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INTERNATIONAL CANADA



# BREAKTHROUGH

A CANADIAN SCIENTIST AND AN AMERICAN INVENTOR DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO CLEANSE COAL, CAPTURE THE GREENHOUSE GASES AND MAKE ELECTRICITY A BARGAIN AGAIN



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**DESTINATIONS: Trek back to Fort Necessity**



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## Cleaning coal

As MPs tout their own party's environmental policies and governments around the world worry Canada will withdraw from Kyoto, scientists in Ottawa are feverishly working on what looks like good news on the energy front.

Just a short drive from Parliament Hill, in a bunker-like setting near the strip malls of Bells Corners, federal scientists have found a better way to make coal burn cleanly. They can do it in a lab already and expanding it to larger applications seems entirely promising, if not imminent. Federal scientist Bruce Clements describes the process, which he tested using the meticulous technology of U.S. inventor Alex Fassbender, as a "step change." That's science-speak for an awesome discovery.

Award-winning journalist and *Diplomat* publisher Neil Reynolds brings us the story of a band of determined scientists – brilliant minds all – who've been working across the Canada-U.S. border to clean up this abundant fossil fuel. It's hugely significant in the current enviro-climate: Coal is readily available and we know it will be in wide use for at least the next several decades. Turn to page 10 for the scoop.

*Diplomat* also has the voice of Mark Jaccard, author of three books on energy economics. Dr. Jaccard tells us that policies to restrict CO<sub>2</sub> dumping, while they are the right thing to do, will likely mean more energy use – even more fossil fuel use.

For the final article in our cover package, we checked in with renewable and alternative energy organizations to see what they think they can achieve in the short- and medium-term future. And we also asked them to name their biggest barrier or challenge.

Up front, in *Diplomatica*, we have a new feature called Verbatim – quotes from around the globe, this time from some of the world's most controversial figures. In



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

the same section, Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker gives us a thoughtful piece on how water – or its lack – forces his country to co-operate with its neighbours. "Water does not recognize conflicts; it does not observe treaties or cease-fires. It is neither Muslim, Christian nor Jewish," Mr. Baker writes, arguing that countries in the Middle East must, therefore, take a pragmatic and multilateral approach to the issue.

Up front, we also present an interview with the dean of the diplomatic corps, El Salvador's Mauricio Rosales Rivera. You'll learn, among other things, what it was like to also be dean in London's Court of St. James, and when he plans to retire.

Toward the back of the magazine, in our Delights section, books columnist George Abraham offers a look at the immigrant experience through the eyes of three different authors. Food writer Margaret Dickenson – who was in Beijing in April to collect her gold medal for "best entertaining cookbook in the world" at the 2006 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards – brings us that important but often neglected part of the meal, the soup. Stephen Beckta offers the sights and tastes of the Okanagan, one of his favourite Canadian wine regions. In Canadiana, author Gerard Kenney tells the story of Henry Larsen's voyage through the Northwest Passage in 1940. He was the second man to complete the journey. Finally, Vancouver author and poet George Fetherling looks at George Washington's Fort Necessity in our Destinations feature. This piece should launch history buffs into trip planning mode.

Jennifer Campbell is editor of *Diplomat* magazine

## UP FRONT

Jana Chytilova spent the better part of the day at the Bells Corners plant where federal scientist Bruce Clements works his magic. The shoot was extremely physical – lots of moving from building to building – as well as informative, Ms. Chytilova said, because she learned about how they process coal. "Bruce (Clements) was very eager to help me out and very accommodating," she said. "He struck me as someone who was proud of his team's achievements but humble at the same time."



## CONTRIBUTORS

Don Cayo, author of "Boosting the Flow in the Money Pipeline", page 20



Don Cayo has held several senior writing and editing positions at two newspapers – one on each coast of Canada – over the last two decades. His main focus is on more local concerns, but he always makes time to pursue his passion for mass poverty issues. He travels regularly to do first-hand reporting on a range of aid and trade issues from developing countries, and his international work has won him a dozen prizes. Most recently, he helped to found, and acts as project leader for, a fellowship program that introduces beginning journalists to the joys and challenges of reporting from the developing world.

Mark Jaccard, author of "Climate Change and the Errors of Conventional Wisdom", page 16



Mark Jaccard has been professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, since 1986 – interrupted from 1992-97 while he served as chair and CEO of the British Columbia Utilities Commission. His PhD is from the University of Grenoble. Mark served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1993-1996) and the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (1996-2002). He's chaired several public inquiries, advised governments throughout the world, and is a frequent media contributor. His 2002 book, *The Cost of Climate Policy*, won the Policy Research Institute award for best policy book in Canada. His 2005 book, *Sustainable Fossil Fuels*, won the Donner Prize for best policy book in Canada.

**Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**, president of Iran

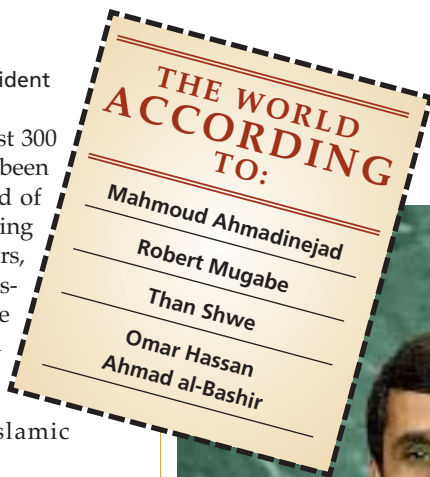
"Unfortunately, in the past 300 years, the Islamic world has been in retreat vis-à-vis the World of Arrogance [the West] ... During the period of the last 100 years, the [walls of the] world of Islam were destroyed and the World of Arrogance turned the regime occupying Jerusalem into a bridge for its dominance over the Islamic world.

"This occupying country [i.e. Israel] is in fact a front of the World of Arrogance in the heart of the Islamic world. They have in fact built a bastion [Israel] from which they can expand their rule to the entire Islamic world... This means that the current war in Palestine is the front line of the Islamic world against the World of Arrogance, and will determine the fate of Palestine for centuries to come.

"... They [ask]: 'Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism?' But you had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable, and surely can be achieved.

"I do not doubt that the new wave which has begun in our dear Palestine, and which today we are also witnessing in the Islamic world, is a wave of morality which has spread all over the Islamic world. Very soon, this stain of disgrace [i.e. Israel] will be purged from the center of the Islamic world – and this is attainable.

"Regrettably, 27 or 28 years ago... one of the countries of the first line [i.e. Egypt] made this failure [of recognizing



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran Israel] – and we still hope that they will correct it.

"On the pretext of goodwill, they [Israel] intended, by evacuating the Gaza strip, to gain recognition of its corrupt regime by some Islamic states. I very much hope, and ask God, that the Palestinian people and the dear Palestinian groups will be wary of this Fitna [civil strife]." Source: The Iranian Students News Agency, excerpts from a speech given at the World Without Zionism Conference in Tehran, October 28, 2005

\* \* \*  
 "The West has given more significance to the myth of the genocide of the Jews, even more significant than God, religion, and the prophets. It deals very severely with those who deny this myth but does

"... THEY [ASK]: 'IS IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO WITNESS A WORLD WITHOUT AMERICA AND ZIONISM?' BUT YOU HAD BEST KNOW THAT THIS SLOGAN AND THIS GOAL ARE ATTAINABLE, AND SURELY CAN BE ACHIEVED."

not do anything to those who deny God, religion, and the prophet.

"If you have burned the Jews, why don't you give a piece of Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to Israel?" Source: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting report on a speech before thousands in Zahedan, Dec. 14, 2005

\* \* \*  
 "Would it not be easier for global powers to ensure their longevity and win hearts and minds through the championing of real promotion of justice, compassion and peace, than through continuing the proliferation of nuclear



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and chemical weapons and the threat of their use?

“The experience of the threat and the use of nuclear weapons is before us. Has it achieved anything for the perpetrators, other than the exacerbation of tension, hatred and animosity among nations?” Source: Speech to the UN General Assembly, Sept. 19, 2006

\* \* \*

“Iran will become an established nuclear state before the end of the year. Iran will establish itself on the top of the world nuclear peak.” Source: Iranian TV interview, Nov. 20, 2006

**Senior General Than Shwe**, commander-in-chief of defence services of Myanmar:

“Judging from the lessons of history, it is certain that powerful countries wishing to impose their influence on our nation will make any attempt in various ways to undermine national unity and weaken the Tatmadaw [military].

“When the Tatmadaw had to unavoidably assume the state responsibility, the situation of the country was deteriorating severely in terms of both physical and spiritual aspects.”

General Shwe said the military must “exert efforts, hand in hand with the people, in building a peaceful, modern, developed and disciplined flourishing democratic nation.” And it must “crush, hand in hand with the entire people, every danger of internal and external destructive elements obstructing the stability and development of the state.” Source: Speech at Naypyidaw, Burma Armed Forces Day, March 28, 2007

**Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir**, president of Sudan

Ann Curry, NBC-TV reporter: I myself have spoken to the people in Darfur — people who have been shot and burned and women who have been raped.

Mr. Al-Bashir: “Yes, there have been villages burned, but not to the extent you are talking about. People have been killed because there is war. It is not in the Sudanese culture or people of Darfur to rape. It doesn’t exist. We don’t have it.”

He accused the United States of trying to seize Darfur’s oil and gas riches: “The goal is to put Darfur under their custody, separating the region of Darfur from Sudan.” Khartoum, March 20, 2007



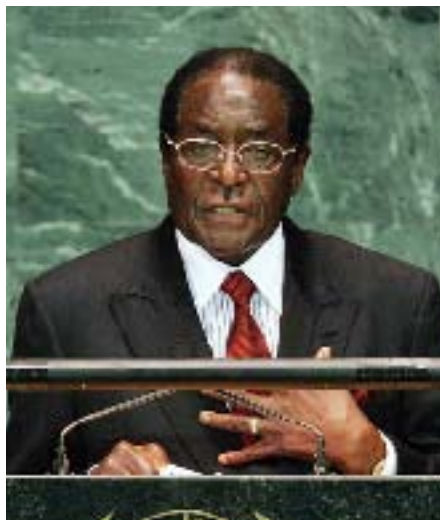
UN PHOTO: ERIN SIEGAL

**Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir**, president of Sudan



UN PHOTO: ESKINDER DEBEBE

**Senior General Than Shwe**, left, commander-in-chief of defence services of Myanmar, with former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan



UN PHOTO: ERIN SIEGAL

**Robert Mugabe**, president of Zimbabwe

**Robert Mugabe**, president of Zimbabwe

“Those who would want to represent their countries [ambassadors] here must behave properly or else we kick them out of our country. So I have asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to summon them and read the riot act to them.

“We shall tell the ambassadors that this is not a country which is a piece of Europe. Zimbabwe is part of Africa.

“We are the government, we will not be deterred by any criticisms which are completely unfounded from carrying out our duties. If they repeat it, they will get

**“WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT,  
WE WILL NOT BE DETERRED  
BY ANY CRITICISMS WHICH  
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OUT OUR DUTIES. IF THEY  
REPEAT IT, THEY WILL GET  
ARRESTED AND GET BASHED  
BY THE POLICE.**

arrested and get bashed by the police.

“If they want to fight the police, the police have the right to bash.”

(Morgan Tsvangirai, head of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party, is recovering from head wounds and other injuries after he was arrested and jailed on his way to an anti-Mugabe protest. Hundreds of protesters were badly beaten.)

Mr. Mugabe, who brands his opponents as stooges of the Western critics, warned against “monkey games.” These opponents, he said, are funding Morgan Tsvangirai to replace him through “violent terrorist acts”. Source: Comments at a youth rally of Mr. Mugabe’s ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front) Harare headquarters on March 17, 2007

\* \* \*

“Tsvangirai, you want to rule this country on behalf of [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair. As long as I am alive, that will never happen.” Source: Comments at ZANU-PF Party Headquarters, March 23, 2007

## Clean water for 6,000 in just one night

**W**hen 700 people get together in Ottawa for a cultural celebration that includes food, wine and all kinds of international flavour, they aren't just partying and experiencing other traditions. By the end of the evening, they will also have raised enough money to provide clean water and sanitation to 6,000 people – for life.

The WaterCan Embassy Dinner, now in its 13th year, has grown from its humble beginnings when it was a dinner on Parliament Hill for 250 people. In those days, it raised in the \$10,000 range. But the idea of bringing together several embassies to provide their national food and drink in an “around the world” format was a keeper and allowed it to grow to the point where, on May 4, a sold-out crowd of 700 was expected at the Aberdeen Pavilion. While Parliament Hill had a certain cachet, the venue was small and post-9/11 rules made it almost impossible to return there so the Aberdeen Pavilion became the event's new home in 2002.

Several embassies have been long-time supporters and this year's event involves some 45. Participants provide food and drink from their countries, and many also take the opportunity for some cultural outreach by showing national dress, and providing travel information. Embassies, corporate sponsors and local donors offer items for auction.

WaterCan's Jennifer Davis said the event is not only a great fundraiser for her organization, it's also an innovative



FOR THE SAKE OF WATER: WaterCan's Embassy Dinner attracts some 700 people to the Aberdeen Pavilion each May. Embassies and high commissions provide food from their countries and auction items too.

way to expose the local community to WaterCan's activities.

