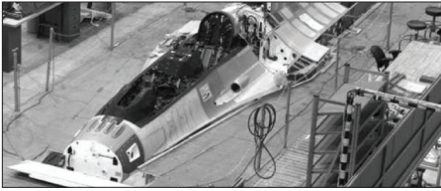


dominion, n. 1. Control or the exercise of control. 2. A territory or sphere of influence; a realm. 3. One of the self-governing nations within the British Commonwealth.

The Dominion

NEWS FROM THE GRASSROOTS

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Making War in Canada

Canada produces weapons used in Lebanon and Palestine

» p. 6



What's Mine Is Theirs

Legal victory for KI First Nation in Ontario

» p. 8



Urban Harvest

Growing food in Toronto's concrete jungle

» p. 13



New report suggests violence has become much worse in Haiti since Canadian intervention

An estimated 8 000 individuals were murdered in the 22 months following the US- and Canada-backed overthrow of the government led by Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a new report suggests. The study, based on randomized interviews with Port-au-Prince residents conducted by *The Lancet*, a prestigious UK-based medical journal, also estimated that 35,000 women were victims of sexual assault during the same period.

The report has revived criticisms of Canadian policy in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. At the time of the coup, documents acquired by the *Dominion* expressed the view that “President Aristide is clearly a serious aggravating factor in the current crisis,” though officials at the time publicly denied backing the coup.

The findings, however, suggest that the situation for Haitian residents of Port-au-Prince became perilously worse after Canada intervened and Aristide was removed from the country. Specific reports of Canadian troops sexually harassing local women have been cited by the *Ottawa Citizen*, but some critics have called attention to Canada’s broader responsibilities for the humanitarian crisis.

RCMP officers have been responsible for vetting and training the Haitian National Police, the force that *The Lancet* study cites as being responsible for significant and systematic human rights abuses.

“This study confirms what Canadian politicians such as Denis Coderre, Paul Martin and Peter Mackay have persistently denied: the interim government and their paramilitary allies waged a massive campaign of repression against Haiti’s



Women waiting to vote in Haiti. According to a new report, 35 000 women were victims of sexual assault in the 22 months following Aristide’s US- and Canada-backed overthrow.

Robert Miller

poor,” Bianca Mugenyi of Haiti Action Montreal said in a communiqué.

“Canada helped overthrow the elected government,...led the UN police contingent, yet refuses to take any responsibility for the vast human rights abuses,” said Nik Barry-Shaw, of the same group.

Official response has been minimal; the *Montreal Gazette* quoted one government representative as asking for a delay in publication to provide time to address the findings.

—Dru Oja Jay

India state of Kerala orders end to Coke and Pepsi operations

The state government of Kerala in south India has banned the production and sale of Coca-Cola and Pepsi. The companies will be asked to close their operations entirely, according to the India Resource Centre.

“We have arrived at the decision to ask both Coke and Pepsi to stop production and distribution of all their products, based on scientific studies which have proven that they are harmful,” said Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan.

The Centre for Science and Environment carried out tests

on 57 samples taken from 11 soft drink brands made by Coca-Cola India and PepsiCo India and found a “cocktail of three to five different pesticides,” all apparently present in groundwater used to make the drinks, reported the CBC.

The residues were 24 times above the limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards, the laboratory said.

“The pesticides in soft drinks in India is a classic case of double standards: one for Americans and Europeans, and another for Indians,” said Amit Srivastava, coordinator of the India Resource Centre. “Coca-Cola products made in India could never be sold in the European Union markets or the United States.” On at least 10 occasions since January 2005, the US Food and Drug Administration has rejected the shipment of Coca-Cola products made in India coming into the US, on the grounds that they do not conform to US laws and that they are unsafe for the US public.

In various parts of India, from Plachimada in south India to Mehdiganj in north India, communities living around Coca-Cola bottling plants are experiencing severe water shortages. The communities accuse the Coca-Cola company of creating these shortages because of over-extraction of

water and pollution of the scarce remaining water.

Coca-Cola and Pepsi pay nothing for water used in India. “It takes Coca-Cola nearly four liters of freshwater to produce one liter of product,” said Srivastava. “In other words, the company converts seventy-five per cent of the freshwater it extracts into wastewater, which in turn has contaminated the scarce remaining groundwater and land.”

Four other Indian states have already banned the sale of the soft drinks in schools, colleges and government offices, while several other states have said they are examining the issue.

—Hillary Bain Lindsay

Social Movements, Police Battle for Control in Mexican State of Oaxaca

As media reports focus on the clash of two candidates in the closest presidential election in Mexican history, another battle is playing out in the country’s southern state of Oaxaca. The conflict has everything to do with the deep divisions that have created the largest crisis in Mexican politics in decades.

In late May, thousands of striking teachers occupied the centre of Oaxaca City, demanding an increased minimum wage, increased funding for schools, and an end to the siphoning of public funds by corrupt officials. On June 14, police attempted to break up the strike with a pre-dawn raid. Officers shot tear gas and bullets, and destroyed the tents of sleeping demonstrators. Police reportedly targeted the teachers’ radio station, Radio Plantón, destroying broadcasting equipment. The teachers, however, fought back and drove the police out of the occupied area after a four-hour battle.

According to one journalist, the raid “ignited a mass uprising in the state and beyond.” Hundreds of thousands have

continued on page 15 »

“We don’t know where our next meal is coming from”

The Men and Women’s Councils of the Six Nations Reclamation Site are appealing for donations of money, food, clothing supplies, and building materials to help maintain a blockade of a piece of land formally known as “Douglas Creek Estates.”

On February 28, 2006, the land near Caledonia Ontario was repossessed to stop the continued and illegal encroachment upon First Nations’ territory, reports Mohawk Nation News.

“There is tons of money on the other side. We don’t have a cent,” reads the callout. “To stay here we urgently need money. We are going to stay and protect ‘Kanenstaton,’ our repossessed land. The cold weather and winter are coming.”

If enough building supplies are donated, the plan is to finish the construction of 11 half-built homes on the site. No one wants to see the houses “rotting away” when they could be used for shelter during the winter, spokesperson Janie Jamieson told the Canadian Press. “If we have that opportunity to finish them so our people won’t have to sleep in snowbanks, I’d really like to see that.”

—Hillary Bain Lindsay

Wheat Board to market organic wheat grown by a Canadian coop

In a bid to gain access to high-value markets in Europe and Japan, the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is planning a pilot project to market organic wheat grown by a Canadian farmers’ cooperative, reports the CBC. The initiative is slated for the 2006-2007 crop year, and if successful, the Wheat Board will start marketing all-organic wheat.

Canadian Organic Certi-



As talks between Six Nations and the Ontario and Federal governments drag on, preparations are being made to maintain the Kanenstaton blockade through the winter. *Turtle Island Native Network*

fication Cooperative secretary Bill Rosher says that growers have long sought a program that would improve the way organic grain is marketed, and are devoting resources to ensure that the initiative will be a success.

Currently, farmers who produce organic wheat market it themselves, or sell to accredited exporters. Under the voluntary program, reports Discover Moosejaw, the CWB would market the wheat overseas, and participating farmers would receive a pooled return and organic premiums.

The Canadian Wheat Board is currently one of Canada’s biggest exporters of wheat and barley, according to Seedquest. It markets and sells grain to more than 70 countries and returns all profits, minus the cost of marketing, to Prairie farmers.

—Johanna Skoreyko

Welfare rates in Canada the lowest in decades

The amount of money Canadians on welfare received in 2005 is at its lowest point in 19 years, according to a report released by the National Council of Welfare in August.

“We have forgotten about these people and I think it’s morally disgraceful,” John Murphy, chair of the council,

told the CBC.

Although rates are low in all provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador have some of the highest rates and New Brunswick and oil-rich Alberta have some of the worst, reports the *Globe and Mail*.

In 1986, a single person on welfare in Alberta received roughly \$10,000 a year. By 2005, that amount had dropped to \$5,050 per year.

“We’ve got people sleeping in our parking lots. We’ve got people sleeping in dumpsters,” Edmonton social aid worker Ellie Gibson told the CBC.

