

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

SEPTEMBER 2009



Celebrate the unveiling of the Calgary Community Peace Pole



Sunday September 20th

1:30pm Walk for Peace

Meet ahead on Prince's Island by the bridge to Eau Claire Market, to walk to the celebration site

2 - 4pm Unveiling Celebration

Bow River pathway at 2nd Avenue & 8th Street SW

All welcome! Inauguration, music & dance performances, children's activities, free barbecue or bring a family picnic.

Human Rights vigil to follow at 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



May Peace Prevail on Earth

Ploughshares Calgary News

Appeal from Ploughshares Board

As announced in our summer newsletter, Project Ploughshares Calgary's annual appeal for funds has moved to May/June 2009, but we will accept donations any time. **We are appealing for very strong support at this time.** Our Board personally contributes financially and we invite you to join us in giving your annual donation as soon as possible. It is twelve years since we found ourselves in a similar financial position which requires **this special appeal.** Many thanks to those who responded during the summer.

How important are you? A quarter of our revenues come from activities that generate income, such as the Singing for Peace concert and the Peace Fair. The majority of our work, 57%, is dependent on individual donors such as you.

- It is you who ensure that we can continue to contribute to the public discussion and debate of important peace and security issues.
- It is you 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.
- The Spring Workshop is considered a 'not-to-be-missed' event by dozens of people. For instance, a Calgary chapter of the Nonviolent Peaceforce has arisen from the 2008 spring workshop.
- Projects such as the Calgary Community Peace Pole and the bully-proofing program Puppets for Peace are being carried out because of your generosity.
- Donations make possible our ten annual newsletters, eight public meetings, website, petitions, networking with other groups and much more.

Project Ploughshares Calgary www.ploughsharescalgary.ca is a local chapter of Project Ploughshares, which is an operating agency of the Canadian Council of Churches, a registered Canadian Charity. The purpose of the local group is to advance the mandate of Project Ploughshares national www.ploughshares.ca.

Project Ploughshares and Project Ploughshares Calgary explore new policy ideas and practical action for peace.

It is the vision of people like you, who see the importance of this, that allows Ploughshares to carry on. Project Ploughshares thanks you for your past support and looks forward to much greater financial health very soon.

Thank you for your commitment and strong assistance at this time.

Sally Hodges
Chair



2010 Entertainment Coupon books for the Calgary area are available at the Ploughshares office. Call 403-270-7366 or email office@ploughsharescalgary.ca to arrange to purchase a book for \$40. This fundraiser supports the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary—Ploughshares receives \$8 for each book sold.



The **Puppets for Peace** Steering Committee is pleased to announce that staff has been hired for the program again, training is happening, and one show will be available for bookings beginning in October. The program is restarting 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.

Teachers and others who work with elementary school aged children can contact the Puppets Coordinator, Sheila Ross, at puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca for more information about the program.

Ploughshares National News

Building Momentum for Peace

Let us call a truce to terror. Let us invoke the blessings of peace. And as we build an international capacity to keep peace, let us join in dismantling the national capacity to wage war.

This call, made by President John F. Kennedy in his 1961 speech at the United Nations, is at the heart of the mandate and work of Project Ploughshares, work that is made possible by the faithful support of Canadian churches, foundations, organizations, and thousands of individuals. At last there are signs that President Kennedy's call is being heeded.

During the past two years a growing number of statements by major world figures, including retired Generals and a former NATO Secretary-General, have stated that human well-being and the well-being of our fragile planet require that all nuclear weapons be dismantled and permanently banned. In a dramatic shift from the Bush administration, President Obama has pledged to pursue a world without nuclear weapons as well as seek a worldwide ban on weapons in space.

In the same period, we have also seen significant progress toward an Arms Trade Treaty that will curb the traffic in the tools of violence that cause so much suffering. In October 2008, 147 states voted at the United Nations to move forward with work on an Arms Trade Treaty, eight more states than voted to start the process in 2006.

This new respect for nuclear abolition and the increased global support for an Arms Trade Treaty are in large part the fruit of the relentless efforts of civil society around the world, including Project Ploughshares. We must now focus on addressing the pockets of determined resistance to an effective Arms Trade Treaty and to a world without nuclear weapons.

From Ploughshares' Annual Report for 2008—available at www.ploughshares.ca

Revisiting, and Reviving, the R2P

This week the UN General Assembly returns to the "responsibility to protect." Since its formal adoption at the 2005 UN Summit meeting, R2P has been a doctrine honoured rather more in principle than in practice, but earlier this year UN Secretary - General Ban Ki-moon produced a major report, "Implementing the responsibility to protect," in an effort to shift it from the abstract to the concrete.

