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Volume 18, Number 1

Table of CONTENTS

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DIPLOMATICA |

Verbatim: An excerpt from the Decade of Darkness speech	3
Good Deeds: Kudos to Britain and Honduras	5
Q&A: Anthony Cary on Monty Python, the Queen and climate change	6
Diplomatic Agenda: Ghana at 50	7
New Arrivals: 10 new heads of mission	9

DISPATCHES |

Europe on the Move

Europeans are moving all over the continental map	14
EU Ambassador Dorian Prince's ambitious plan	19
Quebec's pitch for free trade with Europe	20

DELIGHTS |

Books: All about Afghanistan	22
Entertaining: Appetizers must entice	24
Wine: What determines the price	26
Envoy's Album	28
Canadiana: Terry Fox's legacy	30
Destinations: Istanbul is a city of contrasts	36

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS 31

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A continent on the move

The Treaties of Rome changed the world. If that statement sounds like hyperbole, I can back it up – the signing of the treaties is ranked among the top 50 events that changed world history.

When EU Ambassador to Canada Dorian Prince spoke recently about Europe's next 50 years, he mentioned the imminent 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The polyglot diplomat (he speaks 12 languages) also talked about the elegance of the language in the treaties, which were originally written in French. Finally, Mr. Prince referenced the book by Hywel Williams, *Days that Changed the World: The 50 Defining Events of World History*, which lists in 41st position March 23, 1957, the day that saw the launch of the common market in Europe. On the 50th anniversary of the European Union, the truth of the ranking is evident.

Now, as a bloc of 27 nations, Europe is thriving. Yes, it has problems – tensions over about migration, loss of sovereignty and a cookie-cutter approach to economies – but many of the complaints have been pro forma bluster, and there are plenty of success stories in this constantly evolving institution. To that end, *Diplomat*, under the direction its new publisher Neil Reynolds and associate publisher Donna Jacobs, decided to look at Europe in the 21st-century.

Migration of impoverished immigrants was a big concern to the original 15 member states when 10 newbies joined the club in 2004, but, as Mr. Prince says in our cover story, movement has been the EU's single greatest accomplishment. The fact that Norwegians are now retiring to the south of Spain and setting up little communities is something to celebrate. Welsh ladies are flying to Estonia and back on the same day (at the bargain rate of \$120 return, taxes included) for shopping and



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

noshing. Britons are jetting to Hungary and the Czech Republic for price-is-right dental care. Some of their compatriots are even being shipped by British hospitals to France for surgery, because the French system is under-used and the British system is overwhelmed. Patients love it, Mr. Prince said, because they come back patched up and carrying a case of fine French wine. They cross invisible borders just like residents of Ottawa cross to Gatineau, Que., and vice versa.

You'll find the cover package, which also looks at Quebec Premier Jean Charest's proposal for free trade with the EU, starting on page 14.

And there's much else in this issue of *Diplomat*. We look at another "50," with Ghanaian High Commissioner Margaret Amoakohene, who writes about her country's 50th birthday. Contributing editor George Abraham looks at recent reads on Afghanistan. And kudos to food writer Margaret Dickenson, whose new book, *Margaret's Table*, has been recognized as last year's best cookbook on entertaining by the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. She continues her series on the parts of the meal with appetizers.

On the back page, check out our new travel feature, *Destinations*. Innes Welbourne brings to life the sights and sounds of Turkey in his piece on Istanbul.

Finally, please note that our main phone and fax lines have changed. The main line for the magazine is (613) 259-3038 and the fax is (613) 259-5481. You may still call me direct at (613) 231-8476.

Jennifer Campbell is editor of *Diplomat* magazine

UP FRONT

When photographer Brigitte Bouvier stepped into EU ambassador Dorian Prince's office to take our cover shot, he made her feel comfortable with his friendly and engaging manner. That was a switch. Usually it's her job to make the subject feel comfortable. "It's a lot easier to get a creative picture of someone when you're so comfortable with them. It's a breath of fresh air," Ms. Bouvier said. Her photos of Mr. Prince also appear on pages 14 and 19.



CONTRIBUTORS

Innes Welbourne, author of *The City of Extremes*, page 36



Innes Welbourne is a writer and part-time voice-over narrator who's been living in Istanbul for two years. When he's not busy trying to learn Turkish (he says it's more difficult than Arabic to speak), he spends his days traveling the city, working on magazine articles and advertising, among other projects. When not doing any of that, and sometimes when he is, he's been accused of being a spy.

LETTERS

Security exposed

With respect to Daniel Drolet's article "Security in the Bag" (*Diplomat*, Nov/Dec 2006), the story fails to fully explore the role of the diplomatic bag in Canada's diplomatic history.

The introduction of some other nations' experiences creates a somewhat disjointed picture. For us, diplomatic bags carried by couriers on aircraft co-existed with incrementally refined electronic systems. It was never a case of pitting one against the other. While Canadian diplomats rely on both forms of conveyance, aspects concerning diplomatic bags can best be told by our colleagues, the Canadian Diplomatic Couriers themselves. As for electronic systems, a wealth of information resides with the many retired Departmental Communicators who own and operate the website www.affsc.ca.

The following sites will be of interest: Canadian Communications Centres (http://www.jproc.ca/crypto/canadian_comm_center.html) and equally informative: Communications Rooms at Canadian Embassies (http://www.jproc.ca/crypto/canadian_embassy.html).