Critics say the Alberta government, which is on track to run 13 straight years of surplus budgets, should be ashamed.

Toronto Star columnist Thomas Walkom quotes the study in his column, asserting that politicians are not the only ones to blame for poverty in Canada:

“Most Canadians would find it impossible to cope with the substantial income losses that welfare households have experienced,” the council writes. “Coping is even harder for those who are already at the bottom of the income scale, given their already meagre incomes. Yet there appears to be little concern ...

“Have both governments and the Canadian public turned their backs on the poorest of the poor?”

—Hillary Bain Lindsay

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Race, Rock and Soul

Jamaica to Toronto raises questions about Canada's pop past

by Matt Brennan

The Canadian media has recently been celebrating the release of the excellent compilation *Jamaica to Toronto: Soul, Funk and Reggae 1967-1974*, part of a series of re-issues that are single-handedly prompting the rediscovery of a vital era of Canadian soul music. But they should also provoke Canadians to consider why such albums were forgotten in the first place.

The story of *Jamaica to Toronto* begins in 1962, when Canada changed its immigration laws in an effort to eliminate racial discrimination, an act that led to an influx of newcomers from around the world. Many of them settled in Toronto, including several talented musicians from Jamaica. One such artist was the young guitarist Wayne McGhie, who recorded an album with his band The Sounds of Joy in 1969. By 1970 there were approximately 45,000 people of West Indian origin living in Canada and a unique music scene was buzzing in Toronto, music that mixed influences of soul, rock-steady, funk, rock and reggae. Unfortunately, despite their talent and previous musical success in Jamaica, many musicians found it difficult to make headway in the North American recording industry, realizing that reformed immigration laws did not necessarily mean discrimination had lessened in other areas of Canadian society.

As Guy Dixon discovered while conducting interviews with these musicians for a recent article in the *Globe and Mail*, the musicians affected were still understandably sensitive decades later when remembering the discrimination they faced in Canada in the 1960s. Bob Williams, the singer for the group Bob and Wisdom,



This Magazine

recalled: “We were making very good money in Jamaica. We were actually the highest-paid band in Jamaica, back in Montego Bay with Billy Vernon and Celestials. So when we came here, to be actually called a minority, it was very tough.” As an example, when Bob and Wisdom recorded an excellent cover of Mac Davis’ “I Believe in Music” (re-released on *Jamaica to Toronto*), Williams recalled that, “We actually took it to CHUM [then the dominant top 40 station in Toronto] and the guy told me that he wouldn’t play it. I said ‘Why?’ And he said it was the best version he had ever heard, but he wouldn’t play it because we were black. Straight up. So we kind of got despondent about it. And we just continued to do live shows and stuff, you know? We didn’t bother with recordings because there was no outlet for it. So it’s ironic that after about 30 years, it has made a resurgence.”

Apart from the obvious strength of the music itself, the resurgence is mainly due to the efforts of Matt Sullivan, the co-founder of a small Seattle record label called Light in

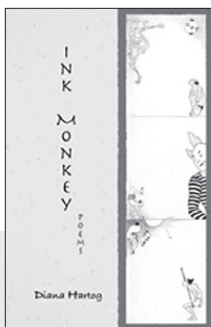
the Attic, and Kevin Howe, a music researcher and DJ based in Vancouver. For years, an album by Wayne McGhie and his band The Sounds of Joy had been sought after both by record collectors due to its rarity (most copies were lost in a warehouse in 1970), and by hip-hop producers due to its excellent breakbeats by drummer Everton Paul. After much investigation and hard work, Sullivan and Howe located McGhie and re-issued Wayne McGhie and the Sounds of Joy in 2004. Its success led to the expansion of the project to include more albums and songs by immigrant Jamaican musicians in Toronto.

It is wonderful to see the media attention devoted to these fine re-issues, celebrating the discovery of Canada’s multicultural pop-music past. One would hope it would also prompt Canadian media to consider why such music needs rediscovering. Unfortunately, the same media that currently celebrates the *Jamaica to Toronto* re-issues simultaneously turns a blind eye to Canadian pop music of non-white origins in

its representations of our music history.

As recently as January 2006, CBC-TV broadcasted a special entitled *Shakin’ All Over*. It was billed as a “joyful look at Canadian music from the 60s” and was based on Nicholas Jennings’s book *Before the Gold Rush: Flashbacks to the Dawn of the Canadian Sound*. The documentary purported to showcase not only the usual suspects in the Canadian pop pantheon—Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, the Guess Who, the Band and Gordon Lightfoot—but also many lesser-known musicians who didn’t necessarily have any chart hits, but who were nonetheless important in shaping Canadian popular music history. Unfortunately, the only pop musicians of colour represented in the documentary were those we already knew: the Cree folk singer Buffy Sainte Marie and “super-freak” Rick James (James himself appeared to be included only as a novelty rather than an artist, due to his brief stint playing in the same band as Neil Young). The CBC documentary should have included any of the dozen Toronto bands that make up the *Jamaica to Toronto* re-issue series, especially considering the re-issue project started two years before *Shakin’ All Over* came out, and that the documentary was touted as a programme that would uncover and pay homage to forgotten bands.

The forgotten soul, funk and reggae scenes of Toronto matter—or they ought to, anyway—precisely because they create a better, more accurate, not to mention more ethical, revision of Canada’s music history, so that we might ultimately better understand how Canadian culture was constructed in the past, injustices and all.



Ink Monkey
Diana Hartog
Brick Books
Toronto, 2006

If there is such a thing as trendy poetry—and I believe there is—this is a fine example. Diana Hartog has joined the ranks and produced a book heavily influenced by Asian culture. Hartog's fascination with the East manifests itself as a section of twenty poems inspired by 19th century Japanese prints. Throughout, the speaker describes the represented landscapes, relates travel anecdotes, or imagines herself in the various woodblock scenes. The poems are spare, brief, and—to their credit—mostly unsentimental. There are moments of surprising perspicacity, as in “Driving

Rain at Shono,” which details the differences in the artist's rendering of rain, dependent on the season. But the set of poems as a whole doesn't quite add up. Ultimately, it feels flimsy and forgettable, too focussed on pretty images and altogether too eager to find profundity in the quotidian. One such false note occurs in “The Couple in Room 12,” which imagines Leda and Zeus shackled up in a trashy motel, and is too cute by far. However, nearly everything else in *Ink Monkey* is a pleasure. “Jellyfish Suite,” a set of poems on or around the amorphous sea creatures, is like

the best of nature programs—at turns edifying, playful, and startling. The bio-luminescent *Pleurobrachia* is “small as the bulb of a penlight travelling / in the dark of a woman's purse” while in “Little Jerks” baby jellyfish “contract in sneezes.” Elsewhere, hauntingly, jellies floating to the ocean's surface are likened to stray ghosts. Hartog seems to be at her best here, her gaze at its most powerful when trained on an unusual subject.

—Regan Taylor



Social Acupuncture
Darren O'Donnell
Coach House Books
Toronto, 2006

I saw Darren O'Donnell on the street recently, but I didn't say hello. After reading his book, I'm asking myself why not. There are two sections: the essay *Social Acupuncture*, and the play *A Suicide-Site Guide to the City*. I knew that I'd seen the play when it was performed at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, but I'd forgotten that I was also in it — I was the audience volunteer who went on stage to make out with O'Donnell, the writer and performer of the piece. It's right there on page 147: “If there's a taker, we kiss, kiss, kiss.” That's

the kind of thing he's into, and that's what this book is about: “an aesthetic of civic engagement,” ways of challenging traditional theatrical and artistic forms along with the capitalist conventions of social interaction. It's complicated, and that's why the essay is the real jewel, a manifesto of sorts about the work he and his company, *Mammalian Diving Reflex*, have done and will continue to do. I can't say I agree with every tenet and assumption O'Donnell makes, or that the argument doesn't at times wax superficial or egotistical. What

surprises me, though, is that he consistently recognizes and flags these moments himself. I can say this is a book that anyone involved with theatre or activism should read, maybe even anyone who identifies as left of centre. He's asking the right questions, and posing interesting answers. Does it make sense to buy a book meant to be a guide to undercutting capitalism? If you see Darren on the street, ask him.