“Fundraising is of paramount importance but it also allows us to engage the local community,” Ms. Davis said. “We get new volunteers this way, we get new board members. Five of our board members actually came to us through the Embassy Dinner. So you get those benefits as well.”

WaterCan, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, exists to provide clean drinking water to the world's poorest people and many of the countries that participate in the dinner are actually recipients of the organization's help. Since 1987, it has helped more than one million people in 32 developing countries and currently has projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. All of its projects are sustainable because they involve the

local communities and partners on the ground, Ms. Davis said.

### EMBASSY DINNER STANDOUTS

- The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States has been involved from Day One by providing a food booth full of its delicacies, and donating items to the event's auctions.
- The Embassy of Egypt got involved five years ago and supports the event by providing nosh and donating an auctioned-off dinner for 10 at the ambassador's home. The dinner always captures a handsome price.
- A newer entrant to the event is the Embassy of Sudan. Ms. Davis said embassy officials approached her and wanted to get involved because they had heard it was the “premier embassy event in Ottawa.”

DYANNE WILSON



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## Water: A source of peace in the Middle East



**FIRST NAME:** Alan

**LAST NAME:** Baker

**CITIZENSHIP:** Israeli

**PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS  
AMBASSADOR:** Sept. 27, 2004

**OTHER PROFESSIONS:** Eight years  
as legal adviser to Israel's  
foreign affairs ministry; 30  
years drafting peace treaties

In Canada, water is a natural and readily available commodity. It flows from the faucet into the sink, toilet, bath or shower as a matter of course and without much thought by its users. Water exists in Canada's thousands of lakes and rivers, or in the snow that bedeviled us over the winter.

With Canada's abundance of water, one may overlook a very basic truth of life's sustainability. We can live without many things – diamonds, gold, zinc, oil and other minerals and resources – but we can't live without water.

The Middle East sits on the edge of a desert belt, so water supplies are at the best of times low, and within 20 years, fresh water will hardly be available for domestic usage. Global warming, low rainfall and overtaxing of aquifers will make it necessary to recycle sewage and desalinate brackish and sea water, or create alternative means of producing rain.

The Middle East water shortage is neither political nor ideological, but socio-economic. Water does not recognize conflicts; it does not observe treaties or ceasefires. It is neither Muslim, Christian nor Jewish. Water does not observe United Nations resolutions. It just flows – or it doesn't.

Necessity and scarcity have forced Israel and its neighbours to acknowledge that while they may argue and even fight over many issues, no one can emerge victorious over water. So we have to approach the problem from a multilateral, pragmatic approach. In the early 1960s, after tensions generated by Syrian attempts to block the sources of the Jordan

River and prevent Israel's supply of water, United States engineer Eric Johnston shuttled back and forth and adapted a de facto allotment of the waters of the Jordan-Yarmouq River Basin between Syria, Jordan (including the West Bank), and Israel. Despite

the refusal of the Arab states to sign any agreement with Israel, this "Johnston Plan" nevertheless served as a valid arrangement for 40 years, until overtaken by the Jordan-Israel 1994 Peace Treaty. This contains a special annex devoted to water, establishing a bilateral regime for regulating summer and winter flows, storage and counter-pollution measures.

Similarly, the 1995 Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement ("Oslo II") acknowledged

joint pollution prevention.

The 1991 Madrid Middle East Peace Conference established a Multilateral Water Resources Working Group chaired by the U.S., with Japan and the EU as co-organizers. This group has undertaken several projects, with the participation and cooperation of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, such as establishing a regional water data bank, a regional desalination research center in Oman, public awareness and conservation.

The Jordan River, the lowest river in the world and holy to all three monotheistic religions, is of tremendous natural, historical, cultural, ecological and archeological significance. Joint teams of Jordanians, Palestinians and Israeli researchers and experts, with UNESCO and the EU, are working together to save the river from pollution and damage. Similarly, Israeli and Palestinian researchers, funded by regional cooperation agencies and international development aid, are monitoring restoration strategies for other rivers and streams flowing between the Palestinian



**ESSENTIAL TECHNOLOGY:** Desalination plants, such as the Ashkelon Desalination Plant pictured here, are necessary to supply Israelis with water in the desert region.

Palestinian water rights and set out an Israeli-Palestinian supervisory regime for fresh water management, sewage control and sustainable usage of the available resources. In these instruments, the Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians acknowledged the dire shortage of water and the need to develop additional sources through regional and international cooperation and

areas and Israel, such as the Alexander stream, highly polluted by industrial and urban waste flowing from the West Bank town of Nablus to its estuary close to the Israeli town of Netanyah, and the ailing Hebron river, passing the West Bank town of Hebron, flowing through the southern Israeli town of Beer Sheba and on to Gaza and the sea.



Israel is using its technological expertise to construct a state-of-the-art sea-water reverse-osmosis desalination facility capable of providing consumers – throughout the region and not just in Israel – with millions of cubic meters of desalinated water. Similarly, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority are cooperating in a project to pump water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, within the framework of an “economic peace corridor” that will extend northwards to the Yarmouq River, intended to turn the Middle East into an area of cooperation, economic development, prosperity and stability. Additionally, following an initial agreement between Israel and Turkey, consultations are underway to pipe fresh water from Turkey under the Mediterranean Sea through an “energy corridor” that will ultimately include other means of energy, for use both in the Middle East and beyond.

Other Israeli developments include producing rain in sub-tropical areas during cloudless summer months by altering air currents, using a unique thermal material that would radiate water vapour back into the air to reheat the lower atmosphere and form clouds and out-of-season rain.

With a view to concentrating international attention to this and other considerable technological opportunities to deal with the regional water shortage, Israel will be hosting the 4th International Water and Technology Week (WATEC) in November 2007 in Tel Aviv. This will provide an opportunity for meeting, discussion, research and business cooperation between Israeli and overseas companies, research institutions and experts. Participants will visit Israel’s desalination plant, and will discuss hi-tech irrigation methods, waste-water re-usage systems, water management and solar technologies.

With such an immense challenge to the sustainability and maintenance of life due to the lack of fresh water, the countries and peoples of the Middle East are bridging the political and historical gaps between them. They have no choice. Water won’t wait for peace to emerge. But through obliging the states and peoples to work together, it is serving as a factor in generating peace, *bon-voisinage* and mutual respect.

Time - and water - will tell if we will succeed.

Alan Baker is Israel’s ambassador to Canada.

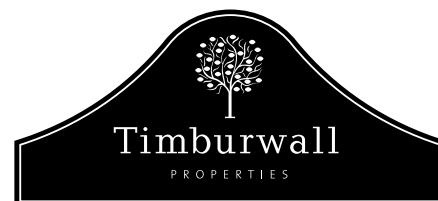
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## On protocol, the court of St. James and El Salvador

**Mauricio Rosales Rivera began his posting in Canada on May 1, 1996, straight from a posting in Brussels, and before that, Britain, where he was dean of the diplomatic corps.**

**He became dean of the Canadian diplomatic corps last fall when Costa Rican Ambassador Carlos Miranda retired. He spoke to *Diplomat's* Jennifer Campbell about the job and about his future.**

**Diplomat magazine:** You became the dean of the diplomatic corps in September. Describe the job.

**Mauricio Rosales Rivera:** The dean is in some way a product of protocol. You have to have some order where everyone feels no country is ahead of the other. You have to have some criteria and the criteria is who's been here the longest. In the international world, whether you are big or small, you are supposed to be equal. When the prime minister has a party, someone has to meet the prime minister first. It's done in order of precedence so it's I first, and then Guyana, etc. (Canadian protocol officials) line us all up. For me, it's only the merit of time.

**DM:** Do you line up for the governor general too?

**MR:** Sometimes the office of the governor general does it, too, but lately, she hasn't. It depends on the style of the governor general. (Michaëlle Jean) tends to have everyone in a room and then she comes in and starts greeting people. Mrs. Clarkson would tend to have proper lines and she would greet us.

**DM:** This isn't the first time you've been dean – you've done this before.

**MR:** Yes. I was in the United Kingdom and I stayed for some time also and I reached first the dean of the Latin American group and then I was the dean of the whole court of St. James. Over there, protocol is more respected because it's a (royal) court.

**DM:** So you met the Queen several times. What was your impression?

**MR:** For me, she was very kind. As an example, before I became dean, I was in-

vited to Windsor Castle. They said it was not completely formal but over there, even informal is black tie. The Prime Minister (John Major) was invited, and the Archbishop of London, and one of the rectors of the university – very important people. They sat me on the left side of the Queen and John Major was on her right side. In front was Prince Philip and my wife. It was a long table. At the end of the dinner, someone from protocol said the Queen wanted to take a walk with me. She had a display and in the display, there were some objects from the previous century from El Salvador. There was a coin that said "Salvador." The Queen asked me about this. I explained that this was the name of my country before 1821. Then she had the letters of credence of the first minister plenipotentiary of my country. I explained the name of that person and that he used to be one of the important people in El Salvador when he was the consul-general in Switzerland. He helped a lot of people who were persecuted at that time. She didn't know anything about him but she was curious. It felt, in a way, like I was being tested. And I suppose I passed. I was only the dean of the diplomatic corps in London for one year and then I left for Brussels.

**DM:** Your country seems to like to send you on long postings.

**MR:** Generally, we say we should be posted for five or six years. I was in London for eight years and I've been in Canada for 10 years. So I'm probably in my second term here. Before I went to London, I was mostly involved in multilateral diplomacy because I was at the UN. It was during the time that El Salvador had social turmoil. We were undergoing very difficult times. I was there for six years between 1980 and 1986. That was my second posting at the UN.

**DM:** How does Canada rate among your postings?

**MR:** I like it a lot. It's a beautiful country, it's safe. We are very happy here. I go home two or three times a year and my family isn't far. My son lives in Vermont and my daughter is a lawyer and works in New York City. So for me, it's convenient to have my children near here. And my son has a son and daughter, so my grandchildren are near, too.

**DM:** Do the regional deans get together very often?

**MR:** Yes, we meet regularly – every three months – with the protocol office. There’s the dean of Caribbean (represented by the high commissioner of Guyana), Middle East (United Arab Emirates), Africa (Togo), Europe (Holy See), Latin America (Paraguay), Asia (Malaysia). It’s a way to prepare future events or to discuss projects. Last time we discussed where the diplomatic forum will take place. This year, it’s St. Andrews in New Brunswick in early September. If we have complaints or concerns, we express them. Then the deans take the information back to the members of their regional group. The Latin American group meets once a month.

**DM:** What else does the dean do?

**MR:** Sometimes you have to make reply speeches at official dinners. Or you might be called to Parliament to sit in the special visitors section and be acknowledged. I was invited to the swearing-in of the new cabinet.

**DM:** Do you go to many receptions?

**MR:** I intend to go to every national day. I believe that it’s part of my responsibility. But there are times when I’m away and I can’t go.

**DM:** What’s the most impressive reception you’ve attended as dean?

**MR:** When the new government was sworn in, I’d say that’s probably it. Every time they open a new parliament, I’m asked to be there.

**DM:** How many heads of state have you met over the years?

**MR:** I presented credentials to the King of Sweden, the King of Norway, and while I was at the UN, I met several heads of state. I once met Mr. Castro at a meeting of the non-aligned movement. We talked a little bit.

**DM:** We should also touch on El Salvador. At this point in its history, what’s the single biggest problem facing your country?

**MR:** We have to advance our socio-economic concerns. We have to feel that the people in El Salvador have the means for fulfilling their own desires. We have advanced a lot in the political field after we signed the peace accord. Now we have a government in which the opposition is very strong in Parliament. Relations with Canada are good. I hope (our) foreign affairs minister will visit Canada this year.

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Ottawa research scientist Bruce Clements

JANA CHYTILOVA

# CANADA GETS A SHOT AT CHANGING THE WORLD



Canadian scientist Bruce Clements and U.S. inventor Alex Fassbender can make coal behave itself – by keeping it under constant pressure, writes **Neil Reynolds**. The technology could restore the reputation of the world's most abundant fossil fuel.

*Bells Corners, Ottawa*

**A**pproach the compound on an overcast day in spring and you can't escape the sense that you are entering a classified place in a prohibited time. You are 10 minutes from downtown Ottawa, passing through vaguely inhospitable terrain – scrub land, stunted cedars and hardwoods. Even in the distance, beyond the fences and fields, you can for a few minutes see no evidence of human habitation.

You reach a security gate that divides the roadway, exit your car and enter a guard house that looks like Checkpoint

Charlie. Uniformed personnel trade a plastic security card for your driver's licence. On the wall, a map sites 19 buildings that form an imperfect semi-circle around an old quarry. In the old days, they used its sandstone to build the Centre Block on Parliament Hill – though they went to Ohio and Vermont for the decorative stone. Another wall sign prohibits cameras. Through the windows, you glimpse distant concrete towers rising windowless above the trees.

