only ranked 30eth. Not so. This is based on a flawed WHO (World Health Organization) study based on selected data and much extrapolation. "This explains why Colombia, Cyprus, and Marocco fared better than Canada in this study."
4. Canada's doctors are fleeing in droves. Not any more. This was true only in 2002. By next year the situation was reversed. "Canada has experienced a net influx of physicians from abroad the past three years," according to a 2006 report.
5. Payment-by-results reduces wait times. Not so. But it does wreak havoc on the public health care system, which would aid privatization. "This funding model was implemented in England in 2002 in an effort to shorten long surgical wait times. Patients were given options of where they wanted to have their surgery – in either a public hospital or in a private clinic. But it did not take long to see health care costs go up. By 2006 about one third of British health care institutions were in debt and smaller hospitals (often in rural areas) closed... The British government recently announced it will not be contracting out any more surgeries to private clinics."
6. People are dying on the waiting lists. Few actually do, and most of these are heart or cancer patients whose deaths may have been unavoidable. Privatization could scarcely help this, much more effective would be the grouping of the required tests, so all necessary tests could be done the same day and patients did not have to wait for them for days, weeks and months separately. The myth itself is not much more than a scare tactic.
7. User fees eliminate system abuse. False. "User fees don't reduce costs; they increase them. Worse, the people who are punished by user fees are those who are often sick, including people with chronic illnesses." (The Saskatchewan government experimented with the system and found that perhaps to maintain

their earnings, Saskatchewan doctors apparently called in their paying patients more often for more tests.)

On European health care systems

“Opponents of public health care spent many years trying to convince Canadians that we should drop universal medicare and adopt the U.S. private insurance model. It did not work. Now, proponents of a two-tier system would have us believe that the ‘European’ model is the solution to all of Canada’s health care woes. The truth is their arguments are riddled with misinformation... If the European examples prove anything, it is that publicly administered non-profit health care is the best way to ensure high quality and timely care for patients.”

Summary

“Many factors decide a country’s competitiveness. While taxation does play a role, it is no more nor less important than the price of utilities; the cost of housing; the availability and skills of the local labor force; access to markets, customers and suppliers; and even crime rates.

While we often hear about how taxation levels affect a corporation’s ability to compete in the global marketplace, we rarely hear about the major advantage Canadian businesses have over their U. S. counterparts because of universal health care. Canadian businesses clearly have the advantage, because most of their employees’ medical costs are covered by our universal public health care system. And though many pay for extended coverage for services such as dental care and pharmaceuticals, the costs aren’t anywhere close to what U. S. companies must absorb.

“Promoters of privatization ignore the fact that not-for-profit clinics and hospitals are cheaper to operate than for-profit institutions. It has been repeatedly well documented that private clinics end up costing governments and patients more. And if Canada continues down the road of privatization, it will cost Canadian businesses a great deal.

“We’ve learned the harsh lessons of privatization from our neighbours to the south. The United States spends nearly twice as much per person on health care than Canada does, and more than 40 million people have no health care whatsoever. For-profit health care provides less coverage to fewer people. It costs more and results in lower life expectancies and higher infant mortality rates. It removes money from the system and gives it to corporate shareholders. And despite the loud claims of some politicians and private health care lobbyists, for-profit health care will not shorten wait times.

. “It certainly does not help that groups like the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses have been among the biggest pushers of private medicine. [Why? They haven’t done their homework?] While the big insurance companies may be eager to cash in on Canada’s health care market, the vast majority of

businesses would suffer under an employer-paid insurance system and for-profit delivery of health care services

“Now is the time to stand up for Canada’s public health care system, and to work together to develop and implement public, non-profit solutions to wait times. [Rick had some concrete suggestions and others come to mind: eliminating the referral system, grouping and streamlining testing, and using a one line feed system employed in banks could all shorten wait times.] Profit is not the cure for Canadian health care.”

S. Park: Representation Agreement Information for BC Residents

A Representation Agreement is a legal document in which you can give the people you chooses legal authority to help you make decisions. There is no up-front test of capability for making a Representation Agreement with standard powers. The law allows for everyone to make an Agreement with standard powers, even if someone cannot manage their own affairs and already needs help.