— David Smith, the Association of Former Foreign Service Communicators.
Ottawa, Ontario.

Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier received a lot of ink when he addressed the 23rd annual seminar of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute on Feb. 16. He made headlines for his comment about the "decade of darkness" under Liberal rule. Here, for the record, is an edited excerpt of that section of the speech.

MEMO
TO: Parliament
FROM: General Rick Hillier
SUBJECT: Thanks for the help after our decade of darkness

GEN. HILLIER: "We have been re-equipping the Forces with an energy and a scale and a scope that has not been seen in recent years, perhaps even in decades and with a speed, as the minister again referred to, that would have been unbelievable even two years ago. And let me just say here great credit to our minister and to his work. Great credit to Gord O'Connor and, in fact, his work, his effect, his stubbornness in the finest sense of the word in moving and carrying and driving a bureaucracy in Ottawa through to remarkably short order being able to start acquiring the strategic airlift, the tactical airlift, the big honkin' helicopter that we so desperately need, the joint support ships, trucks – it doesn't sound very sexy but that's what the Canadian Forces runs on – and all the other operationally urgent equipment that we needed. And thank you to our minister for the job that he has done on this one and – we've not yet finished.

And in this past year, just to make sure that we can use those people and all that new equipment to a maximum effect for

Canada, we have been led to changing absolutely everything that we do and at the same time changing how we do it. While we've done those four or five things, we have also been dealing with all the normal challenges of a transition in government and, most important this, over this past one to two years, we have begun to fully realize the immense, the negative impact of the defence expenditure reductions from 1994 and the lasting, most negative legacy that they brought into effect which has to be put right. Restricting, reducing and constrain-

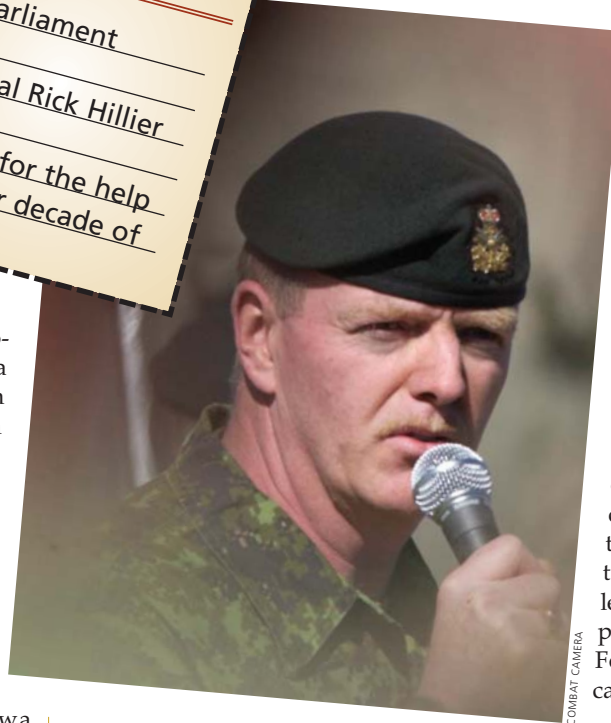
ing education, training, people, postings, equipment, fleets, maintenance, sea days, yearly flying rates, ammunition use and while, at the same time we did that, increasing by a factor the number of operations that we were conducting around the world, has led to a Canadian Forces that is fragile as a base on which to build. And, in some parts, the institution is on a life support system.

Decisions taken at that time were forced by dollar deprivation, guided by the best information possible – and God knows I would not have wanted to be in the shoes of some of my predecessors because of the enormous challenges that they faced. However, those actions, dollar deprived, have now led to some deep wounds in the department and to the Canadian Forces over this past what I would call a "Decade of Darkness" . . .

. . . funding remains a challenge.

Our readiness, as indicated by the manning of our units, their equipping, their training and preparation readiness, is at an alarmingly low level. We have infrastructure that is still unrelated to our operational mission and much of that infrastructure is in an unsettling state of repair. We ignore none of those things and, in fact, we spent almost all of our waking hours trying to solve those problems, and more, with your help.

MORE ON THE WEB: Visit www.diplomatonline.com for the complete transcript.



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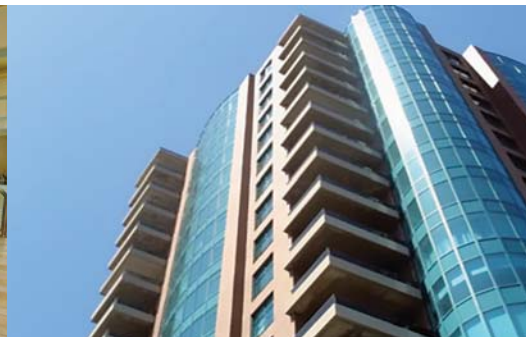


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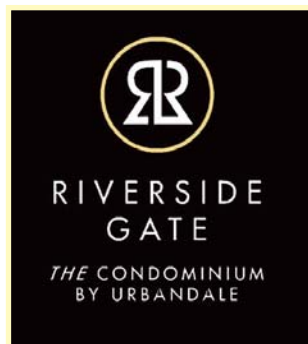
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Saving the SOS

When SOS Children's Villages Canada board members decided to hold a fundraiser in Ottawa, they knocked on one of the most prestigious doors in Canada – that of Earncliffe.