—Matthew J. Trafford



Miss Lamp
Chris Ewart
Coach House Books,
Toronto, 2006

Miss Lamp, Chris Ewart's first novel, presents an oddly rollicking little universe where the eponymous protagonist sits in a hotel room eating grilled cheese sandwiches. Our sojourn with Miss Lamp carries us through a quest for justice against a demented dentist, the romance of Banana Tray Hair and Room Service Boy, and Paper Boy's fight for dignity. Throughout, Ewart's meticulous and economical prose relates the quotidian quirks of sometimes vivid, sometimes bewildering characters. The characterization is by turns pithy (“Grandma

drank vinegar”) and elusive, as with Room Service Boy who defines himself solely by his tasks. He even tries “not to smell the food too much, as it would diminish its value” when served. By shuffling the chronology of events and shifting attention from character to character, Ewart creates an echoey, associative state for the reader, which is furthered by the reinvented slogans, lyrics, and wordplay of the vignette titles: “Give Trees a Chance,” “Pika Boo,” “Banana Splints.” In contrast, the extensive sensory detail (particularly of physical

pain or impairment, a repeated trope) becomes hyperreal. Miss Lamp's mother killed and gutted a magpie in search of her diamond ring, but discovered no prize. The skewed world of Miss Lamp similarly eludes such simple rewards, and here “normalcy” is impossible to calibrate. It's a compelling magpie's nest, with an eye-catching collection of moments, some glittering, some shining dully, in the crisscrossed lives of its characters.

—Jane Henderson

Making War in Canada

Canada produces arms used in attacks on Lebanon, Palestine

by Dru Oja Jay

Canadian companies and taxpayers played an important role in the production of much of the military equipment that is currently being used to bomb villages, neighbourhoods and key infrastructure in Lebanon, and carry out military operations in Gaza. That is the conclusion of research compiled by the Ottawa-based Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT).

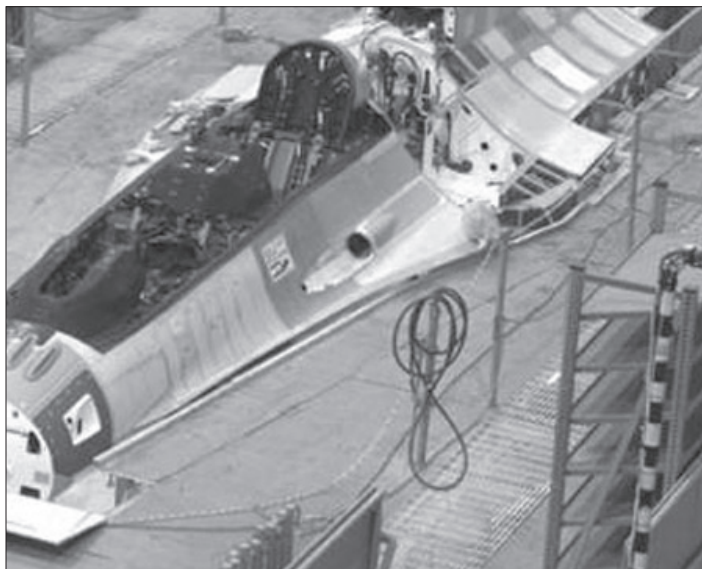
CTV.ca recently reported on the tens of billions of dollars in military aid supplied to Israel by the US government. COAT, however, says that aside from diplomatic support for Israeli bombing, Canadian taxpayers are also doing their part in military support, albeit indirectly.

According to research conducted by COAT's Richard Saunders, F-16 "fighting falcon" and F-15 "eagle" fighter/bombers, as well as Apache helicopters, partly owe their existence to Canadian contractors, government subsidies, and investments from the Canada Pension Plan.

Companies like Canadair, CMC Electronics, and Magellan Aerospace, for example, are responsible for making parts for infrared guidance systems, radar equipment, and training simulators for F-15s. Many of the same companies receive subsidies from the Canadian government under programs like Industry Canada's "Technology Partnerships Canada."

According to COAT, Canadian war industries have received about \$5 billion in grants and unpaid loans over the last 30 years. Additionally, the Canada Pension Plan has invested at least \$282 million in arms manufacturers like Boeing, Lockheed, and Raytheon.

Designed by Seattle-based Boeing, the F-15 has been widely used in bomb and rocket attacks



An Israel-bound F-16 under construction. Dozens of Canadian companies contribute to the creation of the F-16 and other weapons.

in civilian areas in Gaza, the West Bank, and now Lebanon.

Israeli attacks in Lebanon have killed over 1000 people, injured an estimated 3000, and displaced nearly one million people—a quarter of Lebanon's population. Bombing of key infrastructure such as airports and bridges has caused an estimated \$2 billion in damage. Reports typically do not identify the aircraft used, though many mention F-15s and F-16s.

South of Lebanon, however, locals have learned to differentiate between Israeli aircraft.

"From a young age every Palestinian child learns to distinguish the Apache's sound and associate it with assassinations, destruction and blood in the street," Shawan Jabarin, general director of the Palestinian human rights group al-Haq, told the *Guardian*.

"For Palestinians, it's a symbol of indiscriminate military violence."

Israeli officials do not deny using aircraft like the "Apache" and the "Eagle" for political assassinations (over 150 leaders have been assassinated in the last five years), though officials claim that operations are

carried out for anti-terrorism purposes. Last October, Israeli Captain Yael Hartmann told *The New Standard* journalist Jon Elmer that a Gazan school was targeted because "it was bringing up the next generation of Hamas members."

Over a dozen Canadian companies make components used in the Apache, and the Canada Pension Plan has invested \$71 million in Boeing, the primary contractor involved in its production.

Lockheed Martin's F-16 "fighting falcon" is also familiar to Gaza residents. After Israeli settlers withdrew from Gaza, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) began subjecting populated areas to sonic booms by flying F-16s at low altitudes over the Gaza strip. With its massive number of refugees, the Gaza strip is among the most densely populated areas in the world.

The flights continued day and night for months, often timed to coincide with a dawn call to prayer. "Although it is not lethal, it can lead to death indirectly, of unborn children. It can lead to highly traumatizing effects on children particularly, and adults too," a Palestinian

psychiatrist told Al-Jazeera.

"Yes, these sonic booms target the Palestinian people," Israeli spokesperson Avichav Adrai was quoted as saying by Al-Jazeera. "The purpose is so they can pressure those who fire the rockets to stop them." Adrai said that Israel does not see the sonic booms as collective punishment.

The Canada Pension Plan has invested \$27 million in Lockheed Martin, and over a dozen Canadian firms are involved in the construction and maintenance of the F-16 "fighting falcon."

AlliedSignal Aerospace of Mississauga, for example, received a contract for fuel control systems on the F-16 from Lockheed Martin. Between 1993 and 2002, AlliedSignal contributed \$60,152 to the Liberal Party of Canada. Between 1996 and 2003, AlliedSignal received \$83.3 million in subsidies from Industry Canada.

Héroux-Devtek, which makes landing gear components for the F-16, received \$2.8 million in subsidies during the same period. The CEO of the Québec-based firm recently told the *Canadian Press* that billions in new spending announced by the Conservative government is "an opportunity" that only comes along "once every 30 years."

Other companies involved in the production of the F-16 include Derlan Aerospace, which received \$9.5 million in government subsidies, Haley Industries, and the Canadian Marconi Company.

In 2001, Israel placed an order for 102 new F-16s, giving it the second largest fleet of the airplanes, after the US. The deal, worth \$4.5 billion, was paid for through US military aid, which totals approximately \$3 billion per year.

Canada's Drift on Israel

From abstention to unconditional support

by Justin Podur

In December 2004, under the Martin Liberal government, Canada changed its voting pattern at the United Nations. Previously, Canada had abstained from several votes requiring Israel to comply with its obligations under international law and withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967. The Ambassador at the time, Allan Rock, said that the “value added” of the committees trying to put Palestinian rights on the agenda at the UN was “questionable.” Canada began to vote against these resolutions.

