

GOOD WORK NEWS

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Issue 93

June 2008

Subscription: A Donation Towards our Work

Inside This Issue:

- The 19th Annual Golf Tournament
- Thank you to our donors
- Reflections on My Time as a Student at St. John's Kitchen
- The U.S. Economy Ex-Distortion
- 21st Mayors' Dinner - Leaving Footprints



CANADA	POSTES
POST	CANADA
Postage paid	Port payé
Addressed Admail	Médiaposte avec adresse
5306256	



Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop

We have just finished renovating the shop, creating even more space for bike repairs and refurbishing!

Recycle Cycles is a community bicycle resource centre which provides:

- ⊕ Inexpensive reconditioned bicycles for children and adults.
- ⊕ Bike shop facilities for individuals to repair their own bicycles.
- ⊕ A large supply of used, refurbished and new parts.
- ⊕ Opportunities for volunteers and the public to gain bicycle repair experience in a supportive environment.

In 2007...

- ⊕ Recycle Cycles fixed up and reused over 500 bikes and serviced over 2000 bikes
- ⊕ Volunteers contributed over 5200 hours, refurbishing bikes for resale and helping people with repairs

Shop Hours:

Tuesday - Friday:
10:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday:
10:00am - 2:00pm

Please call ahead to reserve a time to repair your bike

**43 Queen St. S.
Second Floor**

For more information or to book a bicycle repair time, call 519-749-9177 ext. 222 or email recyclecycles@theworkingcentre.org



Cultural Holistic Helping

By Marilyn Sutherland

You would think that working on your Masters Degree in Social Work would be daunting. Yes? How about helping out at any one of the numerous soup kitchens we have across this country. My experience at the St. John's Community Kitchen (SJK) was far from this. I was actually overwhelmed by what I saw, felt and heard. But truthfully, that word "community" is what makes it happen. The experience I have helping at any kitchen is very minimal, a short stint in one northern town. What I brought with me is natural, simple, and ordinary.

I came to SJK through the Masters program at Wilfrid Laurier University in the Aboriginal Field of Study. This program is in its second year at Laurier with a culturally holistic approach to social work. In its uniqueness it serves as one of the academic environments for learning that the way of life for First Nations people has contributed to the evolution of natural helpers as we see them in our



My culture and traditions talk about the seven grandfather teachings that I am supposed to practice every day. These are love, truth, honesty, humility, respect, wisdom and bravery. Living an ordinary life allows the light to shine brighter with an attitude of acceptance of my identity to be kind, compassionate and loving.

communities. It has allowed for ceremonies and practices to be part of learning for the understanding and empathy of helping to occur. It also plays an enormous task of reviving, relearning and restoring a culture that was nearly decimated.

So, generally speaking, we are all affected by external forces we have around us on a daily basis. That's a given. Some instances may be the weather, how to dress that day, or a new address, finding the directions and so on, without a GPS of course, how about where to

continued on page 4

Looking Forward to Sustainable Growth

By Joe Mancini

There is a fundamental weakness embodied in the way we have structured our economy. It is dependant on a model of economic growth that is unsustainable. In 1992, in an issue of *Economic Justice Newsletter* (the forerunner to *Good Work News*) we featured an article with the headline, *Some Reasons to Question Economic Growth*. The article highlighted in bullet form ecological damages that would inevitably afflict the human race if we refused to come up with an economic model that respects the finite nature of the world around us. We were asking, what would happen to

rich northern societies if the poor south consumed their share of resources with the same voraciousness as the rich north? In the 1990s, the north consumed 80% of the resources with only 20% of the world's population.

Board member, Ken Westhues critiqued the headline, pointing out that as human beings we need 'growth' more than anything. He was arguing for the importance of growth in our human societies where we could evolve beyond greed, war and exploitation and instead reconnect with the values of human betterment at the communi-

continued on page 5

Twenty-Fourth Year

Issue 93

June 2008

Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. There is a circulation of 9,500 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

Editors: Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains, John R. Smith

Contributors: Joe Johnson, Rebecca Mancini, Marilyn Sutherland, Ruthi Knight, Stephen and Sylvia Scott, Matt Brubacher, Andy Macpherson, Brian Gable, and Kevin Phillips.

Editorial comments, changes of address and new subscriptions should be directed to:

The Working Centre
58 Queen Street South
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 1V6
Phone: (519) 743-1151, Fax: (519) 743-3840
e-mail: genmail@theworkingcentre.org
www.theworkingcentre.org
Canada Post Bulk #05306256
Charitable Registration #13092 9607 RR0001

Last year 3000 people used our lively resource centre, a place with multiple supports to individuals trying to earn a



living while facing a tough job market. We offer employment and career counseling, public access computers with Internet access, faxing, photocopying, and community voice mail.

Employment counselors work with individuals one-on-one to help them find employment that suits their needs and skills by:

- ➔ Offering advice to help you explore your skills and work options
- ➔ Helping to determine the kind of work you can and want to do
- ➔ Providing assistance preparing resumes and cover letters that are suited to the job you want
- ➔ Helping you prepare and practice for job interviews
- ➔ Providing connections to local employers
- ➔ Offering information to help you understand the labour market
- ➔ Providing information about trades and apprenticeships
- ➔ Providing various services for New Canadians and Internationally Trained Individuals



Call 519-743-1151 for more information.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesdays: 9:00am - 7:00pm

Please join us for the



In support of The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen

Wednesday, August 20th, 2008

at Foxwood Country Club

\$135 per Golfer plus a \$15 Golf Bonus Package

To reserve your spot, call Kara at (519) 743-1151 x.119

Sponsored by:



Twenty-First Annual Mayors' Dinner

Over 700 people attended this year's Mayors' Dinner. It was a lively evening that honoured the Scotts along with bringing many supportive people together. Thank you to all those who made a special contribution to this event. See the back page for photos and Sylvia and Stephen's speech about their work.

Thank You to all who make The Mayors' Dinner successful!