Then-British High Commissioner David Reddaway and his deputy, Julian Evans, came up with the theme of a Scottish Christmas at the high commissioner's residence. To give the evening added flair, SOS Children's Villages Canada enlisted supporter and singer John McDermott to provide the music. Both the SOS and high commission sent invitations to potential donors. There was no ticket price; they just welcomed donations. The fundraiser pulled in a whopping \$60,000. There was one big donation, about \$35,000, and the rest ranged from \$1,000 to \$10.

"I'll take \$10," said kilt-wearing board member Bryan Jones, who was thrilled by all the donations, large and small.

SOS Children's Villages Canada, he said, is the Canadian arm of an international organization headquartered in Austria, which has cared for vulnerable



British Deputy High Commissioner Julian Evans and his wife Gayle flank singer and SOS supporter John McDermott.

children since the end of the Second World War. The charity is now doing a lot of work in Africa where many children are orphaned by either war or HIV/AIDS.

The high commission will hold another fundraiser for SOS this summer. Likely a garden party, it will feature art work by Brigadier Simon Young, the high commission's defence advisor. He will donate the work which will be for sale at the event.

FURTHER KUDOS

👏 Honduran Ambassador Beatriz Valle recently became a sultry singer of Latino music. She and her band took the stage at Hot Peppers Restaurant Feb. 28 to raise money for a charitable foundation in Honduras. Proceeds from her performance, which included duets with Japanese deputy head of mission, Masataka Tarahara, will go toward making a proper labour and delivery room at the largest hospital in the country.



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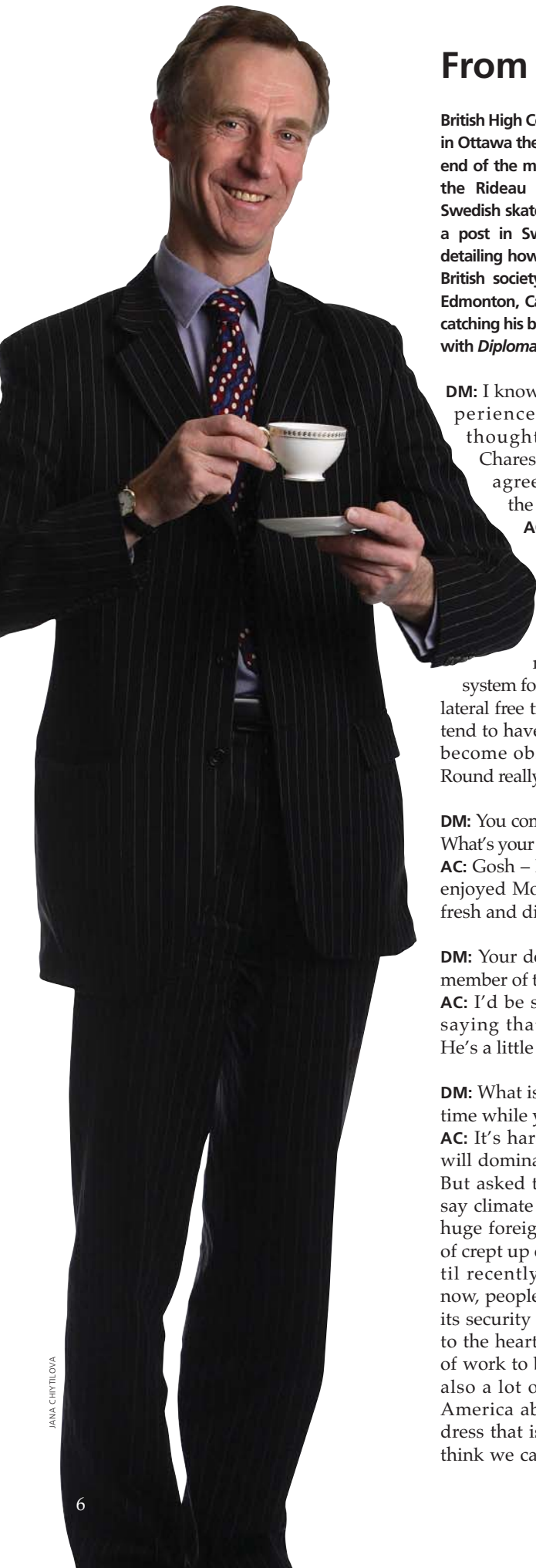
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From Monty Python to climate change

British High Commissioner Anthony Cary arrived in Ottawa the first week of February. Before the end of the month, he'd intrigued Ottawans on the Rideau Canal with his strange-looking Swedish skates (he came to Ottawa direct from a post in Sweden), opened a photo exhibit detailing how some Muslims fit seamlessly into British society, and had traveled to Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto. While he was catching his breath back in Ottawa, he sat down with *Diplomat*.

DM: I know you've had extensive EU experience so I'm interested in your thoughts on Quebec Premier Jean Charest's recent pitch for a free trade agreement between Canada and the EU.

AC: There are problems with the idea of free trade agreements outside multilateral agreements. If we can get a proper multilateral world trading system and get the Doha Development Round, that is a better system for world trade than a series of bilateral free trade agreements which always tend to have in them particularities which become obstacles to trade. If the Doha Round really gets stuck, then there is a case.

