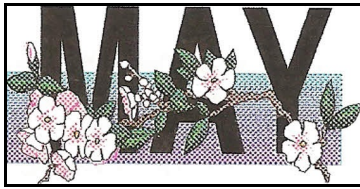


971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING



2010



www.971WingAFAC.com

Moosa Aswayita - Beware of the Moose - Motto of 419 Sqn, from Peter Tutt, 426 Sqn.

Air Force Association Newsletter Social Calendar

- Feb 20 In spite of snow and slippery roads, 37 of us thoroughly enjoyed an evening hosted by Susan Lynch and co-hosted by the Dooher family.
- Apr 01 The 86th birthday of the RCAF, two recently restored Canadian jet interceptor aircraft, Canuck and Voodoo, were dedicated at Peterson AFB Museum Airpark. The ceremony was jointly sponsored by the 21st Space Wing (Col. Stephen Whiting, Commander) and NORAD (BGen Robert Chekan, Presiding Officer for the Canadian Forces). Col. Whiting and BGen Chekan both addressed the audience and Darrell Levitt recited 'High Flight'. Pipe Major Sam Swancutt led the Official Party to the Ribbon Cutting. After the ceremony the attendees enjoyed punch and cake by the two aircraft. Numerous Canadian Forces members were in attendance as well as six members of 971 Wing. Mike Dooher attended and was mentioned in BGen Chekan's remarks as logging over 1800 hours in these two interceptors.
- Apr 24 1600 at Jim Berwick's, 735 Bear Paw Lane, 80906

MGen Keith Greenaway, 1916-2010. A severe loss not only to Joan and me but to Canada and the world, Keith left us 11 April and will be buried where he was raised near Lindsay, Ontario. He was my RCAF boss in Edmonton 1946-49 and we have corresponded and visited ever since. Many of his assessments of world affairs and Arctic research have graced these newsletters. For several years Curtis LeMay borrowed him to enhance SACs abilities, calling him the world's greatest navigator. In Canada he was awarded the McKee Trophy, inducted into the Hall of Aviation Fame, awarded an honorary degree, authored two important books, and was a contributor to Canadian Geographic and The Arctic Circle. He also helped Malaysia build its new independent air force.

LtGen Albert Clark, 1914-2010, is the 5th POW friend I have lost in the past 4 months. I worked with him on security in the North Compound of Stalag Luft III where he was known affectionately to us as "Bub - the Shit Disturber". Prior to the war, Bub had worked in several parks where he specialized in outdoor toilets, so he was able to improve our 40-holer. Flying spitfires with British and Canadian pilots he was shot down 26 July 1942 near Abbeville, France. He was transferred to the new North Compound in April 1943. In Sep 44 he was moved to the new South Compound built exclusively for USAAF prisoners so missed the Great Escape of Mar 44. He had contributed 5 months of good work for our Escape Committee and he had improved our toilets - an accomplishment that never gets its well-deserved praise! He remained in the USAAF/USAF after the war, and after retirement became superintendent of the Air Force Academy where the toilets are a big improvement over Luft III.

The Editor's Corner

Stamps and Education

Eighty years ago my Dad started me on the hobby of stamp collecting. This led to me haunting the town's Chinese laundries for stamps from China and Hong Kong, and to find pen pals in seven countries in Europe, Asia, and Australasia. Worldwide, postage was cheap and countries issued fewer than five new stamps per year so, over time, good worldwide collections could be built. I remember well the anger caused when Canada raised its rates from 2 to 3 cents to mail a letter anywhere in the British Commonwealth and Empire. A big boost to my collection came when I started working in a bank. Money parcels were sent via registered post that needed 50-cent and \$1 stamps. We were supposed to send all these back to bank headquarters so they could be sold to dealers, but somehow a few got stuck in my collection.

Soon I was to know every country in the world, its currency, rulers, history, geography, and culture. Many friends were made among other collectors and we all rejoiced on possessing a stamp or two from Tristan da Cunha, Rarotonga, Pitcairn Islands and other such tiny places. By selling stamps to collectors, the Pitcairn Islands raised enough to build a school so they promptly issued another stamp to sell depicting the school.

Today countries are killing the hobby by flooding the market with hundreds of new issues per year, by high prices, and now the US and Australia to save money have gone to cheaper paper that tends to disintegrate when you try to soak off stamps. And, of course, e-mails and meter post have robbed us of stamped mail.