Well before this, in October 2003, the UN Special Rapporteur for Food found that 22 per cent of children in Gaza were starving as a direct result of Israel's siege policy: Gaza had long been surrounded by electric fences, its population of 1.25 million imprisoned, and its economy shut down. Unemployment was nearly total; poverty was at 75 per cent. The UN Special Rapporteur's findings were confirmed by the World Bank and by USAID. All understood that the starvation was a direct result of the closures. By 2006, the World Food Program was reporting that 51 per cent of Palestinians – 2 million people – were malnourished.

In addition to the starvation and siege, Israeli warships, snipers, and planes continued to attack Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank.

Between the October 2003 report of the UN and the December 2004 decision by the Martin government, there had passed over a year of unabated starvation and siege. According to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society's figures, Israel had killed over 1000 Palestinians in this same period.

Since Canada changed its voting pattern in 2004, three key events occurred that have



Allan Rock at the United Nations.

DFAIR

changed the Canada-Israel relationship even further.

First, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implemented his ‘unilateral disengagement plan’. Under this plan, Israeli settlers who lived in Israeli-only colonies in Gaza were evacuated. Billed as a peace maneuver and a painful sacrifice for the colonists, the “disengagement” did not give the Palestinians of Gaza any freedom of movement, nor did it prevent Israel from continuing its shelling, bombing, siege, and starvation.

Second, the Martin government fell and was replaced by the Harper Tories. Like their counterparts in the US, they sought to distinguish themselves from the Liberals by more aggressively supporting Israel's violence against the Palestinians. Because the Liberals had already come so far so fast in the same direction, the Tories had to shift the spectrum even further.

Third, Palestinians held a democratic election. The result of this fair election was the party that prioritized resistance (Hamas) defeated the party (Fatah) that had been roped into a perpetual “dialogue” with a state that simultaneously starved, bombed, and imprisoned its people. The response of Canada, under Harper, to this democratic result was to cut aid to the starving and besieged Palestinians. Harper was following senior advisor to Ariel Sharon, Dov Weisglass, who announced

a plan to “put Palestinians on a diet.” In addition to putting Palestinians on a diet, Israel maintained a campaign of escalating massacres, including the major massacre of an entire family of 7 on a beach in Gaza on June 9, another major massacre on June 13 (11 people), another on June 20 (3 children), and yet another on June 21 (a pregnant woman and her brother).

A central issue for Hamas is the Palestinian prisoners. Some 9 000, including 400 children and 100 women, are locked up in Israeli prisons. Among those who have been tried (at least 1 000 have never been charged for any crime), many were convicted on confessions extracted by torture conducted by their Israeli captors. Israel forces periodically kidnap Palestinians in different parts of the Palestinian territory. Such a kidnapping precipitated the ongoing crisis in the region. On June 24, Israeli commandos kidnapped two Palestinian civilians. On June 25, Palestinians attacked a military outpost, killing two soldiers, losing two of their own, and taking a tank gunner prisoner. Hamas said it would release the tank gunner in exchange for the 400 children and 100 women being held in prison.

When Israel instead launched air raids, destroyed Gaza's power plant, and invaded the area with thousands of troops, Harper said he thought Israel's response, “under the circumstances,” was “measured.”

On July 12, the Lebanese group Hizb'ullah captured several Israeli soldiers on the Israel-Lebanon border. Hizb'ullah, like Hamas, sought a prisoner exchange. Some analysts have said that the operation may have been intended to take some of the military pressure off of Gaza, since the ‘international community’ had remained silent, called for ‘restraint’ like

Kofi Annan, or, like Harper, endorsed the Gaza invasion.

Israel responded by invading Lebanon, destroying its airports, roads, factories, homes, displacing over a million people, and killing over 1 000, including eight Canadian citizens and a Canadian UN monitor. In the Palestinian territories, Israel killed about 55 Palestinians in June and 162 in July. Hizb'ullah used rockets to attack Israeli military installations and towns, killing dozens of Israeli civilians, though most of the Israeli dead in the war were soldiers. Most of the Lebanese dead, by contrast, were civilians – a high proportion of whom were children. Harper's Foreign Minister, Peter MacKay, assessed this situation as follows: Hizb'ullah were ‘cold blooded killers’ and a ‘cancer on Lebanon.’

A long-standing campaign by groups like the Canadian Council of Chief Executives calling for a Canadian foreign policy more closely aligned with that of the United States began to bear fruit with the Martin Liberal government, and is rapidly finding its completion in Stephen Harper's administration. Canada's continuous drift towards unambiguous support for Israeli actions in the Occupied Territories reflects the pressure put on politicians for a pro-US foreign policy in general and a pro-Israel foreign policy in particular.

This drift in Canada's foreign policy is unlikely to stop, barring the effective mobilization of forces that will oppose it. Recent polls suggest that Canada's “neutrality” in the region is valued by its citizenry; whether a position that actively opposes war crimes and policies of economic strangulation is similarly popular is not known, as the question is usually not asked.

What's Mine is Theirs

Legal Victory for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

by Kim Petersen

On July 28, Justice G. P. Smith of the Ontario Superior Court presided over the decision hailed as one of the most important victories for Original Peoples in the Ontario justice system. The decision requires the publicly traded Ontario mining exploration company Platinex Incorporated to cease drilling operations in the territory claimed by Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake) First Nation (KIFN) in northwestern Ontario. The ruling obviates the \$10-billion damage suit Platinex filed against KIFN for opposing drilling on territory that KIFN claims.

The decision could be a bellwether for First Nation rights and may have major ramifications for the manner in which mining and exploratory operations are carried out in Ontario.

"Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug are excited and pleased that we have been heard," says KIFN Councillor John Cutfeet. Cutfeet believes the ruling is good news for the approximately 1,000 people in KIFN.

"This land was given to us by the Creator; it is our past, present and future. Now the Ontario Superior Court has indicated it understood our spiritual, physical, emotional and mental dependence on the land when Justice Smith said, 'The land is the very essence of their being. It is their very heart and soul.'"

"The land not only provides for us, it nurtures us; it is our teacher," continues Cutfeet. "However that gift does not come without obligation; it is our job to stand together to protect the Creator's gift so that the land will continue to be there for all of us. That is what we have done



The blockade against Platinex began in February 2006.

Kingfisher Lake First Nation

for generations, what we did in signing the Treaty, and what is required of us if we are to live in balance and harmony."

In his statement, Justice Smith concurred:

It is critical to consider the nature of the potential loss from an Aboriginal perspective. From that perspective, the relationship that aboriginal peoples have with the land cannot be understated. The land is the very essence of their being. It is their very heart and soul. No amount of money can compensate for its loss. Aboriginal identity, spirituality, laws, traditions, culture, and rights are connected to and arise from this relationship to the land. This is a perspective that is foreign to and often difficult to understand from a non-Aboriginal viewpoint.

Smith found that there had been inadequate consultation by Platinex with KIFN. For KIFN, consultation is a community process.

Justice Smith faulted Platinex for gambling that KIFN would do nothing to oppose the company's drilling. For this reason, Smith concluded that

Platinex, saddled with a challenging debt burden, is largely to blame for its predicament.

KIFN holds that exploiting the land for resources without planning for the future is irresponsible. "We must look at the bigger picture and look to what this land offers," says chief Donny Morris. "Our resources have been taken from us and we have not benefitted from what has been extracted from our lands to be sold to the rest of the world. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug signed a Treaty and that Treaty must be honoured by the Crown. In sharing our land, our views and rights must not only be heard, but be understood so that the land is available to help us, not just those who grow rich at our expense."

"This decision is a huge victory for the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and for the rights of Aboriginal communities throughout the province," says Sierra Legal lawyer Justin Duncan.

As laid out under previous Supreme Court decisions, among them *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* and *Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada*

(Minister of Canadian Heritage), governments must consult with Original Peoples before moving onto and extracting resources from territory claimed by an Indigenous community.

"The Court has clearly stated that companies like Platinex must respect community interests and cannot steamroll over the rights of Ontario's Aboriginal communities," says Duncan.