Mayor Carl Zehr, Mayor Brenda Halloran, Herb Epp, Brian Lockwood and Cyndi Vienneau-Cormier of Bell, Lorna Van Mosel, Arleen Macpherson, Roman Dubinski, Neil Aitchison, Lawrence Bingeman, Fred Walker, Dominic Cardillo, Margaret Motz, Harry Froklage, Joyce Stankiewicz, Denis Clark, Dave Kropf at Encore Communications, Murray Haase, Don Allen, Bill Janzen of Janzen Pianos, the individuals and businesses who contributed to the auction, and The Centro de Trabajo Band.

River Hospital, Jim & Sue Hallman, Jubilee Charitable Trust, K-W Counselling Services, Mighton Engineering, Margaret Motz, MTE, The Nowak Family, RBJ Schlegel Holdings Inc., Region of Waterloo, Christine Scott, Stephen & Sylvia Scott, St. Jacob's Best Western, St. Jacob's Midwives, St. Jerome's University, Steve & Eve Menich, Bob & Judy Shantz, Township of Woolwich, Paul Tuerr Construction, Dr. Louise Vitou, Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Waterloo Collegiate Institute, and Nelson Weber.

Thank You to Our Generous Patrons:

RDM corporation, Bell, Nac-Naughton Hersmen Britton Clarkson Planning ltd., Erb and Good Funeral Home, Zehrs, Church of St. John the Evangelist, Bingemans, Conestoga Rovers and Associates, and Strassberger Windows and Doors.

Thank You to Our Community Tables:

Mel Cescon & Donna Ward, CIBC, Ethos Consulting, Grand

Thank You to Our Mayors' Dinner Contributors:

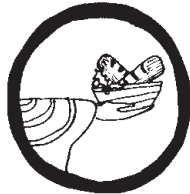
Brava Tex, Chloe Callendar, Anita Enns, Evan Ferrari & Pat Gibbons, Pat & Noreen Flynn, MC Havey & Tim Clark, Michael Graham & Hulene Montgomery, Cathy Gravelle & Peter Ciuciura, Carl & Eleanor Kaufman, John Kokko & Sue Anderson, Lyle S. Hallman Foundation, Margaret & Roger Marsh, Andrew McAuliffe, Frank and Elsie Millerd, Joyce & Bill Stankiewicz, and Dr. Peter Whitby and Barb Whitby.

Your Generosity is Very Much Appreciated

The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen are grateful for the many contributions we receive from individuals, businesses, churches, schools, groups, and organizations. It is with deep gratitude that we thank those who make significant contributions to our work. We recognize in doing so that we leave out many who contribute in so many important ways to our work.

All Saints Anglican Church, Sarah Anderson, Waltraud Anton, Julie Baumgartel, Julia Beddoe, Bingeman's, Bleinheim Ecumenical, Bloomingdale United Church, Andrea & Tim Bootsma, Alex & Trish Brown, Ilene Burkhardt, CAW Head Office, CAW Local 1451, Marian Campbell, A. Carl & Margaret Rieder, Alan Charters, CIBC, City of Kitchener, Coleman Equipment Inc., Congregation of the Resurrection, Donald Cowan, Crosby Volkswagen Inc., Kenneth R. Davidson, Diaconate of the Waterloo, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dosman, J. Douglas & Muriel I. Coleman, Roman Dubinski, EBS Engineering & Construction, Martin Edmonds & Janet McPharlin, Frank & Enid Ellingham, Paul Born & Marlene Epp, Christa Fischer, Estate of Margaret Helen Foster, Raymond T. Finnie, Forest Hill United Church, Steven Furino & Sabine Behnk, Esther E. Gascho, Andrew Glenn, Charles Greb, Ron-

ald Green, Valerie & D. Grzesiak, Iris Hall, HBC Foundation, Anna Hemmendinger, Kristin Higgins, Carol Holup, Malkin Howes, Stuart Jackson, Esme Johnson, Kimberly Kassik, Cecil & Doris Kavanaugh, Richard Kennel, Cameron Kitchen, Kitchener Frame Limited, Dave & Mary Lou Klassen, Greg Klymko, Jacobus & Pauline Kok, Martin Kuhn, K-W Car & Truck Dealers Association, K-W Naval Association, K-W Ontario Insurance Adjuster, K-W



Region Elks Lodge #578, Brenda & Gary Leis, Sally Lerner, Janice Levangie, M. R. Jutzi Properties, MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited, Katherine Mahaffey, Christina Mancini, Rebecca Mancini, Martin Luther Church, John & Kathy Grant McLoughlin, Mighton Engineering Ltd., Frank & Elsie Millerd, Sandy & David Milne, Hemi Mitic, Margaret Motz, MTE Consultants Inc., G. Nafziger & L. Bringelson, OEC-TA - Waterloo, Parkminster United Church, Brigitte Penzendorfer, Phyllis & Jack Porter, Dianne & Andy Rath, RDM Corporation, Region

of Waterloo, Ruth Ristau, River of Life Fellowship, Rotary Club of Kitchener-Grand River, Marguerite Rueb, Cynthia & Peter Schaffer, Mr. & Mrs. John Scheele, Schiedel Construction, Murray Schmidt, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Christine Scott, Mitsuru Shimpo, Sisters of Providence S.V.P., Sisters of St. Joseph, Stuart Snyder, Social Awareness, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, St. Agatha Religious House, St. Anthony Daniel Parish, St. Columba Anglican Church, St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Jacobs Printery, St. Jerome's University, St. Jerome's University House Fund, St. Michael's Church, St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Philips Lutheran Church, Strassburger Supplies Limited, Iva R. Taves, David Tsarfati, United Way, University Catholic Community, E.B. Vallis, John & Patricia Wainwright, Waterloo Christian Reformed, Waterloo Lions Club, Nelson Weber, James & Brenda Welch, Bill & Marnie Wharnsby, Herbert & Barbara Whitney, Claire & Shirley Wigle, Cynthia Wikkerink, Paula Witko, Apolonia Witko, Tom & Rebecca Yoder-Neufeld, and J. Clifton Young.

Thank You to Our Most Generous Donors!

The following individuals, businesses, and groups have made exceptional contributions in support of The Working Centre.