Nevertheless countries still issue far too many stamps. But, as many are interesting, let me describe a few:

THE FOUR KINGS: On 19 April, Canada Post issued four 57-Cent stamps to honour the four 'Indian' (3 Mohawk, 1 Mahigan) kings who met with Queen Anne in London 19 Apr 1710. The stamps reproduce the full-length paintings that were made of them at the time when Queen Anne was not a very happy monarch. At 45 she was widowed with no heir in spite of 18 pregnancies. Tee Yee Neen Hu Ga Row, Emperor of the Six Nations and leader of the group, was given the English name of Hendrick. Ho Nee Yeath Taw No Row, King of the Generethgarich, was named John; Sa Ga Neath Qua Pieth Tow, King of the Maquas, was named Brant (grandfather of Joseph Brant); and Etow Oh Koam, King of the River Nations, was called Nicholas. All four were in excellent physical condition and towered over their European hosts. They had been recruited by Peter Schulyer, Governor at Albany, to help persuade the Queen to grant more resources to the fight against the Hurons and French. The colonies were a drain on the treasury but the queen, who was to be dead in 4 years, was impressed, particularly when they also asked for help in understanding the Protestant version of Christianity. She showered them with gifts, had them attend theatrical productions and banquets over 45 days and took steps to organize an invasion of Quebec. They were granted audiences with the famed painter John Verelst who was charged with the task of depicting them as envoys of respected powers. The four kings escaped the diseases rampant in London. Their speeches were reprinted many times. They were quoted as describing European clothing as stifling and barbarous and romantic stories were written of a supposed contact between one of them and a woman he met on the streets of London. Hendrick was to return to London in 1740 for a meeting with George II. Joseph Brant became a famed Canadian leader when he fled the US after the revolution. The city of Brantford, Ontario, is named for him.

These 4 portraits were purchased in 1977 by the Public Archives of Canada. More details can be found in Canada's History Magazine, Apr-May 2010, and the Canada Post brochure, Apr-Jun 2010, as well as for the RCN.

THE RCN AT 100: On 04 May Canada Post will issue two 57-cent stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy. One stamp depicts HMCS Niobe, the other HMCS Halifax. In WWII the RCN was the 3rd largest of the Allied Navies. It had 100,000 personnel including 7,122 women and 110 of its ships took part in the D-Day operations. Today it has 9,000 personnel and 33 warships.

In 1910 the Royal Navy gave Canada the cruiser HMS Niobe and HMS Rainbow as founding ships for the RCN. Niobe, built in 1897, saw service in the Boer War and WWI and was damaged in the explosion in Halifax harbour in 1917.

STAMP WARS: In 1947 a Chilean stamp showed Graham Land, Antarctica, claimed by Britain, to be part of Chile. In 1951 Argentina countered with a stamp showing it to be Argentinian. In 1954 the UK issued 15 stamps depicting 13 different ships each of which had spent over 2 years doing research in the area. In 1958 and 1965 Chile and Argentina continued the stamp war while the UK continued its work. Anticipating the conquest of India, Nazi Germany had stamps ready for Azahind (Free India). In 1959 Greece issued 2 stamps featuring Imre Nagy, Hungarian premier executed by the Soviets. The USSR refused to accept mail using these stamps and countered with a stamp for Glezos, a communist executed by Greece. During the Cold War the USSR re-published its stamp catalogues, removing the wartime stamps that showed Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin together. After the 1953 overthrow of King Farouk, Egypt continued to use stamps depicting him, but with 3 bars obliterating his face. Many more conflicts have found expression on stamps.

BALLOON BARRAGES: As balloons dangling cables in WWI had success against Gotha bombers attacking England, the British formed Balloon Command in November 1938 because of the growing Luftwaffe threat and by Sep 39 had 1500 balloons in a Command that grew to 52 squadrons and 33,000 personnel. By Oct 41 they had accounted for the destruction of 49 aircraft, 7 Luftwaffe and 42 RAF. Not too profitable but they pressed on and claimed various successes including forcing intruders to fly higher than 5,000 feet where they were easier targets for flak and fighters, of substantially reducing mine laying along UK coasts and in rivers, striking 102 bombers during the blitz, and putting 231 V-1s out of action. On D-Day, 4,000 balloonists erected a balloon barrage in Normandy to protect beachheads.

In 1942 the US employed 430 balloons to protect west coast cities, but those erected by Canada and the US to protect the S.S. Marie locks damaged the war effort when they broke away trailing cables during a storm.