Justice Smith noted the absence of the Ontario government, not only during the court proceedings, but also from much of the consultation process with KIFN. Smith stated that the Ontario government has a fiduciary responsibility to KIFN that is not to be delegated to third parties. The Ontario government, nevertheless, determined that Platinex's exploratory activities near KIFN would have inconsequential environmental impact.

The Ontario minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci, says the judicial decision is still being reviewed. Bartolucci stresses, however, that this particular decision "does not impact the legitimacy of other mining claims in Ontario."

Critics question the legitimacy of this statement, considering that Justice Smith pointed out that the Ontario government failed to abide by its own laws. "Despite repeated judicial messages delivered over the course of 16 years, the record available in this case sadly reveals the provincial Crown has not heard or comprehended this message and has failed in fulfilling its obligation."

Meanwhile, negotiations are expected to resume between KIFN and Platinex. Both parties are scheduled to meet with Justice Smith in five months to report on their consultations.

White-Collar Crime

Alberta oil windfall, theft and genocide

by Stewart Steinbauer

Last year the Alberta provincial government mailed out a \$400 'prosperity cheque' to every tax-filing resident of Alberta. Currently, there is discussion about doing it again for the 2006 tax year. The prosperity cheques are funded by resource revenue earned by the Province on sales of natural gas and oil; in the past 18 years, Alberta has earned \$78 billion in resource revenue.

This year, the modest official government forecast for resource revenue income is in the \$7 billion range, but it could be as high as \$19 billion. The Alberta Government has the lowest royalty rates in the world, including a 1 per cent royalty on oil from oil sands during operations startup. Even when oil was \$19 a barrel, this was, in effect, a public subsidy of the wealthiest by the poorest, but, at \$75 a barrel, it is simply theft. Nothing new, and everybody has become inured to this category of theft, but it is still theft, and theft is officially a crime. It is the main white-collar crime. White-collar crime is primarily about stealing money. Accounting procedures seem to work best.

ExxonMobil's Imperial Oil pumps upwards of 200,000 barrels of C4+ per day from their Cold Lake field to Hardisty, Alberta, where it joins with Enbridge's Line 3 and is piped to US refineries. Last year, Exxon posted all-time record profits of \$39 billion; this year, each quarterly report sets a new all-time record. Every company operating in the Alberta oil patch is making record profits, including Western Lakota Energy Services (WLES), Saddle Lake Cree Nation's business partner.

Thanks to partnerships with Indian Bands, WLES has grown from a small rig manufacturer just starting out in 2002 with no assets, to the 2005



Western Lakota drilling operation in Northern Alberta.

year-end in which it reported \$234,893,000 in assets.

Just to refresh your memory, WLES owns 10 rigs in five separate 50/50 partnerships with Indian Bands, two rigs with my Band, Saddle Lake Cree Nation. Stripped down to its undies, the deal looks like this: We pay WLES what it costs them in cash to build a rig, of which they claim a 50 per cent share in ownership as their profits from building each rig, and then we pay them to operate these rigs. In other words, we are paying what it cost WLES to build the rigs with our 50 per cent ownership, while WLES's share is actually its profits from the sale of each rig.

Here are the statistics from WLES's 2005 year-end financial report: Rig construction earned \$9,605,000 in revenue, and WLES's gross profits after net revenue recovery were \$5,115,000 - that's over 50 per cent. Contract drilling earned gross profits of \$45,467,000

- that's nine times the gross profits from rig construction. In addition WLES earned \$2,972,000 in management fees and \$108,000 in interest from its "Aboriginal" partners.

While we are listing statistics, here's one from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Alberta region. In the 20 year period following Canada's official recognition via Section 35.1, Canada Constitution Act 1982, of "aboriginal treaty and inherent rights," 2,374 on-reserve "Aboriginal" people died as a result of injuries and poisoning. Fifty per cent of these accidents, as Health Canada calls them, were suicides. Almost all of these so-called accidents involved addictions.

Health Canada's official explanation for "Aboriginal" suicide is that it is a tragic personal disease. Addictions are explained in the same way. Yet, in the pre-colonial Cree culture, there was no history

of either suicide or addictions. Just to prove the point about addictions, we had food, sex and gambling, but no addictions. Now we have severe addictions to those, plus alcohol, crack and crystal meth. Our cultural myths contain admonishing references to all sorts of human vices, for instance abuses of food, sex and gambling, but no references to suicide, at all.

What has changed?

"Aboriginal" Peoples are portrayed as circular folks, worshipping the circle, and, apparently, going in circles. This little story leads us back to where we started out just a few hundred words ago. Those 2,374 dead Indians held something, in law, that the province of Alberta doesn't hold: root title to land and resource, with consequential jurisdiction over said lands and resources. No court currently exists on the planet to hear this case because the white-collars referenced in this article's title encircle the necks of Supreme Court judges, Crown Prosecutors, top RCMP officials, all the membership of Canada's three main political parties, all corporations from largest to smallest, all Christian moralists - especially Canada's four Big Churches - all of the Canadian Academy, and most of the rank and file of Canadian citizenry.

Some more numbers: 29 million Canadians against one million "Aboriginal" people.

Indigenous Peoples trapped inside of the modern nation state of Canada have as a core part of personal identity a spiritual relationship with the land...trite, overstated, circular...and true. When Indigenous Peoples are separated from the land, suicide and addictions become the norm. Canada's GDP in 2005 was \$1.4 trillion. Try turning it over and looking at it as theft. Who said crime doesn't pay?

Undiscovered Countries

Reporting from Israel and Lebanon

During Israel's invasion of Lebanon, The Dominion kept a close eye on the reports and analyses written by journalists and writers who live and work in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon and others of note. These excerpts are from some of the work we featured on the Dominion Weblog.

The claim being made against Hizbullah in Lebanon -- that it is "cowardly blending" with civilians, according to the UN's Jan Egeland -- can, in truth, be made far more convincingly of the Israeli army. While there has been little convincing evidence that Hizbullah is firing its rocket from towns and villages in south Lebanon, or that its fighters are hiding there among civilians, it can be known beyond a shadow of a doubt that Israeli army camps and military installations are based in northern Israeli communities.

—Jonathan Cook,
"How 'Indiscriminate' is
Hezbollah's Shelling?"
August 9, *Counterpunch*

They have a lot of local autonomy but they will not launch an operation unless it is all part of a plan. There is a local leader, there is a regional leader system, but they don't report to [any military headquarters in] Beirut. It is not cumbersome, there are no levels like in a normal army, [such as] companies, battalions, regiments, nothing like that. It is a very flat sort of organization, not a pyramid sort of organization. Hezbollah's lack of structure its strength.

—Timur Goksel
August 11, *Asia Times*

Olmert knows that without America, it won't take long before Israel turns into an historic event. Israel will have to win its mighty regional power status whatever it takes. Israel



Satellite images show a Shi'a neighbourhood in Beirut before and after Israel's bombing campaign.

is indeed in the very eye of the neo-conservative storm. And the Hezbollah is threatening something far greater than just the Jewish State. As the Israelis keep telling us, the fight in Lebanon will resume soon and every European leader knows it.

—Gilad Atzmon
"Israel Must Win"
August 22, *Counterpunch*

In planning for the destruction of most of Hezbollah's arsenal and prevention of any resupply from Iran, Israel appears to have hoped to eliminate a major reason the US administration had shelved the military option for dealing with Iran's nuclear program - the fear that Israel would suffer massive casualties from Hezbollah's rockets in retaliation for an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

—Gareth Porter,
"Clearing the path for US
war on Iran"
August 10, *Asia Times*

Since Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, there have been hundreds of violations of the "blue line" between the two countries. The United Nations Interim Force

in Lebanon (Unifil) reports that Israeli aircraft crossed the line "on an almost daily basis" between 2001 and 2003, and "persistently" until 2006. These incursions "caused great concern to the civilian population, particularly low-altitude flights that break the sound barrier over populated areas." On some occasions, Hezbollah tried to shoot them down with anti-aircraft guns.

—George Monbiot,
"Israel responded to an
unprovoked attack by
Hezbollah, right?"
August 8, *The Guardian*

Peace with Syria would have guaranteed peace with Lebanon and peace with both would have prevented Hezbollah from fortifying on Israel's northern border. Peace with Syria would have also isolated Iran, Israel's true, dangerous enemy, and cut off Hezbollah from one of the two sources of its weapons and funding. It's so simple, and so removed from conventional Israeli thinking, which is subject to brainwashing.