Carmeta Abbott, Ace Bakery, Bell Canada, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Vernon Bowman, CAW Local 1524, Mel Cescon & Donna Ward, Church of the Holy Saviour, Conestoga Rovers & Associates, Doyle Capital Corporation, Emmanuel United Church, Erb & Good Family Funeral Home, Stephen Filipowicz, First Christian Reformed, First Mennonite Church, Patrick Flynn, William J. Fox, Good Foundation, Walter Hachborn, Dorothy Hallman, Jim & Sue Hallman, Pamela Hilton, ITW Foundation, Estate of Catherine Kelly, K-W Community Foundation, K-W Community Foundation - Anonymus Fund, Knights of Columbus # 1504, Lear Canada, Lonsdale & Roberta Schofield Fund, Jack & Daphne Lucas, Ronald & Vicki Macdonald, Dr. Catherine Mancini, Manulife Financial, David & Bonnie Martin, David & Nancy Matthews, Steve & Eve Menich, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mersynergy Charitable Foundation, Peter Morris, John Oudyk & Sandra Mooibroek, Motz Family Endowment, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Gladys Porter, Bob & Judy Shantz, Glen & Elsie Shantz, John Shortreed, Christopher Springer, St. Agatha Church, St. Louis Parish, St. Mary's High School S.A.C., Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church, The May Court Club of K-W, Robert Veitch, Waterloo Region Catholic Community, Ken Westhues, and Zehrs.



We sometimes hear of individuals claiming to fundraise for St. John's Kitchen door-to-door.

In November, we do drop flyers, and we always ask donors to mail or drop off donations to the Centre.

2008 Coin Drive a Great Success!

This year's coin can drive was a great success, raising \$6,494.93, thanks to the efforts of these generous local churches, schools, and individuals: Blessed Sacrament Church, Blessed Sacrament School, Christ The King United, Emmanuel United Church, First Mennonite Church, Highland Baptist Church, Kitchener East Presbyterian, Olivet United Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St. Daniel School, St. Dominic School, St. Jerome's University, St. John's School, St. Louis Church, St. Mark's Church, St. Matthew School, St. Patrick's School, St. Steven's Lutheran Church, and Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church.

Thank You to InTown Internet

We would like to thank Harry Vanderzand and InTown Internet for generously providing The Working Centre with free web hosting over the last several years. Each month, thousands of people are able to learn about The Working Centre through our website. We are most grateful for their continuing generosity.

Thank You to The Working Centre's Board of Directors

- President:** Gordon Crosby
- Secretary:** Margaret Motz
- Treasurer:** Roman Dubinski
- Vice President:** Ken Westhues
- Directors:** Rita Levato
Mitsuru Shimpo
Arleen Macpherson

The Working Centre has been well served by its Board of Directors. Since 1988, the Board has fluctuated between 7-10 members. Many Board members have offered valuable long-term commitments and stability. The Board's main role is keeper of the Working Centre vision. This is accomplished through taking an active role in Working Centre projects, extensive discussion and debate on Working Centre priorities, full analysis of issues and constant monitoring of financial statements. We are grateful for this important community service.



Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club



Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club President Larry Gravill and 2007 Dream Home Chair Graham Lobban present the proceeds from the 2007 Dreamhome Lottery to Joe Mancini for the 97 Victoria project.

Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club Raises \$200,000 from Dream Home Lottery

At a luncheon in January 2008, the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club presented The Working Centre with a cheque for \$200,000 from the Dreamhome Lottery. The contribution will enable us to retire the complete mortgage at 97 Victoria. We are grateful to the

hard working members of the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club for this important donation that provides long-term support for the community meal and outreach projects offered at St. John's Kitchen.

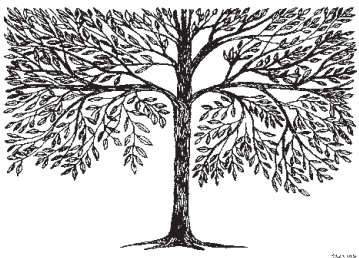


Helping

continued from page 1

get the next meal? This list can go on and on. It's unrelenting. To me there are too many expectations and they can be overwhelming. This definitely can be the life of the underprivileged and the marginalized population. I have learned to live a simple life. For me keeping it simple is real.

There are times when I yearn to go out on the land and remember the natural things I was raised to understand. The trees and the water that give the meaning of survival are important in remembering my heri-



tage and identity. To feel the ground and breathe the air brings about the connection to the universe and to remember how little I really am. The natural cycle of the universe also brings me to allow events and activities to occur as they are meant to be. Letting things happen without going through the suffering and painful acts of resistance brings a peace of mind.

The ordinary things in life are just that ordinary. There's no place for hoopla or fireworks. My culture and traditions talk about the seven grandfather teachings that I am supposed to practice every day. These are love, truth, honesty, humility, respect, wisdom and bravery. Living an ordinary life allows the light to shine brighter with an attitude of acceptance of my identity to be kind, compassionate and loving.

This is what I carry in my bundle. To walk in this way helps me to see

This program is in its second year at Laurier with a culturally holistic approach to social work. It is an academic environment for learning that the way of life for First Nations people has contributed to the evolution of natural helpers.

things in a good way, no matter what it is. Walking with a bundle allows me to "count my blessings" from the tiniest to the greatest. Things come in all forms and I am thankful for all. I suppose the practice of living in the moment is the greatest gift that I can give to everyone I meet. I am also thankful for the days that are not going too well, for there is also a lesson to learn from that. I have come to understand that the stories I've heard and the things that I've seen all have some meaning I can carry with me. We are told to take the good things in life and learn to leave the things which are not meant to keep.

It's funny how the days flew by at the kitchen, there were days when all was hectic and there are days when a sense of peace and serenity was present. This feeling of hope will always be there knowing that it is a place for community acceptance. One person I got to know well had a dream of being independent when she arrived at the kitchen in search of a meal. After a few chats I got to know why her place of residence was not conducive to freedom. This person frequented the kitchen on a daily basis for a while. Whenever I came into work there was always a smile and greetings, chatting with other people and she enjoyed the freedom. For this person, the kitchen was a place of refuge, a place where the self can be free. Of course, this is only a passing stopover for many, for others it is a place where a good meal is found. For the visitors who needed a meal, it is a warm place with warm smiles. For those who need a push in the right direction, major life decisions

are quickly made and we may not see them again.