DM: You come from a land of great comedy. What's your favourite British comedy?

AC: Gosh – I come from a generation that enjoyed Monty Python. Then it was still fresh and different.

DM: Your deputy thinks you're the tallest member of the high commission. Are you?

AC: I'd be surprised. I'm 6'4". He's just saying that because he's the smallest. He's a little Welshman.

DM: What issue will take up most of your time while you're in Canada?

AC: It's hard to say as you set out what will dominate your time over four years. But asked to take a judgement now, I'd say climate security because I think it's a huge foreign policy issue that's just sort of crept up on us and which was seen until recently as environmentalism. But now, people are beginning to understand its security ramifications and that it goes to the heart of our security. There's a lot of work to be done in Europe but there's also a lot of work to be done in North America about how we're going to address that issue. I think it can be done. I think we can have growth and deal with

the problem but it's enormously important that we do so.

DM: So you'll be convincing Canadians it has to be done, and that it can be done?

AC: It's not just Canadians. It's a job that we have to do in Europe. There's a big change coming in the United States and it's already evident in some of the states and it's beginning to be seen in federal policy. When (UK special representative on climate change) John Ashton was here, he made a point of saying he wasn't here to lecture Canada on how to develop its own resources but that we're here to tell you how it's being addressed in Europe and to talk about some of the common challenges we face.

DM: What would you say the UK has done that Canada should follow?

AC: We're still at the very beginning of this. Our government has now set pretty ambitious targets for the rate at which we're going to move towards a low-carbon economy. I think a step change that's being made is that it isn't seen as environment versus industry, or as a divisive issue. It's an issue on which all people – the government, ordinary people, industry – recognize that we can only be competitive in the 21st century with a low-carbon economy and we need to work out how we're going to get there.

DM: You've met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Did you talk about climate change?

AC: Yes.

DM: Was he receptive?

AC: I certainly sensed that this government understands the importance of the issue. I look forward to the plan (Environment Minister John) Baird is going to announce.

DM: Have you seen *The Queen*? I mean the movie.

AC: I have. I liked it very much because I thought it was sympathetic both to the Queen and the prime minister and showed how differently they saw the events that had happened, from their different positions and upbringing. There were bits of it that were very inaccurate. The caricaturing of Prince Philip was slightly unfair and the people I know in the story – their relationships were all rather artificial. But overall I think the big relationship was right.

Ghana: A leader in Africa's quest for democracy



FIRST NAME: Margaret
LAST NAME: Amoakohene
CITIZENSHIP: Ghanaian
PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS HIGH COMMISSIONER: Sept. 19, 2006
OTHER PROFESSIONS: Public relations instructor at the University of Ghana.

Ghana's transition from a newly independent state in 1957 to a thriving constitutional democracy today provides lessons for much of Africa and the developing world. Ghana gained independence from British colonial rule 50 years ago, on March 6, 1957, changing its name from Gold Coast, the first sub-Saharan Africa nation to do so. It went on to become a leader in African liberation by providing assistance to countries still under colonial domination.

Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president, declared at a mammoth rally to usher in the country's first Independence Day at the Old Polo Grounds in Accra: "The independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent."

Ghana's political history has been checkered. It has had four republics in 50 years and five political disruptions to its democratic governance through coups d'état in 1966, 1972, 1978, 1979, and 1981. Military interventions in Ghanaian politics began in 1966 with the overthrow of the Convention Peoples' Party (CPP) government of President Nkrumah but ended in 1993 with the swearing-in of Jerry John Rawlings as the first president of the Fourth Republic.

Already in its 15th year, the Fourth Republic offsets the pain and frustration of Ghana's three previous abortive republics. It is the first one in which a political party retained political power lawfully and constitutionally through the ballot box for a second term of office. It is the only Ghanaian republic in which political power

changed from one political party to another democratically. In 2000, the then-main opposition party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) defeated the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) in general elections and for the first time in the country's history, there was a smooth changeover of

government. Ghana had attained the maturity to change governments with the thumb rather than the gun.

Up until then, military rule superseded democratically-elected civilian administration in longevity – for 20 years in the period between 1966 and 1992.

Today, Ghana's leadership in Africa is manifested in its pursuit of and adherence to democratic principles, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. It also

production. Farming is widespread though much of it is for subsistence, accounting for 34 per cent of GDP and employing 60 per cent of the workforce. In 2003, HIV/AIDS affected 3.1 per cent of the population, a relatively low figure compared to South Africa (21.5 per cent) or Zimbabwe (24.6 per cent). Nearly 75 per cent of the population older than 15 can read and write.

Because Ghana champions security and stability through good governance, it has been described within the African Peer Review Mechanism (a system through which African states voluntarily assess one another's political and economic management, or governance) as a peaceful nation in a rather turbulent West African sub-region and widely seen as a model for political and economic reform in Africa. Specifically, Ernest Harsch, quoting from the conclusions of a comprehensive African review of Ghana in an analysis release in 2006, writes in *African Renewal* [Vol. 20(3), Oct 2006] that Ghana is an "oasis of peace and tranquility" in West Africa and is moving increasingly



Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean visited Ghana in November as part of a state visit to Africa. She's shown here with Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor.

shows a media system described by the Commonwealth Press Union as "one of the most unfettered" in Africa. The country of about 22 million has plenty of natural resources – gold, timber and cocoa

towards consolidating democracy.