—Gideon Levy,
"The real estate war"
August 27, *Ha'aretz*

Israeli intelligence dispatches warned that Hezbollah, with Iranian backing, had grown way beyond a small resistance group like Hamas in Palestine and would fight with much more than small weapons and suicide attacks. The dispatches cautioned that before going into any large-scale war, it was essential to measure the full extent of Hezbollah's war machine, otherwise it could turn into a military catastrophe.

—Syed Saleem Shahzad,
"A new face to Hezbollah's
resistance"
August 3, *Asia Times*

For years we have told each other that we have the most-most-most army in the world. We have convinced not only ourselves, but also Bush and the entire world. After all, we did win an astounding victory in six days in 1967. As a result, when this time the army did not win a huge victory in six days, everybody was astounded. Why, what happened? One of the declared aims of this war was the rehabilitation of the Israeli army's deterrence power. That really has not happened.

—Uri Avnery, "War of the
Generals"
—August 3, *Counterpunch*

True, Hizbullah was created by us. When the Israeli army invaded Lebanon in 1982, the Shiites received the soldiers with rice and sweets. They hoped that we would evict the PLO forces, who were in control of the area. But when they realized that our army was there to stay, they started a guerilla war that lasted for 18 years. In this war, Hizbullah was born and grew, until it became the strongest organization in all Lebanon.

—Uri Avnery,
"The Invasion of Lebanon"
—July 28, *Counterpunch*

“Everything in my life is destroyed now, so I will fight them”

A dispatch from the war-torn Lebanese capital

by Dahr Jamail
July 26, 2006

“I am in Hezbollah because I care,” the fighter, who agreed to the interview on condition of anonymity, told me. “I care about my people, my country, and defending them from the Zionist aggression.” I jotted furiously in my notepad while sitting in the back seat of his car. We were parked not far from Dahaya, the district in southern Beirut which was being bombed by Israeli warplanes as we talked.

The sounds of bombs echoed off the buildings of the capital city of Lebanon yesterday afternoon. Out the window, I watched several people run into the entrance of a business centre, as if that would provide them any safety.

The member of Hezbollah I was interviewing—let’s call him Ahmed—has been shot three times during previous battles against Israeli forces on the southern Lebanese border. His brother was killed in one of these battles. It’s been several years since his father was killed by an air strike in a refugee camp.

“My home now in Dahaya is pulverized, so Hezbollah gave me a place to stay while this war is happening,” he said, “When this war ends, where am I to go? What am I to do? Everything in my life is destroyed now, so I will fight them.”

That explained why earlier in the day, when driving me around, he’d stopped at an apartment to change into black clothing—a black t-shirt and black combat pants, along with black combat boots.

A tall, stocky man, Ahmed seemed always exhausted and angry.

“I didn’t have a future,” he continued while the concussions of bombs continued, “But now, Hassan Nasrallah is the leader of this country and her



Damage from an Israeli air strike in Quana, Lebanon. Dahr Jamail

people. My family has lived in Lebanon for 1,500 years, and now we are all with him. He has given us belief and hope that we can push the Zionists out of Lebanon, and keep them out forever. He has given me purpose.”

“Do you think this is why so many people now, probably over two million here in Lebanon alone, follow Nasrallah?” I asked.

“Hezbollah gives you dignity, it returns your dignity to you,” he replied, “Israel has put all of the Arab so-called leaders under her foot, but Nasrallah says ‘No more.’”

He paused to wipe the sweat from his forehead. The summer heat in Beirut drips with humidity. During the afternoon, my primary impulse is to find a fan and curl up for a nap under its gracious movement of the thick air here.

Earlier he’d driven me to one of the larger hospitals in Beirut where I photographed civilian casualties. All of them were tragic cases... but one really grabbed me—that of a little 8 year-old girl, lying in a large bed. She was on her side, with a huge gash down the right side of her face and her right arm wrapped in gauze. She was hiding in the basement of her home with 12 family members when they were bombed by an Israeli fighter jet.

Her father was in a room

downstairs with both of his legs blown off. Her other family members were all seriously wounded. She lay there whimpering, with tears streaming down her face.

I think I won Ahmed’s trust after that. I walked out to the car, got in and sat down. He asked me where I wanted to go now.

Ahmed put his hand on my shoulder and said, “This is what I’ve been seeing for my entire life. Nothing but pain and suffering.”

A photographer from Holland who was working with me was able to respond to Ahmed that maybe we could go have a look at Dahaya.

Ahmed had told me that it was currently extremely dangerous for a journalist to try to go into Dahaya. Before, Hezbollah had run tours for people to come see the wreckage generated by Israeli air strikes. All you had to do was meet under a particular bridge at 11 a.m., and you had a guided tour from “party guys” (members of Hezbollah) into what has become a post-apocalyptic ghost town.

A couple of days ago I went there, without the “party guy” tour. A friend and I were driven in by a man we hired for the day to take us around. I was shocked at the level of destruction—in some places entire city blocks lay in rubble. At one

point we came upon the touring journalists, all scurrying to their vehicles. Everyone was in a panic.

“What’s going on?” I asked our driver. “A party guy who is a spotter said he saw Israeli jets coming,” he responded, while spinning the van around and punching the gas as we sped past the journalists lugging their cameras while running back to their drivers.

While driving we were passed by several Hezbollah fighters riding scooters. Each had his M-16 assault rifle slung across his back and wore green ammunition pouches across his chest.

Ahmed told me he’d captured two Israeli spies himself. “One of them is a Lebanese Jewish woman, and she had a ring she could talk into,” he explained as new sweat beads began to form on his forehead, “Others are posing as journalists and using this type of paint to mark buildings to be bombed.”

I doubt the ring part, and also wonder about the feasibility of paint used for targeting, but there are no doubt spies crawling all over Beirut. In Iraq, mercenaries often pose as journalists, making it even more dangerous than it already was for us to work there.

Nevertheless, war always fosters paranoia. Whom can you trust? What if they are a spy? What are their motives? Why do they want to ask me this question at this time? Normal life has become a thing of the past. These types of questions and so many others have become a constant in my mind. I think they are some sort of twisted survival mechanism.

We drove back near my hotel and parked again. People strolled by on the sidewalks. Ahmed said, “I will never be a slave to the United States or Israel.”

Last Gas

Why is Eastern Canada being flooded with proposals for LNG plants?

by Hillary Bain Lindsay

“Less polluting than either coal or petroleum,” natural gas is the “fossil fuel du jour,” reports *Resources*, an American magazine examining energy policy. Although domestic oil and gas extraction cannot keep up with demand in the US, roughly 60 per cent of natural gas reserves can be found outside the Middle East, meaning that importing it may not carry what *Resources* calls “the political burdens associated with oil.”

But importing natural gas across oceans requires Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals to receive it, and communities in the United States are fighting to keep them out. The fight has now moved north to Canada where opponents argue that LNG terminals threaten local economies and eco-systems, and take energy policy in entirely the wrong direction.

Currently, there are five Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in North America -- all built before 1980. As of July 5, 2006, however, an additional 23 terminals have been approved for construction, 22 have been proposed for construction, and 21 potential terminal sites have been identified by project sponsors. In total, there are 67 approved, proposed and potential LNG terminal sites in North America, where for decades there were only five.

As the third-largest natural gas producer and second-largest gas exporter, Canada has never had a need for LNG terminals, but that is about to change. Eight of the approved, proposed and potential LNG sites are in Canada, six of them in eastern Canada. In addition, three more terminals have been proposed for the Maine side of Passamaquoddy Bay, a location that would require tankers to enter Canadian waters off the



Liquefied natural gas tankers will soon be docking in Canada.

coast of New Brunswick.

One might wonder if natural gas consumption in the Maritimes is set to skyrocket, but according to Julian Darley, the gas is not intended for local markets. Darley is the founder and director of the Post Carbon Institute and author of *High Noon For Natural Gas: The New Energy Crisis*. The LNG terminals are a response to rising energy demands in the US, says Darley, and the reason the terminals aren't being built closer to their market is because “Americans don't want them and are fighting hard to keep them out.”