My experience at SJK would not be the uplifting experience that it's been without my world view. We as human beings all want the same thing, we want peace and harmony. The best place to begin is within us and like a pebble in the water; this will ripple outward to the entire world. I have seen the work that the community kitchen has offered our community in a way that is hard to imagine. By the grace of goodness and

compassion, the visitors who come there know this place for what it is. It is a place for socializing, meeting, contemplating, reflecting, mourning, laughing, surrendering, resting, re-evaluating, and a spring board for the next chapters of life. It is also a place of acceptance, compassion, dedication, and plain old caring for others. To the employees and helpers at the kitchen, this place has those lessons to offer, we keep our hearts open to embrace them and carry them for our own path of wellness.

Reflections On My Time as a Student at St. John's Kitchen

By Ruthi Knight

This year, I have journeyed through the Bachelor of Social Work program at Renison College, one of the colleges within the University of Waterloo. When the time came to choose my placement, I had only one location in mind: The Working Centre. I was drawn to the grassroots, community approach and was eager to be involved in "non-traditional" social work. I came to my placement thinking I was going to do street outreach and Community Tools work. On the first day I learned about housing outreach at St. John's Kitchen, and that was to become my role for the year. I have loved working collaboratively with the St. John's Kitchen staff and downtown street outreach. I have walked with 20 people as they have navigated the ups and downs of securing and maintaining housing.

I was nervous to take on this opportunity because the extent of my housing knowledge was from past student rental experiences. In school, they don't teach you about 'intent to rent' forms or how to fill out a community housing application.

They also don't teach you about rooming houses, and the fact that \$349 a month from Ontario Works does not cover rent for more than a single room. Or the fact that the waiting list for subsidized housing is at least 5 years. These were things I would learn from the people who were looking, or waiting, for housing. I also learned about the importance of compassionate, flexible landlords and the need to find places that were a good fit for everyone. I came to identify some barriers to finding housing - from complicated forms to subtle advertising discrimination ("seeking working tenant, no smoking, no alcoholics"). I found myself growing frustrated with the system, and realized how much more frustrating it was to someone who's life is dictated by forms, checklists, and unanswered phone calls.

I heard many stories of the plac-

I was drawn to the grassroots, community development approach and was eager to be involved in "non-traditional" social work.

es lived or the lives travelled. For some, housing was a key issue, central to their stability; while for others, housing was peripheral. I also learned that finding a room or an apartment to live in did not mean someone had a home. And many people, once 'housed', still go to St. John's Kitchen or the Out of the Cold program; for a meal, yes, but something greater - for the experience of community. At times, being isolated in an apartment is worse than being on the street. So hanging out on King St. is like a neighbourhood party, a gathering place for friends. This sense of community



Queen Street Commons Café
presents
Open Space
A regular Monday gathering
6:30pm - 8:30pm
43 Queen St. S. Kitchener



Everyone is Welcome!

Especially people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers



Offered in cooperation with



For more information, call
Matt Brubacher
519-741-0190 x300, or email
mattb@efwr.on.ca

Unsustainable Growth

continued from page 1

ty level. Thomas Berry in his book, *The Dream of the Earth* published in 1988, stated the need for human growth in these terms,

"The time has come to lower our voices, to cease imposing our mechanistic patterns on the biological processes of the earth, to resist the impulse to control, to command, to force, to oppress, and to begin quite humbly to follow the guidance of the larger community on which all life depends. Our fulfillment is not in our isolated human grandeur, but in our intimacy with the larger earth community, for this is the larger dimension of our being. Our human destiny is integral with the destiny of the earth".

Sixteen years later, the vision of growth discussed by Ken Westhues and Thomas Berry is still a long way off. Instead, our growth is dependant on the exploitation of finite resources, the generation of green house gases that wreak havoc on the atmosphere, and the manufacturing of endless, throw away consumer junk.

The early 1990's were a time of recession and high unemployment. For those without work, it was a long, five year period of adjustment with significant plant closings and layoffs. However, by 1992, other parts of the growth economy were already in gear. Northern and southern economies went on an unprecedented 16-year period of economic expansion.

Now, in June 2008 the economic landscape and our understanding of what we have just gone through is changing rapidly. George Soros, who has made himself a billionaire exploiting the financial system, sees the present scale of financial distress as the worst crisis since the Great Depression.

In *The New Paradigm for Financial Markets: The Credit Crisis of 2008 and What It Means*, Soros shows that we are not witnessing an ordinary boom and bust cycle but the culmination of a super bubble that got under way in the early 1980's.

"Every time the credit expansion ran into trouble the financial authorities intervened, injecting liquidity and finding other ways to stimulate the economy. That created a system of asymmetric incentives also known as moral hazard, which encouraged ever greater credit expansion. The system was so successful that people came to believe in what former president Ronald Reagan called the magic of the marketplace and what I call market fundamentalism. Fundamentalists believe that markets tend towards equilibrium and the common interest is best served by allowing the participants to pursue their self-interest. It is an obvious misconception, because it was the intervention of the authorities that prevented financial markets from breaking down, not the markets themselves. Nevertheless, market fundamentalism emerged as the dominant ideology of the 1980s,

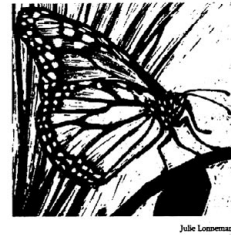
when financial markets started to become globalized."

During this time, the US has managed to become the depository of China's new found wealth. James Fallows writes about this in the January *Atlantic Monthly* in an article entitled *The \$1.4 Trillion Question*. He is perplexed by a system where the rich U.S. uses Chinese dollars to subsidize North American consumers with cheap loans. Meanwhile Chinese grade school children are schooled in unheated buildings to name just one example of the types of hardships the Chinese population faces daily.