Our aircraft were equipped to hear a wailing sound from balloons, warning us to turn around, go around, or go higher. We could not tell where the balloons were but knew there would be a lot of them covering a large area. We were caught in this scary situation twice, Once returning from a low-level mining operation and once when losing two of our 4 engines forced us down to 2,000 feet before crossing the coast. It took a lot of tricky manoeuvring, by guess and by God, to lessen the wailing sound and to eventually escape it.

SWEDEN and B-17s: In WWII, 69 stricken Boeing B-17s made it to neutral Sweden. Ten were given to Sweden in exchange for several hundred USAAF. 7 of these were converted to passenger 14-seat airliners. Two were transferred to Denmark in Oct 45. Throughout the war Sweden's ABA and Britain's BOAC maintained trade. After the Luftwaffe shot down 5 of ABA's DC3s, there was a critical need for replacements. US Air Attaché, Felix Hardison, was instrumental in arranging the B-17 deal so the commercial variant was named F-17 after Felix. From Oct 44 these F-17s maintained a service to Prestwick, Scotland, flying north of Norway to the Shetlands then to Prestwick with mail, passengers including downed aircrews, and ball bearings.

HONOR FLIGHT By Joe Spencer: Through my restaurant I've had the pleasure of meeting Mary Denise Haddon and Lee White, President and Director of Operations respectively of Honor Flight, Rocky Mountain. Honor Flight is an organization that takes WW2 veterans who can't afford it and flies them back to Washington D.C., at no cost, so that they may see the memorial. This is a very noble gesture as we are losing the "Greatest Generation" at a very rapid rate. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from this, or who would wish to contribute, here's how to contact them; Mary D. Haddon, Mary@rockymountainhonorflight.org, (720) 217-3235 or Lee White, (303) 660-8742, flyboy51@q.com.

THE FIRST IN AMERICA IF NOT THE WORLD: Of course where else but Newfoundland? At Mistaken Point, 565 million years ago, the first known creatures that move via their own muscles etched trails that became fossilized in the rock. That is 20 million years earlier than Alberta's Burgess Shales that reveal a Cambrian-era explosion of life forms. These first Newfoundlanders were all of 13 millimetres wide and the 70 tracks so far discovered are up to 17 centimetres long. You readers of the newsletter will recall that the Mistaken Point area was also home to the first Ediacarans, large fern-like bodies anchored to the sea floor 575 million years ago.

SYMBOLS THROUGH THE AGES: How many of you computer buffs can tell me the meaning of all those symbols adjacent to ports on the back of your CPU? Ever wonder who started it all? Well, Genevieve von Petzinger, looking for a thesis for her master's degree at the University of Victoria, BC, wondered why no one had compared doodlings at various cave sites, concentrating instead on the magnificent cave art.

Starting in France, she began a data base that included the same 26 symbols drawn in the same style and found in 146 sites, dating back as much as 35,000 years ago and persisting for 25,000 years, verifying a common language over a wide area.

Our "modern" species dates back 100,000 years. The first known use of symbology dates back 100,000 years in Israel and 75,000 years in Africa. Ancient symbols have been found world wide, some used at times together as though spelling out a sentence.

THE UK MAY ELECTION: Long-suffering people this side of the pond are jealous. Elections in the UK are limited to 4 weeks of electioneering. Much less cost, fewer lies, and less hot air for global warming!

NUCLEAR RESTRAINT ET AL: The belated treaty of Medvedev-Obama limiting each side to 1,550 nuclear weapons is a small step in the right direction. It is intolerable that two nations control 90% of such weapons and that we have any at all. The US, with British and Canadian help, developed the first to end a horrible war, quickly followed by the USSR, the UK, France, and China. Then India broke an agreement with Canada to join the club which necessitated Pakistan to do likewise. Without admitting it, Israeli then built an inferred 100 bombs. N. Korea followed. Now, after being relatively mute about all, except N. Korea, of these self-righteous nations acquiring such arsenals the world is pouncing on Iran for suspected ambitions. While having admiration for thousands of Iranians this scribe is not too fussy about Ahmadinejad or the mullahs yet considers it hypocritical to condemn one nation while condoning the monopoly of 8 others. Disarmament is a worldwide need. I thought that is why we formed the UN (and the League of Nations).