Nidus offers a Self-Help Kit to make and register a Representation Agreement with standard powers. The Kit contains a fill-in-the-blank Representation Agreement form, instructions on how to complete the form, tips for the representative(s) and monitor and registration with Nidus Registry.

To ensure that the powers covered in the Agreement with standard powers are sufficient for your situation review the information below

Standard powers can include one or all of the following:

- Routine management of financial affairs, such as paying bills, receiving money, withdrawing money, dealing with investments, applying for and managing benefits, dealing with Revenue Canada, selling a car;
- Legal Services, such as hiring and instructing a lawyer, dealing with an insurance claim (e.g. ICBC);
- Minor and major health care matters, such as decisions about tests, flu shots, surgery, medications, dental care, kidney dialysis, comfort measures at end-of-life;
- Personal care matters, such as decisions about living arrangements, diet, exercise, participation in activities and care of pets

Standard powers **DO NOT** include:

- Dealing with real estate property or running a business, or
- Giving your representative the absolute and final authority to refuse life-support even if you doctor or other family members disagree. Under standard powers, decisions about refusing life-support would be made by consensus of the medical team and your family members.
- Some other specific powers related to health and personal care that may be important to people with certain health conditions

These powers currently require legal consultation and a person must be able to understand the nature and effect of the document they are signing. If you own real estate property, the legal practice is to make an Enduring Power of Attorney, which is witnessed by either a Notary Public or a lawyer. For the additional health and personal care powers, the law currently requires that you consult with a lawyer. The BC government is expected to change the law by the beginning of 2010 to make the lawyer requirement obsolete. Once the law has changed, Nidus will be able to provide forms to include the broader health and personal care powers.

Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry

(Formerly the Representation Agreement Resource Centre and Nidus Registry)

411 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1X4

Tel. 604-408-7414

Fax. 604-801-5506

www.nidus.ca

The Nidus Resource Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization.

Idle Thoughts of a Retiree's wandering Mind

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it . * I had amnesia once -- or twice? * I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what? * Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic. * All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy. * What is a "free" gift?..... Aren't all gifts free? * They told me I was gullible... and I believed them. * Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway. * Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone. * One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people. * My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies. * I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure. * The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity. * How can there be self-help "groups"? * If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain hippos? * Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off. * Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Need a tax break? The Disability Income Tax Credit is retroactive!

You are eligible whether you are seriously sight, hearing, mobility, cognitively or other normal bodily function impaired. This tax break also applies to those who have trouble feeding or dressing themselves, as stroke victims may be. You are not sure? Call or look!

1-800-959-2221

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/formspubs/topics/disabled-e.html>

It is estimated that only a small percentage of those eligible for this benefit actually apply for it. Hello? Anybody home?



End of 2008



Food and entertainment: The Beattie School Choir performs at our November luncheon. Our lunch consisted of Turkey, dressing, gravy, ham, yams, steamed vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts), mashed potatoes, three choices of salad, pickles, buns. It was a lovely meal!