According to Soros, "globalization allowed the U.S. to suck up the savings of the rest of the world and consume more than it produced. ...The financial markets encouraged consumers to borrow by introducing ever more sophisticated instruments and more generous terms. The authorities aided and abetted the pro-

from paycheque to paycheque drawing down our resources? The answer in almost all respects is that we have not planned for the future. Politicians have catered to North Americans with tax cuts and low interest rates, little of which has made our communities energy efficient.

A CIBC World Market report on the 'Efficiency Paradox' in November 2007 made the point succinctly, "North Americans have made great strides in improving energy efficiency, but have consumed all those gains with gas-guzzling cars, monster homes and an electrified lifestyle." For example, automakers have improved the gas consumption of vehicles by up to 30%, except that now larger vehicles that are travelling longer distances have all but wiped out the savings. Air conditioners and furnaces are significantly more efficient except that the number of air conditioner units has grown by 36% since 1990 and the average house has grown from 1000



Julie Lomness

square feet to 2,500 square feet. Also adding to this is the exponential growth in power consuming appliances that are now ubiquitous in every household. Recent economic data shows the trend continues towards consumption rather than savings. Retail sales were up .5% in April 2008 while credit card debt grew by 6.7%. This means that consumers were keeping the economy going with increased debt. Despite record high gas prices, gasoline consumption in Canada grew by 3.6% last year. Air travel overseas increased by 9.8%. Commentators in United States see "over capacity at every corner, and insane overbuilding of both commercial and residential

real estate." They claim that 70% of the US economy runs on the fumes of home construction, financing and consumer spending. Oakville Member of Parliament Garth Turner has produced a similar analysis in his book, *Greater Fool: The Troubled Future of Real Estate*. His goal is to shake the complacency of Canadians who think only Americans fell for subprime-type mortgages when in fact the Canadian consumer economy is a mirror of the American one. Where would the Canadian economy be without the 101,000 jobs that Stats Canada reported were created in the construction industry? What happens when, as Garth Turner predicts, Canada follows the US with the bursting of our own housing bubble?

Back in 1992 it was timely to ask hard questions as we did. 16 years later, it seems little progress has been made to adapt our prosperous economy into something that is remotely sustainable. Wendell Berry, almost exasperated, entitled a recent essay in *Harpers Magazine*, *Faustian Economics – Hell Hath No Limits*

"The general reaction to the apparent end of the era of cheap fossil fuel, as to other readily foreseeable curtailments, has been to delay any sort of reckoning... The dominant response, in short, is a dogged belief that what we call the American Way of Life will prove somehow indestructible. We will keep on consuming, spending, wasting and driving, as before, at any cost to anything and everybody but ourselves. This belief was always indefensible – the real names of global warming are Waste and Greed – and by now it is manifestly foolish."

At The Mayors' Dinner this year, I talked about alternative ways to think about local development. The Working Centre's experience over 25 years has focused on interdependent projects that build ecological and social resilience. There is real interest locally in developing sustainable initiatives that are inclusive

continued on page 6



cess." The super credit bubble has been growing since the 1980's as financial regulation has weakened to the point of being a sideline cheerleader at best. Soros refers to this process as a "shocking abdication of responsibility".

As North Americans, what type of a society did we build during this period? Was this new found prosperity directed into productive activities that build resilience to weather economic downturns or have we lived

consumption rather than savings. Retail sales were up .5% in April 2008 while credit card debt grew by 6.7%. This means that consumers were keeping the economy going with increased debt. Despite record high gas prices, gasoline consumption in Canada grew by 3.6% last year. Air travel overseas increased by 9.8%. Commentators in United States see "over capacity at every corner, and insane overbuilding of both commercial and residential

Worth a Second Look has become Kitchener's largest furniture and housewares recycling centre!

Worth a Second Look recycles over 150,000 items per year and is primarily supported by 30 volunteers per month who sort, price, and stock good quality merchandise, offered at very affordable prices!

What's in Stock:

- ⊕ sofas and chairs
- ⊕ tables and desks
- ⊕ dishes and cookware
- ⊕ small appliances



- ⊕ books and magazines
- ⊕ art and crafts
- ⊕ cassettes and LPs
- ⊕ toys and games
- ⊕ ...and much more!

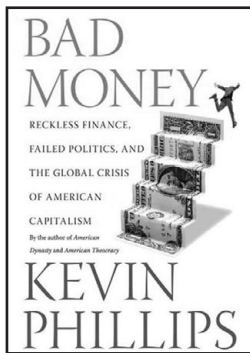


Store Hours

Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm

97 Victoria St. N.
Downtown Kitchener
(519) 569-7566

Volunteers are always welcome!



Bad Money Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism

Kevin Phillips

In *Bad Money*, Phillips describes the consequences of misguided U.S. economic policies, the mounting debt, the collapsing housing market, the threatened oil, and the end of American domination of world markets. Phillips explores the striking parallels between the declining American economy and that of previous leading world economic powers.

256 pages, \$25.95, hardcover

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Kevin Phillips for *Harpers Magazine* in May 2008, entitled "Numbers Racket: Why the Economy is Worse Than We Know." We present this article as evidence that much of the so-called growth of the last five years has been unsustainable. It is important to recognize where such misjudgements take us.

The U.S. Economy Ex-Distortion

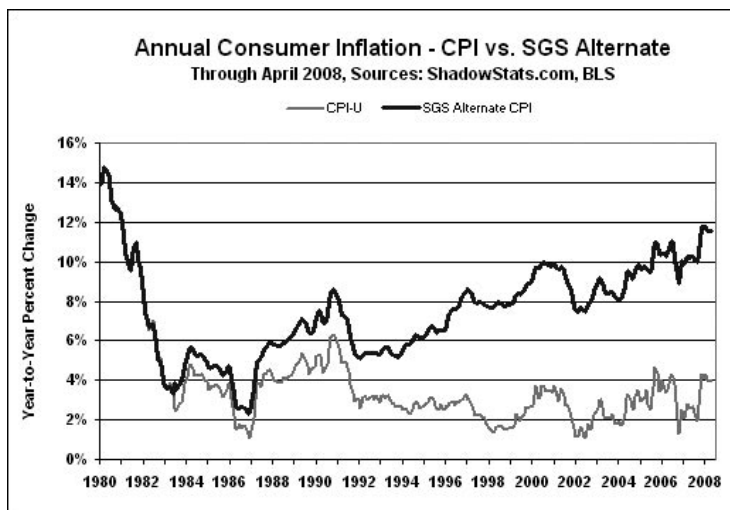
The real numbers, to most economically minded Americans, would be a face full of cold water. Based on the criteria in place a quarter century ago, today's U.S. unemployment rate is somewhere between 9 percent and 12 percent; the inflation rate is as high as 7 or even 10 percent; economic growth since the recession of 2001 has been mediocre, despite a huge surge in the wealth and incomes of the super-rich, and we are falling back into recession. If what we have been sold in recent years has been delusional "Pollyanna Creep," what we really need today is a picture of our economy ex-distortion. For what it would reveal is a nation in deep difficulty not just domestically but globally.