THE CESCOTTIS: As I have mentioned Luftwaffe MGen (Ret'd) Rod Cescotti and wife, Otti, several times in these newsletters you may be interested in the latest. He describes how open Europe is now for the younger generations. His son, Oliver, is managing a branch office in Moscow with a Russian wife and 2 children. Son, Rüdiger, has retired in Waterloo with his Belgian wife, daughter, Viola, now their legal advisor, is living in nearby Munich with her husband while her 2 sons are in university in Switzerland and Argentina.

THE ART OF MILITARY FISHING or (No rod – no reel – NOOO problem), by Darrell Levitt: While in the Reserves with the Calgary Highlanders, I was posted to CFB Wainwright in the summer of 1970. As any good infantryman, I was always looking for something to do on my off duty hours. A friend and I are very avid fisherman, and we soon learned of a small lake situated in the training area just a couple of miles from the main base. It was rumored that the lake known on the military maps as Mott Lake contained the most wary and delicious species of trout known as the “rainbow”. It was also known that one could rent canoes on the base for a day. So one Saturday, off we went to rent a canoe to go fishing. No rod; no reel – nooo problem. During military exercises, to help with the realism of a battlefield, small pyrotechnic devices known as “Thunder flashes” and “arty sims” are used. The Thunder Flash is used to simulate grenades, while the Arty Sim is employed to simulate the sound (complete with whistling noise) of an incoming artillery shell. Both devices are fairly harmless unless you stand or lay right beside it upon detonation. OK - on with the fishing story.

So, armed with a canoe, lifejackets, and fishing equipment (just a few arty sims) we proceeded to the lake for a lazy day of fishing. We launched the canoe, paddled to the centre of the lake, and prepared our fishing gear. In order to fish with arty sims, one must first pull the pin, wait for the device to start whistling, and then drop it into the water. After the small explosion and a moderate bubbling of the water, you simply wait just a minute or so, grab your net, and if any fish were in the near vicinity they would rise to the surface to be collected in the net. A great day was had and a small cookout was held on the beach that evening with a few of our most trusted friends

THE BLACK SEA FLEET may remain in Sevastopol after 2017 when its current 20-year lease runs out. Viktor Yanukowych who was elected PM in February, ousting Yuliya Tymoshenko of the 2004 Orange Revolution, voiced this possibility to Pres, Medvedev as he seeks to restore ties that cooled when the Ukraine leaned towards Western Europe. Actually Russia built this naval base when the Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia were all part of the USSR. Viktor's goal appears to be cementing ties with Russia then moving both to partnership with the West.

A BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL has, after 65 lost years, been approved by parliament to be erected in Green Park, London. Too few of us are still around to appreciate it. Once, there were 125,000 of us, mostly boys, given large, cold, and uncomfortable coffins called aircraft, filled with high explosives, and ordered to go bomb our way to victory. We did, but It was a nasty job with 58% casualties to us, akin to the WWI 'going over the top' night after night until the odds took us out.

As post-war reflection set in and Society became ashamed at what had to be done for victory, causing 600,000 civilian deaths (that is 8 German deaths for each of our casualties), it disowned us and burdened us with the guilt. It really hurt when Coventry denied our request to use their city and rebuilt cathedral as a venue for a reunion, implying we were as guilty as the aircrews who had ravaged their city. We are not alone. German veterans who had suffered so much were also disowned. Need I mention Vietnam and others?

But, we cannot complain. We were better treated than veterans of most wars. A grateful country did give us grants proportionate to service to be used for housing, education, or starting a business. Overseas war brides were shipped to their husband's home countries at government expense. Small pensions were approved for wounds and POW time.

Wars hurt almost everyone involved. Is it not time to abolish them - or at least to heavily tax those who profit from them?

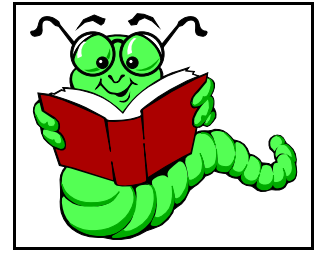
LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE: As I have been accused of being both, it is interesting to note a recent study by the London School of Economics that concludes that Liberals score 11 points higher on IQ tests and are more generous in donating to non-genetically-related people in need. Also Liberals have more open minds and more agnostics can be found among them.

I tend to agree but add that many of us start out as crusading liberals wanting to improve the world but as we start to accumulate material goods we become Conservatives then as the years grind on and we realize we cannot take it with us we become Liberals again.

