

MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ON NAFTA: DON'T TOUCH!

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- PHIL FONTAINE
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January is the time we all think about the future. What will 2009 hold for us, our families, our colleagues? And many of us also ponder what the next year will look like globally. Will the crisis in Sri Lanka escalate? What will happen in Zimbabwe? Somalia? Sudan? There's no question 2009 will be a critical year for Afghanistan and Iraq. And Canadians can't help looking south to a new, possibly protectionist, administration. What will it mean north of the 49th parallel?

Diplomat decided to poll those in the know for a distinctly Canadian forecast for 2009, and, for the planet as a whole. What will the next decade look like economically, politically, socially and militarily? We also asked for solutions our guest forecasters might offer. Heady questions, but our sources – including Afghan Ambassador Omar Samad, former ambassador to the U.S. Frank McKenna, and author Andrew Cohen – didn't disappoint.

Mr. Samad suggests that it might be necessary to establish new institutions, with multilateral participation, that will look for solutions to "many problems of global reach" and that emphasize pragmatism over ideology. For his own country, he hopes for an end to violence which will lead to a period where the Afghan people "catch up" in terms of economic, political and social welfare. He sees a country where education, health, basic freedoms and human rights are no longer under threat.

Mr. McKenna, who was himself proposed as one of three wise men advisors for the would-be Dion coalition but who declined the offer, predicts a period of stability for federal politics in spite of early December's antics. He warns that we may see a resurgence of protectionism in the United States now that the Democrats control both the Senate and the House of Representatives but he doesn't anticipate any of the moves will be aimed at Canada, just that Canada will have to be careful not to get sideswiped by the policy as a whole.



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

As for the others? You'll have to turn to page 14 to see what they predict.

In our books essay, George Fetherling brings us the story of Canadian diplomat Charles Ritchie – posted as ambassador to the United Nations and the United Kingdom – and his love affair with British novelist Elizabeth Bowen. In *Love's Civil War*, edited by Victoria Glendinning with Judith Robertson, we learn details of their "obsessional, 35-year love affair." Mr. Fetherling also tells us about new reads, including books on the Fenians, on China as the new Japan, and on humanitarian intervention.

Our Delights section is full of travel stories. One looks at the challenge of finding accommodations in British Columbia during the winter Olympics, still another year away, and the other, by New Zealand High Commissioner Kate Lackey, entices readers to visit her island paradise.

Entertaining columnist Margaret Dickenson gets in the mood for love with a Valentine's Day column while Margo Roston takes us into the home of Greek Ambassador Nikolaos Matsis and his wife, Katherine. Wine columnist Pieter Van den Weghe tells us how climate change is affecting wine production worldwide.

Up front, we have a report from the World Health Organization and an article written by Mexican Ambassador Emilio Goicoechea on the implications of re-opening the North American Free Trade Agreement. We also have an interview with House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken, who has held the position for seven years and beat out a long list of would-be successors when Parliament re-opened in November. He talks about his experiences as speaker, and what fun he's had dealing with the diplomatic corps over the years.

Enjoy our first issue for 2009.

UP FRONT

What struck photographer Ben Welland most about the quick photo shoot he did with Afghan Ambassador Omar Samad was the location of the embassy. An old brick home, converted into an embassy, it's on Argyle Street in the heart of Ottawa's Centretown. "I was struck by how warm and inviting the embassy was," he said. "It's a nice old house in Centretown that just so happens to have a black gate around it." Interestingly, on the day Mr. Welland visited, he was able to just walk through the gate without having to identify himself. "So you could say the shoot went off without a hitch," Mr. Welland joked.



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New Zealand High Commissioner Kate Lackey

Author of "New Zealand's treasures await you"



Mrs. Lackey is a career diplomat. Before coming to Canada, she spent four years as her country's high commissioner to Australia.

Before that stint, she spent five years as deputy secretary in the ministry of foreign affairs and trade; the preceding three years as head of the Americas division; and two years as director of the audit review division. She has also had postings to Singapore, Fiji and the United States.

This is Mrs. Lackey's second posting to Ottawa. She was counsellor and deputy high commissioner from 1985-87.

Mexican Ambassador Emilio Goicoechea
Author of "NAFTA: Integration without renegotiation"



Mr. Goicoechea came to diplomacy through politics. He became a member of the National Action Party in 1970, and has 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 a year. From 2004 to 2006, he was chief of staff of the office of the Mexican president.

In its recent report, *Primary Health Care – Now More Than Ever*, the World Health Organization (WHO) calls for a return to primary health care.

The report critically assesses the way health care is organized, financed, and delivered in rich and poor countries around the world. It documents a number of failures and shortcomings that have left the health status of different populations, both within and between countries, dangerously out of balance.

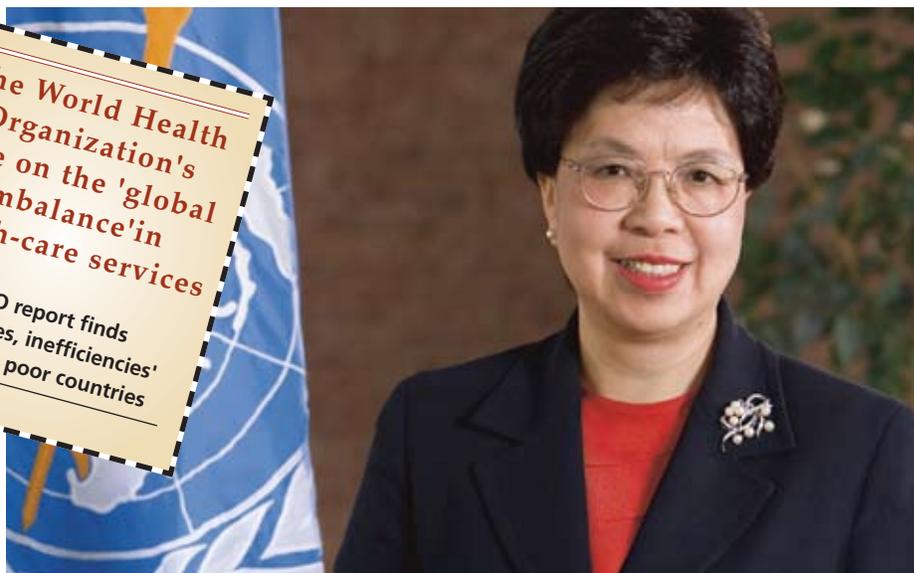
“The World Health Report sets out a way to tackle inequities and inefficiencies in health care, and its recommendations need to be heeded,” said WHO Director-General Margaret Chan. “A world that is greatly out of balance in matters of health is neither stable nor secure.”

The report found striking inequities in health outcomes, in access to care, and in what people have to pay for care. Differences in life expectancy between the richest and poorest countries now exceed 40 years. Of the estimated 136 million women who gave birth this year [2008], around 58 million received no medical assistance whatsoever during childbirth and the postpartum period, endangering their lives and those of their infants.

Globally, annual government expenditure on health varies from as little as US\$20 per person to well over US\$6,000. For 5.6 billion people in low- and middle-income countries, more than half of all health care expenditure is through out-of-pocket payments.

The World Health Organization's take on the 'global imbalance' in health-care services

WHO report finds 'inequities, inefficiencies' on rise in poor countries



Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of the World Health Organization: “A world that is greatly out of balance in matters of health is neither balanced nor secure.”

With the costs of health care rising and systems for financial protection in disarray, personal expenditures on health now push more than 100 million people below the poverty line each year.

Vast differences in health occur within countries and sometimes within individual cities. In Nairobi, for example, the under-five mortality rate is below 15 per 1,000 in the high-income area. In a slum in the same city, the rate is 254 per 1,000.

“High maternal, infant, and under-five mortality often indicates lack of access to basic services such as clean water and sanitation, immunizations and proper nutrition,” said Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director. “Primary health care, including integrated services at

the community level, can help improve health and save lives.”

As the report notes, conditions of “inequitable access, impoverishing costs, and erosion of trust in health care constitute a threat to social stability.”

It calls for a return to primary health care, a holistic approach to health care formally launched 30 years ago. When countries at the same level of economic development are compared, those where health care is organized around the tenets of primary health care produce a higher level of health for the same investment.

Such lessons take on critical importance at a time of global financial crisis.

“Viewed against current trends, primary health care looks more and more like



a smart way to get health development back on track," Dr. Chan said.

In far too many cases, people who are well-off and generally healthier have the best access to the best care, while the poor are left to fend for themselves. Health care is often delivered according to a model that concentrates on diseases, high technology and specialist care, with health viewed as a product of biomedical interventions and [with] the power of prevention largely ignored.

Specialists may perform tasks that are better managed by general practitioners, family doctors or nurses. This contributes to inefficiency, restricts access, and deprives patients of opportunities for comprehensive care.

WHO estimates that better use of existing preventive measures could reduce the global burden of disease by some 70 per cent.

Fragmented health care

In rural parts of the developing world, care tends to be fragmented into discrete initiatives focused on individual diseases or projects, with little attention to coherence and little investment in basic infrastructures, services and staff.

Primary health care puts families and communities at the hub of the health system. With an emphasis on local ownership, it honours the resilience and ingenuity of the human spirit and makes space for solutions created by communities, owned by them, and sustained by them.

Primary health care also offers the best way of coping with the ills of life in the 21st century: the globalization of unhealthy lifestyles, rapid unplanned urbanization, and the ageing of populations. These trends contribute to a rise in chronic diseases, like heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and asthma, that create new demands for long-term care and strong community support. A multi-sectoral approach is central to prevention, as the main risk factors for these diseases lie outside the health sector.

The report says that health systems will not naturally gravitate towards greater fairness and efficiency. Deliberate policy decisions are needed.

"We are encouraging countries to go back to the basics," Dr. Chan said. "Thirty years of well-monitored experience tell us what works and where we need to head, in rich and poor countries alike."

Visit www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html to see the full report.

Compiled by Donna Jacobs

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When he took over as president of the University of Ottawa, Allan Rock told his faculty and staff he wanted the university to become a vital part of the Ottawa community. Too often universities look inward to enrich life on campus instead of outside their walls to enrich the larger life of the city, he told them.

One of the initiatives the school took was to broaden its mandate of long-term education. The Centre for Continuing Education has provided professional development courses for a few years but recently added general interest courses for adults to its offerings. Some are for credit towards a degree and others aren't; some run for the whole term, others for a few evenings. And still other opportunities are more about community outreach than formal education.

"The idea was to open the school to people beyond the usual age group of 18 to 24," explained Serge Blais, the centre's director. "The doors are wide open. People can come in without any pre-requisites or previous learning."

Enter the diplomatic corps. In a three-part series this fall, the centre, in conjunction with the university's Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory, offered a free evening of information and music hosted by an ambassador at his or her residence.

British High Commissioner Anthony Cary, Jordanian Ambassador Nabil Ali Barto and German Ambassador Matthias Höpfner hosted evenings.

The diplomatic hosts provided the wine and snacks and the university provided



Pianist Elaine Keillor, the first woman to get a PhD in musicology in Canada, performed at all three of the University of Ottawa's musical evenings hosted by heads of missions.

the period instruments – clavichord, harpsichord and pianoforte – and the musicians. For each event, music professor Gilles Comeau came up with a program that was inspired by the host country's musical history and provided a one-hour lecture about the period's social trends and artistic developments.

"What more elegant setting could you get than the ambassador's residence for an evening like this?" asked Mr. Blais.

The three-part series was followed by an evening concert of period music at Freiman Hall on campus.

Those interested could sign up for one or all of the evening performances with food and wine provided at the residences. They were free on a first-come, first-served basis, though the final concert cost \$20, which went to support the Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory.

Mr. Blais is working on a winter session and has had interest from the embassy of Burkina Faso. He said they'd like to start incorporating some young talent into the events as well. "They might be our students, but not necessarily. We might also draw from the community," he said.



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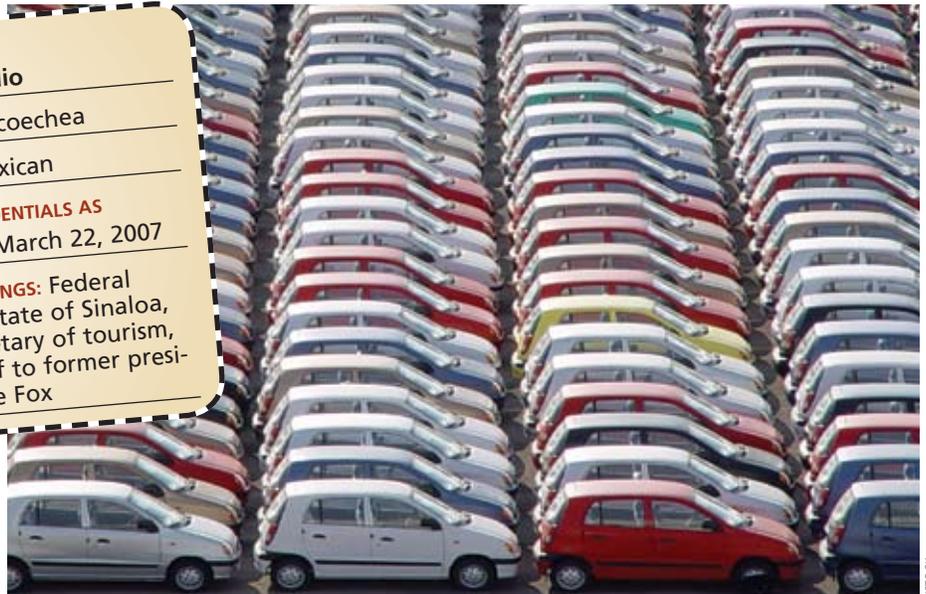
FIRST NAME: Emilio

LAST NAME: Goicoechea

CITIZENSHIP: Mexican

**PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS
AMBASSADOR:** March 22, 2007

PREVIOUS POSTINGS: Federal senator for state of Sinaloa, deputy secretary of tourism, chief of staff to former president Vicente Fox



ISTOCK

In this globally integrated era, Mexico, Canada and the United States need more co-operation and further integration to face the main challenges of North America.