You go to Building 3, the numerical manner in which all the fortress structures are identified. Here you meet Bruce

R. Clements, the federal scientist responsible for research into advanced combustion technologies, the efficient burning of things for prime energy. Mr. Clements leads you to Building 4, next door, where a rambling series of high-ceiling rooms are connected by narrow walkways and filled with pipes, wires and tubes that incoherently service experimental furnaces. They're as small as parlour stoves and as large as a four-storey house. Building 4 is explosion-proof.

Here is an odd-shaped furnace used to burn muck for the analysis of the infamous Sydney tar ponds. Here is a hori-

zontal furnace used to calculate the impact of cross-current winds on the distribution of flue gases from oil wells, a memento of Wiebo Ludwig, the evangelical Alberta farmer who declared war on the oil patch for poisoning his soil and killing his cattle. Here is Canada's only experimental high-pressure gasifier, a cylindrical furnace 10 inches in diameter, five feet in height, surrounded by a thick tube of stainless steel. It subjects coal to extraordinary pressure, turning it into gas, forcing it to release its energy in ways it never has before – notwithstanding the fact that humans have burned coal for thousands of years.

Forbidding as it looks from the outside, the sprawling research compound here at the federal government's Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology in Bells Corners is one of the finest in the world. It has some of the best pilot-plant facilities in North America and it houses most of the advanced coal research done in Canada. It has laboratories capable of breakthrough advances in technology. It has scientists capable of making them happen.

We're back at Building 3. It was here that Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn discreetly discussed in mid-January, with Environment Minister John Baird at his side, a breakthrough in clean-coal technology that could change Canadian history and perhaps world history, too.

"There's exciting promise in coal," Mr. Lunn said. "They're doing research [here], right now, today, where they can remove 90 per cent of the pollutants from coal-fired electricity generation. You combine that with carbon capture and storage to take out all of the greenhouse gas emissions – there's enormous promise here.

"When you speak to the scientists, they believe that we can get to zero-emissions coal-fired technology. We should be open to that. Carbon capture and storage has enormous potential in places like the oil sands where there are high concentrations of greenhouse gases, where we can take those gases, capture them, put them into a pipe and put them deep down in the earth's crust where they came from.

"This is an opportunity where we really want to focus our research money."

Mr. Lunn could not have more precisely described the dramatic advance in clean-coal technology proven here at the federal lab – a revolutionary coal-fired combustion process code-named TIPS (Thermo-energy Integrated Power System). In the lab, TIPS delivers clean coal.

It delivers CO<sub>2</sub>, coal's greenhouse gas emissions, cleansed and ready for underground sequestration. It delivers this perfect package at a price that blows away the competition. And it does it in a furnace only one-tenth the size of conventional coal furnaces.

Judging by all the analysis and tests so far, a TIPS coal-fired electrical generation plant could fit comfortably into urban or suburban streetscapes. It sounds too good to be true. But Bruce Clements, a classically understated Canadian scientist, says it's for real. "This is huge," he says. "This is a step change."

Trust the scientist to be precise. In colloquial language, a "step change" means an important change. In scientific language, it means a paradigm shift. It means a quantum leap. It means going forward and never going back. Mr. Clements chooses his words very carefully. He repeats them. "This is huge," he says. "This is a step change."

He reflects on his 16 years as a research

scientist in what his business card calls "combustion optimization" with Natural Resources at the Bells Corners compound. "I've had my share of achievements," he says. "I've never had anything like this. This is a life's work."

Mr. Clements, 50, is a hometown Ottawa boy who earned his engineering degrees at the University of Ottawa and who has spent his entire 27-year career working around Ottawa. He's a family man, married to Diane, with three children, Carolyn, Brian and Eric. He has a dog, a black Lab named Kobi. In his pitifully cramped office in Building 2, the screensaver on his computer rotates pictures of his family and his cottage on Black Lake near Perth. He knows that wood stoves in the country aren't environmentally correct these days but he occasionally burns wood anyway. He's more than science. He's romance, too. He used to have his own band that played Ottawa Valley hotels. Rock. Jazz. Lounge music. He played piano and sax.

Mr. Clements works with two young

Inventor of a revolutionary advance in coal-fired power generation, U.S. chemical engineer Alex Fassbender has teamed with Natural Resources Canada to test and evaluate the new technology. Last year, Mr. Fassbender toured the Maritime provinces on his BMW motorcycle.





JANA CHYTILOVA

Research scientists Bruce Clements, Richard Pomalis and Ligang Zheng form the team that tested and assessed breakthrough coal-combustion technology at the secluded Bells Corners laboratory compound operated by Natural Resources Canada.

engineers whom he describes as brilliant – Richard Pomalis and Ligang Zheng. The three scientists are together, along with three other men, in a photograph taken last year at a signal moment for TIPS in Boston (see page 10). The Canadians had driven down together – taking eight hours, yes, but saving travel money – to meet three Americans: Alex Fassbender, Herman De Meyer and Gregory McRae. Mr. Fassbender is the scientist and inventor who devised the basic TIPS process and who holds the patents on it. He teamed with Mr. Clements when he found that Bells Corners was the only research lab in the world that could properly test his innovations.

Mr. Fassbender, 53, is an interesting and imposing character. At 6' 2", he towers over his companions in the photograph. In early March, he drove his limited-edition 2003 eight-cylinder silver Volkswagen through fierce snowstorms from Boston to Bells Corners to meet with Mr. Clements. Why drive? Because it cost him less than flying – thrifty people, these

scientists – and because he loves to drive his very-rare car. Now executive vice-president of a company called ThermoEnergy Corporation, based near Boston, he started his career at Pacific Northwest Laboratories, a U.S. national research lab near Seattle. He loves Vancouver. He's thinking of moving north permanently.

Mr. Fassbender got his degree in chemical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in 1976 – a time and place where he could catch such lecturers as Edward Teller of hydrogen bomb fame, and Glenn Seaborg, Nobel Prize winner (chemistry) in 1951 and later science adviser to several U.S. presidents. Mr. Fassbender has an MBA among his post-graduate degrees.

Herman De Meyer and Gregory McRae, the other two men in the Boston photograph, are scientists with international reputations who spent a full day grilling Mr. Clements and Mr. Fassbender on the TIPS technology. For Mr. Clements and Mr. Fassbender, it was a kind of final exam. Dr. McRae was a member of a

panel of scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which, in mid-March, published a definitive report on the future of coal – where it's going and how it's going to get there. Headed by chemical engineer John Deutch (a former director of the CIA in the 1990s) and physicist Ernest Moniz (an undersecretary of energy in the 1990s), the MIT team concluded its report succinctly: "Coal use will increase under any foreseeable scenario because it is cheap and it is abundant."

Dr. De Meyer and Dr. McRae grilled Mr. Fassbender, Mr. Clements, Mr. Poma-

THE TECHNOLOGY USES PRESSURIZED OXYGEN TO ACHIEVE HIGH COMBUSTION EFFICIENCY, NEAR-ZERO EMISSION OF POLLUTANTS AND CARBON CAPTURE. IT CAN HANDLE A WIDE RANGE OF FUELS, INCLUDING HIGH-MOISTURE COAL AND BIOMASS. THE TECHNOLOGY DOWNSIZES THE COAL AND VENTS NOTHING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

lis and Mr. Zheng for hours. When they finished, they gave the team and the technology a thumbs-up. TIPS had aced its final exam. All that remained now was to build the demo plant and find out if TIPS functions in real-life as it does in theoretical modeling and in experimental testing.

Mr. Clements wasn't surprised by the passing grade. He and his team had analyzed the technology thoroughly – and independently. He had calculated more

efficiencies than Mr. Fassbender himself had conceived. Further, he had concluded that no significant technical barriers existed to building a demonstration plant. Based on Mr. Clements' findings, Mr. Fassbender expects to have a large-scale, carbon-capture commercial power plant under way within two years, preferably in Canada – which really means Bells Corners. Mr. Clements' exhaustive 200-page report on Mr. Fassbender's technology identifies TIPS as potentially the most competitive new power plant (with CO<sub>2</sub> capture) in the world.

The technology uses pressurized oxygen to achieve high combustion efficiency, near-zero emission of pollutants and carbon capture. It can handle a wide range of fuels, including high-moisture coal and biomass. Coal is inherently dirty and big. With Mr. Fassbender's technology, it gets cleaned, squeezed and compacted. In the end, the technology downsizes the coal and vents nothing into the atmosphere.

In basic ways, Mr. Fassbender's model uses the same methodology that James Watts used in the 18th century. You pulverize coal into particles as fine as talcum powder, then burn it in a furnace surrounded by pipes filled with water. You direct the steam into off-the-shelf turbines that spin to produce electricity. In conventional coal furnaces, though, you captured the pollutants – or not – as they exited the smokestack. In TIPS technology, there's no smokestack.

In other ways, TIPS introduces unique adaptations. First, you begin to cleanse the coal before you burn it. In a separate facility alongside the furnace, you take room-pressure air and put it under pressure. Lots of pressure. Air pressure in a car tire is 30 pounds per square inch (psi). Air pressure in Mr. Fassbender's entry chamber is 1,250 psi. You separate the pressurized air into its basic components, oxygen and nitrogen, then direct the pure oxygen into the furnace to drive the combustion.

Then you burn the coal under pressure – again, 1,250 psi. You keep the steam under pressure, too, inside tubes, typically between 2,500 psi and 3,700 psi. In the end, you have nothing left in the furnace except ash (used commercially in concrete.) You have captured the pollutants – sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter – in the hot exhaust from the furnace. You pass these fumes through a condensing heat exchanger

“where,” as Mr. Fassbender puts it, “the magic happens.” From this condensation, you get very hot water – the water content of the coal itself, the water produced by combustion. At 400 degrees Fahrenheit, the water is a significant energy source of its own. “It's what the [high] pressure buys you,” Mr. Fassbender says. “It means that the pressure pays for itself.”

When the exhaust fumes release the water, they release the rest of the pollutants with it. You direct some of the CO<sub>2</sub> back to the furnace to exploit the residual

BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME  
ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURES  
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BENDER THINKS THAT IT  
CAN FIT COMFORTABLY  
INTO LARGE CITIES

energy left in it. You cool the rest of the CO<sub>2</sub>, still under pressure, to 87 degrees Fahrenheit – when it turns into a liquid. You further cleanse the liquid CO<sub>2</sub>, an easy process now because it's so compacted. Think of a CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge for an air gun, Mr. Fassbender says. Then think of a garbage can. The cartridge holds under pressure the same volume of gas as the garbage can.

Because of the extreme atmospheric pressures used in the process, Mr. Fassbender's generating plant can be 10 times smaller than conventional plants. Mr. Fassbender thinks that it can fit comfortably into large cities – any place, actually, served by a railway line. “A conventional 500 megawatt plant has to be built in the hinterland,” Mr. Fassbender says, “and you lose four per cent of your electricity from the transmission lines.” He says the CO<sub>2</sub> can be moved to its sequestration site either as a compressed liquid or as a compressed gas. Mr. Clements, on the other

hand, says the TIPS generating plants should be built near sequestration sites – moving the electricity rather than the CO<sub>2</sub>, which stays buried because it's heavier than air.

Clean-coal furnaces have existed for a decade or more, some more sophisticated than others. In its earliest form, chemical “scrubbers” captured pollutants – some quite successfully – as they vented from smokestacks. In advanced form, the furnace converts coal into a synthetic gas (“syngas”), which gets directed into a giant turbine to make electricity. The heat generated in this process gets recycled and powers a second turbine. In this technology, known as IGCC (for integrated gasification combined cycle), most pollutants never reach the smokestack. They are retrieved from the syngas, processed and packaged for commercial uses. The first of these IGCC power plants went into production in 1996 in Florida's Polk County – and has powered the Pirates of the Caribbean at Disney World in Orlando with clean electricity ever since.

The IGCC power plants are impressive things, and are widely considered the best bet of the clean-coal technologies that are already operational. Mr. Clements and Mr. Fassbender hold different opinions on them. Mr. Clements supports the technology, notwithstanding his conviction that TIPS is superior. “I am more of a believer,” he says, “in a diverse power-generation portfolio.” Mr. Fassbender thinks that IGCCs will soon become anachronisms. They can capture CO<sub>2</sub>, he says, only if you turn them into “chemical factories.” The scientists agree, though, that IGCCs are complex, expensive to build and costly to operate.

CANMET scientists have worked for years on IGCC technologies and will continue to do so. Mr. Clements observes that the IGCC technology can turn coal into either a liquid fuel (which can run cars) or a gas (which can turn turbines and make electricity). “In the U.S., this could be very important,” he says, “in decreasing the country's dependence on foreign fuel supplies.” Mr. Fassbender's design produces electricity. Its contribution as a vehicular fuel would probably be for gas-electric hybrids. In its favour, TIPS doesn't need the giant turbines that the IGCC plants require, a huge saving in capital and operating costs, and uses off-the-shelf turbines instead. And it captures the CO<sub>2</sub> without incurring extra expense.





A snapshot from the “final exam” for inventor Alex Fassbender (third from right), Ottawa research scientist Bruce Clements (right) and team members Richard Pomalis (second from right) and Ligang Zheng (left). The examiners: Gregory McRae (second from left) and Herman De Meyer (third from left). Dr. McRae is a professor of chemical engineering at MIT, an adviser to the U.S. clean-coal research program and a member of two Environmental Protection Agency review panels and the U.S. Department of Energy’s science advisory board for advanced scientific computing. Dr. De Meyer is a process simulation expert with a British company, Reaction Systems Engineering. He was once chief process development engineer with Bayer Chemicals in Belgium. The “exam” took place in Boston shortly before Christmas.