CAPTAINS OF THE CLOUDS: This WWII film about bush pilots in the RCAF with such stars as James Cagney and Alan Hale is now available on DVD for \$6.95 from Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller. There is a good depiction of a wings parade in Uplands and our Tom Wallnut (1916-1998) receiving his pilot's wings from Billy Bishop, both playing themselves in the movie. Good shots of bush country and RCAF training end with a swarm of unarmed Hudson bombers flying across the North Atlantic in formation at night, and intercepted by Me109s while still at sea. A little fantasy makes the story.

Book

Reviews



NAPOLEON'S SHIELD AND GUARDIAN

- THE UNCONQUERABLE GENERAL DAUMESNIL

Greenhill, London, 2003, 424 PAGES

Most who have achieved greatness have done it with the help of others: family, friends, subordinates, and the like. But, we seldom learn about them.

This book is the incredible story of a 17-year-old boy running away from home to join the army. The French do say that in every soldier's knapsack is a potential general's baton.

In 16 years Daumesnil earned promotion after promotion ending up as a general and a baron. He personally saved Napoleon's life twice, had two horses killed under him, was wounded 20 times, saved important outposts for Napoleon against heavy odds, and lost a leg.

Not all incredible stories are created in Hollywood.

Keynes

Peter Clarke, Bloomsbury Press, NY, 2009, 211 pages

This is a good, well-written book combining history and biographies with economics. As controversy still swirls around economics it is impossible to adequately review such complexity here. For 9 decades JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES (1883-1946) has been celebrated, scorned, respected, appropriated, mocked, venerated, derided, rediscovered - but never ignored. As a Cambridge economist, he became known for his 1919 *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*. (He opposed putting all the blame on Germany and saddling it with huge reparations that would only hurt other economies). It sold 18,500 copies in the UK and 80,000 in the US and Canada. With high interest, ability, and contributions in and to the Arts and Economics, he was basically an intellectual liberal supporting free trade, and government stimuli for public works as investments, but would change his mind as world conditions changed. He both supported and opposed David Lloyd George.

He opposed Churchill returning to the gold standard in 1925, and Churchill later admitted it was a great mistake, locking the £ again to \$4.86. Although holding key financial positions he was often at odds with the more-conservative Treasury. The Depression knocked the UK off the gold standard in 1931.

This is also a story of a UK, devastated by two world wars, attempting to retain its world lead while the USA, with greater population and resources, rises to the lead.

The book is a good reminder of the careers of many we may have half-forgotten: Virginia Woolf, Herbert Asquith, Ernest Bevin, David Lloyd George, FDR, the Bloomsbury set, E.M Forster, Ronald Reagan, Lytton Strachey, Neville Chamberlain, and many others. The various inclusions of Canada include no names.

Keynes, a gifted speaker and writer was known to his upper-crust Cambridge compatriots as a homosexual until he fell madly in love with, and married, Lydia Lopokova, a ballerina who proved so helpful to him.

Peter Clarke emphasises the misunderstandings a common language can cause in economics with a US system much less disciplined than the British or Canadian. FDR, in seeking Keynes' advice, is quoted: "I know nothing about economics and nobody else does either". After a meeting with US keynesians, Keynes remarked, "I was the only non-keynesian there."

His 700-page work of 7 years, *Treatise on Money*, was published in 1930 and he immediately disagreed with aspects of it, so started on his *General Theory*. A few of his arguments: Government must be part of the solution (like France's *L'état tutélaire*), Wars necessitate increased taxation and deferred pay, Deficit spending should go as loans to investments in public works, Each generation needs fresh thinking, European and Canadian systems are better for workers than the US, Unemployment insurance fees must increase in boom times and decrease in slumps, It is self-defeating to balance the budget in a recession with budget cuts.

May 2010

TOM KUPECZ REPORTS FROM TRENTON: “I am keeping busy with helping to build and run exercises to train the Army and Air Force forces preparing to go to Afghanistan. I am very pleased to report that an overriding theme of the operational goals of our forces is the protection and betterment of the people of that benighted country. This is reflected in every phase of the extensive training they receive, and I don't think that any force has ever been better prepared or equipped than this one.

I wholly endorse your sentiments on the evils of war, and I long for the day our young men and women can go abroad to help without having to return fire. Our efforts in Haiti may be an example of this possibility, but I fear that we will have to impose order here, too, to be able to help.”

WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS: Physicists entertain us by revealing that our little universe is in the midst of innumerable universes each with its own laws and where anything that can happen will happen. Exciting! But there is still so much to learn about our own, unique, universe.