The North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has generated huge benefits for the three countries because it has fostered trade, investment, stability and remains the backbone of our economic growth and regional integration.

This agreement established a rule-based framework that gives certainty to business transactions in this geographically vast stretch of territory, promoting integration, trade and investment in North America.

Naturally then, Mexico opposes any idea of renegotiating NAFTA, because opening that door could result in certain economic sectors gaining protection, which would undercut the whole idea of free trade and jeopardize its operations. Undoubtedly, some areas require urgent attention, but not at the cost of renegotiating a mechanism that has been extremely beneficial.

In times of previous economic distress, NAFTA has been part of the solution, not part of the problem, uniting our efforts and leading our economies to become more competitive.

The statistics speak for themselves:

- The first 15 years of the treaty coincided with a significant decrease in Mexican poverty, which has had positive implications for its two partner countries as well.
- From 1993, the year preceding NAFTA's implementation, to 2007, trilateral trade more than tripled, from US\$288.5 billion to US\$894.3 billion.

Renegotiating NAFTA could cause North America's fully integrated auto sector even more problems, Mexico's ambassador writes.

– In 2006 NAFTA partners accumulated more than \$529.2 billion in foreign direct investment from around the world, creating more jobs and increasing wages in all three. I strongly believe that the three countries need to elaborate and develop a co-ordinated strategy under NAFTA to further integrate, and enhance regional competitiveness and promote regional growth.

Under NAFTA, the Canada-Mexico trade relationship has profited significantly. Since 1994, trade between both countries increased 493 per cent, totalling \$24.1 billion in 2007. Moreover, Mexico is Canada's third-largest supplier worldwide and its largest trading partner in Latin America.

Regarding foreign direct investment, Canada is Mexico's fifth-largest foreign investor, with a total of \$6.9 billion by 2007. More than 2,000 companies in Mexico have received Canadian investment in sectors such as aeronautics, services, the auto industry and mining.

Canada could and should take advantage of Mexican business opportunities, especially in infrastructure, technological development and financial services – this would usefully diversify our trade, which is currently concentrated in a limited number of products.

We live in a world that faces increased competition from Asian countries, and in

particular China. Other economic trade blocs have responded to such pressures by further integrating in their currency, labour mobility and customs regulations, a shift which has boosted their competitiveness.

In contrast, NAFTA countries have slipped. In 2000, trade between Canada, Mexico and the U.S. amounted to 19 per cent of exports worldwide. But by 2007, this share dropped to 13.3 per cent, reflecting a reduction of North America's competitiveness.

These challenges are significant because today's international situation differs considerably from the one that prevailed in 1994. The slowdown in the U.S. economy, our main trade partner, is expected to affect bilateral trade and foreign direct investment inflows into both Mexico and Canada.

As a consequence, our governments are implementing anti-cyclical policies, such as increasing public expenditure, guaranteeing credits through development banks, and enhancing our economies to make them more competitive. Necessary measures, yes, but we have to be extremely careful not to retreat to protectionism and lose the benefits of open markets and integration.

That is why renegotiating NAFTA could hamper the flow of natural resources within the region. Free access to

goods among the three countries could face more obstacles. The fully integrated North American auto sector could face even greater challenges, making vehicles more expensive to produce.

How do we respond to these new challenges?

Our governments need to continue promoting confidence in our free trade institutions. Going further, the three partners must engage in a second regional integration to reduce transaction costs. While recognizing that the challenges between Mexico and the U.S. are different from those between the U.S. and Canada, all efforts to improve regional competitiveness need to involve all three countries.

Political changes in the three countries should not affect NAFTA. Strong leadership will always be needed, as well as a



Agave, the key ingredient in tequila, is one of Mexico's exports.

participation from the private sector and civil society at large.

In 2005, the three governments launched the Security and Prosperity Partnership to boost competitiveness and ensure efficiency and security along their mutual borders. With a new U.S. administration taking office, we must stick to this agenda to reposition North America as the most important player globally.

For their part, Mexico and Canada established the Canada-Mexico Partnership in 2004, which has served as a trade and investment forum for the public and private sectors. We must continue this partnership, not weaken it, to increase business and employment opportunities among our countries.

Emilio Goicoechea is Mexico's ambassador to Canada.

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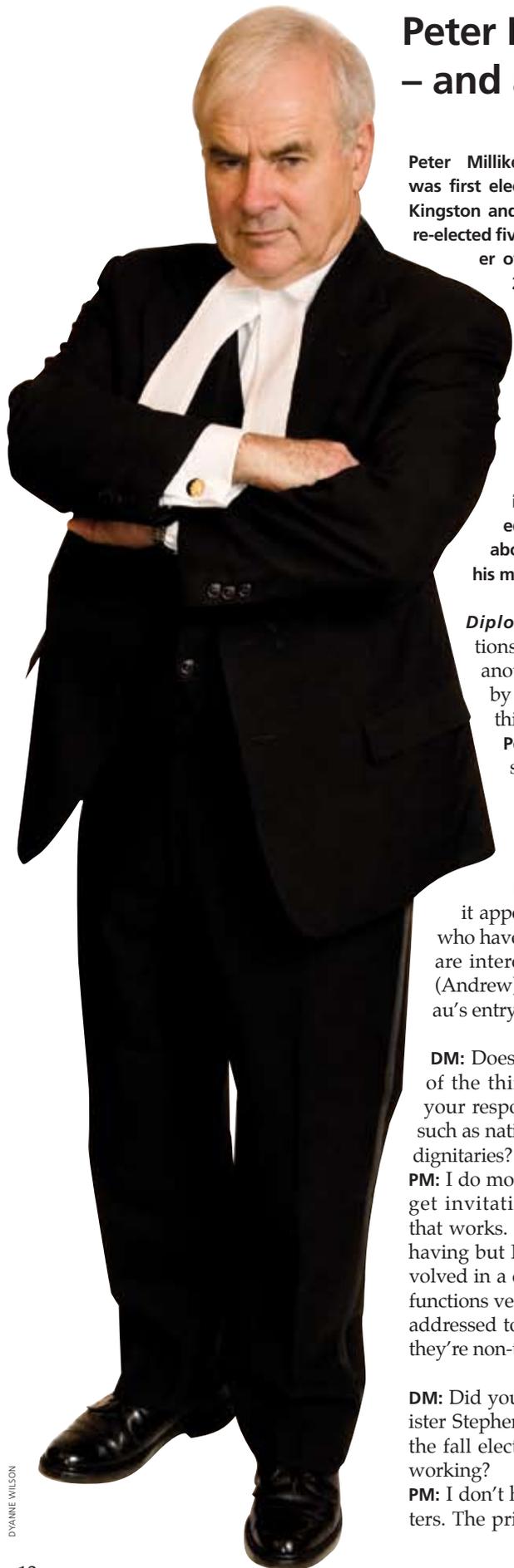
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Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House again – and always on the move



Peter Milliken, a lawyer by profession, was first elected as the Liberal member for Kingston and the Islands in 1988. He's been re-elected five times and has served as speaker of the House of Commons since 2001. He was elected as speaker in 2006, under a Conservative Government, and he enjoyed the same success after last fall's election although the competition for the job, with seven other contenders and five ballots of voting, was considerably stiffer. He sat down in his chambers with *Diplomat* editor Jennifer Campbell to talk about the job and how he juggles his many obligations.

***Diplomat* magazine:** Congratulations on being elected speaker for another term. Were you surprised by the level of interest in your job this time?

Peter Milliken: No, I think I had some indication about that.

DM: Why do you think that was?

PM: Well, I think people like the idea of doing it. I'm sure it appeals to other members, people who have been speaker before certainly are interested as was obvious by Mr. (Andrew) Scheer's and (Royal) Galipeau's entry.

DM: Does the deputy speaker do some of the things that you do in terms of your responsibilities in the community, such as national days and hosting foreign dignitaries?

PM: I do most of that. I don't know if they get invitations. I just don't know how that works. I invite them to functions I'm having but I don't think they're much involved in a direct way. I don't see them at functions very often. The invitations aren't addressed to me or a substitute. I assume they're non-transferable.

DM: Did you agree with what Prime Minister Stephen Harper said when he called the fall election – that Parliament wasn't working?

PM: I don't have an opinion on these matters. The prime minister can say what he

says, the opposition leader can say what he wants. I don't normally express a point of view.

DM: Can you tell me about your interaction with diplomats?

PM: There's quite a lot of it. Usually a newly appointed ambassador or high commissioner pays a courtesy call soon after they've presented their credentials to the governor general. And then, in addition to that, there would be invitations to national day receptions and when they have a visitor in town, I get invited to lunches or dinners often. Obviously there are speaker's visits and those require meetings with the ambassador, both foreign visits and visits to our Parliament by other speakers. Then, I have an annual diplomatic reception. There are two each year because the Speaker of the Senate does one too. I do mine in Kingston and with (Senate Speaker Noel) Kinsella, they move around.

DM: Is there a lot of pressure to attend diplomatic functions?

PM: Well, I don't believe in not filling my day. If I can go, I go. I miss a lot of them but there's a huge number of invitations so it's just a matter of what you can get to.

DM: What sort of travel demands are there with this job?

PM: Quite significant ones. There's a list of outstanding invitations always, to visit other countries, other Parliaments in exchange for visits they have paid here or want to pay here. I do quite a lot of international travel so that's quite demanding.

DM: How many trips do you take per year?

PM: I would think five or six.

DM: And how many outstanding invitations would you have now? Are they sorted in terms of what countries are important to Canada?

PM: I haven't asked lately. When I have the chance to go, I ask and they tell me what they recommend. I don't know exactly how they prioritize. It would be depend a bit on when I, or a speaker, was last there – that sort of thing. A lot them are places that either have a new speaker I want to visit, or they're places I haven't been to.

DM: Does any business get done?

PM: Oh, yes. There are tours, discussions about the way our parliaments work. And I have a delegation of members with me normally so they're all meeting with their counterparts and they're at the lunches and dinners and tours that we're on so they're talking and exchanging views and information. There's a significant social element to them but the socializing is where you have all these discussions. We're talking about what's going on in our parliaments, how things happen and how decisions get made, how committees work, how Question Period happens.

DM: What's the best part of your job?

PM: Sitting in the chair, dealing with the members.

DM: Do you have any new strategies for this session?

PM: No, I don't. The house leaders and whips may want to meet with me at some point to discuss that sort of thing but that hasn't happened. They said they wanted to meet with me but they haven't agreed on when they're going to do it.

DM: Could you detail a typical day when the House is sitting?

PM: Well, I normally get in at 9 a.m. to avoid going through the rush hour stuff if I don't have a breakfast that morning. Then, I get through some papers, have a briefing and put on my uniform and open the house at 10 a.m.

Usually I'd be in there for 15 or 20 minutes, maybe half an hour and then I'm back here, meeting with people who want to see me or doing more paperwork. Usually I have a lunch, either that I'm hosting, having in my office, or that I'm going out to. I'm back in the chair at 2 p.m. until 3:30 usually. Then I'm back here. If there are no evening votes – if there are, I will take them – by 5:30 p.m., I start receptions. I'll go to one or two and then maybe a dinner. And then if there's no dinner, I might do three or four receptions.

I probably go to more dinners than I host. Some are fundraising dinners for charities, some are dinners in honour of someone else. Tonight, I don't have a dinner, just two receptions. Some of the receptions are diplomatic but some are hosted by various lobby groups, various charity groups, organizations that are having Christmas receptions or to honour someone who's received an award.



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Off ramp to tomorrow

It's no longer the best of times but it's not yet the worst of times.
Herewith, seven informed prognostications.

By Charles Enman

When one cycle ends, we naturally look to the next. The year 2008 was full of astonishing change.

In Canada, we have seen the re-election of a national government. In the United States, we see the election of a president in whom many Americans and many people around the globe have invested a degree of hope that few incoming administrations have stirred.

Conflicts continue in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Middle East remains an area of confrontation and turmoil.

On the economic scene, it becomes ever clearer that, while Western powers retain great strength, the relative rise of China and other emerging nations is causing a shift in the centre of gravity.

In recent months, a cascading series of problems among economic institutions suggests that global economies will be in for some long period of rough sledding.

Where will all these circumstances take us?

Tongue in cheek, Niels Bohr, the eminent Danish physicist, once said of all prediction that "it is very difficult – especially of the future."

We know this. Nonetheless, we always want to make our best guesses about what we will find as future becomes present. To that end, *Diplomat* has chatted with a number of eminent Canadians about what they predict for Canada in the short term and for the world over a longer term. We have also asked them what solutions they may see for the difficulties they believe time's conveyor belt is bringing to the fore.

We present a transcript, edited for length, and we start with our cover subject.



Omar Samad

Omar Samad, Ambassador of Afghanistan

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

As a friend of Canada's, I wish the country the best in facing the challenges that confront not only Canada but other countries as well.

The financial crisis that has recently hit, the challenges of climate change, the challenges of certain international commitments such as Canada's engagement in Afghanistan, will all require attention and care.

I am also sure the country will begin to focus more strongly on the 2010 Olympics to be held in Vancouver.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

I think some of the most interesting issues that will impact international relations over the next decade will involve the management of shifting re-alignments in this multipolar world, with different centres of economic, military and geostrategic power. I believe all countries will be somewhat preoccupied with these issues over the coming years.

Other concerns over the next decade will include global warming, which we will have to keep addressing for some time; the problem of overpopulation; the search for alternative energy sources; the fight against extremism and terrorism; the challenges to find improved means of combating disease; and much focus on everyone's access to good water.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

As always, meaningful dialogue on the problems we confront will be all-important. We need to achieve more understanding of what impacts us collectively and how we would best deal with such issues. We need solutions that address issues head-on without going to extremes.