Undermeasurement of inflation, in particular, hangs over our heads like a guillotine. To acknowledge it would send interest rates climbing, and thereby would endanger the viability of the massive build-up of public and private debt (from less than \$11 trillion in 1987 to \$49 trillion last year) that props up the American economy. Moreover, the rising cost of pensions, benefits, borrowing, and interest payments—all

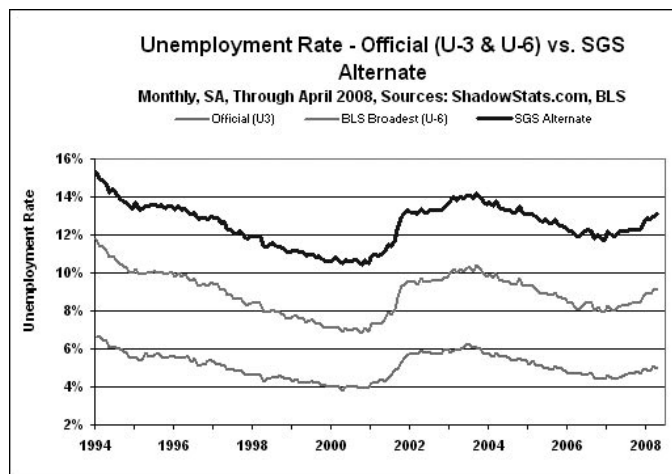
indexed or related to inflation—could join with the cost of financial bailouts to overwhelm the federal budget. As inflation and interest rates have been kept artificially suppressed, the United States has been indentured to its volatile financial sector, with its predilection for leverage and risky buccaneering.

Arguably, the unravelling has already begun. As Robert Hardaway, a professor at the University of Denver, pointed out last September, the sub-prime lending crisis "can be directly traced back to the [1983] BLS decision to exclude the price of housing from the CPI. . . .With the illusion of low inflation inducing lenders to offer 6 percent loans, not only has speculation run rampant on the expectations of ever-rising home prices, but home buyers by the millions have been tricked into buying homes even though they only qualified for the teaser rates." Were mainstream interest rates to jump into the 7 to 9 percent range—which could happen if inflation were to spur new concern—both Washington and Wall Street would be walking in quicksand. The make-believe economy of the past two decades, with its asset bubbles, massive borrowing, and rampant data distortion, would be in serious jeopardy. The U.S. dollar, off more than 40 percent against the euro since 2002, could slip down an even rockier slope.

The credit markets are fearful, and the financial markets are nervous. If gloom continues, our humbugged nation may truly regret losing sight of history, risk, and common sense.



In the above graph, the dark line represents what the current U.S. inflation rate would be if the same methodology used in 1980 was still used today. The lighter line represents the revised method for tracking inflation that is in use today. Graph comes from John Williams at ShadowStats.com.



In the above graph, the lower line represents the standard unemployment rate, and the line above includes marginally attached and involuntary part-time workers. The SGS Alternate Unemployment Rate reflects current unemployment reporting methodology adjusted for SGS-estimated "discouraged workers" defined away during the Clinton Administration added to the existing BLS estimates of level U-6 unemployment.

Canadian Unemployment Stats	1998	2005
Standardized Unemployment Rate	8.3%	6.8%
Discouraged Workers	0.5%	0.2%
Involuntary Part-time Workers	2.5%	4.4%
Totals	11.3%	11.4%

The above chart shows the same trend is happening in Canada. This chart is of no surprise to unemployed Canadian workers.

Growth

continued from page 5

and productive.

This means creating new work through recycling, small scale production of food, clothing and furniture at home or on a co-op basis, wide ranging community services that connect people to others, enhancing volunteerism by giving people real opportunities, and new ideas that integrate skill building and income generation.

The resulting new work, the increase in small scale recycling, the control over one's work, the pride

from skill and craft, and the friendship and caring that grow through informal links serve to lessen alienation and build commitment to the wider community. Directing initiatives towards making it easier, cheaper and efficient to get around, growing food, generating local power, to crafting goods sold locally, these are the real tasks of the local economy.

This way of thinking is in stark contrast to the dominant mode of economic development. Local communities may once again face the choice of working towards a small is beautiful future as the ecological and economic realities take hold.

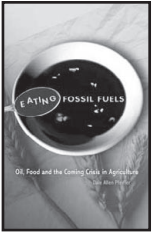
Whole Food Box Community Supported Agriculture at The Working Centre

The Whole Food Box CSA program is a successful initiative that links 9 small local farms in the Waterloo Region with downtown residents. The Community Supported Agriculture model means that members pay for their boxes in advance of the season, allowing farmers to purchase the seeds, tools and supplies that are needed at the beginning of the growing year. Boxes contain top quality organically grown produce, as well as



fresh herbs, berries, flowers and more. Being a non-profit program, the CSA is able to pay fair prices to the growers, while at the same time offer affordable prices to members, many of who may not access fresh organic produce otherwise. Members "live along" with the farm, getting to know the ups & downs of the growing season through their weekly boxes, newsletter updates, and farm tours.