Frequently strangers will quietly move into our lush, moist valleys, remaining inoffensive until they multiply and set up listening posts to monitor our activities. When we order our police to remove them they detect our coming and send out requests for help from other immigrants in the region. Some agree to unite with them and working together they produce weapons that can cause our police to actually explode.

In Copenhagen the team of Thomas Bjarnsholt has been studying this battle that rages in many human lungs, learning that bacteria are much more intelligent and sophisticated than we had realized. They communicate with the chemical ‘quorum’ sensing like plants and fungi. Our research into this may have started 50 years ago but we are only just beginning to appreciate bacterial sophistication and to look for means to manipulate it. Bacteria can influence and change the actions of other bacteria as well as our own white blood cells.

Take the friendly bacteria that are ten times more numerous than our own body cells in our guts. It is now known they communicate with each other for the betterment of both. We need each other. The mass of these friendlies, consisting of thousands of species, weighs some 1.3 kg (3 pounds), far outnumbering the terrorists. Does this not seem all too familiar to our macroscopic world?

Our species continues to find ‘final’ frontiers, currently bragging of our exploits in space and the deep seas. They are impressive and we do exhibit astounding intelligence, at least some of us do. Jane Goodall complains that humans have great intelligence but little wisdom. Yes, we do need a strong dose of humility. We have been comparing ourselves to chimpanzees, dolphins, mice, crows, and the like and have actually made progress in understanding their languages while remaining comfortable in our own superiority.

But, there are frontiers out there that are numerous and formidable, challenging our puny intelligence to awake to the fact that we have not yet reached the plateau where we can retire and rest in safety.

Without understanding it, we have harnessed the quantum world to dominate a third of our industry. We can manipulate DNA to do our bidding without understanding it. We have made electricity one of our slaves without knowing if it has a will of its own. We know that plants have their own language but we have produced no dictionary.

To many we are on the verge of creating intelligence and consciousness in computers without even knowing what actually creates consciousness, or for that matter what it is. We have never been granted irrefutable proof as to what and why we are.

In many respects we are no further ahead than those Ionian Greeks who, some 2400 years ago, started us on this quest.

When we humans have so many challenges why do we continue to waste our energies in harming and killing each other? Too many budding Newtons and Einsteins have perished on the battlefield.

I am so often reminded of the story told of the Prince of Wales visiting Canada and observing a workman walking along a parked train and tapping each iron wheel with a hammer. When the Prince asked him what was the purpose in him doing that, he replied. “I don't know - the boss ordered me to do it so I am.”

IT IS STILL UP TO YOU AND ME: We agreed that we were responsible for global warming so we thought biofuels would be one good answer. But, farmers saw profit in draining and planting corn in all those depressions left by the last ice age in the Canadian and US prairies. These used to fill with spring runoffs providing ideal nesting sites for waterfowl. Waterfowl populations then crashed by 50% and greenhouse gases were released from the ponds that once contained them. And corn on the cob became an expensive delicacy as biofuel production grabbed most of it. Some Wildlife and Environmental Associations that were struggling to get along on our donations became blinded by large bribes from the oil, gas, and coal industries that asked in return endorsements for their new lines of “green” products. Time passed and many members of these associations revolted at endorsing untested products and have reverted to paying farmers to restore and protect ponds, thus needing you and me again. Helping is painful. There are far too many worthy charities all seeking donations. I get as many as 11 a day, so what I can afford to contribute to each is nullified by fund-raising expenses. Just as health care needs a single payer, charities need a single life line.

OUR PROBLEM WITH SEX is summed up in the old joke: Two veterans in their 90s were reminiscing. One asked, "Do you remember that stuff they used to put in our food to lessen our sex drive? Well, it is starting to work."

To the steady stream of prominent men engaging in extra-marital sex has been added one of our own, a capable and respected pilot in a responsible position who has left a trail of rapes and even murders. The only things new about this is that men now wreck their marriages and careers and receive public condemnation. The history of our species is one long horror story of the cruelty of men and women to each other and to children, quite extensive even today. But there is also, from ancient times, so many tender stories of caring, sharing, and love, of men improving the lot of women and vice versa. It is a tale too vast for this single page which will concentrate on male aggression.