In part, this may require that we establish new institutions, with multilateral participation, that will look for solutions to many problems of global reach. These institutions will have to be very results-oriented and will have to place great emphasis on pragmatism over ideology.

Solutions to the financial crisis will not be black and white. We have seen problems with very centralized economic systems, but also have learned that markets cannot be totally free, either. A

satisfactory resolution will involve a more balanced approach.

Canada, of course, is now involved in my own country, Afghanistan. I would like to see Afghanistan become as free of violence as possible. This means putting an end to the sources of violence, which basically exist outside our own borders. The safe havens for Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are breeding grounds where extremists learn the arts of violence and attack and brutality, a kind of extremist tendency that did not really exist in the Afghanistan of 30 years ago.

When this violence is ended, the Afghan people will be able to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of economic, political and social welfare. Afghanistan will be a country in which access to education and health and certain basic freedoms and human rights are not under threat – a country that can be a good partner to the rest of the world and contribute to regional and global security and prosperity.

This will be a country that will no longer need the presence of international security forces and can rely on its own means to provide security and safety.

Meanwhile, we are grateful for the commitment that countries such as Canada are making to bring order, peace and prosperity to one of the world's poorest and most destroyed countries. We must ensure that every dollar put in, and every life laid down, has not been in vain.

Frank McKenna, former premier of New Brunswick, one-time Canadian ambassador to the United States, current deputy chairman of the Toronto-Dominion Bank

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

After a tumultuous end to 2008 and the Liberal party now having chosen its new Leader, I predict a more stable political environment in Canada for 2009. With the recent public backlash against the coalition I would think that we will not have another election in a near future.

Canada will be facing some serious economic difficulties. Our economy is still strongly commodity-based and commodity prices are under intense pressure around the world.

We might also see some resurgence of protectionist sentiment in the United States. Our neighbour now faces some serious economic pressures and the Democrats control the House of Representatives and almost control the Senate. I do not



Frank McKenna

anticipate measures specifically against Canada, but we must be vigilant to ensure we are not sideswiped by the effects of more general protectionist policies.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

We are entering a very dynamic period. With the change of the U.S. administration, virtually all American relationships will be re-evaluated. In our hemisphere, we may see a different view on Cuba and Latin America. The American approach to immigration problems with Mexico may also be re-examined.

On the world level, we may see a dramatic change in Iraq with an acceleration of the withdrawal of troops. If Iraq remains stable, a number of those troops may be rotated into Afghanistan and have a significant impact there.

I think the United States will be attempting to repair a great many of its relationships around the world. We will see an effort at dialogue in such troublesome regions as Iran, North Korea, and potentially even in the Holy Land.

Other issues that will be front-and-centre include the continuing instability in Pakistan, the possible reassertion of high oil prices, and the increased economic power of China and Russia. Russia, with its recent bellicosity, will force the U.S. and NATO to ponder how to deal with the wishes of several former Soviet states to become members of NATO.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

Canada needs to begin a vigorous dialogue with the incoming Obama administration to make sure our foot is in the door. We should take advantage of Obama's popularity to expand the institutional relationship we already enjoy.

Much depends on the willingness and capacity of the U.S. to engage with other interlocutors around the world. For the last eight years, the U.S. has been the catalyst for acrimony at various levels. The question is whether it can now turn things around and become a consensus builder. If it can, then we shall see improved relations with the United Nations, the countries of the Middle East, a graceful exit from Iraq, the chance of a good outcome in Afghanistan, a restored relationship with Russia, and good management of its relations with China and India.

Canada should not over-react to the

economic problems it is facing. Over many decades, we have created financial institutions that have been internationally accredited as among the most sound in the world. No Canadian banks have had bail-out packages. We should not rush in to fix what is not broken.

As a trading nation, a good deal of our prosperity depends on the economic activity in other nations, especially the United States – and we have no direct control over any of this.

Our financial institutions are sound enough that we should be encouraging them to become world leaders. In the political arena, I think Canada should step up a bit – become more involved in international aid, be at the centre of more great debates, assume a more active international role. We have a model worthy of emulation.

In the short term, I am pessimistic. We are only at Ground Zero in terms of the economic crisis. But in the long run, especially with the change of regime in the United States, there is an opportunity for a fresh look at all issues and all relationships. In the fullness of time, we will see economies heal themselves and be put on a more sustainable basis around the globe – and the world will move forward in a healthier state of repair.

Lewis MacKenzie, retired general, author, and media commentator

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

A month or so ago, I would have said many things, but obviously the economic problems will now take a lot of our attention.

Though the economic problem is global, the United States will be taking a key role and everyone is now looking south of the border and waiting. How will the president stamp the direction that the American government takes?

In my lifetime, the expectation has never been higher for the potential impact of a new president. The Bush administration burned a lot of bridges in the international community. Mr. Obama has a different personality, more open to discussion and to the United Nations, with all its failures. There is a tremendous potential for him to bring a number of countries on board for a more international approach to dealing with problems.

We sometimes worry about isolationism and protectionism from the Democrats, and with the Democrats in control of the presidency and of almost both sides



Lewis MacKenzie

MCPH. ISSA PARE, RIDEAU HALL

of Congress, we may worry a little more now. But I get the feeling that the United States will be gentle with its closest and perhaps best friend.

It is certainly true, as the Chinese might say, that we are living in interesting times.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

I do not think international terrorism should be considered our number one security challenge. More people die annually in American bathtubs than have been killed annually by international terrorists. The Al-Qaeda leadership has been substantially taken out and their inflow of funds reduced. Their groups now are recruiting and training on the Internet and have been coming up with stupid attack plans.

I could be proven wrong tomorrow, but I think we have this threat under good control.

I think Pakistan will remain an important problem. Canadians forget that more Pakistanis have been killed in Afghanistan than forces from all other involved nations combined. As they fight radical elements within their borders, the



GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

Elizabeth May

Pakistanis feel isolated, though they are making a great contribution to stability in the region.

Iran will continue to get a great deal of the world's attention. If they develop nuclear weapons, the religious radicalism of some elements of the country will require close watch. One can only worry when one considers that in the most radical fringe of Islamic teachings, attacking Israel and being attacked in return is a guaranteed trip to heaven.

In the economic sphere, China, without firing a shot, will continue to win big-time. Its products are entering every country in the world. For proof, you only have to check the labels of your own clothing.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

In recent years, Canada and NATO and the UN have placed more emphasis on compassion than on the elimination of military threat.

If anyone thinks pacifying Afghanistan will remove a terrorist threat, they're mistaken. But we are helping people to see some semblance of democracy and of the kind of society in which girls can go to school and women can go to the doctor. On the same motive, I would like to see us go to Sudan to protect women and children in refugee camps. There are good humanitarian reasons to be involved.

In the Pakistan and Afghanistan region, I think someone is going to have to put together an area group to deal with that part of the world, much as they did for the Balkans.

Perhaps we will see more of that kind of collective action. The rise of the G-20 is a good sign in that direction. Another might be the election of Barack Obama. Will a new U.S. administration continue to be unilaterally interventionist? I don't think so, because that hasn't worked very well. The only other option is a bit more multilateralism whereby they try to get more countries on side.

We shouldn't be trying to move missile systems up relatively close to the Russian borders. We shouldn't let the Georgians expect that NATO might intervene on their behalf – since we're incapable of generating resources in the desert of Afghanistan, let alone move them strategically against Russian forces.

I think, going forward, we will have to seek accommodation more often than confrontation.

Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party of Canada

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

It's obvious there will be a heavy focus on ensuring that the recent financial meltdown will not adversely affect Canada more than is inevitable.

We will need strong economic policies to combat recession – policies that I hope will avoid the usual groupthink that we can't pay attention to the environment in a crisis. We will need to stimulate the economy through reductions in payroll and income taxes, and strong investments in rail and in municipal infrastructure.

Beyond the economy, we will be facing serious environmental problems. Canada needs to shift from being an obstacle to being a force for progress in the UN negotiations to make the Kyoto Protocol a success, much like Britain, France and other European Union countries have already done. The Harper government must not remain the last voice of George W. Bush's failed policies.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

Perhaps the biggest problem, one that makes the financial crisis look like a Sunday school picnic, is the continuing accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We have to stop that rise and start a decline globally no later than 2015, a tipping point beyond which runaway greenhouse effects will simply exceed the ability of any human intervention to slow it down.

The growing gap between the wealthiest and the poorest in society will have to be addressed. In Canada, as I particularly saw when running for a Nova Scotia seat in the last election, bureaucracy has moved from being inefficient at helping the poor to being actually abusive; people who are entitled to support should receive it without having to make their case over and over again.

The biggest scandal we face in this country is the quality of life of many of our aboriginal people. Many live in Third World conditions, and nothing could be more scandalous in a rich country that prides itself on being fair and egalitarian.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

The more countries combine their efforts, the more effective they will be in combat-



FRED CATROLL

Phil Fontaine

ing difficulties. That's why we applaud the emergence of the G-20. There can't just be seven or eight countries looking for solutions.

Clearly, the global financial architecture needs to be better designed, with improved regulations. The recent financial meltdown occurred not because productive economic activity happened to go wrong, but because speculative gambling grounded in greed was allowed to run unregulated.

One thing that might be looked at seriously is the Tobin tax, a tax on international currency trading (named for economist James Tobin).

The Green Party of Canada is a great believer in strengthening the United Nations. We should be looking at developing a well-trained multilateral peacekeeping force and putting as much investment in conflict resolution as in war preparation. The world must be able to respond more effectively than it has to the genocide in Darfur or the ongoing conflict in the Congo. I think the election of Barack Obama may improve the chances of getting more international cooperation. He will certainly change things; we will see how much.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

With the global economic downturn, we expect focus to continue on the economy.

We've heard, in the recent Speech from the Throne, that the government will be practising fiscal restraint, but we also heard essential services will not be cut, that there will be new investments to help the economy recover. One of the most strategic investments the federal government can make during an economic slowdown is in First Nations education and economies.

We know that it has been projected that there will be more than \$200 billion worth of investments in new projects over the next 10 years, with most of them occurring on First Nations' lands and traditional territories.

When the government works with First Nations to support economic development and invest in our young and growing labour force, it will benefit our communities and help sustain the Canadian economy through difficult times. We believe the government recognizes this fact.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

Conditions of extreme poverty and exclusion from economic planning, economic decision-making and economic opportunity, which are common to Indigenous peoples globally and in Canada, are not conducive to peaceful diplomatic relations in the 21st century.

Trouble spots will appear in countries where gaps exist in wealth and lead to global instability. We must find global solutions to deal with a lack of attention to the basic needs of the world's poor such as food, health care, education, shelter. Exclusion and a lack of attention to the basic needs and rights of people will lead to conflict.

Southwest Colombia saw violence break out in October over the government's economic policies as riot police clashed with Indian protestors. The Indian population in Colombia is among the poorest in Colombia, a reality faced by First Nations in Canada as well. The protestors blockaded the Pan-American highway and had only the most rudimentary means of defending themselves against encroaching police. The protests left many injured.

However, we should also feel hopeful as we look at some very positive developments over the last two years. Globally, Indigenous peoples are receiving recognition from heads of state. The old way of doing business, colonial attitudes and discrimination are simply wrong and should no longer be tolerated.

In September 2007, we saw 143 member states of the United Nations vote in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In February 2008, year we witnessed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologize for past mistreatment of the stolen generations of Aboriginal people in Australia. Here in Canada, we have a full package for Survivors of Indian residential schools: compensation, the historic June 11th Apology and of course the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

All these examples speak to a global Indigenous movement. We're seeing the formation of a global Indigenous community, who are increasingly confident and supportive of each other as we assert our economic, social, political and cultural rights.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?



John English

Both domestic and international decision-making and planning on the economy must include Indigenous peoples. This is the key to alleviating rampant poverty among Indigenous peoples and fostering relationships based on meaningful consultation, inclusion and ultimately, achieving reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. In Canada, and globally, this means the state has a duty to consult First Nations on economic development issues that affect our people and impact our lands and traditional territories.

John English, executive director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

Next year will be a difficult year for Canada. We will begin the year in a recession which may endure for several quarters. The history of past recessions indicates that unemployment will rise markedly but unevenly. Some parts of Canada will be less affected than others; for example, British Columbia will benefit from the Olympic spending but southern Ontario will suffer major layoffs in the automotive and financial sectors. This economic turmoil



Andrew Cohen

and the regional differences will make life difficult for Ottawa and most provinces.

Normally, crises require re-evaluation of the nation's future. The Depression brought the historic Rowell-Sirois report and the Trudeau government responded to the economic turbulence and political anger of the early '80s with the Macdonald Commission. Both were followed by major policy changes, the transfer of unemployment insurance responsibility to the provinces and free trade with the United States. (Likely), 2009 will witness the appointment of a similar commission to deal with a world where the United States matters less and where Canada needs new responses to a rapidly changing international economic order.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

Although emerging countries were not the major cause of the current economic crisis, they may bear the greatest burden. The poorest countries almost certainly will not achieve the millennium development goals, and the large emerging countries such as Brazil, India and China will demand a much greater role in international economic governance. The G-20 will probably replace the G-8; certainly the major economic problems can no longer be handled by the G-8, and the large emerging powers will not accept coming for dinner after the inner group has had its private discussion.

For the United States, the decade will be economically difficult but the remarkable victory of President-elect Obama may create reinvigoration and new hopes. For Mr. Obama, the crisis represents an opportunity similar to that grasped by Roosevelt in 1933. Most of the movies of the 1930s had an optimism that was lacking in later more prosperous times; happiness does not correlate well with Wall Street excesses.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

The Canadian government should use the crisis to break down political deadlocks that have lasted too long. A national securities agency, an end to provincial trade barriers, a more effective competition policy, and improvement in transportation are badly needed. We could begin to reform our political institutions to make them more representative although our past offers little evidence to sustain such hopes.