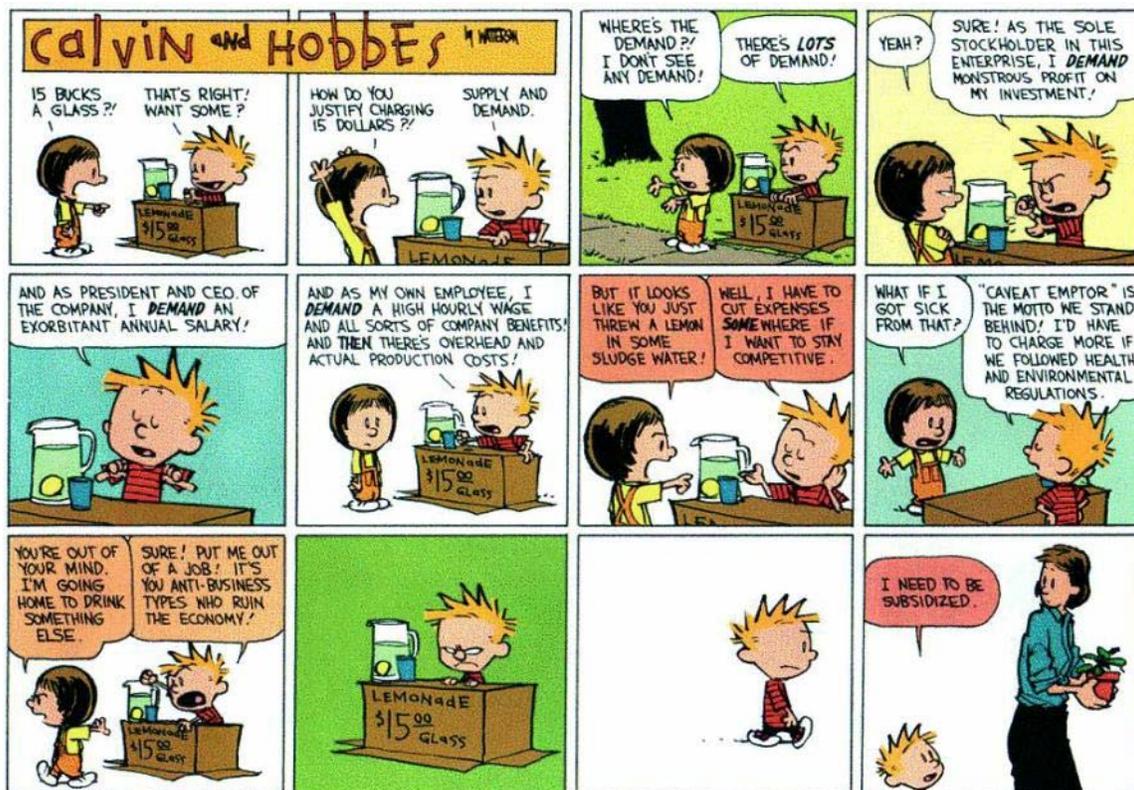
Mind food: The Book Exchange table. Surprise bags donated for the Loonie Auction by two members of the Executive on the right: Donna Walsh and Donna Sharpe



Mirella Wessel wins the wine basket at the Loonie Auction, and Simona de Vries, poinsettia winner, both with their best winner's smiles. Also won: the Bursary Fund!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. Calvin 15 years ago



2. The Lone Ranger and Tonto

The Lone Ranger and Tonto stopped in the desert for the night. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep. Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?"

The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asks Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and We are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it tell you, Tonto?"

Tonto is silent for a moment, then says, "Kemo Sabe, you dumber than buffalo shit. It means someone stole tent."

3. **Global facts** At Any Given Moment: Fact: 58,000,000 are kissing.

Fact: 37,000,000 are relaxing after having sex... Fact: only 1 person is reading The Bridge... - You hang in there sunshine!

4. When was the last time you've heard?

Don't forget to wind the clock before you go to bed! * **Wash your feet before you go to bed, you've been playing outside all day barefooted!** * You have torn the knees out of that pair of pants so many times there is nothing left to put a patch on! * It is time for your system to be cleaned out. I am going to give you a dose of castor oil tonight. * If you get a spanking in school and I find out about it, you'll get another one when you get home. * Quit crossing your eyes! They will get stuck that way! * Don't you go outside with your good school clothes on! * Put a dish towel over the cake so the flies won't get on it! * Bill, when the Fuller Brush man comes by, I need to get a few things from him! * There's a dollar in my purse, get 5 gallons of gas when you go to town. * Open the back door and see if we can get a breeze through here! * **You can walk to the store; it won't hurt you to get some exercise.** * Don't lose that button; I'll sew it back on after awhile! * Wash under your neck before you come to the table, you have beads of dirt and sweat all under there. * Be sure and fill the lamps this morning so we don't have to do that tonight in the dark. * No! I don't have nine cents for you to go to the show. Do you think money grows on trees? * Eat those vegetables, they'll make you big and strong like your daddy. * That dog is NOT coming in this house! I don't care how cold it is out there, dogs just don't come in the house! No way, no how, no siree!
 ...You've heard them all? Boy you're old!

