

IMAGINE A WORLD UNITED IN PEACE

Feature By: Kira Schoch & Tim Judah

YMCA Peace Week is being celebrated across Canada from November 18 to 25. Peace Week activities in Fredericton will begin with a Flag-Raising Ceremony at City Hall. The United Nations Flag will be flown in front of City Hall throughout the week as a symbol of the hope and mission of the YMCA as a global agency working for social development in 97 countries around the world and for peace between and within all countries.

Although in North America, the work of the YMCA is primarily associated with fitness and childcare, in the developing nations of the world, the 'Y' has a very different image. In Central America, Lebanon, Palestine, and parts of Africa, the YMCA works with refugees. In West Africa, the YMCA provides agricultural training, fisheries and livestock development. In Thailand, the YMCA works to rescue children who would otherwise be sold to brothels. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the YMCA works with street children.

This year, 1989, marks the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian YMCA's work overseas, and in recognition of this the Fredericton YM-YWCA has received letters of support from many Ambassadors in Canada. These letters have stressed the importance of working for development if we are to hope to live in a world of peace.

Peter Morgan, High Commissioner from Barbados, wrote: "It is a sad commentary on mankind that there should even be a need for a Peace Week. We can put men on the moon and send rockets off for millions of miles to take pictures and send them back to earth. But somehow we can't live together in peace."

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Peter Morgan, High Commissioner to Barbados

"This sad indictment on all of us can only be dealt with--like all weaknesses--when we are prepared to recognize that it exists. Your efforts to focus attention on the conscious effort which must be made to maintain peace in the world is greatly to be admired and deserves the support of all decent people."

Count J. F. DeLiedekerke, Ambassador of Belgium, wrote: "As the political tension in the world is diminishing, a new emphasis must be put on the fate of the millions of people plagued by terrible scourges such as starvation, epidemics and so on. One cannot sever peace from development."

"In this regard, the role of the YMCA's has become increasingly important and initiatives, such as partnerships between Canadian YMCA's and YMCA's in developing countries are particularly useful for they make people aware of the sufferings endured by so many populations in the Third World."

The letters from the embassies will be on display at the 'Y' throughout Peace Week.

The primary events during Peace Week will be Opening Ceremonies on November 18, 8:00 p.m. at Le Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne and an Interfaith Worship to be held at the Saint Thomas University Chapel, 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 25th. At the Opening Ceremonies, the 1989 Peace Medallion will be presented to Fr. Monte Peters and the International Department Video entitled "The Legacy of Greed" will be premiered. Both events are open to the public without charge.



Rev. Monte Peters
Peace Medallion
Recipient of 1989

PEACE WITHOUT WEAPONS

Within the past week we've experienced another opportunity to remember our war dead. Civic ceremonies recall their patriotism, their bravery, their endurance and their heroism. Relatives and friends remember their humanity and their lives. Comrades who served with them don't want to forget them. Canadians of all ages and from every walk of life are grateful to them for the sacrifices they made, so that we can enjoy the gifts of freedom and peace.

Young Canadians have a lot to look forward to in seeing themselves identified as peacemakers in this new tradition.

These public expressions of grateful remembrance rekindle the conviction and determination to make our world more just and more free and more humane than was their world when it erupted into violent and cruel conflict. We search for ways and means to develop a world where everyone in the human family can enjoy all the blessings of God's creation and live life to its fullest potential.

One of the great Canadian contributions to the world's search for non-violent alternatives to the settlement of dissensions that do arise within the family of nations is our commitment to the mission of peace-keeping. So many nations approach the business of the resolution of differences by strength of arms; It is commendable that Canada has a growing reputation as a nation committed to the power of dialogue in resolving such differences.

It is a hopeful sign to discover that there are, within the international community, some nations who hold the view that lessons learned in resolving personal disputes can also be applied to national and international disputes. They stand firmly upon the conviction that human interests can be defended and human disagreements can be resolved without resorting to armed force. Since their inception as peace-makers under the flag of the United Nations, our Canadian military forces have devoted themselves with exemplary courage, discipline and skill to the sensitive art of resolving conflicts non-violently. Our modern military are learning new ways of exercising their responsibilities and of doing their duty.

Some may still argue that the gun is the most responsible and proven way of coping with such differences. But, our recent history is teaching us that the way of non-violence - the patient, careful and loving application of certain principles of human interaction - can lead humankind forward out of the nuclear shadow and into the light of a new day.

As Dag Hammarskjold, a most famous diplomat in the art of getting along with people once said: "Let us not make the mistake of undervaluing the mediation and conciliation that go on here (at the UN) among nations every day. In some small way injured pride is comforted, anger harmlessly vented, conflict ends in compromise."

CHSR FM BEGINS PEACE PROGRAMMING

CHSR FM has a new program devoted to peace, development, and the environment. Every week, producer and host Charles Crossman, takes you through the intricacies of working toward world peace. He will be examining issues facing Fredericton, Canada, and the world. The programme has an impressive list of guests and topics planned, spanning concerns of Fredericton students, to prospects for peace in El Salvador. Listen to A HARD RAIN - every Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