It was the Clements team that discovered the magnitude of Mr. Fassbender’s innovations. “They had never been quantified,” Mr. Clements says. “Therefore, the significance [of the TIPS process] had been underestimated.” Mr. Clements finished this “quantification process” just before Christmas 2006. “It was then that we started to get excited,” Mr. Clements recalls. “We hadn’t realized what we were sitting on.” At almost the last moment, they recognized that a TIPS furnace could indeed be one-tenth the size of a conventional furnace, “which excited us even more.” Coal-fired power plants, as now constructed, are bigger than high-rise apartment buildings; small power plants would represent a huge economy.

Mr. Clements and his team have confirmed that the TIPS steam cycle operates with a boiler efficiency eight per cent better than conventional systems. It incurs much less thermal loss. It increases power output by eight per cent. It eliminates the need for auxiliary power required by other sequestration technologies, saving an additional 10 per cent of power output. The list of incremental cost-savings goes on. Add it all up and TIPS promises clean coal at a bargain price, compared to conventional coal plants, with CO<sub>2</sub> capture thrown in free.

By Mr. Clements’ calculations, TIPS

can deliver pollution-free electricity for less than eight cents per kilowatt hour – and ultimately, for a large-scale commercial operation, by significantly less than eight cents. In comparison, Ontario (which markets electricity for less than it costs to produce) sells electricity for as little as 5.8 cents per kWh and as much 9.7 cents for peak-demand consumption. New Brunswick sells electricity for 9.2 cents per kWh. The U.S. sells electricity – this is the national average in 2006 – for 9.8 U.S. cents per kWh. (New York State charges 14 cents per kWh.)

These prices illuminate the economic difference that this technology can make. In a special report on clean energy, *Canadian Business* magazine reported in February that today’s cost of producing clean-coal electricity runs as much as 50 per cent more than conventional methods. Malcolm Wilson, director of CO<sub>2</sub> management with the University of Regina-based Energy Innovation Network, observed that the technology existed to develop clean-coal electricity at a competitive price. He added: “What we need now is the next step.”

Or the next step change.

**F**ossil fuels provide as much as 80 per cent of the world’s supply of primary energy – and coal (25 per cent) isn’t

far behind oil (35 per cent). Natural gas provides 20 per cent. All the other fuels, together, supply 20 per cent – nuclear, 6.5 per cent; hydro, 2.2 per cent; biomass, 11.1 per cent; solar, wind and geothermal, 0.4 per cent. The MIT report says these percentages aren’t going to change anytime soon.

Canada and the U.S. have coal reserves that will last for hundreds of years. China and India have comparable levels. As a result, coal will probably provide twice as much energy in 2100 as it does now, the MIT report says – regardless whether it’s dirty or clean. Thus the fundamental energy challenge of the 21st century is to make it clean, at an economic price.

Bruce Clements first encountered Alex Fassbender six years ago. Intrigued by his concepts but skeptical, he analyzed them on his own initiative. One by one, the Fassbender concepts checked out. A year ago, the two men and their respective organizations formed a partnership – the public/private model that Natural Resources Canada research labs use all the time. (Mr. Fassbender’s ThermoEnergy Corporation is based in the Massachusetts town of Hudson, population 20,000). Mr. Clements is now ready to build a demo plant on the Bells Corners compound. He needs four or five years and \$12 million, a pittance in terms of the energy-research expenditures now under way in Canada and around the world.

It is possible that the Fassbender-Clements coal-fired generating station won’t work as the two men think it will. It is reasonably possible, though, that it will. As Mr. Clements observes, Mr. Fassbender can take his aspirations back south of the border whenever he hits a dead end in Canada. With the Fassbender-Clements partnership, Canada has a good shot at introducing a world-changing technology. It would be a shame to let it slip away – though not, regrettably, an unprecedented shame.

Right here in Building 4, Minister Lunn, is a good place to invest a small part of the research money you mentioned the other day. And right now. Bruce Clements believes that Alex Fassbender’s radical clean-coal technology could put Canada in the forefront of clean-energy technology, carbon dioxide capture – and cheap power. Deep down, he’s convinced. All he needs is a chance to prove it.

Award-winning journalist Neil Reynolds is publisher of *Diplomat*.

# Climate Change and the Errors of Conventional Wisdom

The more energy people save, writes **Mark Jaccard**, the more energy-dependent gadgets they buy. That's why a reduction in greenhouse gases won't necessarily reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.



COVER OF SUSTAINABLE FOSSIL FUELS, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2006

**H**umanity has reached greater awareness that its greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuel combustion, pose a risk to the climate. This awareness should be good news – no action can come without it. But a rigorous, unbiased approach to reducing greenhouse gases can challenge the conventional wisdom in several ways, and understanding such challenges is a prerequisite to success.

First, societies absolutely must enact policies that financially penalize or constrain by regulation greenhouse gas emis-

sions. In a market economy, if the atmosphere continues to be treated as a free waste receptacle for emissions, the invention of new devices to burn fossil fuels and the increased use of existing fossil fuel-based technologies will always outpace subsidies and public persuasion to encourage lower-emission buildings, equipment, factories and vehicles. Every subsidy for a higher efficiency gas fireplace is matched by more gas-fired outdoor patio heaters, outdoor Jacuzzis, and who knows what future greenhouse-gas emitting gadgets.

This was true during the past two decades of Canadian policies to reduce GHG emissions, which is why they kept rising. It will be true in future if political leaders remain captive to the Canadian policy myth in which advertisements cajole Canadians to act on their own or get in line for the latest subsidy. It is very simple. If anyone says he is against emission taxes or absolute emissions caps, it's safe to say he is against doing anything about greenhouse gas emissions.

Second, we need to understand that humans will prefer paying for clean en-

ergy before they agree to use less energy. The conventional wisdom is, “Do energy efficiency first, as it is the cheapest and easiest.” No. Energy efficiency is much more expensive than its advocates have been telling us. The most efficient technologies are usually the newest, meaning that they also have higher failure risk. They need to work for a long time to pay back the extra up-front investment. But efficient light bulbs break just as easily as wasteful light bulbs. This makes them a riskier investment.

But in addition to these cost and risk factors, energy-efficient technologies have feedbacks that offset in part their potential savings. More efficient devices have lower operating costs, which encourages more use or the development of related devices. Utilities encouraged people to buy efficient Christmas lights. Great, but now people decorate their houses with efficient Halloween lights, efficient Valentine’s Day lights, efficient Thanksgiving lights. For these and other reasons, future Canadian energy use is likely to be equal or greater than it is today, even if we have dramatically reduced emissions.

Third, if we do finally get the policies

right – ones that focus on emissions rather than energy use – we will be surprised to find that reducing greenhouse gas emissions does not mean using less fossil fuels. When we reduced sulphur emissions from coal-fired electricity generation, this did not decrease electricity use. When we reduced nitrous oxide and lead emissions from vehicles, this did not decrease fossil fuel use. Greenhouse gas emissions reduction will not be any different. Humans will figure out how to use energy more cleanly before they stop using energy.

Take coal. This most plentiful fossil fuel is distributed throughout the world, and is the dominant energy resource in China, India, the United States and even Russia – despite all its oil and natural gas.

In many parts of the world, GHG emissions can be reduced, not by switching from fossil fuels to nuclear, renewables or more energy efficiency, but by capturing and storing underground the CO<sub>2</sub> generated by burning coal. We can extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the flue gas of a coal-fired electricity plant. Or, we can gasify coal, strip CO<sub>2</sub> from the resulting gas stream in order to produce a hydrogen-

rich mixture that can be burned to produce electricity, and ship the CO<sub>2</sub> byproduct to underground storage.

People have been injecting CO<sub>2</sub> underground for a long time – into aging oil reservoirs to push out extra oil, for example. It has been injected into deep saline aquifers to get rid of it along with its associated hydrogen sulphide from natural gas wells. Alberta alone has more than 50 such sites, all of them meeting strict regulations, approved under the public eye.

Success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions requires that we challenge conventional wisdom. Rapidly and economically reducing emissions needs policies that prohibit atmosphere dumping of CO<sub>2</sub>. With these policies in place, we might be surprised to find that we use more energy in future, even more fossil fuels, yet our energy system gets cleaner.

Mark Jaccard is professor of resource and environmental management at Simon Fraser University. His *Sustainable Fossil Fuels* (2006) won the Donner Prize. *Hot Air: Meeting Canada’s Climate Challenge*, with Jeffrey Simpson, is to be published in September by McClelland and Stewart.

## Seeking an Enduring Substitute

Excerpts from *Sustainable Fossil Fuels* by Mark Jaccard

*What is energy sustainability?*

Our energy system appears unsustainable because it is 85 per cent based on fossil fuels, which are both non-renewable and polluting. A sustainable energy system should meet humanity’s essential energy needs indefinitely, cleanly and at a reasonable cost. Even with major efficiency efforts, the essential needs for the expanding population of the developing world imply a three- to four-fold expansion of the global energy system over this century. While nothing lasts forever, energy supplies must be plentiful and, if they are depletable, must offer a relatively smooth transition to an enduring substitute – which renewable energies and perhaps nuclear energy can one day provide for fossil fuels.

*What about energy efficiency?*

Advocates of energy efficiency emphasize its role in reducing our need for primary energy. Unfortunately, these advocates tend to ignore rigorous research showing that gains in efficiency make energy more attractive to businesses and consumers for satisfying new needs and perceived wants.

This explains the close connection between economic growth and energy consumption of the past two centuries and the difficulty of disconnecting these two for long periods of time without recourse to politically unpopular policies like strict regulations and significant energy tax increases.

*How long can fossil fuels last – and does it matter?*

When coal is included, there are perhaps 1,000 years of fossil fuels remaining at today’s use rates and almost 500 years if consumption grows as in current trends projection. If the appraisal includes gas hydrates and geopressurized gas, the estimated fossil fuel resource more than doubles. Gasoline is currently produced from oil sands and coal at production costs that are competitive when the conventional crude oil price is \$35 a barrel.

This reality belies the recent wave of books suggesting that a peak in global production of “conventional oil” will lead to astronomical energy prices and economic cataclysm. Even when these other fossil fuel alternatives to conventional oil are depleted centuries hence, it will matter little if there are ready substitutes to which the global energy system can make transition.

*Can we use fossil fuels cleanly?*

Although fossil fuels have long been associated with various types of pollution, humans have had substantial success in reducing the negative impacts and risks. But there are still large challenges ahead as a growing energy system threatens to swamp previous gains. Motivated by these concerns, technologists are assessing the prospects for zero-emission uses of fossil fuels, in which natural gas, plentiful coal and perhaps oil are converted without combustion into electricity, hydrogen and cleaner-burning synthetic fuels.

*Sustainable Fossil Fuels* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2006.

# The race for renewable energy

Five associations tell us what they can achieve by 2010 and 2020 — and why they're not doing more.



ISTOCK PHOTO

**A** Massachusetts Institute of Technology report in March told us fossil fuels will continue to be “it” sources of energy for the next few decades. But given the anxieties and hype in these days of enviro-everything – right down to the green scarves worn by Stephane Dion’s team during the Liberal leadership convention in December—*Diplomat* checked in with some of the country’s renewable and alternative energy associations to see what they’re planning.

Below we report what they had to say about their members’ prospects.

For context, currently fossil fuels supply 80 per cent of the world’s energy. Nuclear stations generate 6.5 per cent, hydro 2.2 per cent; and biomass, 11 per cent. Solar, wind and geothermal sources together register a mere 0.4 per cent.

## WIND TURBINES ON THE HORIZON

### What can you achieve in the next three years?

Canada has about 1,500 megawatts of installed wind energy capacity right now. Another 2,400 megawatts of new capacity is contracted to be installed by 2010. And

several jurisdictions are in the pre-contract stage for further installations by 2010. So we believe Canada could well have 5,000 megawatts of installed wind energy capacity by 2010, enough to meet the annual power needs of 1.5 million homes.

### What can you achieve by 2020?

Provincial governments are aiming to develop a minimum 10,000 megawatts of wind energy by 2015, equivalent to almost five per cent of Canada’s total electricity demand at that time. Few jurisdictions have plans beyond 2015, although the Ontario Power Authority wants 5,000 megawatts of wind energy in Ontario by 2020. With Canada’s wind resource, we can do much more. Germany, Spain and Denmark already produce enough wind energy to meet between eight and 20 per cent of their electricity demands.

### What is the greatest barrier to your technology?

The biggest challenge is not having a stable policy framework (federal, provincial and municipal), and effective and ef-

ficient permit and approval processes. The country must also invest in new transmission infrastructure with renewable energy sources in mind. Finally, all stakeholders must have quality, factual information when considering wind energy proposals.