With a foreign policy of good neighbourliness at the sub-regional and continental levels, Ghana leads support for the African Crisis Response Initiative. Ghana



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provides a platform for dialogue among warring factions, and a refuge for people fleeing conflicts and wars in their own countries.

Ghana has actively participated in international peacekeeping in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Rwanda, the Balkans and Pakistan under the auspices of the United Nations. It has been instrumental under the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in developing and enforcing a ceasefire in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Ghana's President John Agyekum Kufuor was unanimously elected by his peers to lead the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January. *The Guardian* newspaper described his election as a sign of maturity by the AU. By and large, he epitomizes Ghana's leadership role on the continent today.

Admittedly, President Kufuor's chairmanship faces regional difficulties including the still-lingering crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, disturbing political developments in Guinea and Somalia, and the crisis in Darfur. However, within weeks of his chairmanship, President Kufuor held consultations aimed at securing peace in some of Africa's flashpoints, conferring with Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo, and also with former Nigerian leader, General Ibrahim Babangida on the crisis in Guinea.

On the Darfur region, the AU Chairman has called on Sudan to work closely with the UN to end the crisis. A Ghana News Agency (GNA) report from February indicates President Kufuor underscored the need to ensure a peaceful approach to conflict management and resolution in Africa.


President Kufuor's first diplomatic success as AU chairman was the signing of a peace pact involving Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic in February to ease tensions arising out of the Darfur crisis among the three countries.

In his state-of-the-nation address in February he stated that, "the government's assessment of the nation's political, economic and social conditions of the state indicates that, on balance, Ghana, the black star of Africa, is on the rise again."

Indeed, Ghana's democratic regional leadership is proof that Africa is capable of governing itself in a manner that engenders respect and acceptance within the community of nations.

Margaret Amoakohene is Ghana's high commissioner.

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New Heads of Mission

Evgueni Stefanov Stoytchev
Ambassador of Bulgaria



Bulgarians finally have an ambassador in Canada. Since March 2004, the country has had a chargé d'affaires in Ottawa.

After he finished his master's degree at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Mr. Stoytchev went immediately to work for the ministry of foreign affairs. His first foreign posting was to Laos and then he was posted to Belgium in 1995 between stints at headquarters in Sofia. He was reposted to Belgium in 2001 and returned to Sofia as head of the European countries directorate before being posted to Canada.

Mr. Stoytchev speaks French, English, Russian and Laotian. He is married with two children.

Dorian Prince
Head of the Delegation of the
European Commission



Born in Wales in 1954, Mr. Prince studied at Oxford University and the Sorbonne in Paris. He began his career in the private

sector, finally heading up a UK trade association representing more than 30 countries.

Mr. Prince joined the European Commission in 1981 and spent several years working on the trade side. In 1996, he set up a new department to promote access to world markets for EU member states. From 2000 to 2002, he was responsible for the trade defence instruments of the EU and from 2002 to 2006, he was ambassador to Korea.

Mr. Prince is a concert pianist and composer. In May, he will perform in a recital to celebrate Europe Day in Ottawa. When stationed in Korea, he translated the words to Ave Maria into Korean and then set them to his own music.

Mr. Prince has a basic knowledge of 12 languages and speaks five fluently. He has two daughters.

Pál Vastagh
Ambassador of Hungary



Mr. Vastagh comes to diplomacy from a background in politics and academia.

From 1971 to 2002, he was a lecturer and associate professor of law and political science at Jozsef Attila University in Szeged. His political pursuits came during the same period. He became a member of parliament (Hungarian Socialist Party) in 1990 and continued until 2006. From 1994-1998, he served as minister of justice and in 2003, he was an observer to the European Parliament.

Mr. Vastagh was born in Nagyszénás in 1946 and finished his PhD at the same university where he ended up teaching in 1986. He is married to Erzsébet Fenyvesi and has one son and two daughters.

Ruby Evadne Coye
High Commissioner for Jamaica



Ms. Coye was born in Trelawny, Jamaica, in 1947, and joined the foreign service in 1975. Three years later, she became a first secretary at Jamaica's United Nations mission in New York. Other foreign postings included Venezuela, Washington, Belize and Brussels, where she served as ambassador to Belgium, the European Union, and non-resident ambassador to France, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. At the same time, she served as non-resident high commissioner to Botswana and South Africa. She held this diverse portfolio before being appointed Jamaica's high commissioner for Canada.

Ms. Coye has a master's degree in international relations and has received several awards of excellence for her work in Jamaica's foreign service.

Judith M. Bahemuka
High Commissioner for Kenya



Ms. Bahemuka is a sociologist who



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started her career as a philosophy lecturer at the University of Nairobi in 1974. She received her early education in the U.S. and went on to complete a master's and PhD at the University of Nairobi.

Ms. Bahemuka has worked with several United Nations agencies and was a long-time member of the UNESCO executive board in Paris. She spearheaded the social research into the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. She also helped her government develop its HIV/AIDS policy.

Before being appointed to Canada, Ms. Bahemuka served as Kenya's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

Musa Javed Chohan
High Commissioner for Pakistan



Mr. Chohan was born in Jhelum, Pakistan in 1948. He has a master's degree in English literature, another in international relations and diplomacy as well as a master's of science in strategic studies.