5. Oh Canada! (Debt, deficit and deception – after Mel Hurtig)

In 1991 Hurtig wrote an extremely well documented book, filled with charts and Census figures, entitled *The Betrayal of Canada*. To my knowledge, it is still the latest complete analysis of the affairs of this nation based on verifiable facts. Chapter 21 of this book is titled "Debt, Deficits and Deception." In it he poses the question: Are we really bankrupting the nation? The short answer seems to be: not yet, but heading that way. Shocking amounts of taxpayers dollars are being siphoned out of the country silently year after year. We read: "The cost of servicing the federal debt is now stupendous: \$ 40 billion a year and the fastest growing segment of government expenditures. Unbelievably, the interest bill now takes three quarters of all federal personal taxes." The words are that of the former editor of *The Financial Post*, Neville Nankivell, uttered in a speech to a select audience in 1990 in Calgary, as quoted by Hurtig, who himself says: "Confusion abounds on the question of debt and deficits. Hence, the left is often as confused as the right is ideologically blind... Most of the business community and most business writers and economists say, that our increasing debt is a menace to the nation and to the standard of living of the citizenry. Much of the government's public policy has been in response to the perception, that the increasing costs of servicing the public debt clearly show the need to reduce government spending. But some economists, labour leaders, politicians, and many social activists claim that the debt is not the problem – the interest rates are!" He then proceeds with the analysis of the figures and concludes: "Clearly, then, Canada's high interest rate policies are a major factor in the huge, escalating debt charges, and are in fact the major contributor to the rapidly accumulating debt." Says a columnist: "Canadians are right when they disown the debt." We're paying.

6. No nursing home for us!

No nursing home for us. We are checking into the Holiday Inn! With the average cost for a nursing home care costing \$188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old & feeble. We have already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn. For a combined long term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$49.23 per night. That leaves \$138.77 a day for: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies. Plus, they provide a swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc. Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap. They treat you like a customer, not a patient. There is a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will also pick you up (if you fake a decent limp). To meet other nice people, call a church bus on Sundays. For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up. It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you are not stuck in one place forever, you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city. Want to see Hawaii? They have a Holiday Inn there too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience. The Inn place has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks to see if you are ok. If not, they will call the undertaker or an ambulance. If you fall and break a hip, Medicare will pay for the hip and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life. And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to find you and probably check in for a few days mini-vacation themselves. The grandkids can use the pool. *What more can you ask for?*

7. The difference between [http](#) and [https](#)

If you visit a website, and look at the address, it will likely begin with: [http://](#). If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site. This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an http website! It is only an [https://](#) address no one can eavesdrop on. If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with [https://](#). No "s" – no security.

8. Quo vadis world?

I don't know about you, but watching world events unfold I often find myself asking: How could this be happening in our day and age? How can a few criminals wreak so much havoc, hurt so many year after year? Why are the most aggressive extremists of all nations, parties, creeds, religions, etc. allowed to pursue their deadly agendas the world over, while the vast majority of peaceful, rational humankind are the ones forever victimized? Many more civilians are killed in wars than soldiers – no honour guards for them, of course. We don't even bother to count them. Why is power not in the service of

the majority? Why do *we* feel powerless? If we are the majority, why is it that not our voices of reason, compassion, tolerance, fairness and conscience dominate the news? Why are our voices not heard? Then somebody sent me a “forward” and it hit me. Who owns the news?

This article was sent to Debbie Ducro, an American-Jewish journalist with the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle. She published it, and was fired the next day.

Quest for justice

By Judith Stone

I am a Jew. I was a participant in the Rally for the Right of Return to Palestine. [Why was this rally not in the news? It must have been remarkable.]

It was the right thing to do.

I've heard about the European holocaust against the Jews since I was a small child. I've visited the memorials in Washington, D. C. and Jerusalem dedicated to Jewish lives lost, and I've cried at the recognition to what level of atrocity mankind is capable of sinking.

Where are the Jews of conscience? No righteous malice can be held against the survivors of Hitler's holocaust. These fragments of humanity were in no position to make choices beyond that of personal survival. We must not forget that being a survivor or a co-religionist of the victims of the European Holocaust does not grant dispensation from abiding by the rules of humanity.

"Never again" as a motto, rings hollow when it means "never again to us alone." My generation was raised being led to believe that the biblical land was a vast desert inhabited by a handful of impoverished Palestinians living with their camels and eking out a living in the sand. The arrival of the Jews was touted as a tremendous benefit to these desert dwellers. Golda Meir even assured us that there "is no Palestinian problem."

