



KEEPING TOUCH



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They Came in Protest and Live in Peace: National Historic Status & the Doukhobor Discovery Centre

When you think of Canada's Doukhobor community, do you think of naked protests and burning buildings? Or do you think of a peaceful, agrarian communal society that, at one time, operated over 750,000 acres of land in Western Canada?

The Doukhobors and their rich cultural and agrarian heritage in Canada are celebrated at the Doukhobor Discovery Centre, located at Castlegar in BC's West Kootenay district.

As a former Kootenay resident, I was invited to visit the Doukhobor Discovery Centre by its curator, Larry Ewashen. The Centre is a reconstruction of one of the 90

Doukhobor villages that once dotted the Kootenay landscape. These villages have all but disappeared now, but my office and I are working with Larry to

"I am working to secure National Historic Site status for the Discovery Centre and preserve the legacy left to us by those early settlers"

secure National Historic Site status for the Discovery Centre and preserve the legacy left to us by those early settlers who came to escape persecution and lived in peace.

The group's history in Canada dates back to 1899, when nearly 7,500 Doukhobors were invited to immigrate to what was then called the Assiniboia Territories (now Saskatchewan). Thanks to supporters, including the famous Russian novelist and Christian humanist philosopher Lev Tolstoy and the Canadian government, this group of religious dissidents was able to flee persecution by the Czarist State and Orthodox (continued on page 3)



Senator Pat Carney speaks with Larry Ewashen

Carney's Comments



Who Will Clean My Gutters?

SENATOR PAT CARNEY, PC

My cleaner recently retired after 32 years of maintaining our home. I was distraught. At 82, Anne did a better job than I ever could.

At our church and library, the cleaner is 78 years old. When no younger candidate applied, Pam said she might as well be paid for doing the job she did as a volunteer. She also wraps bread at the island grocery.

At the Lower Store, two seniors staff the counter. They may be a bit slower on the computer, but they are more helpful than some of the junior staffers.

A young relative and her partner are both on maternity and paternity leave to look after the new arrival. It is the law. When Dad goes back to work full time, Mom will work part time, with day care as a support, to maintain her (continued on page 2)

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pension contributions and other benefits.

These personal stories signal huge changes in the Canadian labour force. Canadians are growing older and are having fewer babies. Job shortages are not the problem. Labour shortages are emerging as the issue, from staffing the swimming pool to driving cab to professional services.

According to a recent study released by Statistics Canada, the number of people between the ages of 55 and 64 in the workforce has doubled in the past 20 years. At the same time Canada's fertility rate has been falling, currently sitting at roughly 1.5 children per woman (we need 2.1 to replace ourselves). It has been forecasted that, very shortly, for every two older workers who retire there will be only one worker to take their place.

In the past, Canada has turned to immigrants to fill labour shortages. But other countries are also experiencing skilled worker short-

ages and want to keep their citizens at home. And immigration has costs as well as benefits.

Canadians need to look at "Made In Canada" solutions to the problem. First, we should take a good hard look at obstacles to participating in the labour force. Are job training programs effective? Are the laws governing the work force too inflexible? Can pension programs be adapted to encourage older workers to stay on the job if they meet the necessary standards? Can the work place itself be altered to accommodate handicapped workers, now tagged in the current jargon as "differently abled"?

There are at least four groups who are currently under utilized in the labour force. Professional women, such as lawyers, are exiting law firms and businesses because long hours demanded of them do not leave them time for their family responsibilities. This problem has been flagged by Chief Justice Beverly McLaughlin.

In the medical profession, women graduates now outnumber males. Often these women choose specialties which provide for family time, creating shortages in other areas.

Immigrants and visible minorities who have trouble accessing Canadian training opportunities or who face discrimination could add to the labour pool if these obstacles were overcome. Interprovincial barriers to movement of workers are another barrier.

Mandatory retirement requirements are being removed to keep skilled seniors on the job. And aboriginal Canadians are clearly home grown talent with unlimited potential in both cities and rural areas.

Eventually, sheer necessity will force changes in labour market regulations. I suggest we keep ahead of the curve and examine these issues NOW! In the meantime, who is going to clean my gutters?

Senator Pat

Unmanageable Municipal Taxes for Billy



The Billy Bishop Branch 176 of the Royal Canadian Legion, a very active and historic branch with a great little museum, is desperately attempting to avoid bankruptcy and subsequent closing. This distressing financial situation is the result of soaring municipal taxes. Although a City Council meeting addressed the issue of lowering or waiving the property taxes, a dispute over whether this falls under municipal or provincial jurisdiction has discouraged any action from being taken. The

Billy is currently desperately fundraising in an attempt to raise enough monies to allow them to stay open. If you'd like more information please contact Arthur Hughes, Legion Curator, at 604-738-4142. *PH*

Wei Wai Kum Cruise Ship Portal

On June 5 Senator Carney spoke at the grand opening celebration of the Campbell River Cruise Ship Portal. The day marked the official completion of the terminal and the arrival of its first cruise ship. The project is projected to bring thousands of visitors from around the world to experience the culture and heritage of B.C.'s First Nation people. Several years ago, the Campbell River Indian Band recognized that the growing cruise ship industry rep-



resented significant tourism opportunities. Since then, Canada's Government has been working with First Nations to support their goals of economic development and entrepreneurship. To date, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Western Economic Diversification Canada have invested \$9.45 million to make this project a reality.

