

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

SUMMER 2009



Ploughshares Fall Events

The fall is always a busy and energizing time of year for Ploughshares, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events and watch for more details.

Sunday September 20th



Celebration of the International Day of Peace and the unveiling of the Calgary Community Peace Pole (along the Bow River pathway east of the 10St bridge) 1:30pm walk from Prince's Island, 2pm celebration

Friday October 30th 7:30pm



Singing for Peace Concert
Parkdale United Church
With Paul Rumbolt

Saturday November 14th

25th Annual Holiday Peace Fair
St. David's United Church
9:30am to 4pm



We are located:
Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403- 270-7366

Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm
Wed 2 - 6pm



The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids

A peace camp is where artists, musicians, writers, actors and children aged 9 to 13 explore peace together. They explore peace with themselves, with Nature, in Family and Community and in the World.

There are three peace camps already planned for this summer in Calgary—please be in touch with the contact person for more information or to register.

July 13-17, 9am to noon, at 134 Scarboro Ave. SW
Contact: Fif at 403-685-9846 or Mela at 403-228-1161

July 13-17, noon to 3pm at 5010 Spruce Drive SW
Contact: Tracy at 403-249-3121 or 403-285-8490

August 10-14, 9am to noon, at 1317 1st Street NW
Contact: Betsy at 403-277-5576



If you are interesting in organizing your own camp, the Ploughshares office has copy of a handbook that can help—it is also available at www.carolynpogue.ca



Ploughshares Calgary News

Report from Ploughshares' June 10th meeting

Rick Collier from the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association began his presentation on the situation of the Cuban Five by reminding the audience of 25, that people need to be context blind in order to work on social justice issues. Pertaining to Cuba, the international media has focused on negative portrayals of the country and its citizens, paying little attention to actions of other countries. In fact, since the 1960's, the US has been committing acts of terrorism against Cuba, and counter-revolutionary groups are active in Miami. The Cuban Five were in the US gathering information about groups planning terrorist acts against Cuba, and after taking the information they gathered to the FBI, they were arrested in 1998 and charged with conspiracy to commit espionage sometime in the future. There has been increasing international attention on the situation of the Cuban Five, including pressure from Amnesty International that the US is violating the 8th amendment of the Bill of Rights. The Cuban Five and their supporters have been working on an appeal for a new trial not based in Miami (as anti-Cuba sentiment is prevalent there).

Sally Hodges, Chair of the Ploughshares Calgary executive facilitated Ploughshares AGM at the close of the evening. Copies of the 2008 Annual Report presented at the AGM are available from the Ploughshares office. The Ploughshares executive appreciated suggestions from AGM attendees on additional fundraising possibilities and also future public meeting topics.

Calgary Community Peace Pole Project

The Calgary Community Peace Pole Committee is pleased to announce that the construction of the Peace Pole will begin this summer and an unveiling celebration is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday September 20th.

Earlier this year, the architects working on this project (from Marc Boutin Architectural Collective) offered this new design for the pole which greatly reduced construction costs for the project (estimated at \$100,000, half of which is donations from contractors, trades and suppliers and half of which had been raised by the Committee).

The design consists of a community of poles; the main pole, 14 feet high, consists of three rounded metal panels and one rounded plexi-glass panel with the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" laser-cut out in English, Blackfoot, Cree and French. This text is heightened as both natural and artificial light filter through. The three smaller poles are three foot high light poles, and the six foot high pole consists of a rounded metal panel on which a description of the project will be engraved as well as the word for peace in 80 languages most commonly spoken in Calgary.



We now have over 50 community, cultural, and faith groups, in addition to many individuals, that have joined in supporting this project to bring a peace pole to a public space in Calgary. Donating groups and businesses will be acknowledged in plaques along the long bench and all donors will be acknowledged at the unveiling celebration.

The Committee still welcomes additional groups and individuals to 'engage' (as the benches in the design spell out) in this project either by helping with the unveiling celebration or with financial support (\$10,000 in funds still needed for the endowment fund for upkeep with the City and to add to the grant from the Calgary Foundation for the unveiling celebration).

For more information on the project, please go to the new website for the project at www.calgarypeacepole.org and watch some videos about the project on YouTube (search for the calgarypeacepole channel).



The **Puppets for Peace** Steering Committee is planning on hiring staff in the summer and restarting the program in the fall of 2009, beginning with one play geared for students grades 4-7, *Birds of a Feather* (written for Puppets by Carolyn Pogue). Puppets for Peace is the only program of its kind in Calgary that offers bully-proofing puppet shows in elementary schools.

Applications for the part-time position of Program Director will be accepted until July 15. Please email Helen Negrave at puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca for the job description.

Global News

Secretary-General launches multimedia disarmament campaign in marking 100-day countdown to international day of peace

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message to mark the 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace, beginning on 13 June:

The International Day of Peace, observed each year on 21 September, is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. It is a time to reflect on the horror and cost of war and the benefits of peacefully resolving our disputes. This year, I will use this important day to ask Governments and citizens of the world to focus on the important issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The end of the cold war helped lift the burden of nuclear catastrophe from a generation that had lived under its cloud since the end of the Second World War. Nonetheless, the threat persists, as recent events attest. Unless we vigorously work for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we will continue to face threats from existing nuclear weapons, as well as additional risks that more States, even terrorists, might acquire and deploy such weapons, potentially annihilating millions of people.