Internationally, the western nations must show generosity in the reform of international institutions, particularly the international financial institutions. The best outcome would be new institutions unburdened by the historical pre-eminence of the West, but such fundamental change normally occurs after wars. Obviously, peaceful change is preferable albeit much more difficult.

Andrew Cohen, columnist, professor of journalism and international relations at Carleton University, and author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.

What do you forecast for Canada in 2009?

Like every other country, we will have a tough year in 2009. Economically, we will probably fare better than the United States, but when you sell most of what you make to the Americans, you have a problem; when they sneeze, as Pierre Trudeau once said, you catch cold. We will. Unemployment will rise, prices will fall.

Politically, the Conservatives will have latitude to govern while the Liberals fight among themselves. With a new Leader of the Opposition, however, a clearer pattern will now emerge in the House of Commons.

Still, there will be no election in 2009. What will be most interesting in Canadian politics over the next year will be the election of Barack Obama, who will challenge

a reluctant Canada to do more or to do better on several fronts, such as climate change, Afghanistan, and bailouts for the automotive sector. This will not be easy for Stephen Harper, who will find President Obama more popular in Canada than he is, and who will struggle to meet his appeal for tougher standards on the environment, where Canada is an international laggard.

What do you forecast for the world over the next decade in terms of economic, political, social and military trouble spots?

It is axiomatic to say that Canada will be unable to shelter itself from the world. But a conservative banking system and a resource-rich economy (commodities will recover, eventually) will cushion the blow. The world will still want what we have.

Economic recovery and climate change will shape the international agenda.

China and India will keep rising, Russia will bark, but the United States will not fade away, despite the reports of its demise. Indeed, under Barack Obama, I expect it will return to international institutions with enthusiasm and reclaim its credibility. It will also retool its economy, embracing green as the new mantra.

As global warming gains purchase, expect more wars over resources (water, especially) and more flights of refugees from south to north as we are now seeing from Africa to Europe.

Terrorism will not go away, and the explosion of a nuclear device in North America is not impossible.

The U.S. will leave Iraq, which will become a chaotic democracy, and stay on in Afghanistan, which will go on and on.

For the problems you sense coming over the horizon, what solutions would you offer?

The world will have to act on climate change within the decade, and probably will, belatedly. It will have to reform the Security Council of the United Nations. It will have to find ways to integrate and China and India more fully into international decision-making. It will have to find ways to redistribute diminishing resources such as water. As the industrialized world staggers, so will the developing world. This will not be easy or pretty.

Ottawa writer Charles Enman agrees with Albert Einstein, who said, "I never worry about the future. It comes soon enough."

Diplomat presents a look at a new book about esteemed Canadian diplomat Charles Ritchie and his love affair with British writer Elizabeth Bowen. We also offer a look at books on the Fenian raids, Japan as the new China, and books on human intervention. Here's the list of titles we review or reference:

BOOKS ON CHARLES RITCHIE AND ELIZABETH BOWEN

The Siren Years, by Charles Ritchie, 1974

Diplomatic Passport, by Charles Ritchie, 1981

Storm Signals, by Charles Ritchie, 1983

Undiplomatic Diaries, by Charles Ritchie, 2008

The Heat of the Day, by Elizabeth Bowen, 2002

Elizabeth Bowen: Portrait of a Writer, by Victoria Glendinning, 1985

Love's Civil War: Elizabeth Bowen and Charles Ritchie—Letters and Diaries 1941–1973, edited by Victoria Glendinning with Judith Robertson, 2008

BOOKS ON THE FENIANS

Fenian Fire: The British Government Plot to Assassinate Queen Victoria, by Christy Campbell, \$19.95, 2002

Turning Back the Fenians: New Brunswick's Last Colonial Campaign, by Robert L. Dallison, 2006

Irish Nationalism and the British State: From Repeal to Revolutionary Nationalism, by Brian Jenkins, 2006

The Fenian Problem: Insurgency and Terrorism in a Liberal State, by Brian Jenkins, 2008

BOOKS ON CHINA AND JAPAN

Poorly Made in China: An Insider's Account of the Tactics Behind China's Production Game, by Paul Midler, to be released March 2009

A Year without "Made in China", by Sara Bongiorni, 2000

BOOKS ON HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

Freedom's Battle: The Origins of Humanitarian Intervention, by Gary J. Bass, 2008

Backstage with Punch and Judy

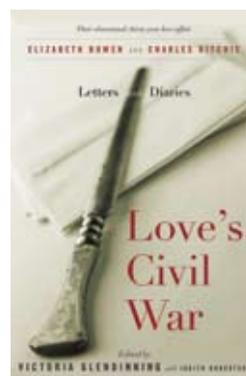
By George Fetherling



Charles Ritchie was Canada's ambassador to West Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

The direction of Charles Ritchie's 37-year career at External Affairs was ever upward. He became ambassador to West Germany and then permanent secretary to the UN before serving as ambassador to the U.S. during the later Kennedy and early Johnson years. His last posting, as high commissioner in London, carried him into 1971. Then he retired and carved out three smallish books from the candid diaries he had been keeping all his adult life. Everyone who has read *The Siren Years* (1974), *Diplomatic Passport* (1981) and *Storm Signals* (1983) will likely have favourite Ritchie descriptions of, or anecdotes about, various heads of state and heads of government, not to mention fellow diplomats.

Writing, one presumes, without



thought to the possibility of publication, at least not initially, he was a protégé of Vincent Massey, rather grudgingly so. Lester Pearson and others also performed the function of mentor, the role Ritchie himself later assumed in the ascent of Allan Gotlieb. Ritchie's contemporaries included such figures as Norman Robertson and George Ignatieff. My own favourite description in the diaries comes in 1963 when

Ignatieff's sons, Michael ("a young Russian gentleman of the liberal school") and Andrew, age 15 and 11 respectively, are Ritchie's luncheon guests in Ottawa. "There was no difficulty about conversation," Ritchie tells his journal, "as when any gap threatened we talked about food, in which both of them are passionately and discriminatingly interested."



Elizabeth Bowen in her stately home known as Bowen's Court, in County Cork.

As for the anecdotes, in reading *Undiplomatic Diaries 1937-1971* (McClelland & Stewart, \$24.99 paper), the new omnibus volume of the three Ritchie books, I revisit some that are quite benign and self-deprecating. For example, in 1962, the incoming Canadian ambassador is presenting his letters-of-credence to President Kennedy in the Oval Office. The president treats the diplomat as a stalking horse for John Diefenbaker and is thus rather cool towards him.

At one point, the president half rises from his rocking chair and says "Shoo! Shoo!" in a stern voice. For a moment, Ritchie fears he "might be the first ambassador in history to be shooed out of the White House." But unseen by him, on the other side of a glass door, is young Caroline Kennedy's pony, getting into mischief.

Much more representative is his account of a wartime evening with Vincent Massey and his wife, Alice, when an elderly socialite "rang up in the middle of dinner to say, 'Winston must go – some of our friends are here with me and we all agree – go he must. I have known him for 50 years and he has never been right yet.' Just the sort of party I should have thought would be sitting there in Claridge's spinning trivial but not harmless gossip." The same phrase

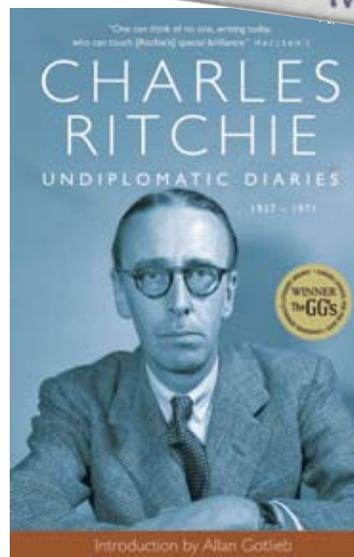
could be applied to long stretches of the diaries, which Ritchie obviously wrote as relief from the burdens of tact, understatement and discretion.

Republication of the three works in one fat volume seems to italicize the author's relationship with the somewhat aristocratic Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen, whose best known book, *The Heat of the Day*, was dedicated to him without comment. Scattered throughout the diary are about 30 important references to her, covering a span of three decades beginning in 1941. That's when Ritchie, who is 35, finds himself at a dinner party with Bowen, 42, and her husband of 18 years, a somewhat undemonstrative fellow perhaps, who crops up in only three references. Ritchie notes of Bowen that he has never before (or perhaps ever) met anyone with connections to the

Bloomsbury Group who possessed her "striking originality of thought, phrase, or personality..." Soon the two of them are meeting during the day and he is writing approvingly of her taste in clothes (which in fact her husband usually picked out for her). She often invites him to her family seat, a stately (and draughty) home, Bowen's Court, in County Cork. In time, they begin to take small trips together.

Victoria Glendinning, the prolific English literary biographer, gave a fuller outline of the Ritchie-Bowen relationship in her biography *Elizabeth Bowen: Portrait of a Writer*, published in 1978, five years after Bowen's death. The Bowen estate returned to Ritchie all the letters he had written to her, all but a few of which he then destroyed, while preserving the hundreds that she sent him. These acts make for a somewhat lopsided depiction of the relationship as recreated in *Love's Civil War: Elizabeth Bowen and Charles Ritchie—Letters and Diaries 1941-1973* (McClelland & Stewart, \$35), edited by Ms. Glendinning with Canadian assistance from Judith Robertson, Norman Robertson's daughter. Yet the book does present a new and in some ways disquieting picture of Ritchie that contradicts his diplomatic persona and personal reputation as a fellow of great charm and wit.

What becomes even more apparent

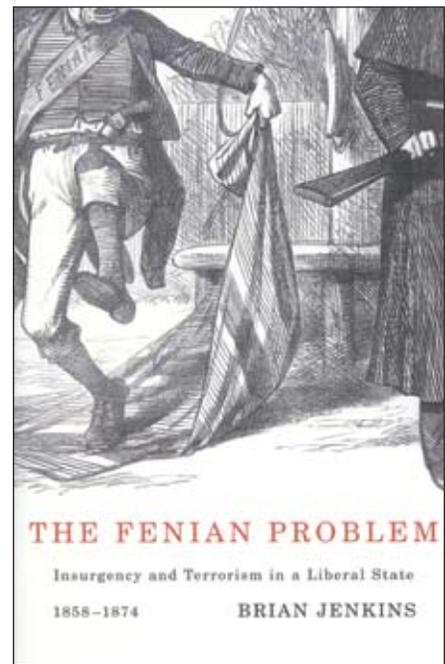
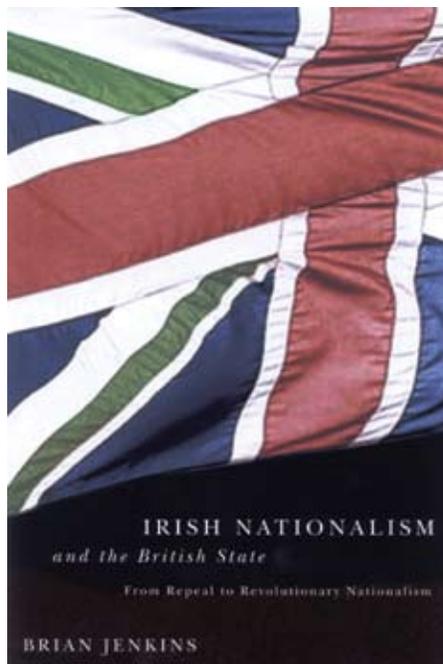


now is that Bowen was simply crazy about him. All her letters to him are love letters. Most of them describe a terrible longing and are couched in such extremely romantic language as to make her appear a clingy and emotionally needy person indeed. Conversely, his own feelings, represented here by excerpts from the diaries—mostly from the 90 per cent of them never before published—expose a cruel and alarming dislike of even the women whom he claimed to love. In his words, “the sad, disturbing, fearful love which I half hate and without which I am not alive.” Bowen had something of the same attitude in her own make-up, if not to the same degree. One senses that her episodes were merely a matter of temperament and personality whereas his was one of psychological difficulties.

Without meaning to suggest that he was the Roald Amundsen of bipolar exploration, one can see that Ritchie flew wildly from one extreme to another, and the pendulum’s swings are not always easy for the reader to accept with equanimity. “It gives me a little shock of distaste to have a competent woman about,” he writes in one diary entry. “I like women extravagant, late for appointments, wilful, fond of showy clothes and society, vague drifting dreamy, and yet of course all that is v. tiresome. But I don’t like competence, intellectual honesty, intelligent sensuality.” Quite a contrast with his description of his first meeting with Bowen.

After the Second World War, the relationship took on a new dimension. Ritchie saw how the Cold War greatly improved his chances of advancement. Part of his plan was to end his “cosy bachelor” days and marry. His bride (and second cousin) was Sylvia Smellie. Bowen tried hard not to become jealous of her but, in the end, failed—rather histrionically it seems, after the death of her obviously tolerant husband in 1952. For his part, Ritchie could not always help but inflict hurt on his wife either, however much he came to love her. That much is clear when he deliberately left one of Bowen’s effusive love letters out where Sylvia was bound to read it. A strange set of relationships all round. Reading nearly 500 pages about it is like being backstage at a Punch and Judy show.

Charles Ritchie died in 1995 after enjoying considerable success for the publication of his diaries in their highly selected form, focusing on politics and public personalities and giving little hint of the un-diplomatic turmoil going on inside him.