Biologists explain that the male of the species is designed to go about the world, impregnating as many females as he can catch. Anthropologists argue that, early on, males discovered they could get steady and reliable satisfaction in a family setting and that co-operation was more rewarding than force. Sadly, the biology of the sexes too often lacks male contentment in the family situation as the average female, who has to bear the consequences, lacks the constant enthusiasm of the average male for sex and too many men, when the opportunity arises, quickly give in to their biological side. Over the years I have listened to many men complain that they love their wives far more than they are loved in return. But, to a man, "Love" has a much greater component of sex than in a woman's interpretation.

Even Moses condoned his men raping conquered women. Napoleon, when he needed more men to invade Italy, got them with his "You want women? The Italians have women. They can be all yours." Practically every army has permitted male and female rape, often as a means of demoralizing the enemy, but more often as a means of recruitment. Few women escaped being raped repeatedly by occupying Russians. Chinese and Koreans were "comfort" women to the Japanese, and many were simply transferred to US occupiers. Christians raped Muslims in the Middle East and recently in Bosnia; thousands of Vietnamese were raped by US soldiers. African women still suffer rape in huge numbers. Numerous leaders, like Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan, had captured women stationed throughout their empires for immediate satisfaction wherever they went. At the numerous conferences of bishops defining the rules of Christianity numerous women were collected to attend sexually to the attendees. Muslim sultans were renowned for their harems.

God help us men if women get the power to seek revenge for their billions who have been wronged.

Is there a cure other than the one used by various women who severed the penis that was raping them? Thousands of male prisoners lost sexual desire when castrated to become eunuchs to guard such collections as harems.

Practically all religions and governments have imposed laws and beliefs for the masses to follow, often with cruel punishments for transgressors like stoning and hanging. Some Muslims, to save their women for themselves, confine them to the home or cover them from head to toe, considering them property not companions. For good reason some women feel safer hidden in all that clothing. Societies have permitted polygamy and brothels with various degrees of control.

We do need more women in government. Today, Belgium leads the world with 55% but the UK, US, and Canada are shamefully far behind with 14, 7, and 6 per cent. And 14 countries have no women at all in government.

Perhaps the most powerful weapon is mindset - it is not easy to change ingrained or encouraged mind sets as so few of us think, but it has been done over the years. My generation in my society of males was brought up to put women on pedestals. Foul language was never used near them. Whereas necking was permitted, few of us thought of going further. Then came WWII with entire populations caught up in war zones with death a constant companion resulting in a desire to taste life's pleasures before death. Still, most of our boys killed died as virgins. Most of the sex was consensual causing thousands of pregnancies in an ill-educated and unprepared population. Canada can boast of having the highest percentage of warriors who married the girls they impregnated.

The easy sex of WWII, followed by the widespread introduction of condoms and pills promoted more mindset changes. Homosexuality, common in antiquity, was a source of jokes and something no true man would ever entertain. For 800 days I was locked up with up to 11,000 sex-starved men (all aircrew) in compounds that allowed no privacy or secrecy. I know of no case of any homosexual act. It was just not part of our mindset, so its resurgence is puzzling.

Another society mindset that needs softening is that towards adultery. Acceptance runs from a high in Africa, and the cause of their HIV epidemic, to a low in Muslim countries. In the West acceptance is higher among the ruling classes. While rape should never go unpunished, the odd dalliance of a husband or wife who have a record of marital responsibility should not be reason to be cast out and to lose it all. And the media should be censored for its lurid accounts. The most critical voices are undoubtedly those who are covering up their own guilt.

From insects to mammals there is tremendous variety in the conduct of sex. With humans it can become an abusive addiction as hard to cure as smoking or drug use. It is rarely a means to exert dominance as so often explained but rather a strong desire for perceived pleasure. We seem to have adopted the aggressive characteristics of our Chimpanzee relatives rather than those of our Bonobo relatives who solve conflicts peacefully with frequent sex. In many societies we are much better than we once were but large-scale cruelties persist. Care to give us your solution to the problem?

NATIONAL DEBT: The budget must be balanced; the Treasury must be refilled; public debt must be reduced; assistance to foreign lands must be curtailed; lest we become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance. Cicero, Rome, 55 BC.

MAKING VS CONVERTING ENEMIES: I have been looking at photos of former Guantanamo inmates who are now Al Qaida leaders determined to make us suffer. Shave off the beards and they do not look all that fearsome. Has Guantanamo and the whole prisoner fiasco failed us by creating uncompromising enemies?