We know now this picture wasn't as it was painted. Palestine was a land filled with people who called it home. There were thriving towns and villages, schools and hospitals. There were Jews, Christians and Muslims.

In fact, prior to the occupation, Jews represented a mere seven per cent of the population and owned three per cent of the land.

Taking the blinders off for a moment, I see a second atrocity perpetuated by the very people who should be exquisitely sensitive to the suffering of others. These people knew what it felt like to be ordered out of your home at gun point and forced to march into the night to unknown destinations, or face execution on the spot. The people who displaced the Palestinians knew first hand what it means to watch your home in flames, to surrender everything dear to your heart at a moment's notice. Bulldozers leveled hundreds of villages, along with the remains of the village inhabitants, the old and the young. This was nothing new to the world.

Poland is a vast graveyard of the Jews of Europe. Israel is the final resting place of the massacred Palestinian people. A short distance from the memorial to the Jewish

children lost to the holocaust in Europe there is a leveled parking lot. Under this parking lot is what's left of a once flourishing village and the bodies of men, women and children whose only crime was taking up needed space and not leaving graciously. This particular burial marker reads: "Public Parking".

I've talked with Palestinians. I have yet to meet a Palestinian who hasn't lost a member of their family to the Israeli Shoah, nor a Palestinian who cannot name a relative or friend languishing under inhumane conditions in an Israeli prison. Time and time again, Israel is cited for human rights violations to no avail. On a recent trip to Israel, I visited the refugee camps inhabited by a people who have waited 52 years in these 'temporary' camps to go home. Every Palestinian grandparent can tell you the name of their village, their street, and where the olive trees were planted. Their grandchildren may never have been home, but they can tell you where their great-grandfather lies buried and where the village well stood. The press has fostered the portrait of the Palestinian terrorist. But the victims who rose up against human indignity in the Warsaw Ghetto are called heroes Those who lost their lives are called martyrs. The Palestinian who tosses a rock in desperation is a terrorist.

Two years ago I drove through Palestine and watched intricate sprinkler systems watering lush green lawns of Zionist settlers in their new condominium complexes, surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire in the midst of a Palestinian community, where there was not adequate water to drink, and the surrounding fields were sandy and dry. University professor Moshe Zimmerman reported in the Jerusalem Post (30 April, 1995), "The children of Hebron are just like Hitler's youth."

We Jews are suing for restitution, lost wages, compensation for homes, land, slave labour and back wages in Europe. Am I a traitor of a Jew for supporting the right of return of the Palestinian refugees to their birthplace and compensation for what was taken that cannot be returned?

The Jewish dead cannot be brought back to life and neither can the Palestinian massacred be resurrected. David Ben Gurion said, "Let us not ignore the truth among ourselves...politically, we are the aggressors and they defend themselves...The country is theirs, because they inhabit it, whereas we want to come here and settle down, and in their view we want to take away from them their country..."* [see Editor's Notes]

Palestine is a land that has been occupied and emptied of its people. Its cultural and physical landmarks have been obliterated and replaced by tidy Hebrew signs. The history of a people was the first thing eradicated by the occupiers. The history of the indigenous people has been all but eradicated as though they never existed.** [See Editor's Notes] And all this has been hailed by the world as a miraculous act of God. We must recognize that Israel's existence is not even a question of legality so much as it is an illegal fait accompli realized through the use of force while supported by the Western powers. The UN missions directed at Israel in attempting to correct its violations have thus far been futile.

In Hertzl's 'The Jewish State,' the father of Zionism said: "We must investigate and take possession of the new Jewish country by means of every modern expedient." I guess I agree with Ehud Barak (3 June 1998) when he said, "If I were a Palestinian, I'd also join a terror group." I'd go a step further perhaps. Rather than throwing little stones in desperation, I'd hurtle a boulder.

Hopefully, somewhere deep inside, every Jew of conscience knows that this was no war; that this was not G-d's [Sic] restitution of the holy land to its rightful owners. We know that a human atrocity was and continues to be perpetuated against an innocent people who couldn't come up with the arms and money to defend themselves against the Western powers bent upon their demise as a people. We cannot continue to say, "But what were we to do?" Zionism is not synonymous with Judaism. I wholly support the rally of the right of return of the Palestinian people here.