The rising of the moon

Today if we think of the Fenian Brotherhood at all, we tend to dismiss it as a risible fringe organisation that posed no substantial danger to anyone. In the mid-19th century, however, this Irish nationalist group was a quite genuine military threat to Canada and a diplomatic imbroglio for both the UK and the U.S. It was formed in 1857 to secure Irish independence from Britain. One wing was supposed to foment armed rebellion in Ireland (but couldn’t). Another, drawing on the huge Irish immigrant population in North America, was to capture Canada and hold it ransom until the British had pulled out of Ireland entirely. That sounds like every bit the lunatic scheme it actually was. Because of the American Civil War, however, it caused considerable anxiety on both sides of the Atlantic.

Many Irish-American regiments fought in the war, most but not all of them for the Northern side. At one point, Fenians were enlisting, getting the standard \$50 “bounty” or signing bonus and being issued with rifles. Then they would desert, cache their weapons and repeat the process in one town after another. By this and other methods, there was, at war’s end in 1865, a well-financed and well-trained Fenian army of 10,000 men. In 1866, a thousand of them tried to invade New Brunswick from a base in Maine and succeeded in capturing their enemy’s flag—but nothing else. So attention shifted



Thomas D’Arcy McGee

to what would soon become Ontario, where the following month there was a pitched battle between Fenians from New York State and the Canadian militia. The Fenians actually won the engagement but quickly withdrew. Smaller incursions were made in Quebec. Finally, in 1871, a Fenian plan to attack Manitoba, where the invaders hoped to join forces with Louis Riel, was foiled.

A number of other important developments descend from the Fenian plot. It

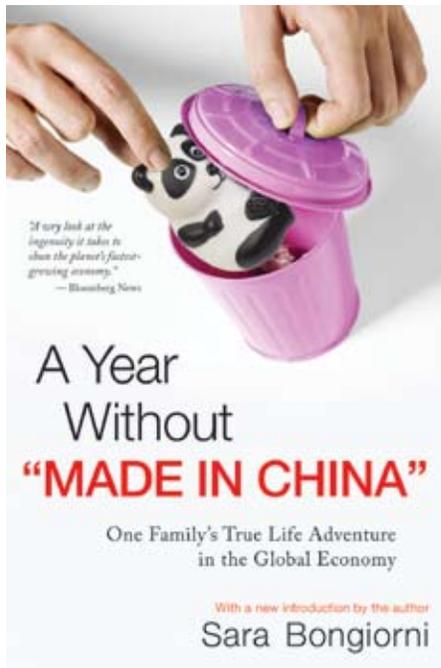
was a Fenian, for example, who assassinated Thomas D'Arcy McGee. And Sir Sam Steele, later head of the North-West Mounted Police and finally an important commander in the First World War, began his career at age 17 by enlisting in the militia to repel the Fenians in 1866. Most important of all, the fear generated by the Fenian menace was a measurable factor in the debates over Confederation.

In the past few years have come several books focusing on the more melodramatic moments in the Fenian story. The most brazen and speculative of them is Christy Campbell's *Fenian Fire: The British Government Plot to Assassinate Queen Victoria*, a revisionist work published in 2002 and now a paperback (HarperCollins Canada, \$19.95). A straightforward and valuable Canadian example is *Turning Back the Fenians: New Brunswick's Last Colonial Campaign* by Robert L. Dallison, published two years ago (Goose Lane Editions, \$16.95 paper).

The Fenians waged a military campaign in North America but pursued a different course in Britain itself. In London and other cities, assassinations were frequent and bombings altogether common. "New Scotland Yard" is so named because Fenians blew up the old one. Brian Jenkins, an emeritus professor of history at Bishop's University, has now followed his previous book, *Irish Nationalism and the British State*, with *The Fenian Problem: Insurgency and Terrorism in a Liberal State* (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$80). It is concerned with details of how successive British governments arrived at policies designed to lessen or eliminate the Fenian threat at home without trampling the civil and legal rights of ordinary Britons. That gives the book an eerily contemporaneous quality that will be lost on no one reading it.

China: the new Japan

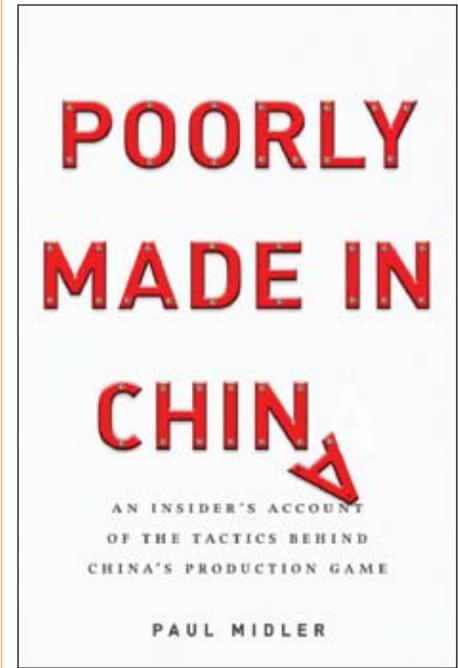
Those of us who were alive in the 1950s remember when the phrase "Made in Japan" stamped on so many different everyday consumer products was the hallmark of shoddiness, as the Japanese, struggling to rebuild their economy in the aftermath of the Second World War, exported cheaply made goods in enormous volume. At the time, "Made in Japan" was a refrain heard in stand-up comedy and pop culture generally, though behind it of course lay lingering political animus: *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. Today China is building a new economy based on a somewhat similar



Author Sara Bongiorno

strategy. The difference is that so many of the Chinese products, everything from toys to chocolate to milk products, have turned out to be not merely inferior but poisonous or otherwise dangerous.

John Wiley & Sons, the leading publisher of business books, has two new titles that speak to this problem in interesting ways. *Poorly Made in China: An Insider's Account of the Tactics Behind China's Production Game* by Paul Midler (\$26.95 paper) argues that the situation is actually a deliberate



result of a policy known as "quality fade". Mr. Midler, who has spent years consulting for U.S. corporations on Chinese business conditions, examines seven industries in detail, including construction and health care products. In *A Year without "Made in China"* (\$15.95 paper), Sara Bongiorno, an American business journalist, describes all the obstacles she faced in an experiment trying to eliminate Chinese-made products from her family's life. The fast was not entirely successful, so ubiquitous are imports made in China either in whole or in part. But her subtext about China's effects on western economies is certainly vivid.

When to get involved?

One of the illuminating spectacles in Toronto a couple of months ago was a public debate on the subject of whether nations have the right to intervene militarily in other countries on humanitarian grounds. Arguing in the positive were Gareth Evans, the head of International Crisis Group, and Mia Farrow, of *Rosemary's Baby*. Arguing the negative were Rick Hillier, the retired chief of defence staff (why would anyone want warfare lite rather than the real thing?) and John Bolton, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an institution for which both he and the man who appointed him, George W. Bush, wished only ill. This came not long after another ex-U.S. ambassador to the UN, Thomas Pickering, and Morton Abrahamowitz, formerly American ambassador to Thai-

land, writing in *Foreign Affairs*, posited ambitious ideas about how to make the UN more effective (and quicker) when responding to acts of genocide and other such criminal violations of human rights round the world.

Surely there is an urgent need to address the problem in this age of Darfur, Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe and so on. The trend the past few years, however, has been to sidestep direct involvement or else for the U.S. to impose economic sanctions (presumably the same ones that brought Fidel Castro to his knees in 1960). This is a tremendously complex issue that bites into some timeless philosophical and ethical questions: when, whether, why and by what means does a state acquire moral authority, as distinguished from high-minded self-interest?

Gary J. Bass of Princeton University has been left to provide a serious historical overview of interventionism in *Freedom's Battle: The Origins of Humanitarian Intervention* (Random House of Canada, \$40). In a nutshell, he shows that interventions "to stop the atrocities" were quite common



UN goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow

throughout the 19th century, especially among the European powers, but were often barely distinguishable from European colonialism. The United States moved in a similar direction when going to war with Spain in 1898 ostensibly to stop aggression against the people of Cuba and the Philippines who, in the end, found themselves with a different set of masters.

At one point, Mr. Bass inserts what amounts to a review of his own book. "This is not a nostalgic book," he writes. "There is no need to rewind to the nineteenth century, just to learn something from the period's diplomacy. It is as rash to pine for a lost golden age as it is to dimly imagine one in the hypothetical future. The nineteenth century was not a century of humanitarianism. One cannot ignore the arrogant imperialism. Many of the characters in this book held loathsome racial attitudes that played out in the subjugation of countless people."

George Fetherling's latest novel is *Walt Whitman's Secret* (Random House Canada).

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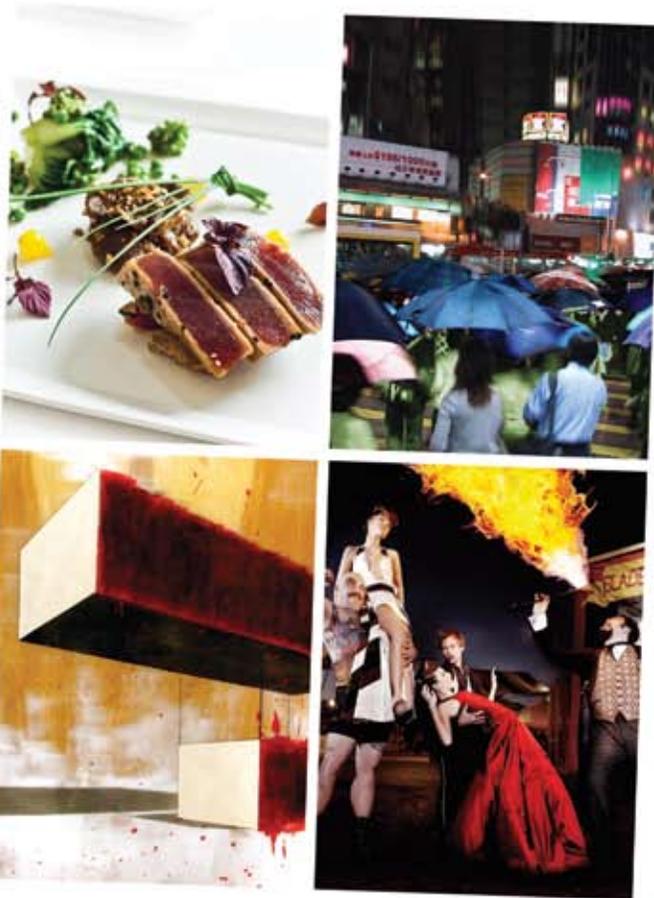
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Prepare for love: Tips for Saint Valentine's Day

On Feb. 14, many will be celebrating Saint Valentine's Day, the day when lovers traditionally express their affection for each other. Not surprisingly, over the years, Valentine's Day has become the day of the year when the most roses are sold. Is this because if the letters of the word "rose" are rearranged they spell "Eros", the god of love?

February 14 is also the second largest card-giving day of the year (after Christmas) as those of all generations exchange and send special greetings of love. (The U.S. Card Association estimates that 85 per cent of Valentine cards are purchased by women.) Heart-shaped designs, doves (symbolizing fidelity) and roses continue to be favorite motifs.

For family dining, tables (from napkins to centerpieces) take on a red theme. Heart-shaped and cupid cookie cutters and moulds are retrieved from the bottom of kitchen drawers. Together families delight in cutting veggies, toast, pâté, cheese, bread, etc. into popular Valentine's Day shapes. With a few of these "hand-tooled" additions, Valentine's dinner is certain to be a happy event for the entire family.

But what if you're a couple without kids, or empty-nesters? For myself, the best expression of love on Valentine's Day (as on every other day of the year) is preparing and sharing a delicious meal with my husband. After all, it is generally agreed that great food is the quickest way to anyone's heart. However, being Valentine's Day, couples may want their culinary choices to enhance the power of love. I must be honest and admit that some "pleasure" foods actually impair the power of love (think fried foods, rich cream sauces, excessively sweet and salty fare, saturated fats and highly processed foods). Although, coffee in moderation has a positive effect, it is best to limit its consumption as well as that of alcohol.

But don't be discouraged. There is good news. One of our great indulgences, chocolate, helps instill passion. So tuck in. Seafood, virtually all it, is another food of love, with oysters topping the list. Oysters contain zinc which is necessary for testosterone production in both men and women.

Many fresh fruits are said to possess aphrodisiac properties: cherries, raspber-



MARGARET
DICKENSON

ries, strawberries, apples, bananas, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, mangoes, papayas, coconut, pomegranates and figs. This could be due to their size (perfect for hand-feeding a lover), their shape, taste, juiciness, or sensuous texture. I was fascinated to learn, for example, that avocados, whose tree the Aztecs called "ahuacati (which translates as the "testicle tree") do actually hang in pairs on trees. Phallic-shaped vegetables (asparagus, corn, cucumbers, carrots and eggplant), some herbs (basil), spices (cloves, pepper, ginger, cinnamon, mustard), nuts (almonds) and honey are all considered to have aphrodisiac effects.

After considering this exotic information, one conclusion comes to mind. The freshest and most wholesome foods might

fall within the category "aphrodisiac" in that they supply the nutrients and satisfaction one needs to lead a happy and healthy life.

Here are some tips for a sensuous Valentine's Day evening *à deux*:

1. Set a beautiful table in advance. (Invest in a few fresh flowers, roses perhaps?)
2. Prepare your meal with care and do much of the preparation ahead of time. Include choices that will not keep you in the kitchen for more than a few minutes between courses.
3. Don't forget the hors d'oeuvres. These are a must. Consider serving shrimp with tails and oysters, thus allowing you to hand feed your valentine and to savour the moment. Creamy dips (particularly made with avocados) and fresh fig halves in some form (see recipe below) are certain to create a romantic mood.
4. Dress for the occasion (from smart



Minted fresh figs with feta

LARRY DICKENSON

casual or elegant to intriguing or maybe even provocative).

5. Light the candles, put on the music, dim the lights, and if you have a fireplace, start it.

6. Choose a cozy spot to leisurely sip your drinks and seductively nibble hors d'oeuvres.

7. Indulge in chocolates, put off the clean-up and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Margaret Dickenson is author of the award-winning cookbook *Margaret's Table - Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining*. See www.margaretssenseofoccasion.com for more.