Back in 1939-1943 I had no reason to respect the Luftwaffe. I knew of Guernica, Warsaw, Rotterdam, Bath, Coventry et al and endured being bombed by them. I dug dead friends out of rubble they created, and I lost hundreds of good friends to them. Then I was shot down, not at all a pleasant experience. However

The score of Hamburg civilians, mostly women, who captured me were all friendly, curious, and puzzled that Canada would want to attack them. They walked me some distance to the police who were polite and respectful as they searched me then one walked me several blocks to a Luftwaffe station, giving me a conducted tour en route. Four Luftwaffe officers were polite in questioning me and the two soldats who guarded me all night on wooden benches were curious and full of questions about Canada. In the morning a Luftwaffe officer gave me a conducted tour en route from Hamburg to Frankfurt for interrogation. I was never handcuffed, hooded, or prodded at gunpoint. A hungry week of uncomfortable solitary confinement included polite questioning by a succession of 4 officers before I was shipped off to POW camps that would become four in number and where all the prisoners had similar tales of Luftwaffe respect.

We were to have run-ins with the Gestapo and SS but in each instance were protected by the Luftwaffe, often at risks to themselves, and who seemed to have the same opinion of them as we did.

In those horrible final months of the war when we had to make our way from one end of Germany to the other I was mixed in with many German military and civilians. We were all cold, hungry, exhausted, and strafed and bombed by Allied aircraft. No German showed any animosity towards us with the sole exception of SS in the Munich rail yard.

I ended the war with high respect for the Luftwaffe, sympathy for the common German people, and disgust for those on our side who mistreated the Germans who had been kind to us.

After the war I met in Canada former Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine officers who had been POWs in Canada where the respectful treatment they had received persuaded them to return years later to Canada as valued immigrants.

Our inhumane interrogation and imprisonment techniques in such places as Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo and the filthy jails in Kabul and Kandahar make us no friends. If the Luftwaffe example was followed we might make a few converts to stop increasing the hatred of enemies and creating more among those who learn of such inhumanity.

I am also sure that those thousands of soldiers from a score of countries who take pains, and risks, to intermingle with and help civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan are doing immense good both for them and for us. Ways must be found to give this temporary help and goodwill some permanence. Respect is the vital ingredient in altering enemy mindsets.

THE DISUNITED STATES OF CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA: To influence the world Rome needed its provinces; Spain had to wait until Aragon and Castille united; England needed Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Dominions; Germany needed Bismark while Italy needed Mazzini, di Cavour, and Garibaldi to unite them. Now, the world needs that part of America that calls itself the United States to be sufficiently united and wealthy to give us NASA and other such noble enterprises as well as accepting the role of honest broker in so many of the world's immense problems.

In all those nations we call "Western", societies are relatively free so achieving unity on any particular issue is not easy. China has had amazing success in leaping to the forefront of nations. It has improved living standards for millions but with no hesitation in using brute force to accomplish this. India, on the other hand, has also come a long way in a more relaxed and open society but, unlike clean, prosperous, and modern China, it is a huge mixture of opulence and dire poverty. Relaxing its strong hand, the USSR fell apart, and modern Russia has deemed it necessary to reinstate some harsh measures to reinstate its role in the world. The much-needed European Union still has teething problems but it has given us expensive great projects like CERN and it does provide considerable wisdom in the conduct of local and world affairs.

The United States has created immense problems for itself. Armed Militia Units, wary of government, have increased 200% to 127; its financial foundation is greatly weakened with huge debts to other nations due to living beyond its means for a decade; its weak political unity has evaporated. After a century of trying, the government, now led by Barack and Nancy, has finally brought the USA into the family of nations with universal health care, a process that was started in modern times by Bismark in 1889 with his Old Age and Accident Insurance. Disunity prevented the US from getting the desired single payer, public option, and other goals, but it is a huge step in the right direction, although it does give for-profit insurance companies 32 million new customers. Hopefully this victory will embolden the government into taking bold steps not only to face up to internal problems but to use its strong influence to bring fair and just settlements to many of the world's problems that beg for remedies that need outside help with no sinister strings attached. This scribe has faith that, in spite of much unfair criticism, the current US leaders are the best yet to do just that.

NOT ALL WAS LOST: Gallant New Zealanders have found and rescued 3 cases of scotch and 2 of brandy left behind in Antarctica by the 1907-9 Sir Ernest Shackelton's expedition. Only a few of the bottles were broken, flavouring the ice.

INPUTS FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER: Send to georgesweanor@comcast.net. First come, first served.