So here we have it, folks! It is not "the Muslims" and not "the Jews," that are committing the atrocities, it is the Jihadists and the Zionists. It is the Jewish extreme right wing few, who have the money and the military power in Israel and the sway in the West, that allows them to pursue their agenda of forcibly taking away more and more land from the Palestinians. Most Jewish folks, of course, are not like that, they are like the rest of us. But they, like we, don't matter. What matters is who owns the media, and who has the power to fire the journalist who allows the voice of Jewish conscience to be heard, even in a local paper. A misuse of money and power in one place, if there ever was one, that supports the abuse of power at another place. Meanwhile, the voices of conscience, of reason, of justice, and of love and peace are silenced, violence and intimidation prevails. Such is the world where might and money rules.

[Editor's Notes]

*[When I read this, I thought, "How typical of today's politicians! Of today's news! This is how the Orwellian newspeak works. By interjecting "in their view," a simple fact (and the truth) both lose their validity at once, made to become a subject of debate, a thing of uncertainty. Under the guise of "impartiality" and "fairness," the news reports "both sides" of everything, undermining the validity of fact and truth alike, and the reader who has been informed of both sides knows nothing for sure. I have a black dog. If a reporter was to do his job in today's world, he could no longer just come to my house and report that yeah, the dog is black. He would have to "verify his facts" by talking to my neighbors, one of whom might believe the dog to be white. The reporter will report that I said the dog was black, the neighbour said it was white and you, hearing this, would not know if my dog was black or white. It's that simple. Reminds me of my psych textbook. "So and so says such and such; so and so says such and such; and so and so says such and such. In conclusion, so and so says such and such, so and so says such and such, etc...." That you may hear one side 99 times, the other once, that's okay. ***The news is a business, after all***, and it has to keep its advertisers. What complaints can the public have? Both sides have been reported: the reporting has been "fair." A few decades of this kind of reporting and ***we no longer know what fairness is***. I watched a young Israeli being interviewed on CNN, talking about the most recent situation in Gaza, revealing how he thought about fairness. He said: "It's an all-out war. The Palestinians throw everything they have at us: stones, home-made bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, and we throw everything we have at them: F-16-s, helicopters, tanks, bulldozers, the artillery." And smiled. You see, in his mind it was a fair fight to the death, both sides doing everything

they could. Could he help that his side had the better weapons? Don't blame the kid! He has been brought up reading the media and listening to his politicians.

****This I have seen before. On my last trip to Transylvania I found few signs still visible of the land belonging to the kingdom of Hungary for 1100 years. Many millions of Romanian settlers have made their way north, bulldozing ancient Hungarian villages in the name of "development" and "progress." "Ethnic cleansing" went on for decades all around, slowly and silently. "People guilt," long discredited, still provides pretext for discriminatory practices and persecution against Hungarians who have become a minority in 2/3 of their historic country. Every city, town and village has been renamed, including those that do not have a single Romanian inhabitant. Hungarians, who hoped to see an end of this with the advent of the European Union, have found that nothing has changed. All the new arrivals made it a condition of their joining the Union that the Union agrees to the status quo and its constitution does not apply when it is in conflict with their "internal affairs." The W.W.I dictum of Trianon is a yet to be commuted death sentence not only on Hungary, but on Hungarians. Slowly but surely, the execution is proceeding. Body Hungary is a torso with all its limbs cut off, suffering from internal bleeding, as a continuing stream of refugees leave, forced either by political oppression or economic desperation. Add to these fast-growing internal problems, as both Asians and Gypsies out-reproduce Hungarians. Everything is relative. The Palestinians are lucky indeed!**



Wagamese amazes



An honourable man, who walked a long way along the river of life, was honoured with a standing ovation at our January luncheon