Alternative Work Catalog

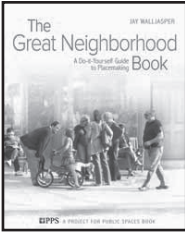


Eating Fossil Fuels Oil, Food, and the Coming Crisis in Agriculture

David Allen Pfeiffer

The miracle of modern agriculture is made possible by cheap fossil fuels to supply crops with artificial fertilizer, pesticides, and irrigation. It is estimated that in the US it takes ten calories of hydrocarbon energy to produce one calorie of food. Eating Fossil Fuels examines the interlinked crises of energy and agriculture and highlights some startling findings, and argues that the effect of energy depletion will be disastrous without a transition to a sustainable, relocalized agriculture.

144 pages \$13.95 softcover

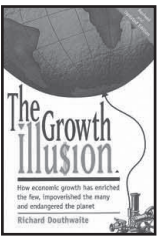


The Great Neighborhood Book A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking

Jay Walljasper and Project for Public Spaces

Neighborhoods decline when the people who live there lose their connection and no longer feel part of their community. Recapturing that sense of belonging and pride of place can be as simple as planting a civic garden or placing some benches in a park. The Great Neighborhood Book explains how most struggling communities can be revived, not by vast infusions of cash, not by government, but by the people who live there. This exciting guide offers inspiring real-life examples that show the magic that happens when individuals take small steps, and motivate others to make change.

192 pages \$23.95 softcover

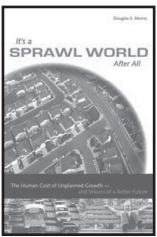


The Growth Illusion How Economic Growth has Enriched the Few, Impoverished the Many, and Endangered the Planet

Richard Douthwaite

The idea that economic growth is necessary is deeply rooted in western culture and forms the basis of the economic strategies for developed and developing nations around the globe. A finalist in the GPA Book Award when first released in 1993, this fully updated and revised edition demonstrates why economic growth is a prescription for disaster and suggests how to redirect our capitalist system toward more positive ends.

400 pages \$25.95 softcover

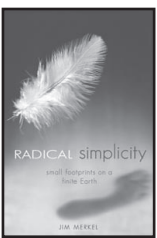


It's a Sprawl World After All The Human Cost of Unplanned Growth - and Visions of a Better Future

Douglas E. Morris

The US has the highest violent crime rate, by a wide margin, than any other first-world nation. This book links the breakdown of American society with the expansion of suburban sprawl. Without small towns and communities to bring people together, urban sprawl has left Americans isolated, alienated and afraid of each other. Suburbia has substituted cars for conversation, malls for main streets, and television for authentic social interaction. The book offers readers tools to rebuild community in their lives and in society at large.

228 pages \$21.95 softcover

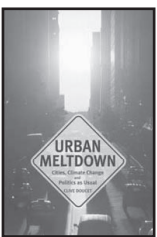


Radical Simplicity Small Footprints on a Finite Earth

Jim Merkel

In the face of looming ecological disaster, many people feel the need to change their own lifestyles as a way of transforming our unsustainable culture. Radical Simplicity guides the reader to a personal sustainability goal, then offers a process to monitor progress to a lifestyle that is equitable amongst all people, species, and generations. Radical Simplicity is a practical, personal answer to the challenges that our society will face in the 21st century.

288 pages \$19.95 softcover

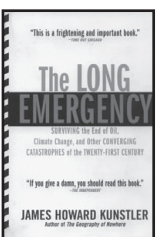


Urban Meltdown Cities, Climate Change, and Politics as Usual

Clive Doucet

Eighty percent of the planet's greenhouse gases are created by energy-intensive urban centers. Thus, the key to creating climate change solutions resides with cities. Author and Ottawa city councillor Doucet provides an insider's perspective, stating his central theme: "It's not about planning. It's about politics." Climate change is proceeding so quickly not for lack of knowledge, but because politicians who deviate from the car-based sprawl model cannot get elected. Urban Meltdown describes how we got here, why we got here, and what can be done about it.

251 pages \$20.95 softcover

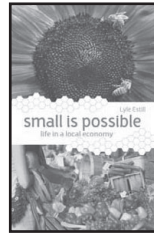


The Long Emergency Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century

James Howard Kunstler

James Howard Kunstler is a witty author whose writing has taken aim at suburban sprawl – namely the destruction of small communities in favour of endless tracts of housing and strip malls. His small town sensibilities make it obvious to him that auto dependant suburban development based on cheap oil and natural gas is a losing proposition. His book postulates a Long Emergency from the inevitable oil and gas shortages and the resulting economic dislocation.

256 pages \$14.95 softcover

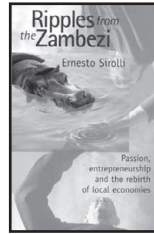


Small is Possible Life in a Local Economy

Lyle Estill

In an era when complex issues like Peak Oil and Climate Change dominate headlines, practical solutions at a local level can seem somehow inadequate. Small is Possible introduces us to "hometown security," with this chronicle of a community-powered response to resource depletion in a fickle global economy. This is the story of how one small southern US town found actual solutions to actual problems. Unwilling to rely on government and wary of large corporations, these residents discovered it is possible for a community to feed itself, fuel itself, heal itself, and govern itself.

240 pages \$17.95 softcover



Ripples from the Zambezi Passion, Entrepreneurship, and the Rebirth of Local Economies

Ernesto Sirolli

In the same way that you can't lead a horse to water, you can't force economic development on people who do not want to be "developed." This realization inspired Sirolli's unique approach that he calls enterprise facilitation. Learn about the failures and successes that led to the growth of this form of business development. Presently over 250 communities in four countries use the facilitation approach. Inspiring and amusing, this book will appeal to a wide range of people interested in a new and successful approach to revitalizing communities.

151 pages \$14.95 softcover



Dark Age Ahead

Jane Jacobs

A Dark Age is a culture's dead end; a result of a society gone awry. Jacobs argues that our own culture may soon be facing a dark age as we move from an agrarian economy to an increasingly technological one. How do we make this shift without losing ourselves in the process? Jacobs identifies several key aspects of society that are slowly degrading, and suggests that to reverse the decay, we must hold on to those key cultural values.