Motivation for opposing the terminals varies from community to community, but often revolves around concerns that an LNG terminal and the huge tankers that service it will pose a threat to coastal ecosystems and tourism by industrializing small communities, tribal lands and resort towns. A LNG terminal could also make the area vulnerable to terrorism or an accidental spill resulting in an uncontrollable fire, opponents say.

Over the past two years, residents of Maine have fought to keep LNG terminals out of five separate communities, and have won each time. Proposals for three LNG terminals have now moved further north to the Maine side of Passamaquoddy

Bay. Although in the US, this location would arguably affect more New Brunswickers than Americans, as the Canadian side of the Bay is more densely populated. “This is seen as the soft underbelly of the Maine coast,” says Janice Harvey, co-chair of Save Passamaquoddy Bay Canada, which calls the terminals “inappropriate development for a rural area where the economy is based on fishing, agriculture and tourism.”

Further north, David Thompson is fighting a similar battle, but this one is in the city of Saint John where an LNG terminal is already being built by Irving Oil Ltd., and its Spanish partner Repsol. “A lot of companies were having a great deal of problems [getting permits] to build [LNG terminals] in the States. They've been rejected in many places,” explains Thompson. “It's pretty easy for Irving to get a permit in New Brunswick.”

JD Irving Ltd. owns all of New Brunswick's major English-language newspapers, as well as an oil refinery, pulp and paper mills and hundreds of other small- and medium-sized businesses. The company employs about eight per cent of the province's population.

“When Repsol got hold of Irving, they lucked in,” says Thompson.

Residents have now learned

of a proposal to have natural gas exit the LNG plant through a pipeline that will run under part of the city and through Rockwood Park, the largest urban park in Canada.

“What right do these companies have to do it?” asks Thompson. “The community belongs to the community, not huge companies like Repsol and Irving.”

“The gas has nothing to do with the surrounding communities,” continues Thompson. “It's a way to get foreign gas to markets in the US.”

Although the campaigns that Thompson and Harvey are waging are focused on local impacts, both recognize that the terminals are part of a larger trend that will have repercussions far beyond the communities where LNG sites are situated.

Natural gas is a cleaner burning fuel than oil or coal, but the environmental benefits of this will only be felt if natural gas replaces more polluting fossil fuel. If, on the other hand, natural gas is used in addition to other fuels, the environmental impacts will worsen. According to Thompson, consumption trends indicate the latter will be true. “What seems to be happening is that the natural gas won't displace other fuels, but just increase consumption,” explains Thompson.

This apparently insatiable energy market is part of what's spawning the rash of LNG proposals, but natural gas -- much like oil -- will not be able to fuel North American consumption forever, and according to Darley, may disappear far faster than anticipated. “Demand is on an upward trend, extraction in North America is on a downward trend, and supply of natural gas worldwide is in question.”

“I see this as the last

continued on page 15 »

The Seed in the Stone

Growing food in the concrete jungle

by Kristen Howe

I hate to say it, but the warm months of summer are coming to a close. The Ontario tomatoes, corn and peaches, which are currently replacing tasteless international imports, are helping me get over my end-of-season nostalgia. And despite the fact that I'm living in downtown Toronto, I'm finding that the fall harvest is happening closer to my kitchen than I expected.

This year, my housemates and I planted a small garden plot in our backyard with some of our favourite foods. Judging by the view from our back balcony, which looks down on the tidy and productive gardens tended by our neighbours, we are definitely not alone.

The view from my balcony is supported by polls conducted in 2002 by Ipsos-Reid that found that 40 per cent of people in Greater Toronto live in households that produce some of their own food; urban gardeners growing vegetables, fruit, berries, nuts or herbs in backyards, balconies, or community gardens.

Although the Ipsos-Reid poll sounds promising, only a fraction of the food Canadians eat is grown locally, let alone in a personal garden. The average tomato, for example, travels a gas-guzzling 1,500 miles from field to plate.

I first realized that it is possible to grow a substantial portion of an urban diet close to where it is consumed when I visited Cuba a few years ago. Over half of the fruit and vegetables consumed in Havana are grown organically in Havana. In the house where I stayed, my host Pastorita explained that after the fall of the Soviet Union, imports of food, pesticides, fertilizers and gasoline for farm machinery and transport



Urban backyards are good for more than swimming pools and lawn chairs.

Kristen Howe

were halted, resulting in a 30 per cent reduction in food consumption. She showed me the buckets, bathtub and trellis on the rooftop of her house that her family tended through the toughest years when every open space in Havana sprouted culinary plants. Larger intensive production gardens on vacant lots were also opened with the support of the government and they continue to grow produce to sell to the public, schools and hospitals through collaborations between the Ministries

of Agriculture, Education and Health.

Canada still lags far behind the Cuban model of urban agriculture. Cubans were forced to grow food collectively to avoid starvation. Lacking that motivation, and structural support, Canadians that do garden tend to cultivate smaller plots, and for different reasons.

According to Foodshare, a Toronto-based organization that addresses urban hunger and food issues, there are 1,000 community gardens and over

2,500 allotment gardens in the city, in addition to yard and patio gardens. The motivations of gardeners, and the environmental, health, and social benefits of their gardens are numerous, and often overlap.

Foodshare supports a market garden at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health where residents participate in growing and selling produce. Another organization, the Stop Community Food Centre, grows food to supplement its food bank services and facilitate engagement and education in its multicultural community. A small garden at the Voces Latinos community centre is motivated by the idea of fostering closer connections between people and their environment. Seeds of Diversity Canada, a grassroots seed-saving organization, cultivates a heritage vegetable garden to preserve the genetic diversity of plants that are adapted to local growing conditions, and combat the corporatization of the food supply.

This spring, as I was digging up my backyard plot, my neighbour Frank poked his head over the fence and asked in his thick Italian accent if I had planted any tomatoes. When I told him I hadn't, he returned with a bucket full of cooking and slicing tomato seedlings.

Each spring, Frank nurtures hundreds of seedlings in a homemade greenhouse, which he delivers to extended family across the Greater Toronto Area once the weather is warm enough for planting. He grows tomatoes for the incredible taste, as a hobby, and to share an essential cultural food with his family. Each year, he also saves the seeds from his best tomatoes to plant the following spring; I have literally been eating the fruits of Frank's labour from the last decade.

Tomato Lunch

How to eat a tomato like a meal:

- Cut a fresh, ripe tomato into thick slices lengthwise on a plate.*
- Cover generously with pepper and a dash of salt to taste.*
- Garnish with cheese, basil, or balsamic vinegar for extra flavour.*
- Get your napkin ready, and eat with a knife and fork.*

Setting up a Stand for Justice

In Montreal, a proxy battle on a few feet of sidewalk

by Dru Oja Jay

Montreal, August 15—Around 1 a.m., I stop by the 24 hour café that has free wireless internet and, I later discover, Lebanese owners. I'm there to meet a friend, who tells me there is a "Tunisian hippy" who has been camped out in front of the café every day for what at that point had been 13 days, to protest the bombing of Lebanon, pass out information and gather signatures in support of a ceasefire. The man in question is not sporting dreadlocks or punctuating his sentences with "man." It's a kind of joke, because the others sitting and drinking coffee don't have the patience to sit through what they see as the same discussions with people who are making the same arguments as the ones that came before. Fethy the Tunisian hippy, it is surmised, possesses a kind of naiveté or idealism that allows him to return day after day.

I crane my neck to see the middle-aged man in front of the café engaged in a heated argument. Nearby is a large display he has set up: two easels festooned with Lebanese, Quebecois and Canadian flags, display petitions for passersby to sign, along with newspaper clippings about bombing of Lebanon and the demonstration earlier this week. Organizers estimated that 50,000 people attended.