– Canadian Wind Energy Association

## WAVE AND TIDAL POWER

### What can you achieve by 2010?

Tidal stream development projects will go ahead in the Bay of Fundy and in British Columbia. These are likely to be single modules with capacity of up to three megawatts or combinations of smaller modules with similar capacity. A number of off-grid tidal operations will be deployed for remote communities, including large projects for northern Canada and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

By 2010, we’ll be on target for 50 megawatts of wave and tidal stream. Larger independent power producers and utilities will develop plans for larger 20- to 100-megawatt farms. We will have several Canadian technology manufacturers and we’ll be manufacturing two European technologies for North America.

**What can you achieve by 2020?**

We'll have 1,000 megawatts of wave power on the B.C. coast and plans for wave farm development in Nova Scotia. We'll have 500 megawatts of tidal power in four farms in the Bay of Fundy and 25 in British Columbia. We'll also be competitive in electricity cost with wind and on track for 15,000-plus megawatts by 2050.

**What is the greatest barrier to your technology?**

Ours is not a technology, it is a resource opportunity. Our major challenge will be in achieving cost reduction through experience with pilot projects. Finance is another challenge. We have a long lead time for venture capitalists and there's uncertainty in technology choice. Competitive pricing and power quality for utilities both require government partnership in financing that shared risk.

– *The Ocean Renewable Energy Group*

**UNDERSTANDING NUCLEAR****What can you achieve in the next three years?**

In Canada, nuclear energy will continue to provide 15.5 per cent or more of the country's power including 54 per cent of Ontario's, 25 per cent of New Brunswick's and three per cent of Quebec's, all without emitting pollutants and CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

Canada will continue to be a global leader in research and innovation through nuclear technology used in medicine, industry, food, agriculture, environment, desalination of water, hydrogen research and other applications in aerospace and materials analysis.

**What can you achieve by 2020?**

By 2020, the 28 nuclear reactors currently under construction worldwide will be completed and many of the 222 reactors planned or proposed worldwide will be built or close to completion. Canada's membership in the Generation IV International Forum, where it promotes the development of nuclear energy systems and reactor designs, will be well advanced as it aims for the deployment of a fourth-generation nuclear reactor by 2025.

**What is the greatest barrier to this technology?**

Canada's nuclear industry is growing in power generation, uranium exploration, mining and milling, medicine (including regulating an 86 per cent increase in the number of cancer facilities from 2000-2004),

nuclear waste and substance management, with more on the horizon. Its challenge is to maintain its contribution while constantly being under public scrutiny. The nuclear industry must educate the public on nuclear energy – its benefits and its contributions for the future.

– *Canadian Nuclear Association*

**BIOENERGY WILL HIT 20 PER CENT****What can you achieve by 2010?**

By 2010, bioenergy, which now accounts for about six per cent of total primary energy in Canada, will jump to 10 per cent. Our current usage is mainly heat and power and that will continue. There will be construction of many new biomass co-generation plants, especially in the pulp and paper sector.

Canadian wood pellet production for export to Europe and Asia is growing. Bio-oil produced from wood fibre is just being commercialized. Grain ethanol for blending with gasoline is growing, but we'll soon likely see a transition to cellulose ethanol from straw and wood fibre which will be cheaper and more energy efficient. Canadians are starting to produce biodiesel from canola oil. We can expect to see considerable growth in the coming decade.

Canada has a new \$1.5-billion federal ecoENERGY Renewable Initiative that will likely push companies contemplating investments in biomass power generation to move sooner in order to receive the subsidy.

**What can you achieve by 2020?**

We will continue to see growth in bioenergy use of at least one per cent per year after 2010, depending on whether governments develop positive policies and support programs – just as we now have for wind energy. By 2020, we expect to be supplying at least 20 per cent of Canada's total primary energy from biomass. As the price of oil and gas increases, more forms of bioenergy will become more competitive.

**What is the greatest barrier to your technology?**

The greatest barrier to bioenergy technologies is the lack of a positive policy framework from all levels of government in Canada. Barriers exist at all levels, especially provincially. For example, provincial regulations pertaining to labour and pressure vessels or boilers severely restrict smaller-scale bioenergy plants by requiring 24-hour-a-day

staffing. We need to modernize antiquated regulations to reflect the current technology, as they did in countries such as Sweden many years ago.

– *Canadian Bioenergy Association*

**THE HYDROGEN AGE HAS BEGUN****What can you achieve by 2010?**

Canada can become one of the world leaders in hydrogen technology development, deployment and the export of hydrogen service technologies.

The transition to the hydrogen age has begun in Canada. We'll see hydrogen production from sustainable sources like wind, hydro and nuclear. By 2010, we'll see commercial products like hydrogen-powered microfuel cells, hydrogen internal combustion engine (ICE) fleet vehicles and stationary power systems, and hydrogen fuel cell bus fleets, lift trucks, and back-up power systems. To advance the market penetration of these hydrogen products, a refueling infrastructure will develop. Development will occur in clusters like Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. A national energy strategy will recognize the need to move to hydrogen to reduce greenhouse gases, reduce urban air pollution and provide energy security.

**What can you achieve by 2020?**

Canada will continue to be the largest per-capita producer and consumer of hydrogen in the world mainly due to expanding oil sands activities and the demand for industrial hydrogen. The country's ability to produce hydrogen in a sustainable and cost-effective way will lead to a rapidly developing refueling infrastructure that supports the growing hydrogen-based transportation sector. Commercial hydrogen-powered vehicles will have been available for several years although market penetration will be modest.

**What is the greatest barrier to your technology?**

The major market for hydrogen as an energy carrier will be the transportation sector where it will mean cleaner urban air and greenhouse gas reductions. However, without regulations to force technology changes, today's technology will persist. At this point, there are few applications where hydrogen products present a clear economic advantage. Hydrogen's advantages will become evident once health and environmental costs and benefits are accrued to hydrogen technologies.

– *Canadian Hydrogen Association*

# Boosting the Flow in the Money Pipeline

Foreign-born workers send home \$15 billion a year – five times CIDA's entire budget – but too much gets lost to fees.

By Don Cayo

**T**he best thing Canadians do to help people in poorer parts of the world is hire some of them to do jobs we can't or won't do ourselves.

As a result, foreign-born workers in Canada – about 100,000 a year who come on temporary visas as well as millions of permanent residents and new citizens – are able to send home \$15 billion a year. That's five times the budget for CIDA, Canada's aid agency, in 2007/2008. And, unlike official aid that can be swallowed up by bureaucracies at home and abroad, it goes directly to families, who often invest it, or certainly spend it to ease their poverty.

These remittances sent from Canada are worth just under a tenth of the estimated total worldwide. In poor countries which export many workers, the money sent home adds up to more than trade, aid or foreign investment – in a few cases, more than all three combined.

Yet not all remittance money ends up going where it ought to go and doing what it's meant to do. Fees charged by money-transfer agencies typically eat up 10 to 15 per cent of each transaction – about \$2 billion a year of that \$15 billion sent from Canada.

The World Bank has studied migrant labour in both rich countries and poor and concludes that everybody wins if it works the way it should. Workers who go abroad – even the 40 per cent who go to countries only slightly better off than the ones they leave – make more than they ever could at home. The countries they come from benefit more from remittances than they lose in brain drain.

And destination countries like Canada find people to take hard-to-fill jobs.

Danielle Goldfarb, a researcher at the Conference Board of Canada, has come up with a few deceptively simple, common sense ways to lessen the cost of international money transfers – a move that World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz says could really boost their flow.



SENDING IT HOME: Members of the Canada-Mexico Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program work the fields at Jardin Ste-Clotilde in Quebec. The money they send home would have greater impact if they could avoid heavy fees from money transfers.

Ms. Goldfarb says governments in Canada and abroad could start by reducing regulatory barriers to the movement of small sums – most remittances are in amounts of no more than a few hundred dollars at a time. Fostering alternatives, such as on-line transfers, would also help by introducing more competition into the equation.

And she sees a role for governments in ensuring that people have reliable information about how much they are really paying for money transfers.

That last point is important because a lot of the cost of sending money home is often hidden. The “fee” sounds low, but highly unfavourable exchange rates drive up the real cost to unjustified levels.

The World Bank acknowledges that

there are, of course, real costs involved for the institutions that transfer money in small amounts at a time, but it notes that their fees are often a great deal higher than their costs. So it wants to involve groups like credit unions and microfinance institutions to work on tighter margins.

All of these are small measures, but the global amount of money is not. There is a huge international “pipeline” of paper and electronic communications that channels cash from where it's earned to where it's spent. And governments at both ends of that pipeline should ensure it works as efficiently as it can.

Don Cayo is a *Vancouver Sun* columnist. E-mail [doncayo@telus.net](mailto:doncayo@telus.net) to reach him.



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# The human dimension in hospitality

The National Hotel Association of Canada has honored Les Suites Hotel in downtown Ottawa for humanitarian contributions to its community. General Manager Steve Georgopoulos tells how this service-driven hotel practises the Golden Rule — both in helping out charitable enterprises and in delivering empathetic service to its guests. Doubtful? Just ask the little boy who lost his teddy bear.

by John Charles

Wisdom is where you find it – and for Steve Georgopoulos, wisdom’s fount was the tomato bin in his father’s Montreal grocery store.

From an early age, he watched customers pick up the top-most tomatoes, give them an assessing squeeze, and then drop them back in the bin. Too soft, they’d say.

Relating this story, Mr. Georgopoulos, now general manager of Les Suites Hotel on Besserer Street, leans back in his chair and laughs.

“What could I do? I wanted to say, ‘if you don’t squeeze them and drop them, they’re fine.’ But I couldn’t, because, in my father’s store, respect was the first value.

“And that’s where I got my MBA of business and of life.”

There’s a lot of respect in the air at Les Suites Hotel, Ottawa. There are no customers – only *guests*. Front desk clerks must establish eye contact before a guest gets within 10 feet – “and,” Mr. Georgopoulos says, “this eye contact must be genuine, have real feeling.”

The remarkable thing about Les Suites, though, is that the respect flows not only throughout the hotel but out into the larger community.

In the lobby and in the staff lunch room are cases and walls of awards given in recognition of the hotel’s work in the community – far too many to list. But one, the Hotel Association of Canada’s 2006 Humanitarian Award for Excellence in Community Involvement, caps the lot.

the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Shrine Circus, Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa and CHEO. With Notre Dame High School, the hotel has “adopted” Michelle Heights Park in the West End to keep the park clean (successfully, as it turns out).

Mr. Georgopoulos says: “We want to do things for the community but the hotel itself benefits from having caring staff. Good community people are likely to make exceptional hosts here in this hotel,



“Basically, the association is saying that we have a unique group of people who are giving back to the community,” Mr. Georgopoulos says. “And I think they’re recognizing something that’s true.”

Les Suites Hotel, Ottawa, for example, has historically had a team in the Terry Fox Run, the Kiwanis Club’s Bedzzz Race, and the Canadian Tulip Festival’s Flotilla on the Rideau Canal. Hotel staff raise money for the United Way and the hotel supports

willing to go far beyond the call of duty.”

In Ottawa, there is formal recognition of hospitality workers and front-line employees who go beyond the call of duty – the Stars of the City Customer Service Awards, administered by Ottawa Tourism.

“It’s very close to my heart, this program,” says Mr. Georgopoulos, who serves on a committee of volunteers who assist the program. “By raising the bar of excellence in customer service, it does wonders for the city. It’s a win-win for all.”



Les Suites is the 2006 winner of the Hotel Association of Canada’s Humanitarian Award for Excellence in Community Involvement.



Nominations for the award are made by customers – hundreds of them each year – who have received exemplary service from an employee in a hotel, restaurant, or store. Two years ago, the winner was Rosie Arruejo, a Les Suites Hotel, Ottawa employee who works in the housekeeping department.

A young guest, six or seven years of age, had lost his stuffed bear, perhaps in the hotel, but no one was sure. In a letter, his mother had enclosed the child's drawing of the bear. Ms. Arruejo searched the hotel, but found nothing.

Two weeks later when out shopping, she saw a good replica of the bear, bought it, and sent it to the child with a handwritten note – a gesture that inspired the winning nomination.

"Rosie is a concerned and kind human being who, having a young son, could empathize with that young guest," Mr. Georgopoulos says. "She didn't have a thought in her mind about winning anything."

Another long-standing employee, Mike Di Cioccio, had shown similar empathy. Then working at the front desk, Mike found himself facing an arriving guest who had lost her purse and with it, her cash and credit cards.

Mike knew what to do. He pulled out his own credit card to register the guest, and lent the woman thirty dollars.

For what Steve calls his gallantry, Mike was second runner-up in the awards ceremony in 1999.

Mr. Georgopoulos considers these acts as examples of the respect he hopes will always pervade the air at Les Suites Hotel, Ottawa.

"You have to validate people, to show that they and their concerns are real to you. This has a human dimension, wherever you are. And here, in this hotel, it's part of the guest experience.

"I sometimes worry that respect is becoming less common, that in this world we are losing something personal and important."

Peter Switzer, who works in the Sales Department, has been with the hotel for nearly six years.

"My role is to build a relationship with the guest, to make him feel at home,

as though he's the only guest I have," he says.

There is a touch of the Golden Rule here: "You treat guests with the same respect you would like to be treated with," Mr. Switzer says. "And frankly, in my personal traveling, I don't see a great deal of that."