"I spent many years afraid of the questions. I was afraid of the questions because I was afraid of the answers, and that fear kept me on narrow, twisted roads deep into my life. My greatest fear was that after the search, after the most arduous of journeys, I would discover, at the end, a me I didn't like, the me that I was always convinced I was: an unlovable, inadequate, weak, unworthy human being. And at that point of discovery I would be alone. Alone with myself. Alone with my fears. Alone with the one person I had spent so much time and energy trying to run away from." We read on his website. And so it was a little nervous, a little shy Richard Wagamese that stood in front of a large room packed with schoolteachers, telling the creation myth of his people, the Danae, and the two teachers who made a difference in his life. The first recognized his talent for writing and encouraged him to be the writer he has become; the second recognized his worth as a person, and worthy he is. He told a fraction of his trials but we were wiping

away tears. He spoke of the power of forgiveness, and we believed him. He revealed his humanity, and rekindled ours. Before he finished, and before we even realized it, we loved this intelligent, sensitive man, our new neighbour. Richard and his partner have bought a house at Paul Lake, and feel in heaven. Oh, the standing ovation? It just happened. Naturally. Welcome home to Kamloops, Richard and Debra Powell!



Mm! Mae Ince, winner of surprise bag, prepared for the Bursary Twonie Draw by Suzanne Legault. Mae is holding the winning ticket #28.



All big smiles at the TRU Foundation Awards. Left to right: Natasha Holowaychuk, Sheila Park, Stewart Cawood, Darrel Johnson, Bev Maxwell, and Jenny Dahl.

Bev Maxwell: Bursary Committee Update

On November 27th, Sheila Park, Bev Maxwell and Darrel Johnson attended the TRU Foundation Awards Ceremony to present the KRTA and R. R. Smith Foundation bursaries. The KRTA bursaries of \$ 1,283.89 were presented to first year education students, Jenny Dahl and Natasha Holowaychuk, and the R. R. Smith Foundation bursary

was presented to Stewart Cawood. The students were most appreciative for having been chosen as recipients of the awards. The students have been invited to attend our March General Meeting luncheon.

Suzanne Legault: Inter-Branch Social Notice

This year's inter-branch social event has been booked for Tuesday, June 16th. The location is the Quaaout Resort on beautiful Little Shuswap Lake. To date, the following events have been booked.

1. A 9 hole golf tournament at "Talking Rock" Our tee time is at 9:00 a. m. Staff will organize KPs, Long drives, etc., and there will be many door prizes. The green fees are \$ 42.00 plus \$10.00 for a cart. If we have 16 people this cost will be much less. More information will be available as numbers are known. Those who wish to book rooms can do so on their own. Double rooms are \$130 for two double beds rooms.

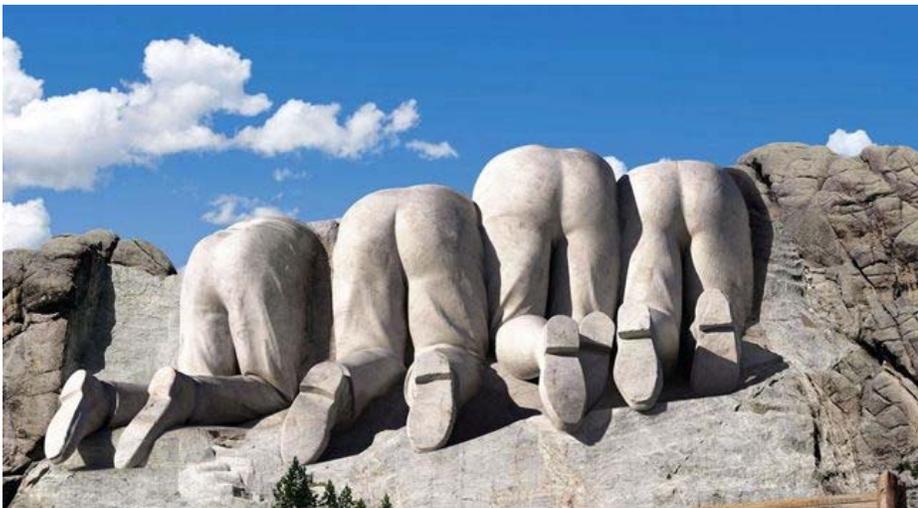
2. Lunch will be served at 12:30 at a cost of \$20.00

Other Options for non golfers:

- Ernie Philips, a native elder or historian to speak on the origins of Quaaout
- Drum Circle
- Hiking tours and bird watching.

We hope you will consider attending this event. Further updates, if any, will be posted on our website and/or announced at our dinners in the coming months.

Yes, Virginia, there is another side to America's Presidents also!



The End