Fethy's interlocutors tell him they're on their way to report for duty in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) the next day in Tel Aviv. The IDF has been shelling southern Lebanon, the Israeli Navy has been blockading the country's ports, and the Israeli Air Force has dropped more than 8,000 bombs. Bridges, airports, roads, apartment buildings and entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed, a thousand civilians have been killed, and a million



Dru Oja Jay

people have been displaced. Some drive their cars out of Beirut, some are forced to walk out of the city. Officially a response to the capture of two Israeli soldiers, Prime Minister Harper has at this point maintained for weeks that the assault is "measured." Hezbollah has responded by firing rockets at targets in northern Israel.

Fethy passes out flyers, asking passers-by to sign the ceasefire petition, and making sure they know about the demonstration planned for Colin Powell's planned visit to Montréal.

When I stop by the next day, he's wearing a kaffiyeh on his head. He laughs, flashes a peace sign, and says it reminds "them" of Arafat. By them, he means the portion of folks strolling on Montréal's "le main" who support Israel's bombing campaign and blockade—its "right to defend itself," as some put it. And who, for whatever reason, oppose his call for an immediate ceasefire.

Within a few minutes of my arrival, a police car pulls up. Someone has complained, again, that he is harassing pedestrians.

He chats with them for a few minutes, and they drive away.

Once, when he stepped inside the coffeeshop for a minute, someone knocked down his display. Another time, someone poured water on him and his display. One man argued with him for 45 minutes and became enraged when Fethy would no longer respond. A lot of people, he says, try to provoke him. But he doesn't get mad. "When I gets mad," says Fethy, "I get extremely mad." So he saves his anger.

Various supporters stop by to say hello or drop off flyers or, in one instance, to accompany him to the police station. He needed a witness to testify that one antagonist had verbally threatened his life. One woman, who says her family is Iranian, stops by to cut up sheets of flyers. Making sure that I know that she doesn't support Hezbollah or Iran's theocratic regime, she says she is afraid that the conflict is the first step toward an attack on Iran. She read Seymour Hersh's *New Yorker* article about the Bush administration considering the use of nuclear weapons.

The head of a local business association has an office across the street. Fethy says that he and others come up with excuses to force him to move from his high-traffic location. The man from the business association "passes by here," he says, pointing, "but he doesn't look at me anymore." At one point, someone claimed that the stakes he was using to plant flags were hurting the roots of the flora inhabiting the large concrete planter near his display. He laughs at repeated attempts to establish that he is blocking the flow of pedestrian traffic. "People are not gazelles," he says, pointing to lampposts blocking the way on either side of his display.

Fethy, whose name I later find out means "victorious one," sees himself as a small part of a larger effort. "When I'm done here," he says, "there are people who work at night." They compile the reams of names and email addresses, organize demonstrations, and petition politicians.

Later on, he takes a break and tells me stories of the political battles of decades past. Arafat's 1974 address to the UN General Assembly. Or how, when he was a young man in Tunisia, he recalls the US opened its doors to Cubans, promising money and jobs. The idea was to foment a revolt inside Cuba. But, he recalls with a laugh, Castro was smart. "He said 'you want Cubans? Ok. Get the boats, open the jails.' And so now Miami is full of Cuban criminals." But soon, he's back to flyer-ing and asking window shoppers, errand runners and tourists to sign the petition for a ceasefire.

They keep trying, buy they won't stop me, he says. "I'll keep coming back, I'll keep fighting."

And by fighting, he means showing up every day to calmly speak to anyone who stops by about what's going on.

Sapporo's takeover of Sleeman leaves little in local hands

Trouble is brewing for Canadian beer makers as the trend towards foreign ownership continues unabated. Sleeman Breweries has accepted a buyout offer of \$17.50 per share from Sapporo Breweries of Japan, valuing the deal at nearly \$400 million.

The last of Canada's three large breweries to accept foreign ownership, Sleeman is strongly advising shareholders to approve the agreement. Analysts believe

approval to be highly likely as the offer represents a 50 per cent premium over the price of Sleeman shares on May 11, the day before Sleeman announced it was seeking a buyer. Both companies expect the deal to close by mid-October.

Controlling seven per cent of the domestic beer market, Sleeman's buyout will reduce the market share of Canadian-owned breweries to roughly five per cent. This is all "part of a pattern in Canada," notes Robb Steward of Dow Jones Newswires, one that saw corporate beer giants Molson

and Labatt effectively cede control over the past several years to the Colorado-based Coors, and Belgium's InBev, respectfully.

In a bid to reduce costs and drive up profits, Sleeman has cut about one-fifth of its labour force over the past year, including 40 jobs only days before the announcement of the purchase agreement. When asked by reporters if the change in ownership would mean further job cuts, Sleeman CEO John Sleeman was non-committal. "I don't think it's fair to paint Sapporo into a corner

and say that everyone is going to keep their job," Sleeman told the Toronto Star.

According to industry sources, Molson Coors, Labatt and Dutch brewer Grolsch were also interested in the acquisition. However, Sleeman already brews and distributes Sapporo's beer in Canada, and there is speculation that Sapporo was eager to purchase Sleeman in order to prevent their existing arrangement from being annulled by a new owner.

— Rob Maquire

»"Oaxaca" from p. 2

demonstrated in favour of the removal of State Governor Ulises Ruíz, and the Asamblea Popular del Pueblo de Oaxaca (APPO) was formed.

While Oaxaca is rich in natural resources, it is among the poorest regions in Mexico. Two thirds of Oaxaca's 3.5 million inhabitants descend from indigenous ancestry, a trait that correlates closely with

poverty there.

While united behind its demand that "Ruíz must go", the APPO has since advanced a much broader political campaign, calling for civil disobedience to prevent the functioning of the government until Ruíz steps down.

On August 1, groups seized Channel 9, a state-run television station. While it was controlled by pro-APPO forces, the channel continually broadcast inter-

views with people in the street, who spoke about the effects of neoliberalism on their livelihoods and the political situation in Oaxaca. The station showed documentary films, including one on the living conditions of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

In retaliation, a paramilitary force entered the occupied TV studios on August 21 and thoroughly destroyed transmission equipment, riddling racks

of electronics with bullets.

Pro-APPO groups responded by taking over 10 radio stations across the state. Their goal is to further a simple set of principles: that "institutions must be responsible to the popular will," that the "function of the state is to promote the interests of the public," and that "the responsibility of the public is to govern itself."

— Dru Oja Jay

»"LNG" from page 12

desperate gasp of the fossil fuel industry and the governments that support it," says Harvey. "It's a race to see who can get into the market quickest before the market collapses or the supply runs out.

"The bigger trend is disturbing in that it postpones the real grappling with our energy and climate change issues," continues Harvey. Rather than pouring resources into LNG terminals, communities should be focusing on how to decrease energy consumption and how to harness cleaner renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar, she says.

"This is a catastrophic waste of money," says Darley. "It's a huge investment in something that's going to run out."

Although the public may pay in the future, some are making money now.

Threatened with losing the

LNG terminal and the economic boost that may come with it, in March 2005, Saint John City Council enraged many city residents by voting in favour of a tax deal on the land where the LNG plant is now being built. Under the deal, Irving and Repsol will pay one tenth of regular property taxes on

the LNG site for the next 25 years, saving the companies \$100 million over that period. More recently, during July's G8 summit, LNG got another 'boost,' according to the *Globe and Mail*, with a proposed \$1.5 billion US deal between Petro-Canada and Russian gas giant OAO Gazprom. In the same

month, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. sold the site for a new LNG terminal in Nova Scotia for \$140.7 million to a US company.


"It's not an energy game," says Harvey. "It's a money game."

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“All too likely this cycle will be repeated in the future unless we get it right this time”

Former U.S. Special Envoy to Haiti James Dobbins, speaking on NPR on February 29, 2004—the day of the US, Canada and France’s coup d’etat against Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide



The day after the first coup d’etat against President Aristide...

February 29, 2004



THESE THUGS IN UNIFORM WHO TRADE COCAINE AND BRUTALIZE THE HAITIAN POOR SHALL NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS! CANADA, WITH FRANCE, WILL MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT HAITIAN DEMOCRACY!



The Canadian Forces’ Joint Task Force 2 secures the airport in Port-au-Prince, as the US completes the coup by kidnapping Haiti’s elected President. **A.K.A**

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, October 1, ‘91

TO BE CONTINUED...