Matthew Gifford, the hotel's young concierge, first worked in the hotel as a high school co-op student and enjoyed the experience so much that he studied Hospitality at Algonquin College with an aim to begin his career at Les Suites.

"I really enjoy working here – the atmosphere, the fun we have together.

"It's great how much feedback we get from guests, almost all of it very positive."

The hotel offers furnished one- and two-bedroom suites, complete with complimentary Internet access, two televisions, fully equipped kitchens, washer and dryer, and even tasteful art. Other amenities include a 24-hour health club and a heated indoor swimming pool.

**"YOU TREAT GUESTS WITH THE SAME RESPECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED WITH," SAYS PETER SWITZER.**

This all-suite hotel provides the perfect solution for a temporary home away from home. Many guests have arrived as employees for embassies and are waiting to find more permanent quarters.

Mr. Georgopoulos has held various managerial positions in the hotel industry for 26 years. He has served at such destination hotels as the Chateau Frontenac, the Chateau Montebello, the Chateau Champlain and, here in Ottawa, the Chateau Laurier.

He came to Les Suites in 1994.

Steve Georgopoulos loves to talk about the hotel and the people – staff and guests – he encounters in it. But the leitmotif behind everything he says is the importance of respect.

"That is the cornerstone of our culture and philosophy – and we only really know we've done our job when each guest feels it and carries it away."



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# Immigration: Prone to political illusion

By George Abraham

**"A**s soon as they'd find out you were an immigrant, they'd swear at you ... they used to put big posters on our railroad stations over in Ireland about the land of the milk and honey over here. All the money! You'd swear to God you just had to get up on a bush and shake it down and pick it up off the ground, the money was so plentiful. I found out that wasn't so."

These lines come from an immigrant who arrived in Ontario in 1927 and wrote under the assumed name of Nellie O'Donnell. The same writer lamented that "I thought I was speaking the King's English, but they didn't understand it."

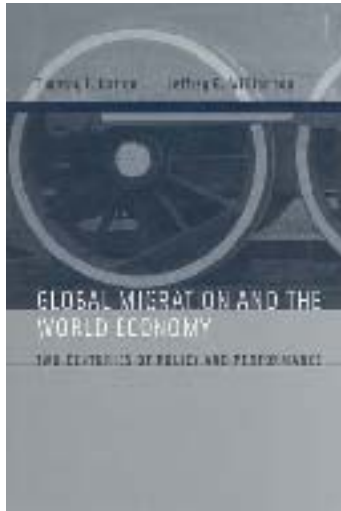
She was not alone then and her views are not rare now. The harsh reception she encountered 80 years ago has been a global fact for almost as long. Feeling unwelcome, though, has not stopped millions of determined people from crossing oceans and borders in search of new destinies.

Her story also speaks to another historical truism: Immigration policy has always been friendlier than the people of the host nation.

Two of the three books under review offer a retrospective look at the global ebb and flow of immigration over the centuries – the driving forces, the pitfalls, the heartaches and the evolution of policy. Essentially, they describe a "pull" from the First World, fed by a "push" from the Third World. On the other hand, the third book embodies the "fear of the other" that has also been a constant over the years, rather than the serious critique of European immigration policy that the author intends it to be.

***Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance*, by Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson, MIT Press (2005), 470 pages**

Although heavy reading with plenty of graphs and data tables, the work of these two economists does a great job in framing their analysis within the contemporary debate. They introduce right at the outset the concept of human "quality," (as opposed to quantity) noting that the attributes brought by immigrants to host



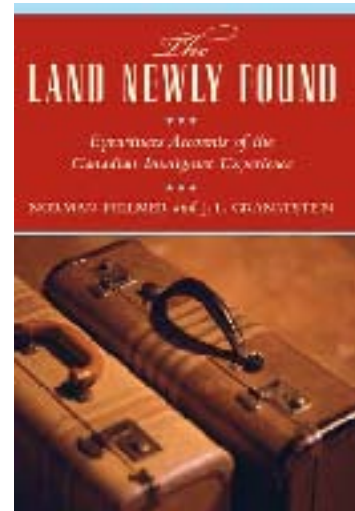
countries have declined in quality even as movement has become easier and cheaper. The authors argue this has played into latent cultural prejudices that treat white newcomers better than brown or black ones.

Dr. Hatton and his colleague go to some lengths to debunk two persistent causes for the bias against newcomers – fear of job competition from them and a resistance to tax dollars being spent on them. They acknowledge, however, that their evidence that such notions are generally groundless does not sway the native-born who lose out to newcomers – the poorly schooled and low-skilled. Over the last 30 years, the authors report, all immigrant-receiving nations have introduced legislation and policies to restrict immigrant numbers and to cherry-pick the best.

The voting public in these nations, though, would like even lower numbers, but policy-makers persist with liberal quotas by ensuring that no informed debate takes place. So, immigration policy "is especially prone to political illusion."

***Land Newly Found: Eyewitness Accounts of the Canadian Immigrant Experience*, by Norman Hillmer and J. L. Granatstein, Thomas Allen Publishers (2006), 430 pages**

This work by two Canadian historians is a must-read for those who are convinced that the country is being "overrun" by



immigrants and for newcomers who blame racism for all their ills. Canadians welcomed 401,000 immigrants in 1913 – five per cent of the population then – and now some citizens have difficulty living with a policy that takes in less than one per cent of the current population.

One of the more interesting historical accounts comes from Igor Gouzenko, a Soviet Embassy cipher clerk who de-

**THIS WORK BY TWO CANADIAN HISTORIANS IS A MUST-READ FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT THE COUNTRY IS BEING "OVERRUN" BY IMMIGRANTS AND FOR NEWCOMERS WHO BLAME RACISM FOR ALL THEIR ILLS.**

fected to Canada in 1945 and exposed a widespread spy network. Mr. Gouzenko attributed part of his change of heart to conversations in Ottawa with an immigrant from Lithuania who appeared to have quickly imbibed his adopted nation's democratic and liberal ethos and despised the tyranny of Mr. Gouzenko's homeland. "There was imbedded in my deepest mind a seed of doubt that I would have hastened to deny. But it was there all the time, I know now."

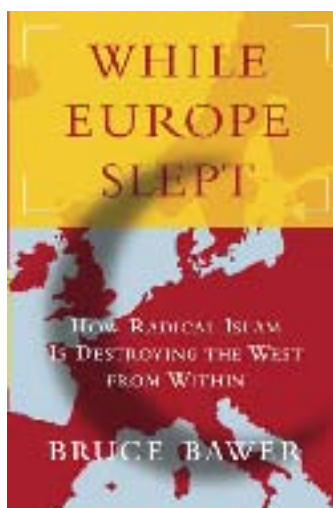
Mr. Gouzenko's is among 144 such accounts, starting with Samuel de Champlain's new settlement rationale from about 1618 to commentary in the wake of the French immigrant riots in the summer of 2005. It is a sobering collection that portrays Canada as, often, "a reluctant host." But the authors note that this has not stopped Canada from being the world's most diverse nation, with the highest percentage of foreign-born (20 per cent) inhabitants and the highest annual intake of immigrants per capita.

***While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam is Destroying the West from Within*, by Bruce Bawer, Doubleday (2006), 247 pages**

Written by an American essayist living in Norway, this polemic provides little by way of new facts or analysis, but merely feeds off the rhetoric of politicians such as Jean-Marie Le Pen in France, Jörg Haider in Austria, Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh in the Netherlands, Pauline Hanson in Australia and Pat Buchanan in the U.S. It uses terms like "fifth column," "gravey train" and "Weimar moment" in describ-

ing what the author calls the threat posed by Muslim immigrants to Europe, where governments have responded with "appeasement," "capitulation" and "cultural self-denial.

"For me, as an American living in post-9/11 Europe," Mr. Bawer writes, "the cognitive dissonance was often through the roof. Europeans seemed to inhabit another mental universe – one where Amer-



ica was the enemy, Bush was a greater threat than Osama bin Laden, and Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, was the sole reason for that region's ills."

There are broad strokes aplenty: "Some [Muslim] immigrant families, indeed, are not really immigrants at all ... they're less like immigrants than like diplomats – emissaries who return home frequently and have no doubt about where their loyalties lie." And, "Some estimates suggest that 90 per cent of European Muslim wives are physically abused."

His final indictment reads: "In the end, Europe's enemy is not Islam, or even radical Islam. Europe's enemy is itself – its self-destructive passivity, its softness toward tyranny, its reflexive inclination to appease, and its uncomprehending distaste for America's pride, courage, and resolve in the face of a deadly foe."

Were he living here, Mr. Bawer would undoubtedly have said much the same about Canadian multiculturalism, tolerance and political correctness.

George Abraham is *Diplomat's* contributing editor.

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## Soups: from the ordinary to extraordinary

Perhaps you are not into guessing games; however, out of curiosity, you might still want to take my soup quiz.

1. When was the last time you had soup at a dinner party?
2. What kind was it?
3. How was it served – in a bowl, soup cup, glass?
4. How was it garnished?
5. Was it memorable?

If you didn't answer yes to at least two of the first four questions, then the answer to the last question is no doubt negative.

Soups can be delicious but relatively few, even among the best, are truly memorable. Of all the courses on a menu, it is the soup which may be the least creative. Frequently it lacks that careful attention to detail which is so willingly given to an appetizer, main course or dessert. But why? Is it because traditionally soups have been served in bowls where artistic capacity may seem restricted or not required?

To make soups more exciting, more enticing, think outside the bowl, or as I prefer to suggest, let yourself be inspired. With your imagination in high gear, decide what else can be done to make your soup course a memorable experience.

Soups are the perfect opportunity to make the ordinary extraordinary. They can be served in a variety of bowls, demitasse or novelty cups, martini glasses, bread bowls, pumpkin or cantaloupe shells. Soups also arrive at our table frothed, looking like a fresh cup of cappuccino. They are set on oriental stands, small framed mirrors or liners of contrasting colours or shapes. A good soup becomes exquisite, even exotic, when tastefully garnished with chopped nuts, drizzles of heavy cream, skewers of shrimp, handsome crab claws, seared scallops, sprigs of fresh herbs or chips of truffle. (It is amazing how far one finely sliced truffle will go.)

Puréed soups are remarkably versatile and should be exploited. Add charm to a drinks party or cocktail reception, by presenting small servings of a puréed soup (warm or cold, savoury or sweet) in sake cups or shot glasses. Guests, with a drink in



MARGARET  
DICKENSON

one hand, can easily manage a canapé soup in the other. Cold fruit soups can be transformed into tempting desserts by pouring a limited amount into flat soup dishes or tall "sundae" glasses and then garnishing with plump berries and/or scoops of luscious ice cream. Adults and children love this "healthy alternative" to calorie-laden desserts.

I find that making soup is therapeutic. From time to time, I prepare large quantities of it and put it in the freezer. With this make-ahead strategy, soups are an easy and a creative addition to menus in our home.

I invite you to experience my Tarragon Roasted Red Pepper Soup which may

also be served as an awesome canapé soup. Bon appétit.

### Tarragon Roasted Red Pepper Soup

*Makes about 6 cups (1.5 litres) or 8 servings of 3/4 cup (180 mL) each or 12 servings of 1/2 cup (125 mL) each.*

- 1 1/2 tsp (8 mL) finely chopped fresh garlic**
- 1 1/2 tsp (8 mL) peeled and grated fresh ginger root**
- 2 tsp (10 mL) olive oil**
- 1/2 lb (225 g) leeks (white part only), cleaned well and sliced**
- 1 oz or 3 tbsp (30 g/45mL) finely chopped shallots**
- 1 3/4 tbsp (27 mL) crushed chicken bouillon cubes (or powder)**
- 2 cups (500 mL) boiling water**
- 1/2 lb (225 g) potato, peeled and coarsely**



LARRY DICKENSON



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## Why can't I get more B.C. wines?

**W**hy is it easier for Ontario shoppers to get wines from South Africa than British Columbia? B.C. makes some of Canada's greatest wines but rarely will you see them on restaurant wine lists in Ontario, or at the LCBO.

Ultimately, it comes down to basic economics – supply and demand. First, B.C. produces very little wine (less than one million cases in 2006 compared to more than six million cases in Ontario). And the LCBO treats B.C. wine like an import, so a \$10 wine at a winery in B.C. can cost close to \$30 in Ontario by the time you add shipping, agency fees, LCBO mark-ups and taxes. B.C. wine suddenly becomes less appealing to the consumer, which reduces the demand for it here. Finally, the wines are usually damn good, so since British Columbians drink more wine per capita than Ontarians, their wines get gobbled up in short order in their home province.

B.C. is probably the most beautiful wine region in North America. It is divided into five main DVAs (Designated Viticultural Areas)—the Okanagan Valley (Canada's only desert and the place where the bulk of quality B.C. wines come from), Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Fraser Valley and the Similkameen Valley. These areas are generally warmer, dryer and less susceptible to frost than Ontario vineyards, offering



STEPHEN BECKTA

PHOTO: PAUL COUVRETTE

richer fruit qualities in most years along with softer tannins and higher alcohols. The soil, on the other hand, tends to be younger, richer, volcanic soil, which usually offers less complexity than the mineral-rich Beamsville Bench in Niagara, for instance. I recently explored the Okanagan Valley for the first time. It's a staggering series of stunning vistas and vineyards overlooking Lake Okanagan from both sides, along with snow-capped mountains in the background. The beauty makes the trip worthwhile, even before you take your first sip of Pinot Noir or Gewurztraminer. When planning a trip, it is always advisable to call ahead for appointments at the various wineries.