Mr. Chohan joined Pakistan's foreign service in 1971 and has served in Scotland (1974-75), Guinea (1975-78), New York (1986-89) and Tehran (1989-93). He served at headquarters several times, culminating in a position as director general from 1993 until 1997.

Mr. Chohan served as high commissioner to Malaysia and ambassador to France. From 2001-03, he served as Pakistan's permanent representative to UNESCO. He also served as director general of the Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad from March 2004 to December 2006.

Mr. Chohan's wife, Naela Chohan, is a diplomat, currently in Islamabad serving as director-general of disarmament. She will join her husband in June. They have two sons.

George Marino Abola
High Commissioner for Uganda



Mr. Abola was born in 1940 in Gulu, Uganda. He comes to diplomacy after working in the private sector and then for government.

For 14 years, until 2005, he served as chairman of the board for Kinyara Sugar Works Ltd, providing guidance in the rehabilitation of the sugar industry. At the same time, between 1998 and 2005, Mr. Abola worked as deputy director of economic affairs at the movement secretariat. He was in charge of policy initiatives, economic monitoring, and economic awareness and development.

An economist by training, Mr. Abola was a member of the National Resistance Council (the interim parliament for Uganda) from 1989 to 1996. He is married with children.

Anthony Cary
High Commissioner for Britain



Mr. Cary, 55, joined foreign affairs in 1973. He first worked in the South Asia department and then served in Berlin until 1978. He spent two years in the early 80s as a Harkness Fellow at Stanford Business School where he completed a master's in business.

Mr. Cary has worked primarily in jobs

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relating to the European Union but he did serve as head of mission in Malaysia and as political counsellor in Washington as well. He was chef de cabinet for the UK's European Commissioner for external relations before being appointed ambassador to Stockholm. Mr. Cary is married to Clare. They have three sons and one daughter.

Ihor Ostash

Ambassador of Ukraine

Mr. Ostash, 47, comes to diplomacy from politics but started his career in universities. After completing graduate studies at the Institute of Languages of the



National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, he joined the faculty as a researcher and then as director of the international school.

In 1994, he became a member of parliament and five years later, became chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs. He was vice-chair between 2002 and 2006 and concurrently served as vice-president of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's parliamentary assembly.

Mr. Ostash was born in the Lviv region of Ukraine and speaks seven languages. He is married to Maryna Hrymych and has a son and a daughter.

David Clifford Saviye
High Commissioner of Zambia



Mr. Saviye, 65, has had a varied career so far. He completed a diploma in journalism in Czechoslovakia in 1972 and worked in radio and as editor of the Ngoma News between stints in the public service.

Mr. Saviye served as a commissioned second lieutenant in 1984 and as a provincial information officer from 1979 until 1996 when he became deputy minister in the office of the president. In 1997, he ran for office and when he won, became minister of communications and transport and then minister of energy and water development. In 2001, he turned to farming before being appointed Zambia's ambassador to China in 2003.

Mr. Saviye is married and has seven children.

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*Diplomat talks
with EU Ambassador
Dorian Prince
on page 19*

BRIGITTE BOUVIER



FREEWHEELING EUROPE: A PEOPLE ON THE GO.

After 50 years of abolishing borders, the European Union has become a place to roam. Canadians could become the next to work and play—wherever they want—in this 27-nation “club that works.” **Peter Zimonjic** and **Charles Enman** report from London and Ottawa.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest says Quebec – and, yes, the rest of Canada, too – should join the European Union. Fanciful or not, the proposal has definite allure. When you enter Europe’s 27-nation Old World club, you’re truly free to roam. From the Arctic to the Mediterranean, from the Atlantic to the Russian border, you’re free to work or to play, to shop for a day or to settle for a lifetime anywhere you want in a whole continent of free choice.

In the last 50 years, aside from the creation of a single currency, good govern-

ment and protection of human rights (none of them negligible achievements), the European Union has allowed for the free movement of capital, goods, services and labour across what used to be impermeable national boundaries.

The EU has certainly become The Club That Works. The benefits of membership are so seductive that would-be members stand in line for many years before receiving summons into the inner sanctum. To be sure, none has pled their case across an intervening Atlantic Ocean, but that detail aside, perhaps Mr. Charest’s notion has merit.

The unity that has been achieved in Europe had nothing of the accidental or adventitious about it. As Eiko Thiele-

mann, a professor at the London School of Economics’ European Institute told *Diplomat*, “From the very start of the European integration project, it was known that the union would not have a true single market ... unless there was enshrined within it the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour.

“All four freedoms had to exist in parallel for the union to work.”