Minted Fresh Figs with Feta

Makes 12 pieces (6 servings)

6 fresh whole figs, ripe (each: 1 1/4 oz or 35 g)

2 to 3 tsp (10 to 15 mL) vinaigrette (a mustard herb type), divided

12 tiny cubes (1/3 inch or 0.8 cm) feta cheese

12 fresh mint leaves, rather large*

Garnish

12 tiny edible flowers** (violas, Johnny Jump-Ups), optional

1. Wipe figs clean; cut each in half vertically through stem, leaving stem attached.

2. Lay fig halves (cut side up) on a clean flat surface. Using a finger, press an indentation into centre of each fig half to create a deep depression. (Avoid cracking edges of figs.)

3. Carefully drizzle cut surfaces of fig halves with a few drops of vinaigrette, cautiously cutting it into flesh with tip of a spoon. (Note of Caution: Avoid "soaking" the figs with vinaigrette. The hors d'oeuvres must not drip.)

4. Add one large mint leaf to surface of each fig half, pressing down at centre to retain indentation.

5. Put cubes of feta in a small bowl and lightly bathe with vinaigrette. Place one bathed feta cube into mint-lined depression of each fig half and garnish with a tiny edible flower (or smaller mint leaf).

* Large enough to line a half fig without hiding the fig.

** When edible flowers are not available, use small fresh mint leaves.

Tip: Purchase fresh figs only when they are definitely ripe.

Make ahead tip: Minted Fresh Figs may be prepared (up to several hours) in advance, placed in an airtight plastic container and refrigerated until ready to serve.

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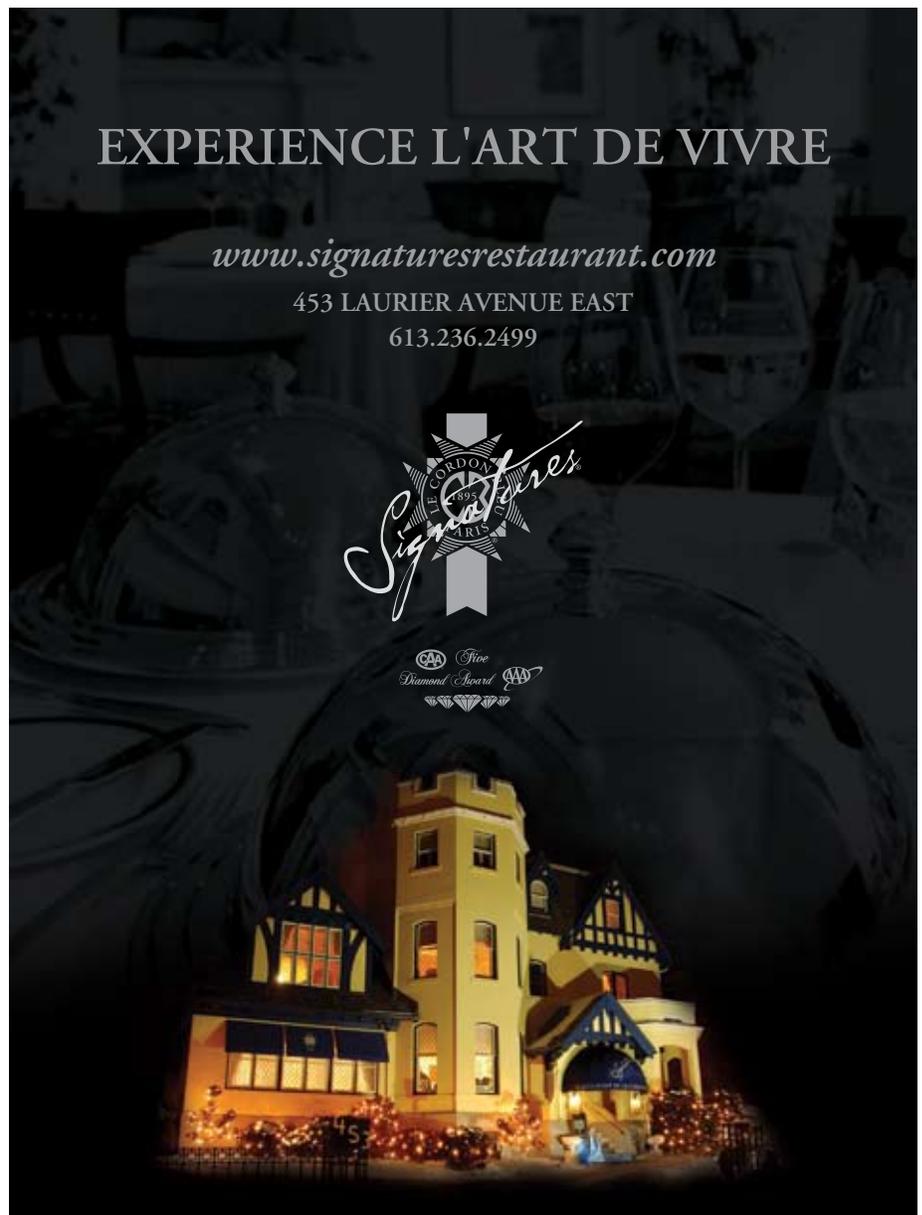
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Gracious Greece on the Canal

By Margo Roston



The Greek Ambassador's residence was built in 1910 by well-known architect Werner Ernest Noffke for Senator Andrew Haydon, grandfather of the former regional chair, Andy Haydon.

Some houses stand out, whether for their size, their style or their location. Put all three together with the steady hand of a master architect and you've got something special.

The Greek embassy owns one of Ottawa's premier addresses, a three-storey heritage home built in 1910 by one of Ottawa's most fabled architects, Werner Ernest Noffke, for Senator Andrew Haydon, grandfather of former regional chair Andy Haydon. The senator was born in Pakenham in 1867 and flourished as a well-known lawyer, Liberal party insider and author of a book about Lanark as well as Mackenzie King and the Liberal Party (1930).

Set on a hill above Queen Elizabeth Drive and overlooking the Rideau Canal, the imposing house with its wraparound balconies and long, covered walkway, was purchased by the Greek government in 1977 after it had been empty for several years. It's now the

comfortable residence of amiable Ambassador Nikolaos Matsis and his wife Kathy.

"I find something like splendour about this house," says the ambassador of the six-bedroom mansion, which is just a hop, skip and jump from Dows Lake. Balconies on the main and second floors give a southern grace to the exterior, while a side balcony on the third floor offers vistas of the lush surrounding landscape.

And the location is special to Mrs. Matsis.

"I like the ability to walk to Bank Street where there is so much action," says the Australian-born Greek, who met her husband at a dance in Athens. "We were married in Greece and honeymooned in Tasmania," she laughs.

The ambassador also has ties to Australia, where he worked as the editor of a Greek newspaper for a couple of years and later took a posting there during his 31-year diplomatic career.

The house has gone through changes over the years. The original oak paneling which lines the walls of the foyer and the landing of the elegant staircases is, of course, intact. The story goes that the small heart-shaped cutouts on the spindles of the staircase were signs of the original owner's love for his wife.

"There's also supposed to be a ghost," says Mrs. Matsis.

The original dining room, which had been opened to the living room, was moved across the hall so there are now two sitting rooms side by side, each with beautiful beamed ceilings.

And the Matsis's made more changes. They moved the kitchen and powder room from the basement to bright modern facilities on the main floor. The ambassador is thrilled with the workout room that has taken their place.

"We don't ski," he admits, although this is



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Clockwise from top left: Greek Ambassador Nikolaos Matsis and his wife, Kathy. Dinner in the dining room always has some Greek flair. The original dining room, which had opened to the living room, was moved so there are now two reception rooms, side by side.

the third time he has been posted to Canada, including stints in Toronto and Montreal. Their daughter, Helen, was born in Canada and is a student at Concordia University. Their son, Anthony, attended Lower Canada College and graduated from McGill.

Much of art and furniture belongs to the couple, including the living room's bright red sofa and chair, the Persian rugs, a copper table and an Ottoman brazier.

The art is eclectic, treasures collected during three decades in the diplomatic corps. Paintings of Greek fishermen in the Ukraine, silver Russian cigarette boxes, and lacquered boxes with images of saints in gold leaf brighten the main floor reception rooms. Copies of a book of Greek poetry written by the ambassador and translated and published in Russian line a bookshelf. There's a brightly painted boomerang, a gift from a posting in Australia, and a clas-

sical silver wreath, a symbol of the Athens Olympics.

More formal are the classical Greek statues in the reception rooms – Aphrodite on a dolphin and Kore, a free standing statue of a maiden, both belonging to the Greek Ministry of Civilization. The couple also has mementoes from Brazil.

"We believe in the blending of styles," says Mrs. Matsis. "The diplomatic life is all about memories and recollections."

Dinner in the large dining room always has a Greek motif, sometimes including pasticcio – a kind of lasagna – and baklava. And the lamb dishes... well they are pièces de résistance of the ambassador, a "great cook," according to his wife.

"Ottawa is our home now and selling Greece is our job," she says.

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor.

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In 2005, in a landmark study, *Climate Change and Global Wine Quality*, climatologist Gregory V. Jones from Southern Oregon University and his co-authors analyzed yearly climactic data and the scores for the corresponding wines from the world's top wine regions. They concluded that, over the last 50 years, most of the world's high-quality wine-producing areas, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, have experienced sustained warming trends of their growing seasons with an average temperature increase of 2 C. The Southern Hemisphere has been far less impacted due to the great moderating effect of its ocean-to-land-mass ratio.

These higher average temperatures have resulted in higher-quality wines and less year-to-year variation. While viticultural (vineyard cultivation) and vinicultural (wine grape cultivation) practices



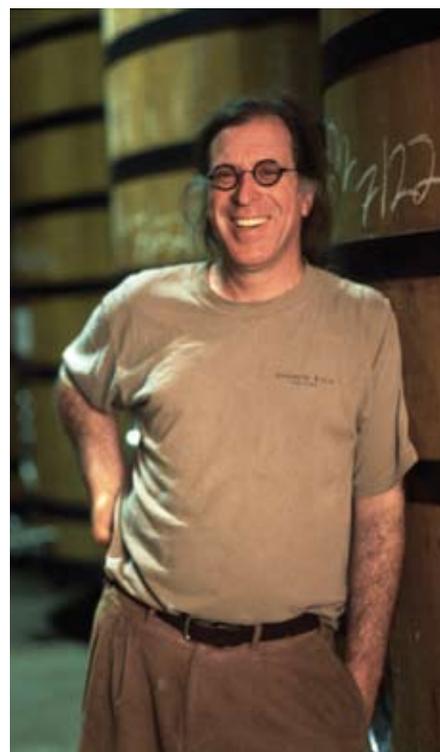
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VAN DEN WEGHE

have also contributed to this improvement over the last half century, climate has been the greater influence. Frost is now less of a threat, and growing seasons have lengthened by 20 to 40 days in Europe and 90 days in Napa. Many cooler wine-growing regions have benefited, and there's serious anticipation of great sparkling wines from England and lush reds from Germany down the road. The real beneficiary so far has been Europe and, in particular, France. A succession of vintages in various French regions have produced wines that are more fruit-forward, higher in alcohol and lower in acid. "Our weather is now perfect," says Jean-Guillaume Prats of Bordeaux's Château Cos d'Estournel. "Global warming has changed the style of wine we make to be a rounder, more forward wine."

Better wines from the world's greatest wine-producing areas and many new wine regions? What's the bad news? Well, many existing wine regions may simply become too hot to create balanced, high-quality wines if temperature increases continue. Though modern vineyard practices can help create favourable grape-growing conditions, good wine can only be achieved with the appropriate grape variety reaching its phenolic and sugar ripeness in the right geological and climactic scenario. All this may result in long-established wine regions becoming inhospitable for their traditional grape varieties. Beyond that, extended exposure to temperatures above 30 C may cause flavour ripening to fail while photosynthesis stops altogether above 35 C. This may lead to not just a wholesale changing of grape varieties but the complete abandonment of certain wine regions. Warmer weather and longer growing seasons also increase the potential of diseases and pests while growing irrigation needs will result in greater water stress to surrounding environments. This is of particular concern in regions such as southeastern Australia where severe drought has persisted for more than six years.

But all is not grim. The wine industry is adaptable if nothing else and can overcome challenges. Randall Grahm, the

famed and irreverent owner of California's Bonny Doon, is planting a vineyard near the tiny town of San Juan Bautista to learn how to accommodate climate change. He hopes much of the primarily east- and northeast-facing vineyard will be planted without supplemental irrigation (dry-farming). To that end, he plans on small, low-to-the-ground vines which will be widely spaced. By keeping vigour down from the get-go, Mr. Grahm hopes to es-



Randall Grahm, of Bonny Doon Vineyard

establish deeply rooted vines that are more drought-tolerant, but, if he still needs irrigation despite these plans, so be it.

Scientists, politicians and pundits may continue to argue, but grape growers and winemakers have long realized that climate change is real. Its ongoing effect on the wine industry will only become more evident to wine drinkers. Though we may gain much that is new and great, I hope the wines and traditions we treasure don't just become memories.

Pieter Van den Weghe is the sommelier at Beckta dining & wine.

Clara Brett Martin: Trailblazer or anti-semite?

By Laura Neilson Bonikowsky

In 1891, a generation before the Famous Five's victory in the Persons Case, Clara Brett Martin applied to study law. Her rejection was incontrovertible.

"This application to the Law Society of Upper Canada is refused. The governing statute regulating this body, not having been drafted under the advanced views of the day and specifically referring to the admission of persons, does not permit the interpretation of 'persons' to include women."