256 pages \$21.00 softcover

The Alternative Work Book Store at Queen Street Commons Café offers a wide selection of books on such topics as the environment, education, poverty, social alternatives, the philosophy of work, job searching, simple living, and more!



You can place orders by fax (519-743-3840), phone (1-887-252-2072), or mail (see order form below).

Alternative Work Catalogue Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Cheque Enclosed (payable to The Working Centre)

Visa Mastercard

Card #: _____

Expiry: _____ Signature: _____

Quantity	Title	Price

Postage: \$3 for the first book, \$1 for each additional book. Free postage for orders over \$200.

Mail completed forms to:
Alternative Work Catalogue
58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON
N2G 1V6

Total	
Postage	
Subtotal	
5% GST	
Order Total	



Leaving Footprints

Editor's note: This article is a combination of Stephen and Sylvia/s Mayors' Dinner Speech that tells the story, in their words, of the Matangwe project.

By Stephen and Sylvia Scott

Our dear family, friends, colleagues, and everyone here tonight, Sylvia and I are grateful and humbled that you should all be gathered here tonight in our honour and to recognize and celebrate the ongoing work and contribution we're involved in with marginalized communities and populations Western Kenya. It is hard to comprehend that we should be rewarded for work that we are passionate about and consider necessary for community survival and therefore our moral and ethical responsibility as global citizens. I feel that the recognition given to us tonight is not something that we have achieved on our own. There are many people who have been involved from the time of the inception of the vision of the Matangwe Project up to now, without whom we would not have been able to achieve what we have today.

Examples include:

- More than 100 volunteers who have travelled to Matangwe to date
- We appreciate the CPG board of Directors whose time and commitment to seeing CPG off the ground from baby steps up to now have been commendable.
- Special thanks to our four children: Christine, Sarah, Joshua and Rachel. You have all been most generous in sacrificing time without us for the last 10 years when we travel to work with others every year or become engaged in regular meetings and or fundraising events that often demand our free time and take us away from home and family. We appreciate and love each one of our children and we pray that the life we build and live will be a worthy example that they would someday wish to emulate.

July 2008 will officially mark the 10th anniversary since groundbreaking at Matangwe for the community health centre structure as well as the arrival of the first team of 15 volunteers all from Waterloo Region. (Several of you here today were part of that initial team – Gerry Thompson, Chuck Burt, Glenn and Pat Pascoe, Pastor Jim Reese, Robert Grimes). We believed then that

giving back and engaging with this community with a goal to building capacity and sustainability would create footprints for change for generations to come. Looking back now, we realize how much learning we still have ahead of us. We also recognize and understand better what makes a difference in creating the footprints that one would be proud to leave behind.

Sylvia and I agree that the four areas that continue to get results when kept in focus whether we work on the Matangwe project or go about our day to day life and work in this community are:



- Having a vision that is based on ethically sound values
- Engaging meaning fully with people that are going to experience and be impacted by the changes we lead
- Establishing strategic relationships
- Leading by example – i.e. Walking the talk

Sylvia will now speak on what we have leaned in applying the four areas to what we do. Margaret Mead, who lived in the years 1901-1978 said: *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has”*

When Stephen and I started the work at Matangwe, the reality of the devastation and impact of disease and poverty on this remote community of Western Kenya be-



came startling and overwhelming. It would have been easy to slip away after one of our visits and live quietly ever after back in the comforts of our Waterloo home and never return again. But the nagging Christian principles and values steeped in our conscience could not allow us to rest easy. It literally became difficult to sleep knowing that we were in a better position to advocate for the marginalized in society and in the global community.



Value Based Vision

The core values that have guided our vision for this work have therefore included:

- Our faith based foundation on Christian principles. The moral ethical accountability to always seek to serve all in need without exception or judgment of the root cause of their situation regardless of differences.
- Secondly is learning to respect the value of humanity. We have seen the resiliency of orphaned children, older grandmothers caring for orphans, widowed mothers and street children, high school students given up for failures regaining hope and confidence through the education sponsorship program and outperforming many in the National Exams for university entrance.
- We have come to believe in the importance that each single person brings to a community regardless of the circumstance they find themselves in.
- Given hope and a reason to trust, they teach us daily that poverty, homelessness, disease devastation, being orphaned or an addict - just to mention a few, is not a reason to be written off society's membership. In fact, we now see it as a lesson to step in and right society's wrongs through advocacy and resource mobilization.
- This picture is not unique to Kenya, but consistently observed across all Global communities that I have experienced such as Bolivia, Thailand. Closer to

home, Stephen and I spent two years in Moosonee and Moose Factory in Northern Ontario and witnessed the impact of poverty on quality of life in this area of Canada.

- What we know for sure is that regardless of each individual's/community status, there is a deep want for a better life and happiness. How and when we choose to intervene can make a difference. Engaging the people in finding solutions to issues that impact them is critical.

Community Engagement

We have learnt that the engagement must be meaningful and involve those who will be impacted by change, encouraging their participation and decision making, mentoring others with a goal to build capacity for leadership and self reliance at the local level, and recognizing that community ownership is the key to sustainability

- Working with NGOs demands, to a degree, that the programs that are put in place have potential for sustainability.
- We know from our Canadian experience that even health care funding is not sustainable with changing population needs, technology development, and infectious diseases that have developed resistance to common medications that used to treat them.
- We have come to learn that involving partners with the specialized expertise to enable us to achieve a level of sustainability.

Strategic Relationships

It has been important to establish national and international relationships with like-minded organizations to ensure that the development goals are achieved. We are indebted to all our Canadian partners who have come along side us such as Benton Street Baptist Church, Help the Aged Canada, the Rotary Clubs, Grand River Hospital, Waterloo Collegiate Institute and the many other schools and hospitals and individuals too numerous to mention.

Leading By Example

We also recognized early enough that as leaders, we are watched every minute. According to Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, “Whatever we have done with our lives makes us what we are when we die. And everything, absolutely everything, counts...” I again thank you for honoring us this evening, we hope that we have created an appetite in you to seek to engage in our community not only to support what makes us the most intelligent community but to support those that need our support to find hope and begin to change their lives for the better.

Thank you.