It’s been 50 years since the first Treaties of Rome established what was then called the European Economic Community. Six nations – France, Italy, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the country then known as West Germany – signed that document, and their numbers have risen to 27, as have the range and

Flug flight	nach to	über via	planm. sched.	erwartet expected	Schalter counter	Ausg. gate	Bemerkungen remarks
LX 491	Zürich		09:10	21:23	08		
9R 949	Zürich		09:10	21:23	08		
LH 888	Hamburg		10:45	27:28	05		
AB 001	Madrid		10:50	02:03	03		
LH 047	Frankfurt		10:50	35:38	10		
UN 3877	Frankfurt		10:50	35:38	10		
DLT 511	Paderborn		11:10	35:38	11		
LH 885	Hamburg		11:30	27:28	05		
LH 889	Paris-Orly		11:45	02:03	03		
AB 003	Lübeck		11:50	02:03	03		
LH 1307	Köln-Bonn		12:10	35:38	12		
LH 885	London-Heathrow		12:45	27:28	05		
AB 005	Holland-Flensburg		12:50	02:03	03		
LH 503	München		12:50	35:38	12		
LH 1155	Stuttgart		13:10	35:38	12		

Flug flight	nach to	über via	planm. sched.	erwartet expected	Schalter counter	Ausg. gate	Bemerkungen remarks
LH 888	Hamburg		13:45	27:28	05		
AB 007	Hamburg		13:50	02:03	03		
LH 1125	Düsseldorf		14:05	35:38	11		
LH 021	Frankfurt		14:25	35:38	12		
UN 3879	Frankfurt		14:25	21:23	08		
DLT 513	Paderborn		14:35	21:23	08		
ECR 855	Larnaca	Paphos	14:45	24:30	04		
LX 493	Zürich		14:55	21:23	06		
9R 949	Zürich		14:55	21:23	06		
LH 885	Dortmund	Leipzig	15:00	21:23	09		
LH 1303	Köln-Bonn		15:50	35:38	10		
DLT 137	Bremen		16:30	21:23	08		
DLT 522	Mönchengladbach	Leipzig	16:50	21:23	09		
LH 9555	Hamburg		17:10	35:38	07		
LH 977	München		17:20	35:38	12		
AB 7649	Hamburg		18:20				

Even the smallest airports now have flights all over Europe. Destinations for passengers leaving the Dresden Airport in Germany include Larnaca, Cyprus and Madrid, Spain.

depth of their linkages in the five decades since.

Though European borders still exist, they seem, today, as permeable as those that mark off one Canadian province from another. To be born in the United Kingdom, say, doesn't at all preclude your working and living in France, or taking same-day shopping excursions to Estonia. Health services are transferable across all member states. The European traveler has the entire continent as his oyster. Retirement possibilities leave all of Europe open.

This virtual erasure of borders means that Europe, five decades on, truly is on the move.

A telling example is related by Dorian Prince, ambassador of the EU delegation to Canada.

His sister has taken a flight from Cardiff, Wales, to Tallinn, Estonia, for a day of shopping, an excursion taken by many other Welsh women, as well. The cost of the flight, which has been in the \$115 range, taxes included, is reasonable enough to be offset by the Baltic bargains.

Three decades ago, Cardiff was a backwater whose industries – coal and steel – were quickly folding. Even its airport was expected to close. Today, Cardiff has nearly full employment and airlines, many of them low cost, fly direct from that airport to cities across Europe.

"All this is because of the program to create this single market in 1992 and the series of moves to deregulate air travel that came afterward," Mr. Prince says. "This has enabled the likes of low-cost airlines like Ryanair and easyJet."

Flight patterns have opened up across the continent. Mr. Prince recalls wishing to travel from Brussels to Wales back in the 1980s. The serving airport, named Charleroi, had only a little landing strip and hardly ever a direct flight to Wales. Over two decades, however, Charleroi has become what Mr. Prince calls "a bustling international airport" with many flights serving not only the United Kingdom but many other once-obscure European destinations as well.

It seems clear that cheap air travel has allowed many Europeans to move freely around the continent, often on mere whim.

Mr. Prince recalls entering a pub in Wales and finding everyone speaking Polish. Some would have been living in Wales, part of a Polish diaspora that has moved west in search of work since their country joined the EU and won access rights for its citizens. But one fellow he spoke with said he was on a one-day jaunt from Warsaw to visit a Polish expatriate now working in Wales. "My cousin works here, we just came over for the day," one of them told Mr. Prince. "We've been told the night life is wonderful so we came over for a party."

With import taxes removed between EU countries, people have more opportunities for cross-border shopping, and many seize them. In May 2004, the European Commission released a report, "Qualitative Study on Cross-Border Shopping in 28 European Countries," that indicated broad interest in buying goods across borders. "People's interests in cross-border shopping – or at least in the

principle of it – is almost unanimous," the report stated. People appreciated the positive effect cross-border shopping had on the economy and on enhancing consumer choices.

Though people from all ages were interested in cross-border shopping, the young were particularly well disposed, partly, the report suggested, because they travel more frequently and make more cross-border purchases on the Internet.