Despite the rebuff, she persisted. Determined, perhaps naive, she appealed to the profession's "broad spirit of liberality and fairness." Supported by the influential Emily Stowe and Sir Oliver Mowat, Martin's appeal led to the passage of a provincial act allowing women to become solicitors. She entered law school in 1893 and placed first in the solicitor's examination.

With the help of Lady Aberdeen and Mowat's continued assistance, Martin's second appeal led to legislation admitting women as barristers, but she was rejected upon application to the bar. The Law Society finally yielded to pressure by wealthy clients and on Feb. 2, 1897, Martin became

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the British Empire's first female lawyer. She earned a Bachelor of Civil Law and LLB degrees and established a successful practice in Toronto.

Martin was not a leader of the women's movement, but she worked diligently to promote opportunities for women, hiring women law students and initiating a Women's Court. Recognizing education as the key to empowerment, she served for 10 years on Toronto's Board of Education.

At the turn of the 20th century, women were not full citizens. They could appear in court as litigants, witnesses or victims, but not as members of the court, as they were sure to influence judges and juries with their feminine wiles. Allowing women access to higher education was contentious, the prevailing opinion held that "the conferring of degrees on women would encourage them to enter the professions and public life," thereby offending those "who appreciate the delicate grace and beauty of woman's character."

Martin overcame all of these prejudices. She was a remarkably determined woman who quietly advanced women's causes. History forgot about her until the early 1980s, when academia began to recognize women's accomplishments. Martin reached a zenith in September 1989 when Ontario's Attorney General announced the opening of the Clara Brett Martin Building. The official opening included a dramatic representation of her struggle that brought people to tears. Martin was elevated to the status of heroine.

In July 1990, only 10 months later, Martin was ignominiously shoved off her pedestal when a University of Western Ontario law professor published a letter Martin sent to the Attorney General's office in March 1915 complaining that property titles were clouded by the registration of false agreements of sale. Each instance the professor cited was attributed by Martin to "a Jew." She also asked that "the Registry Act be amended to prevent this scandalous work of foreigners."

Without understanding the socio-historic context of Martin's time, it's difficult to understand how a woman who had worked so hard to escape oppression could exhibit such prejudice. But Canada in the early 20th century was decidedly anti-Semitic, and Martin's attitude was common. In 1905, only 10 years before Martin's letter, Henri Bourassa delivered a vituperative anti-Jewish speech to the House of Commons urging Canada to refuse Jewish immigrants.

Regardless of her time, Martin was judged by late 20th-century values. Some demanded her name be removed from the building; others called for it to remain, given the number of buildings named for anti-Semitic men. Her name was removed in late 1990, leaving only a silhouette as shadowy as the memory of Martin's accomplishments.

Today, the choice remains: honour Martin for her accomplishments in the face of huge obstacles, or vilify her for attitudes that have become pejorative over time. To do either exclusively denies the complexity of human history.

Laura Neilson Bonikowsky is the associate editor of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.



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THIS PAGE 1. Gu Langlin, wife of Chinese Ambassador Lan Lijun, presented a taste of Beijing Opera at their residence Nov. 6. This performer was part of the colourful show. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • 2. Several diplomatic families showed up for the 5th Annual Rogers movie matinée Dec. 13 at Rainbow Cinema. Here, Clarissa Day hangs an ornament on the tree. (Photo: Karen Keskinen) • 3. Dominican Ambassador Luis Arias, left, hosted a Canadian-Dominican concert Nov. 17. He's shown with violinist Eugenio Matos, special advisor at the Dominican Embassy, and Canadian pianist Sheryl Molloy. • 4. The 23rd annual EU Film Festival took place in November. Shown at the opening gala: Tom McSorley, director of the Canadian Film Institute, and his wife, Tina. • 5. French Ambassador Francois Delattre hosted the EU Film Festival launch. Shown: Mr. Delattre, Caroline Jacquemot-Gindre, an attaché at the French Embassy, and Roy Christensen, press officer for the delegation of the European Commission. (Photos: Ulle Baum)



THIS PAGE 1. The delegation of the European Commission and the embassies of member states of European Union co-hosted a concert Dec. 5 at Notre Dame Cathedral with the Calixa Lavallée Choir and Chorale De La Salle. Here, Robert Filion directs the Chorale de la Salle singing a traditional Finnish carol. • 2. The church was filled to near-capacity for the concert. (Photos: Bob Diotte) • 3. The Canadian Federation of University Women's diplomatic hospitality group held its annual Christmas party at the Dominion Chalmers Church Dec. 12. Shown here is Joyce Kallaghe, wife of Tanzanian High Commissioner Peter Kallaghe. • 4. Argentine Ambassador Arturo Bothamley attended the opening of the 24th annual art show held at Foreign Affairs Nov. 25. He's shown with Diplomat contributors Margaret and Larry Dickenson. • 5. Korean Ambassador Soo-dong Kim attended the Canada-Korea Society's annual general meeting at Hunt Club Oct. 25. Shown here are Mr. Kim, his wife, Inu Yu, and Senator Joseph Day, right. (Photos: Frank Scheme)



New Heads of Mission

Werner Brandstetter
Ambassador of Austria



Mr. Brandstetter is a career diplomat who joined the foreign service in 1979 after studying at Vienna's University of Economics and doing post-graduate work at the Diplomatic Academy and the Vienna Institute.

His first two postings were to Moscow and New York. He returned to headquarters in 1987 to work on the North America desk before being sent to the embassy in Berlin in 1990. A year later, he was minister in Prague and four years later, he became consul general in Los Angeles. In 2000, he returned to headquarters as deputy head of the Western Europe department and was foreign policy advisor to the minister from 2001 to 2004. For the four years prior to coming to Ottawa, he was ambassador to Brazil.

Mr. Brandstetter is married to Leonie-Maria and they have two adult children.

Teresita de Jesús Vicente Sotolongo
Ambassador of Cuba



Ms. Sotolongo joined the ministry of foreign affairs in 1981, working in the documentation division. Two years later, she was a desk officer, overseeing Nordic country files. In 1985, she started a four-

year posting at the embassy in Finland before returning to the ministry to oversee the EU portion of the European division.

In 1993, she became first secretary to Cuba's embassy in Sweden for two years and then chargé d'affaires at the embassy in Denmark. In 1998, she returned to headquarters as assistant director for Europe.

From 2000 to 2003, she was Cuba's ambassador to Switzerland and a non-resident ambassador to Liechtenstein. For the last five years, she has been director for Europe at headquarters.

Ms. Sotolongo is married and has one child.

Karel Zebrakovsky
Ambassador of the Czech Republic



Mr. Zebrakovsky has led a varied career beginning in 1973 when, after completing a master's in electrical engineering, he became manager of the corporate development unit at Transgas in Prague. He stayed for 12 years before becoming a senior advisor with the Federal Ministry of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering. He worked as a professor of information technology at the Czech Management Centre and then spent two years as counselor at the Czech embassy in New York. From 1993 to 1998, he was director of the department of external economic relations and international organizations.

From 2001 to 2006, he was ambassador to Japan and for the two years prior to coming to Canada, he was back at headquarters as ambassador-at-large for science, technology and education.

He is married to Marketa, also a diplomat, and they have two children.

Franklin Chavez
Ambassador of Ecuador

Mr. Chavez is a career diplomat. He has a master's in international law from



the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a doctorate from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

He joined the foreign ministry in 1976. His first posting came five years later, as second secretary in Mexico. He was promoted to first secretary during the five-year posting and returned to the ministry for two years before becoming counselor and later minister at the embassy in Japan for five years. He then spent four years back at headquarters before serving as minister at the embassy in Austria from 1998 to 2003. He returned to headquarters and held various posts, most recently director-general of the diplomatic academy.

Mr. Chavez is married to Magdalena Calderón Cevallos. They have one daughter.

Daya Perera
High Commissioner for Sri Lanka



Mr. Perera has had a varied career in law, forensic medicine and diplomacy. In 1954, he was admitted as an advocate of their lordship's court in Sri Lanka and spent 50 years in law. In 1987, he received a diploma in forensic medicine and science from the University of Colombo.

From 1956 to 1970, he was with the office of the attorney general and was seconded to the Sri Lankan army twice during that period. He then joined the un-

official bar until 1988. From 1988 to 1991, he was ambassador to the United Nations in New York after which he joined the private bar again. For a year in 1995, he was an examiner in forensic medicine for the North Colombo Medical College.

Mr. Perera is a widower with two grown children.

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Vancouver 2010? Bring a tent

By Sarah Close



Whistler's ski jump is the competition site for ski jumping. If you want to see any of it, be creative when looking for accommodation.

As demand for tickets long ago swamped supply for many sold-out events at Vancouver and Whistler's 17-day Winter Olympics in 2010, Diplomat asked Vancouver native Sarah Close to look into logistics problems. She found plenty in accommodation and anticipates inevitable confusion and slow-downs in local transportation, all adding up to: Plan early, be persistent – and patient.

Vancouver is undisputedly one of the world's most beautiful cities. Its mild climate makes it one of the few places in Canada where mittens are worn for fashion rather than warmth, and where no one bats an eye if you show up to the local bar in your yoga gear. You can often ski and windsurf in the same day.

Vancouver sits right on the Pacific Coast and spreads across several inlets.

To its north are mountains. Unlike Seattle, Vancouver has relatively few windy days, thanks to the buffer of Vancouver Island.

Whistler, a world-class ski resort town, lies some 130 kilometres north of Vancouver and features two operating ski hills, Whistler Mountain and Blackcomb Mountain. One daily ticket will grant access to both mountains and (as of early 2009) there will be a "Peak to Peak" gondola for an additional cost, which will mean that the public will not have to waste time skiing down to the bottom of the hill to gain access to the other mountain.

From Feb. 12-28, 2010, Vancouver hosts the 21st Winter Olympic Games, followed closely by the 10th Winter Paralympics from March 12-21. This will be Canada's third time to host the Olympics, after the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Like the most recent summer Olympics in Beijing, the Vancouver Olympics have been plagued with controversies over Olympic Village construction and overruns. But the single most controversial issue is the lack of affordable housing for Vancouver's own local residents, never mind visitors.

Despite loud and often disruptive public protest, the Games were awarded to Vancouver on July 2, 2003. Public protests continue – crowds of anti-poverty protesters, ranging in size, have rushed the stage during Olympic celebrations, trashed a Cabinet Minister's office in a mock "eviction" and have necessitated 24-hour security on the Olympic countdown clock to prevent vandalism.

No fewer than 86 events have been slated for the Games, mostly in Vancouver, with a small number taking place in Whis-



From left, Olympic mascots Quatchi, Sumi and Miga put their big feet on the pedals for commuter challenge day.

fler. In Vancouver, hockey events will be split between University of British Columbia's Thunderbird Stadium and Canada Hockey Place, more commonly known as General Motors Place and the home of the Vancouver Canucks. The figure skating events will be held in the Pacific Coliseum, speed skating at a brand new oval in Vancouver's suburb of Richmond and freestyle skiing and snowboarding on local Cypress Mountain. Anything involving sledges, aerial skiing or cross-country skiing will be held at Whistler. For a specific guide to events and how to get tickets, check out the Vancouver Olympic website (www.vancouver2010.com).

Vancouver has many gorgeous hotels ranging from five-star chains, such as the Four Seasons, to brand new boutique hotels such as the Moda. Unfortunately, almost all the hotels in downtown Vancouver and Whistler are booked. Many remaining hotels do not allow booking until a year before the event, leaving them with long waiting lists. With heavy pre-bookings by VANOC, media and sponsors, this

report on where to stay for 2010 quickly became "nowhere to stay" in Vancouver during the Olympics.

Hotels prefer booking their entire room base to such companies as Nike to assure complete booking for the entire event. The general public is unlikely to arrive and stay for two weeks. However, staff at the Whistler Delta Suites said they may have rooms available as of Feb. 1, depending on how many get picked up in their contract with VANOC. If you have somewhere in particular you would like to stay, contact them as soon as possible to see if they will release rooms in the near future. If they do, then get on a waiting list.

Contacting VANOC directly to ask where they expect would-be spectators, who are not media, sponsors or VANOC itself to stay wasn't fruitful either. VANOC staff quickly recommended a website that is a collaborative effort between Tourism Vancouver, Tourism BC and the Canadian Tourism Commission. (www.2010destinationplanner.com). This site is a dedicated 2010 Olympics planner for the public to

search an accommodation "bank" and get transit and general information on Vancouver/Whistler.

A Vancouver Tourism official said many hotels will only post room availability in February. So even if nothing matches your search criteria now, check back often. He also included a disclaimer – no one involved with the Olympics or the tourism offices has control over the price hotels charge for rooms. Craigslist.org, a site heavily used on the West Coast for buying or selling anything, offered a number of options for renting out private apartments over the Olympics with prices generally ranging from \$500 - \$1,000 a night. Granted, you will likely get more space in an apartment, and you will have a kitchen to avoid extra costs such as mini-bar bills.

If you do manage to find a place to stay and secure tickets to your dream event, Vancouver has restaurants for all tastes. Sushi restaurants can be found on almost any block downtown and range in quality but don't let little hole-in-the-walls deter you. Sometimes they're the best.

If Japanese is not your taste, try Vij's (1480 West 11th Ave.) in the South Granville neighbourhood. This restaurant makes delicious albeit westernized Indian food but, be warned; it is extremely popular and does not take reservations. If you get there and the wait is too long, pop next store to Rangoli, which is Vij's café style restaurant. Here the prices are cheaper, the wait is shorter, and you can buy ready-to-eat meals to take home.

If you are staying in the heart of the city, Jules Bistro (216 Abbott St.) provides delicious dining in its little French restaurant in Vancouver's historic Gastown. The inviting décor, excellent frites and stellar crème brûlée bring customers back.