Then comes the wine. There were 131 wineries in B.C. in 2006, many of which are small, family-owned operations that sell out as soon as they offer their wares for sale. It's important — if you want the really good stuff — to get on mailing lists, wait lists or show up at the vineyards at the right time of year. Here is a list of some of my favourites (they may or may not be available at the moment). Many wineries have arrangements for out-of-province shipping, so check their websites or just ask if they offer it.

**Quail's Gate:** Famous for its Pinot Noirs. Also try their Chenin Blanc, Chardonnays, Old Vine Foch and Optima dessert wine.

**Blue Mountain:** Incredible Pinot Noirs, Pinot Gris, Gamay Noir and sparkling.

**Blasted Church:** Witty and interesting winery with great labels and stories. Best known for their aromatic white wines.

**Mission Hill:** One of the few wineries with a presence in Ontario, look for their value priced "5 Vineyard Series" for Chardonnay, Merlot and Pinot Noir. Reserve wines that do well are the Pinot Gris and Shiraz. Their *Occulus Bordeaux Blend* is a real treat.

**Red Rooster:** Love their Gewurztraminer and Blanc de Noirs.

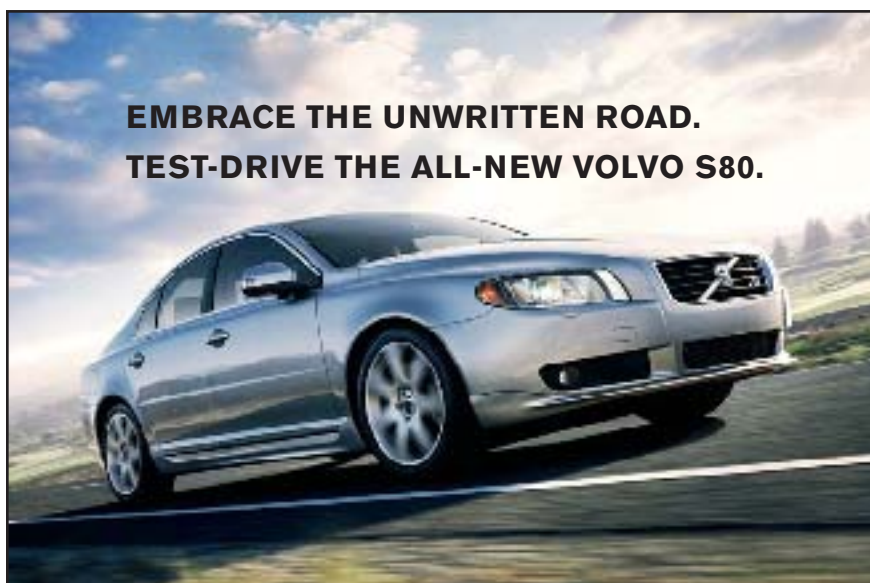
**Sumac Ridge:** Occasionally found at Vintages, their white meritage (Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon Blend) along with their sparkling and Gewurztraminer are favourites.

**Church and State Wines:** Under new ownership. They make great (and affordable) Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc.

If you do end up going wine touring in B.C. and happen to be in Kelowna, the VQA store, Discover Wines, is a must-see ([www.discoverwines.com](http://www.discoverwines.com)). Staff members are a great source for the latest and greatest the B.C. wine industry has to offer.

Cheers!

Stephen Beckta is the owner and sommelier at Beckta dining & wine.



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# A Great Northern Voyage

How Henry Larsen survived the ravages of the “grumbling, shrieking, crashing sea ice” and made it through the Northwest Passage

By Gerard Kenney

**W**hile the Arctic seems a wasteland to some, Henry Larsen saw it as both personal challenge and reward. He was born and lived his youth by the sea at Hvaler, Norway, where salty breezes blew and boats were at hand to enjoy them. Growing up, he read the books of his national heroes – Nansen, Amundsen, and Sverdrup. Shipping out at 15, he visited ports around the world, but the call of the Canadian North was strong, the single most defining force in his future. He set his mind on an Arctic career.

In 1927, Mr. Larsen learned that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was building an Arctic patrol vessel, the 104-foot, schooner-rigged *St. Roch*, which would be specially designed to resist the crushing pressures of sea ice. Her motive power would be the wind and a 150 horse-power diesel engine.

Mr. Larsen determined to sail on her. First, he became a Canadian citizen. Then he applied to the RCMP and was accepted on April 16, 1928. Sailing skills acquired in his years at sea made the difference when it came time to name the vessel's captain. The RCMP chose Mr. Larsen. For 20 years, he and his ship reinforced Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic, making 10 voyages, two of which are especially noteworthy.

Only one person had ever sailed a ship through the famed Northwest Passage—Norwegian Roald Amundsen, between 1903 and 1906, from east to west. In 1940, Capt. Larsen was the first to sail it from west to east, from Vancouver to Halifax. More than once during the trip, it wasn't clear whether the *St. Roch* would survive the ravages of the grumbling, shrieking, crashing sea ice. At one point Capt. Larsen wondered “if we had come this far only to be crushed like a nut on a shoal.”

The following spring, it seemed that the ice would not unfetter the ship. When it finally did, the *St. Roch* nearly became the nut in the icy vice that Capt. Larsen feared, as she was battered from floe to floe through sucking whirlpools and fi-

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nally flung out into calmer waters at the eastern end of Bellot Strait. Soon Capt. Larsen and his crew were sailing the quieter waters of Baffin Bay, Davis Strait and the coast of Labrador, docking finally in Halifax Harbour on



A ROCKY JOURNEY: Norway-born Henry Larsen (pictured above) turned a childhood fascination with boats into a career as a captain with the RCMP and, in 1940, became the first person to navigate the Northwest Passage from west to east.

October 11, 1942. Each man on the trip received a medal from King George VI to recognize the magnificent feat.

During the 1943 navigation season, Capt. Larsen and the *St. Roch* sailed out of Halifax on patrol and inspection of RCMP detachments in the eastern Arctic. The following winter, they were ordered back home to Vancouver via the Northwest Passage. This time, Capt. Larsen used the more northerly Parry Channel Route comprising Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait and Viscount Melville Sound.

Although the 86-day trip from Halifax to Vancouver presented navigational difficulties, they were far less life-threatening than the ones encountered on the southerly route.

The route through Parry Channel, and Prince of Wales Strait at its western end, will most certainly be the one used by commercial shipping as global warming



FROM DANGEROUS PASSAGE BY GERARD KENNEY

opens the passage. If global warming continues on its present path, thinning ice and rising oil prices will soon combine to make it economically feasible for ships to use the Northwest Passage instead of the Panama Canal to sail between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Economic and environmental implications for Canada and her North are huge.

Gerard Kenney writes about the North. His latest book is *Dangerous Passage: Issues in the Arctic*.



**DOLLCO NOTE:**

PLEASE PICK UP "ACCURATE" AD FROM

MARCH APRIL 2007

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**THIS PAGE** 1. Croatian Ambassador Vesela Mrden Korac and her husband Marko attended the Politics and the Pen dinner at the Chateau Laurier on Feb. 28. (Photo: Dyanne Wilson) • 2. Alia Medina Tanji, wife of Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Tangi, hosted a lunchtime talk by MP Fatima Houda Pepin at her Aylmer residence which features Moroccan architecture. Ms. Tangi is shown here with Danielle Seguin, of the Canadian Federation of University Women's diplomatic hospitality group, which organized the event. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • 3. Esther Yirenkyi, wife of Mr. Yaw Yirenkyi, first secretary of the Ghana High Commission, attended a gala evening hosted by Ghanaian High Commissioner Margaret Amoakohene, in honour of Ghana's 50th anniversary of independence at the Museum of Civilization March 6. Ms. Yirenkyi poses with her daughter, Adjoa (left), and Nana Yaa Amoakohene, daughter of the high commissioner.(Photo: Frank Scheme) • 4. Indian High Commissioner Rajamani Narayan and his wife Rani hosted a vin d'honneur after he presented credentials to Gov. Gen. Michaele Jean on March 21. (Photo: Indian High Commission)



**THIS PAGE** 1. Estonian Chargé d’Affaires Rasmus Lumi hosted the kick-off for the 7th Baltic Film Festival at Library and Archives Canada March 15. From left: Latvian Ambassador Atis Sjanits, Mr. Lumi, Finnish Ambassador Pasi Patokallio, and Comm. Gerald Axel Moeller, German defence attaché. (Photo: Peter Bush) • 2. Members of the Bulgarian community of Ottawa share their culture at the country’s national day celebrations at City Hall March 2. (Photo: Frank Scheme) • 3. Greek Ambassador Yannis Mourikis greets Yemeni Ambassador Abdulla Nasher at the Greek National Day at the Hellenic Community Centre March 27. (Photo: Dyanne Wilson) • 4. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Deepak Obrai hosted a lunch for departing Bangladeshi High Commissioner Rafiq Khan and his wife Juyena March 5. (Photo: DFAIT) • 5. Greek press attaché Ioannis Petsilas married his longtime girlfriend Leyla Argun at the Courtyard Restaurant April 2. A bellydancer showed up for the reception. • 6. Mr. and Mrs. Petsilas. (Photos: Sam Garcia)



**THIS PAGE** 1. From right: Afghan Ambassador Omar Samad and his wife Khorshied flank Safia Siddiqi, a member of Afghanistan's Parliament at the opening of "Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War" at the Canadian War Museum. (Photo: Lois Siegel) • 2. Bamboo flutist Shuni Tsou performs Taiwanese folk songs at Taiwan Night on Parliament Hill Feb. 27. (Photo: George Wu) • 3. Serbian Chargé d'Affaires Slobodanka Kojadinovic (centre) hosted a performance by the Toronto folk ensemble Bata Marcetic at the Museum of Civilization March 31. (Photo: Serbian Embassy) • 4. The Caribbean community of Ottawa came out in force for a farewell dinner and dance for Lorraine Williams, high commissioner for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, April 14. She's shown here with friend Kevin Williams. • 5. At the OECS from left: Sandra Bobb, administrative assistant; Anita G. Joseph, first secretary; Ms. Williams; Darius Pope, third secretary consular and political affairs. (Photos: Sam Garcia) • 6. From left: South Korean Ambassador Soo-dong Kim posed with Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean and his wife Ina Yu when he presented his credentials April 10. (Photo: Korean Embassy)

## New Heads of Mission

**Edgar Torrez Mosquiera**  
Ambassador of Bolivia



Mr. Torrez Mosquiera comes to diplomacy from a career in government and academia. He was born in Oruro, Bolivia in 1954 and went on to get a sociology degree at the University of San Andres in La Paz where he specialized in social and local government planning.

Since 1982, he has worked as a professor of social sciences at San Andres University. Concurrently, he worked as director of education and culture for the city of La Paz from 1992 to 1994. He worked for a provincial government as well before being appointed deputy mayor of the district of Cotahuma. In 1999, he became an adviser at City Hall. In 2005, he worked for the World Bank in Angola as an adviser.

**Manuel Estuardo Roldán Barillas**  
Ambassador of Guatemala



Mr. Roldan comes to Ottawa directly from a posting as ambassador to Brazil. A career diplomat, he studied law at Francisco Marroquin University in Guatemala and

diplomacy at the Rio-Branco Institute in Brazil. He later studied political science at Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala.

He joined the foreign ministry in 1989 as a desk officer for Panama and later as deputy-director for North America, within the bilateral international relations directorate. His first post came two years later, as first secretary and consul in Brazil. He returned to Guatemala as director of the integration, multilateral and economic directorate from 1994 until 1995 when he became minister-counsellor and deputy head of mission at his country's embassy in Mexico (1995-1999), the United States (1999-2001), and Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2001-2003). His several subsequent postings have meant that Mr. Roldan hasn't actually lived in Guatemala for 12 years

Mr. Roldan speaks English, Portuguese and Spanish fluently and has some understanding of French and Arabic. He is married and has a son.

**Rajamani Lakshmi Narayan**  
High Commissioner for India



Mr. Narayan was born in New Delhi in 1948. He has a master's degree in economics from the University of Delhi.

Mr. Narayan joined India's foreign service in 1972 and had his first foreign posting three years later, as third and then second secretary in Moscow. Subsequent postings included Washington (1977-80), the Maldives (1980), Belgrade (1983-85) and Bangkok (1985-89). Back in New Delhi between 1980 and 1983, he was an under-secretary with the ministry of commerce. In 1996, he was appointed India's ambassador to Qatar, where he stayed for four years. He followed that with an ambassadorship in Poland from 2000 to 2003.

Prior to coming to Canada, Mr. Narayan served as India's high commissioner to Malaysia between 2004 and 2007. He came to Canada directly from that posting.