Canada's Government is committed to helping communities across B.C. to prosper in the global market. I commend the Campbell River Indian Band for their foresight and initiative in opening the first Aboriginal owned cruise ship terminal in the world. *•PE*

National Historic Status & the Doukhobor Discovery Centre (continued from page 1)

Church authorities for their refusal to bear arms or serve in the Russian army.

With their belief in pacifism, hard work and simplicity in all things, the Doukhobor settlers in As-

siniboia soon thrived in 63 villages, with 750,000 acres under cultivation. However, in 1907 they were forced to forfeit their land because of reversals in Dominion land settlement policies. Following their charismatic leader, Peter V. Verigin, nearly 5,000 Doukhobors moved to British Columbia. By 1914, their land holdings here totalled over 14,000 acres and they had built nearly 90 villages, including 60 in the Kootenays.

The Doukhobors in BC prospered as the largest communal enterprise in North America until 1938, when the Depression reduced the community to bankruptcy and many of their properties were appropriated by trust companies and later the BC gov-

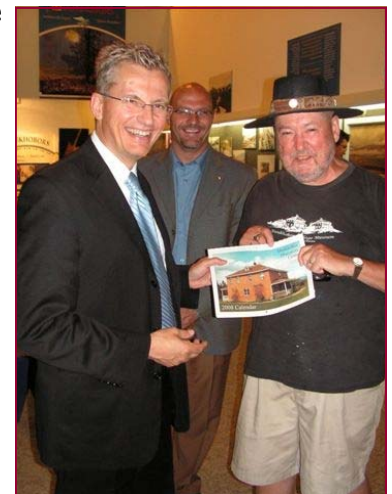


Senator Carney visits the Doukhobour Museum; pictured here with Selkirk Weavers and Spinners Guild Member Dar McDowell

ernment. Actions of members of the extreme Doukhobor faction 'Sons of Freedom' – protesting naked and burning down buildings – may also have contributed to government policies which encouraged the assimilation of Doukhobors into mainstream society.

In 1966, when it became clear that Doukhobor villages and artifacts were disappearing, the Kootenay Doukhobor Historical Society was formed. In 1971, the reconstruction of this Doukhobor village began as a Centennial Project for the towns of Castlegar and Kinnaird.

Located on the original Doukhobor property first purchased by Peter Verigin in 1908, the Discovery Centre provides a community and educational resource for local residents and tourists. Find out more about the Doukhobor Discovery Centre and the rich legacy of this community by visiting <http://doukhobor-museum.org/>. *•PE*



Hon. Monty Solberg (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development) visits Larry at the Doukhobour Discovery Centre.

Oil Tanker Moratorium

Tanker traffic in BC's northern waters made the news this summer when Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn told the Victoria Times Colonist that there has never been a moratorium on oil tankers in BC's northern inside waters. Rather, said Minister Lunn, there is a voluntary exclusion zone for tanker traffic that comes down from Alaska to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. ("Tanker traffic in northern waters worries environmentalists", June 9, 2007)

I came to a similar conclusion when, in March of 2004, I made a presentation to the Second Annual Conference on Pacific Canada & North Coast Offshore Oil and Gas Development in Vancouver. My speech, "B.C.'s Uncharted Waters," focused mainly on the potential risks and benefits of offshore oil and gas exploration and development, but it also addressed the moratorium on tanker traffic.

Basing my comments on the Report of the Scientific Review Panel, "BC Offshore Hydrocarbon Development", led in 2002 by former University of Victoria president Dr. David Strong, I told conference delegates:

"In 1972, the federal government suspended exploration activity and tanker traffic in Hecate Strait... A stroke of the pen could remove these barriers since no legislated moratorium is formally in place. Both the federal and provincial moratoria are administratively imposed and could be lifted by policy announcements by each government." (For the full text of my speech, visit: www.patcarney.ca.)

This is news because tanker traffic in BC's northern waters is starting to pick up. Oil tankers are plying northern waters in increasing size and increasing numbers, delivering materials bound for Alberta's oil-sands projects. On June 24, a tanker carrying 350,000 barrels of petroleum-based condensate (a product used to dilute bitumen mined in tar sands) travelled into the deep-sea port at Kitimat, where the condensate was offloaded to a CN rail line destined for EnCana's Alberta operations.

Minister Lunn noted his department is seeing a lot of interest in new pipeline projects. There are five for Kitimat and Prince Rupert that would allow the export of crude oil from Alberta and imports of liquid natural gas to travel down the west coast of North America. These projects are in different stages of application and approval.

From the provincial perspective, this is good news. These projects have huge potential for BC's northern coastal communities in terms of economic spinoffs. But not everyone is as enthusiastic. A number of First Nations, coastal communities and environmental organizations have expressed concern about the threat that these tankers and their cargo pose to coastal economies. ♪ℓ

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RADARSAT-2

I had the pleasure of visiting the Canadian Space Agency's David Florida Lab in Shirley's Bay, ON to view Canada's RADARSAT-2. It is the first commercial earth observation satellite licensed under the new Remote Sensing Space Systems Act. The satellite will be launched from the Russian cosmodrome at Baikonur, Kazakhstan mid to late November.

As Energy Minister I helped to develop RADARSAT-1. RADARSAT-2 is a private-public partnership financed by the Department of Industry's Canadian Space Agency, headquartered in Montreal, and MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates, Ltd., Vancouver. It is a fascinating project that has produced the world's best earth observation satellite with a wide range of applications, including ice monitoring, maritime surveillance for fisheries protection, vessel movements and other security measures. ♪ℓ