This alarming outlook is counterbalanced by a new momentum on the part of world leaders to address the issue of nuclear weapons. The United States and the Russian Federation have signalled a new commitment to cut their nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, the Conference on Disarmament, which includes all States with nuclear arms, has recently broken a decade-long deadlock and agreed to work to resolve some of the key issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

We must build on this momentum. To that end, I am launching the WMD-WeMustDisarm! Campaign. Over the next 100 days, the United Nations and our partners around the world will work to raise awareness of the true costs and dangers of nuclear weapons. Between now and 21 September, we will issue 100 reasons to disarm, via Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, email, text message, radio and from friend to friend. Celebrities will also help us spread the message. And finally, as we observe the International Day of Peace with world leaders gathered in New York for the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, I will proclaim one strong, simple message: We must disarm!

Ploughshares National News



From June 15-21, activists in more than 80 countries will use the **Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence** to raise awareness, campaign for better gun laws, and push for stronger regulation of the global arms trade.

Member groups of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), of which Project Ploughshares is a founding member, will be holding events all over the world throughout the week to draw attention to the human toll of small arms proliferation and misuse. This year groups will be calling on their governments to support a strong Arms Trade Treaty in the discussions at the United Nations in July. IANSA members will visit policymakers, organize workshops, and conduct media outreach activities to push for a strong and effective Treaty.

This year, during the Week of Action, the IANSA Women's Network is launching the *Disarming Domestic Violence* campaign, the first international campaign aimed at protecting women from gun violence in the home. The campaign, to run from June 2009 to December 2010, will be launched in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Namibia, Nepal, Serbia, Portugal and Uganda with events such as bicycle rides, marches and press conferences. The Canadian campaign is jointly coordinated by Project Ploughshares, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children, and the Small Arms Working Group of Peacebuild. The main goal of the campaign is to ensure that people with a history of domestic abuse are denied access to firearms, or have their licenses revoked.

The risk of physical harm, threats, and intimidation to women and children increases when a gun is present in the home. The World Health Organization estimates that 40-70% of all female homicides are committed by an intimate partner. In Canada the rate of spousal homicide against females has been between three and five times higher than the rate for males over the 30 year period from 1977 to 2006. One in three Canadian women killed by their husbands is shot, 88% of them with legally owned rifles and shotguns, the firearms of choice in domestic violence and suicide. The use of guns often results in multiple victims, many times children.

Of the 800 million small arms in the world today, more than 75% of them are in the hands of private individuals – most of them men. Given this, women are paying an increasingly heavy price for the dangerously unregulated multi-billion dollar trade in small arms.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

2919 8th Ave. NW
 Calgary AB T2N 1C8
 (403) 270-7366
 office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
 www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges & Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue. Thanks to Allan and Keith, volunteers from VRRRI, and their assistants, who help prepare our mail-outs of newsletters throughout the year!

Appeal from Sally Hodges, Chair of Ploughshares Calgary

At the June Ploughshares Calgary Executive meeting it was decided that our annual appeal for funds will be moved to May/June each year instead of the Fall. This will assist with our cash flow and better enable us to plan for the coming year. You are therefore invited to consider giving your annual donation at this time.

What is our source of funding? A quarter of our revenues come from activities that generate income such as the Peace Fair and the Singing for Peace concert. Less than a fifth comes from churches and foundations. This means that the majority of our work, 57%, is dependent on individual donors.

- It is individual donors who ensure that we can continue to contribute to the public discussion and debate of important peace and security issues.
- It is individuals who will make it possible in the coming year for Calgarians to hear special speakers such as Christian Peacemaker Teams member Jim Loney, kidnapped for four months in Iraq.
- Projects such as the Calgary Community Peace Pole and the bullying-proofing program Puppets for Peace are being carried out because of the generosity of those donating to Project Ploughshares Calgary.
- Donations make possible our Spring Workshop, ten annual newsletters, eight public meetings, website, petitions, networking with other groups and much more.

Project Ploughshares Calgary is a local chapter of Project Ploughshares, which is an operating agency of the Canadian Council of Churches, a registered Canadian Charity.

Project Ploughshares is a national force for generating policy ideas and action in the areas of peace and security. Project Ploughshares Calgary's purpose is to advance this mandate locally. It is through the vision of people like you that the importance of this work is realized. Please join forces with Project Ploughshares Calgary through time or financial support, so that its mandate can be carried out in the coming year.

What do your dollars for Project Ploughshares Calgary enable?

- \$500 - a round trip flight for a workshop leader or for our Program Coordinator to attend a conference.
- \$150 - half of a workshop leader's honorarium
- \$65 - a morning of staff time: contacting Peace Pole architect, speakers for next public meeting; writing part of the newsletter
- \$20 - a refill for a printer cartridge for printing information

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2009 of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

- Email (recommended)
- Mail (requires \$35 donation)

Upcoming Events

Sept 15th 7pm *The Strangest Dream*

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival Quarterly Film screening. The NFB film, *The Strangest Dream*, is the story of Joseph Rotblat and the efforts of Pugwash Conferences to halt nuclear proliferation.

River Park Church (3818 14A St)

With the Honorable Douglas Roche as the post-film conversation leader

Sept 21st *The Day After Peace*

Location and time TBA

PeaceFilm presented by the U of C's Consortium for Peace Studies

The Day After Peace charts the remarkable 10-year journey of award-winning filmmaker Jeremy Gilley to establish an annual Peace Day on 21 September.

Sept 27th 1-3pm

Multi-Faith Walk to End Family Violence

A walk to call attention to the valuable and powerful role that people of faith have in ending violence in our families. Meet at Eau Claire Market. Further information, contact Janice Fraser at 403-283-2013, ext. 241

Summer Office Closure— During the summer the Ploughshares office will be

closed as usual, starting in July. 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 members a wonderful and peaceful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.