The consequences of it remaining an abstract principle are there for us all to see. Today the victims live and die in Afghanistan, the Congo (Kinshasa), Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and all the other places where children, women, and men continue to endure one or more of the four deadly crimes from which the people of the world were promised protection through R2P—genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

A core suspicion that still attends R2P debates is the worry that the noble objective of protecting vulnerable people will simply be appropriated by the big powers as one more justification for their interference in the affairs of smaller and weaker states. But, at the same time, the main impediment to operationalizing R2P with some measure of consistency is the reluctance of those same big powers to accept any binding obligation to intervene on behalf of vulnerable people outside their own jurisdiction or sphere of interest.

There is at least one positive consequence to this mutual wariness of intervention, and that is greater recognition of and attention to non-military remedies. The agreement coming out of the 2005 UN summit of course places the primary responsibility for protecting people on national governments: the sovereignty as responsibility principle. When states "manifestly" fail to meet that responsibility, the international community then accepts the responsibility to use "diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII [regional multilateral organizations] of the [UN] Charter," to come to the aid of those threatened with genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, or crimes against humanity. And only when those peaceful means are also clearly failing does the R2P doctrine allow for (it does not require it) more coercive measures under Chapter VII. Even in those cases the debate centres increasingly on the imposition of non-military coercion, through measures like diplomatic and economic sanctions and arms embargoes, before accepting, as the Secretary General puts it, "the application of coercive force in extreme situations" relating specifically to the four crimes covered by the R2P doctrine.

The new General Assembly debate is...an opportunity for states to reaffirm the basic principle of sovereignty as responsibility and the international community's obligations toward vulnerable people. Above all, the debate should mark the beginning of a genuine transition from abstract principle to the careful tracking of abuses and the delineation of avenues for concrete and consistent action. This is surely one debate that is literally a matter of life and death.

Excerpts from a July 22, 2009 Oped by Ernie Regehr in the Embassy, Canada's Foreign Policy Newsweekly



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Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges & Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue.

Ploughshares Calgary Fall Events

Saturday September 12th 9am—8pm
Nonviolent Peaceforce Train the Trainer Workshop
 Bow Cliff Senior’s Centre (608 Poplar Road SW)

Ploughshares Calgary is pleased to co-sponsor this workshop with Nonviolent Peaceforce in order to increase the number of trainers in nonviolent conflict intervention techniques.

People who have attended a Nonviolent Conflict Intervention workshop (held at Brilliant Cultural Centre in Castlegar, BC last August and in Calgary last April—the Ploughshares Spring Workshop) or with experience facilitating group activities and with background in nonviolent approaches to conflict and communication are invited to join in the training—**contact Madelyn MacKay madelynmackay@hotmail.com.**

Members of the public who would like to learn more about some of the skills used in nonviolent conflict intervention and about the Nonviolent Peaceforce are invited to attend from **2:00-5:00pm. Pramila and Shal Sinha, Peace Educators from Edmonton who have recently served in Sri Lanka as Nonviolent Peaceforce field team members, will give specific examples of nonviolent conflict intervention.**

Friday October 30th 7:30pm
Singing for Peace Concert

Parkdale United Church
 2919 8th Ave NW

With singer/songwriter Paul Rumbolt
 Ploughshares annual fall fundraising concert & dessert evening.



Early November, date TBA

Ploughshares monthly public meeting with guest speaker, Jim Loney, Christian Peacemaker Teams member who was kidnapped in Iraq in November 2005.

Saturday November 14th 9:30am—4pm

25th Annual Holiday Peace Fair
 St. David’s United Church
 3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW

Buy unique gifts & seasonal treasures from over 25 vendors working for peace, social justice or the environment.



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 in Calgary

Sept 15th 7pm *The Strangest Dream*

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival Quarterly Film
 River Park Church (3818 14A St)

The NFB film, *The Strangest Dream*, is the story of Joseph Rotblat and the efforts of Pugwash Conferences to halt nuclear proliferation.

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

Sept 21st 7pm *The Day After Peace*

Uptown Stage and Screen (612 8th Ave SW)
 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 northwest entrance for opening statements. Walk will head west to the Peace Pole, then cross the river and head back to Eau Claire Market. Further information, contact 403-283-2013 ext. 241 or faithlink@endviolence.ca