Whistler, meanwhile, runs the gauntlet of mediocre restaurants but there are a few gems. Unfortunately, Whistler lacks great eateries at affordable prices. Even the grocery store will charge you an arm and a leg. However, for a treat, the famous Vancouverite restaurateur Umberto Menghi has two restaurants in Whistler. Try Trattoria Di Umberto (4417 Sundial Place, Mountainside Lodge), which offers Tuscan food in a cosy-yet-elegant environment. I also like visiting the Trattoria for a late lunch after skiing (they don't mind if you are in your ski boots). Here, you are near the base of Whistler Mountain and the Dubh Linn Gate Pub (170-4320 Sundial Cres.), is the perfect spot for you to sip a post-dinner Caesar until the more dedicated members of your skiing party make



VANOC

Whistler Creekside: The site for Olympic and Paralympic alpine skiing.

Vancouver public transit well in advance, especially the bus since you'll find few transit maps at bus stations. Depending on where you are staying, buy yourself a package of transit tickets from any corner store. The tickets are zoned and can be used in any direction for 90 minutes.

The Sea to Sky Highway between Vancouver and Whistler, often called Canada's most beautiful stretch of road for its panoramic views of the sea and mountains, is also dangerous, because of its hairpin turns and poor weather conditions. The Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project is due for completion in September of 2009. As this is the only real access to Whistler – short of helicopter – if weather conditions are bad or there is an accident, be ready for slow moving.

Overall, for an Olympic experience, three tips: plan ahead, be patient and allow lots of time for everything.

Sarah Close lives in Vancouver and works in the arts. During the Olympics, she will be on safari in Africa for her mother's 50th birthday – but says she probably couldn't afford tickets, anyway.

their way back to the village.

One cannot escape the fact that Vancouver, for all its beauties, lacks a reliable and user-friendly transit system. Currently TransLink operates buses, a light rail sys-

tem called the SkyTrain and a ferry system called the SeaBus. By 2010, a Skytrain extension will run passengers from Vancouver International Airport to downtown with stops along the way. Plan your use of

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A novel idea: In New Zealand's Abel Tasman National Park you can flag down a water taxi for a trip to the beach.

New Zealand treasures await you

Kiwi country has it all, from great lamb and Sauvignon Blanc, to green lakes and glaciers

By *Kate Lackey*

Kia Ora (hello).

Once described in a travel guide as occupying “the last bus-stop on the planet”, New Zealanders have always been aware of their distant location in the Pacific Ocean. It makes them inveterate travelers (at any one time up to 15 per cent of Kiwis are overseas) and they are delighted when travelers from other countries visit their shores. Visitors are welcomed with open arms.

The days of long and complicated journey to New Zealand are over. Air New Zealand now offers direct non-stop flights from Canada. In the time it takes to enjoy a cocktail, a meal, a movie, and a few hours sleep, today's visitors find themselves cir-



KATE LACKEY

cling Auckland's green volcanic landscape and the Islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

If one word were to describe New Zealand, it would be variety. Nowhere on earth can one find such an infinite variety of scen-

ery and attractions – mountains, fiords, islands, blue lakes, green lakes, plains, rivers, glaciers, forests, volcanoes, glorious beaches, waterfalls, geysers and hot pools, skiing, galleries, jet boating, gliding, an English city, a Scottish city, a Polynesian city, a French settlement, fly fishing,

salmon fishing, caving, climbing, sailing, scuba diving, deer farms, sheep stations, dairy farms, cattle stations, vineyards, olive groves and orchards. And, of course, a profusion of native and exotic wildlife and flora.

You might say that little of this is unique to New Zealand – but what is unique is that all this comes in a self-contained and easily explored package: Two main islands spanning 1,600 kilometres from the sub-tropical north to the sub-Antarctic south. There is, literally, a change of scene around every corner.

And all of this is served up with the warmest of hospitality, freshest of food, and glorious wines. But more on that later.

While our winters are benign by Canadian standards and the skiing is terrific, I prefer New Zealand during the summer months – mid-December to, say, April when the Pacific Ocean is, well, more pacific, and the weather reliably pleasant. I need hardly point out that these months are, shall we say, a convenient time to take a break from Canada.

Summer brings a sense of excitement and activities and events to suit all tastes. It's a time for sizzling barbecues and swimming at the beach, salads, Sauvignon Blanc, and lazy days at the bach (as we call our holiday cottages); a time for both relaxation and celebration.

Fresh and vibrant, New Zealand's wine and food are a major part of any adventure – indeed, they're an adventure in and of themselves. Taste is paramount. Talented and innovative chefs combine the fresh harvest from the garden, land and sea. Pacific influences and indigenous foods make it unique. New Zealand's cuisine is often described as "Pacific Rim," and draws inspiration from Europe, Asia and Polynesia.

And while there is no shortage of top

restaurants, summer cuisine often means eating al fresco in cafés or at barbecues. Fare such as lamb, cervena (venison),



Many species of dolphin are found in New Zealand – visitors can get up close, and even swim with them.

crayfish (lobster), fresh fish, and shellfish is plentiful. Oysters, scallops, green lipped mussels, and paua (New Zealand abalone)

are hot favourites. Choose a world-class Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, or Chardonnay from one of the country's 376 wineries, and you have the perfect complement.

We are a premier new-world wine country, which is producing award-winning wines that reflect the clean air and sunshine. Top-quality wines are exported to cellars worldwide. Leading wine regions include West Auckland, Gisborne, Martinborough and Hawke's Bay in the North Island and Marlborough, Central Otago and Canterbury in the South Island.

(If you feel a dress rehearsal is called for, a wide selection of New Zealand wines is currently available throughout Canada, as are a number of easily recognized food icons such as Zespri Gold kiwi fruit and frozen or chilled New Zealand lamb).

Seasonal wine and food festivals highlight a wide-ranging supply of gourmet foods and boutique wines. Regular farmers' markets and country fairs showcase fresh and flavourful produce and are favourite destinations for both locals and visitors. Indigenous foods are becoming



No trip to Wellington is complete without a ride on the famous Kelburn Hill cable car.



FAY LOONEY

City view from Westhaven: The sea provides an escape from the buzz of the city.

more of a feature on restaurant menus and traditional Maori cuisine is experiencing a contemporary twist at the hands of innovative cooks like Rotorua-based Maori chef Charles Royal.

Food and wine are not the only finer pursuits in life that are celebrated in New Zealand. It's no surprise – with luxury travel now one of the country's fastest growing tourism sectors – the world is waking up to New Zealand's vast range of possibilities for the discerning traveller.

For the world-weary, well-travelled visitor, New Zealand offers a genuinely refreshing approach that's strongly linked to the landscape and all about creating personal and unique experiences – world-class accommodation, service and transport delivered in a friendly Kiwi manner.

Drawn first to the wonders of the unspoiled landscape, visitors are often surprised by the sophisticated infrastructure and services providing all the trappings of a first-class experience topped off with priceless treasures like peace, privacy and safety. Discerning tourists are continually voting New Zealand their favourite destination. And, even in times of economic downturn, travellers from Canada and elsewhere are showing they're prepared to go the extra mile for a top-quality experience.

New Zealand's first luxury property is still the best known – the multi-award-winning Huka Lodge in Taupo that's hosted heads of state and Hollywood stars, and become famous for its seclusion, unique environment and experience.

Newer properties like The Farm, at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay, have quickly earned world-class status. The Cape Kidnappers golf course was recently voted top in the world by Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

At no extra cost, visitors can take in New Zealand's natural assets, the landscape, with mountains, crystal-clear lakes and rivers, wide open spaces and miles of sparkling blue seas.

The sheer beauty of New Zealand is something that has to be seen to be believed. Throughout my diplomatic career, I have been privileged to travel widely, and to see many beautiful places, including Canada, of course. Yet I have no hesitation in placing New Zealand's scenery with the best in the world.

More than 30 per cent of the land has been set aside for national parks, reserves and special heritage sites to preserve the country's unique geographic and ecological heritage. You can explore relatively untouched landscapes that are home to ancient forests, rare birds, and creatures which have survived since prehistoric times.

SUMMER BRINGS A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO SUIT ALL TASTES. IT'S A TIME FOR SIZZLING BARBECUES AND SWIMMING AT THE BEACH, SALADS, SAUVIGNON BLANC, AND LAZY DAYS AT THE BACH (AS WE CALL OUR HOLIDAY COTTAGES); A TIME FOR BOTH RELAXATION AND CELEBRATION.

New Zealand's 'Great Walks' are world-renowned. The nine walks include the Milford Track in Fiordland, the Routeburn Track, the Kepler, Stewart Island's Rakiura Track, Tongariro National Park, Whanganui Journey and Lake Waikaremoana.

However, there are also hundreds of other opportunities for walking or hiking. These range from walking tracks on public conservation and private land, to heritage trails of up to a day's duration in urban areas.

All New Zealand cities have great native bush walks nearby, making it easy to get off the beaten track. The New Zealand outdoors offers suitable walks for people of all fitness levels.

Most New Zealanders maintain a strong connection with the sea and this certainly impacts on the Kiwi psyche and many aspects of our daily lives. Back at home, I live and work near the sea and have spent much of my spare time sailing on it.

Leading yacht and launch charter companies can provide travellers with an exclusive floating option to explore New Zealand by water. The coastline is magnificent and there are hundreds of islands and safe, secluded moorings within easy reach of the main centres.

But many folk prefer to do their cruising on land, and the motor-home is a



Young Maori people discover their culture through kapa haka, a Maori war dance

TIM WHITTAKER



GILBERT VAN REENEN

Rippon Vineyard in Wanaka, Otago: The continental climate of this region produces wines with a subtly different character.

tourist favourite.

New Zealanders are famous for their ingenuity and creativity in many realms of endeavour, from science to art to music and literature. With a diverse range of cultures and landscapes, and a rich Maori cultural heritage, we draw our inspiration from a wide spectrum. The result is world-class creative talent on show in events like the annual Montana World of Wearable Arts Awards in Wellington.

Many galleries around the country hold exhibitions that feature the works of nationally acclaimed artists, sculptors and jewellers, as well as new talent. Historical artworks are predominantly held in the collections of the larger museums and public libraries in the cities. There are more than 460 museums, many doubling as art galleries, ranging from specialist regional collections to the impressive national museum Te Papa in the capital city of Wellington.

Like food, dance and fashion, New Zealand music is a unique and vibrant expression of the land's culture. Its musical influence has come from a variety of cultures. The sounds of the indigenous Maori can be heard in many of the country's music genres. Local artists have mixed many styles from overseas with local influences to create music that is uniquely New Zealand.

New Zealand music can also be recognized by its region. Wellington has always been known for its jazzy scene while Auckland incorporates more international

styles heavily influenced by the Polynesian and Maori beat.

Our indigenous culture is a precious aspect of New Zealand life, with Maori comprising 15 per cent of the population.

In the geo-thermal region of Rotorua in the North Island, tourists will receive a traditional Maori *powhiri* (welcome), visit a *marae* (meeting houses), enjoy Maori *kai* (food) cooked underground on *hangi* (hot stones), listen to *kapa haka* (traditional performances of song and dance), and relax in the popular thermal pools.

When planning a visit to New Zealand, allow enough time to do justice both to yourself and the destination. Canadians often tell me they wish they'd spent more time there. With the chance to walk for hours and not see another person, fly in to a remote fishing spot hours from civilization, soak in a spa under the stars, entertain in a private lodge with your personal chef, dine on your own freshly caught seafood and escape into anonymity, it's easy to see why.

You can visit the Tourism New Zealand website: www.newzealand.com, which covers all aspects of planning a trip to New Zealand.

Do come and visit – I know you'll enjoy yourselves!

Ka kite (good-bye)

Kate Lackey is the New Zealand High Commissioner to Canada



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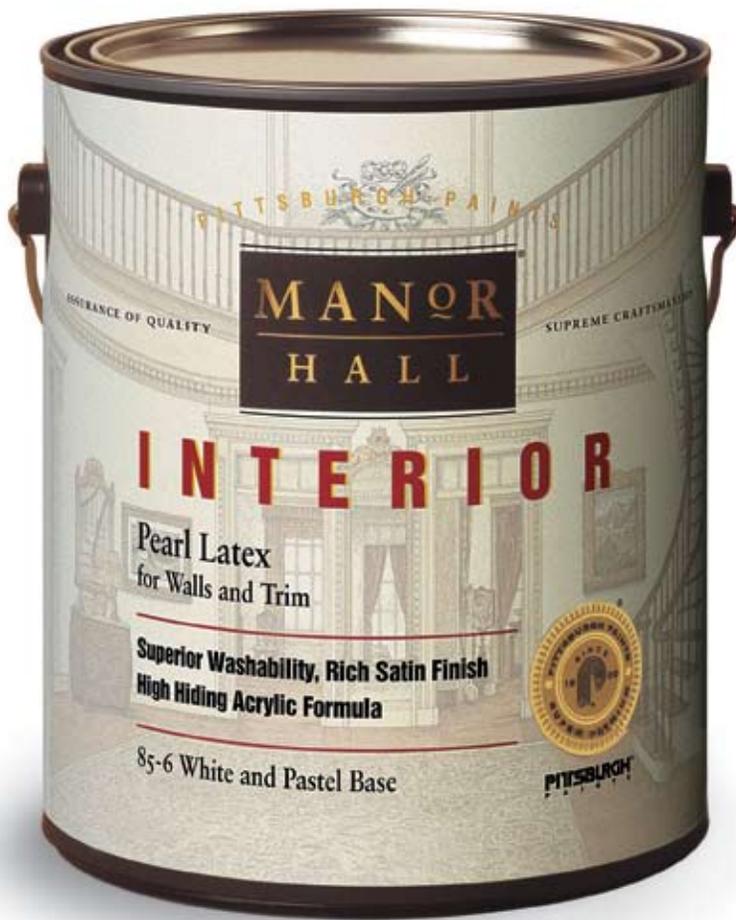
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