**Tsuneo Nishida**  
Ambassador of Japan



Mr. Nishida has been working for Japan's foreign service his entire career. He was 23 years old when he graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1970 with a degree in law, and immediately joined Japan's foreign ministry. He worked at the ministry for 11 years before being posted as first secretary at the embassy in the former Soviet Union.

He held that position for five years and then became a director at European and Oceanic Affairs, a bureau within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1986 to 1987 and again from 1993 to 1994. In 1987, he became director of the legal affairs division's treaties bureau. In 1996, he became deputy director-general for the Economic Cooperation Bureau then, in 1998, a councillor for the cabinet secretariat and finally assistant vice minister that same year. Foreign postings during that period included a stint as a counsellor at Japan's embassy in the United States. In 1999, he was posted as consul-general to Japan's consulate-general in Los Angeles.

He settled back in Japan in March 2001 as director-general of the economic cooperation bureau. In 2002, he became deputy vice-minister for foreign policy and director-general of the foreign policy bureau, and until getting his first ambassadorship in Canada in January 2007, he was the deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. Nishida is married to Keiko and has a son and daughter.



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**Soo-dong Kim**  
Ambassador of Korea



Mr. Kim is a career diplomat and his posting in Canada represents a return for him. He was a counsellor at the embassy here from 1992 to 1995.

Mr. Kim, 59, studied international relations at Seoul National University before joining the foreign service in 1977. His first posting was as second secretary to Denmark for six years, after which he went to Japan as second secretary for one year. He then spent three years as first secretary in Somalia. Later postings abroad took him to Canada, Japan, and Serbia.

Mr. Kim also held several positions in the Korean civil service including director of the office of the prime minister, director-general for Middle East and African Affairs, ambassador of inspection and deputy minister for planning and management.

Mr. Kim is married and has one daughter.

**Emilio Goicoechea**  
Ambassador of Mexico



Mr. Goicoechea comes to diplomacy through politics. He became a member of

the National Action Party in 1970, and has held been a member of the state steering committee, member of the state council, member of the national executive committee, and member of the national council, among others.

He was a federal senator for the state of Sinaloa for two legislative sessions and in his third, he became a federal deputy. In 2003, he became deputy secretary of tourism operations at the federal ministry of tourism for one year. From 2004 to 2006, he was chief of staff of the office of the Mexican president.

Mr. Goicoechea has served on boards and committees for several commerce-related organizations and been awarded keys to the city of Miami and Quezon, Philippines.

**David Tawei Lee**  
Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office



Mr. Lee has had a long career in Taiwan's foreign service and has held such positions as director-general of North American Affairs, director-general of the Government Information Office in Taiwan and finally, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

In 2000, Mr. Lee returned to academia, to teach at the National Taiwan University, where he had taught before. But a year later, the president asked him to take a position as Taiwan's representative to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, a position he held until he was posted to the United States. He comes to Canada direct from that posting. In 2002, he won the most distinguished diplomat award given by the foreign affairs minister.

Mr. Lee is married to Chih Lin. They have a son and a daughter.



**Issakha Mbacke**  
Ambassador of Senegal

Mr. Mbacke's posting to Ottawa represents a return for him. He was posted here from 1981 to 1986 as a commercial, cultural and press officer and, while posted, studied literature at the University of Ottawa. His studies, in sociology, political science and law have also taken him to Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Paris.

Mr. Mbacke, 60, started his foreign service career in 1979 at Senegal's embassy in Morocco. He came to Ottawa for five subsequent years and then went to Saudi Arabia for a year. He returned to Dakar to serve as a human resources specialist at the ministry of foreign affairs and to assist the head of the United Nations division. He was then appointed as minister-counsellor to Egypt from 1990 to 1998 after which he went to Iran as ambassador from 1998 until 2006.

Mr. Mbacke speaks French, English and Arabic.

With files from Andrew Pulsifer  
All photos except for David Tawei Lee's provided by Rideau Hall

## Non-Heads of Mission

Angola  
**Pepino Macosso**  
Third Secretary

Australia  
**Judith Anne Hurditch**  
First Secretary and Consul

China  
**Tao Li**  
Counsellor  
**Jianjun Zhai**  
First Secretary

Côte d'Ivoire  
**Bernard N'Guessan N'Guessan**  
Counsellor

Germany  
**Kerstin Pffirmann**  
Assistant Attaché

Israel  
**Gil Rabinovich**  
Defence Attaché

Mexico  
**Carlos Enrique Lopez Araiza Genis**  
Minister  
**Jesus Omar Quijano Rodriguez**  
Attaché

Netherlands  
**Pieterella Henrica Adriana van Eijk-Koevoets**  
First Secretary

Nigeria  
**Habu Abubakar Gwani Ibrahim**  
Minister

Poland  
**Witoslaw Jerzy Antczak**  
Counsellor  
**Eugen Constantin Predatu**  
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We can't afford to risk excluding Taiwan from the WHO, the essential communications network that aims to guard the whole world against pandemics and viruses. The Canadian parliament and its committees passed six motions in the last three years urging the government of Canada to support Taiwan's observer status bid in the WHO. The World Health Assembly, the forum where Taiwan's WHO status is debated, meets on May 14, 2007.

**For the life and health of us all, it's time to vote for Taiwan's participation in WHO!**



*A Message from the  
Taiwanese-Canadian  
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# A Fort Built out of Necessity

By George Fetherling

The war whose ultimate outcome was determined on the Plains of Abraham in 1759 began five years earlier at what was then, as now, a remote Pennsylvania pasture. The unprepossessing patch of marshland, hidden in the low wooded hills a leisurely drive east of Pittsburgh, was grandiloquently known as the Great Meadows when the first fighting broke out there between the British and French empires for control of North America. George Washington, who fought his first-ever battle there at age 22, famously pronounced the place “a charming field for an encounter.” But that was hyperbole, too—and bravado. He was easily defeated, the result of poor judgment.

To the French, the Ohio River, which is the main tributary of the Mississippi, was thus the vital link between Quebec and Louisiana. To the English it was, for a time at least, the God-given western margin of their colonies on the Atlantic coast and the subject of intense financial speculation. Both cultures claimed it, alienating Aboriginal peoples in the process, and both began building forts on the contested territory. In the spring of 1754, Washington, a new officer in the Virginia militia, was sent out with a small force to blaze a road. Finding the French presence surprisingly strong as he approached the river, he halted and set up camp in the Meadows. It had grass for the animals and a tiny stream. But it was also indefensible.

Hearing the French were nearby, Washington led a small party to their camp and caught them asleep. Someone, no one knows who, fired the first shot, and an English massacre resulted. Ten soldiers from New France were killed, including the commander, Joseph Coulon de Villiers, Sieur de Jumonville. Fearing retaliation, Washington beat it back to the clearing and in only five days threw up a crude log hut surrounded by a flimsy stockade and dug shallow entrenchments beyond it. He called it Fort Necessity.

In Gore Vidal’s wonderful novel *Burr*, the title character, Aaron Burr (another young American Revolution hero and, later, Thomas Jefferson’s vice-president) says bitterly that history views George Washington as a brilliant general and a poor politician. History, he adds, has it all



**PATHETIC ENGINEERING:** A recreation of George Washington’s Fort Necessity sits exposed and vulnerable at the Great Meadows. The National Park Service has kept the tree line to where it was in 1754 when the woods rang with musketry.

backwards, as usual. At the Great Meadows, Washington had nearly 400 men crammed into his miserable fortifications, constructed within musket range—100 yards—of the tree line, which was on higher ground. About 700 French and natives were well protected as they laid down a withering fire on the Virginians. A day-long downpour filled Washington’s trenches. The wounded were taken to the hut, whose roof was simply bark and hides laid across branches. That night, Washington signed a surrender document. It was of course written in French. Washington didn’t know that by signing it, he was also confessing to Jumonville’s murder and various atrocities.

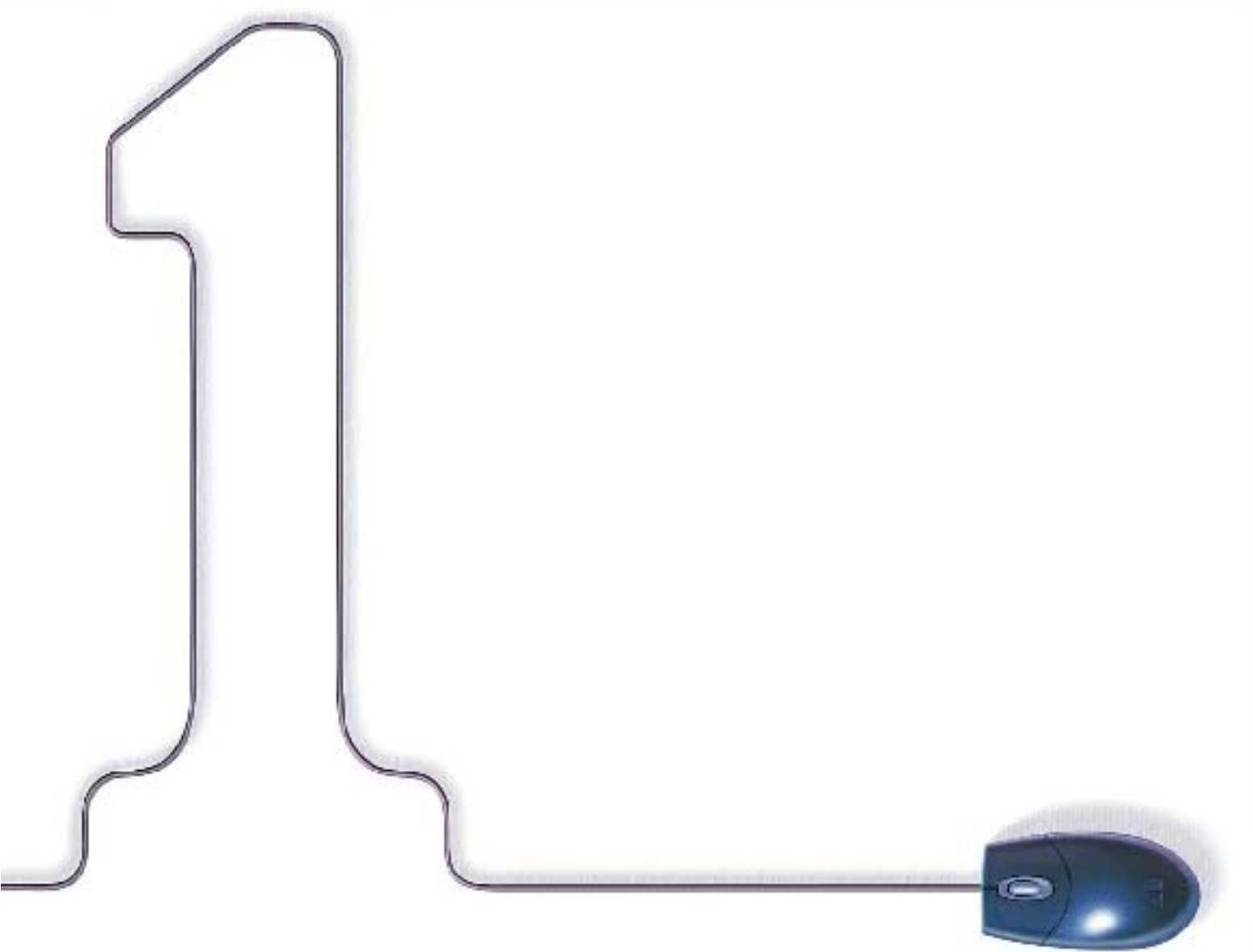
Before returning to Canada, the French troops burned Fort Necessity. In 1932, the 200th anniversary of Washington’s birth, the American government built a reconstruction on the original site. They got it wrong. Ignoring written testimony, they put up a stockade that was more or less rectangular. It stood until 1954, the bicentennial of the battle, when more serious archaeological work showed that the fort was in fact circular: another indication it was built in haste, with danger near. Excavation of the surviving rows of stumps showed the Virginians dug a ring-shaped trench, two-and-a-half feet deep. Into it, they set white oak logs, 10 inches in diameter after splitting them down the middle. Thicker logs filled in the inevitable gaps. They filled the trench with earth, leaving a crude wall not much higher

than a man’s head.

As it happens, the paths of major economic development have generally bypassed this rural corner of southwestern Pennsylvania. The nearest centre is Farmington, a village southeast of Unionville on U.S. Route 40. When you start down the path leading to the stockade, you feel cut off from the contemporary world. Washington’s pathetic attempt at military engineering sits exposed and vulnerable. You quickly grasp what happened that day in 1754, particularly as the National Park Service has kept the tree line to where it was when the woods rang with musketry.

From a Canadian viewpoint, Washington was an Englishman who later went over to the dark side. But the Fort Necessity National Battlefield restores to him some footnoted glory for his unintentional role in the birth of modern Canada. The National Battlefield includes the site of the Jumonville massacre and the place where Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock and 1,500 British regulars, sent from home to redress Washington’s defeat, were killed the following year. Braddock’s grave is marked by a granite monument donated by his former regiment, the Coldstream Guards, in 1913—when imperial feeling still ran strong about a place where the battle lines of the Seven Years’ War were first drawn.

George Fetherling is a Vancouver poet, novelist and cultural commentator.



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