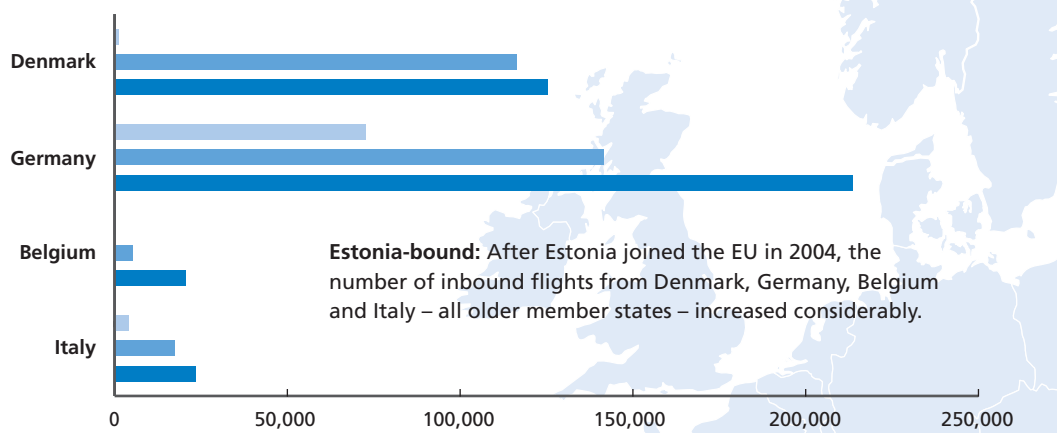
Many of Mr. Prince's friends in Brussels would drive to Germany and shop there. "It was like you would do, going across the Ottawa River to Gatineau for shopping. You pay with the Euro, you don't have a border, and there's no need for a passport."

The best proof of how porous borders have become is provided by the patterns of air travel between EU countries. To take a random case, we might look at European Commission figures on air travel between Italy, a member for the union's full five decades, and Estonia, which joined in 2004. The first thing we notice is an enormous upsurge in passengers. The year before Estonia's admission, only 4,249 coming from Italy landed at an Estonian airport. The next year, that figure jumped to 17,559, and in 2005 jumped again to 23,500. In the other direction, there are no figures for how many people coming from Estonia landed in Italy in 2003, but in 2004 17,651 did, a number that was nudged up to 23,731 the following year (see graph, page 17.)

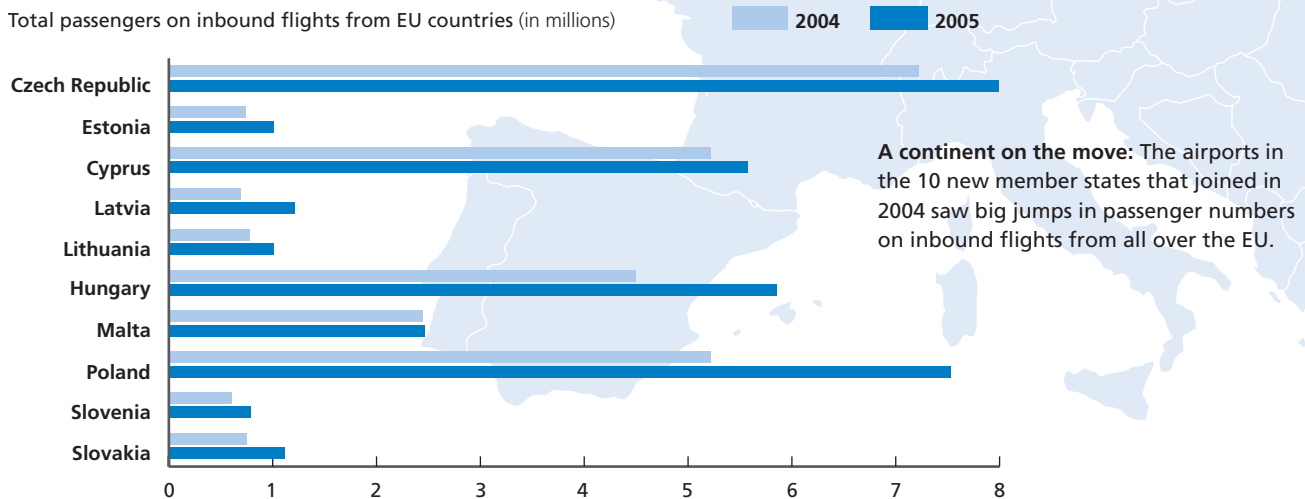
Some people move definitively across borders, actually setting up homes in another European country. It's well known

IT'S A SMALL EUROPE AFTER ALL (Source: Eurostat)

Total passengers on flights inbound to Estonia from selected EU countries



Total passengers on inbound flights from EU countries (in millions)



that a flood of British retirees have bought homes in France and, according to EscapeArtist.com, the inflow of European retirees has given Spain's Costa Blanca and Costa del Sol the highest percentage of retired persons in the world. People of Nordic origin are also retiring to the south of Spain and setting up their own little communities. Not even a hip replacement is reason to head home to the North.

The right to move to another country freely requires that the other country's citizens have the right to move to your country, as well. In 2004, when the EU enlarged from 15 nations to include Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia from Eastern Europe, and the two Mediterranean nations of Cyprus and Malta, ordinary people were uneasy.

They believed that prosperous countries such as Britain and Germany would soon be flooded with cheap labour that would steal jobs from workers in the host nations.

To allay these fears, the 15 EU nations did a variety of things. All except for Britain, Ireland and Sweden used EU rules which allowed them to restrict the movement of workers from the new countries for up to seven years. These restrictions worked, but at the same time they prevented these countries from fully benefiting from an influx of new labour.

The UK was one nation which threw its doors open, without restrictions, from the beginning. Its only attempt to allay fears was to conduct studies prior to enlargement which predicted that as few as 13,000 workers would actually migrate there in the first year of the newly en-

larged union. The reality was much different. According to the Home Office, the ministry responsible for immigration, as of September 2006, there were at least 510,000 Eastern European migrant workers in the UK.

The real figures are likely far higher. For one thing, they do not count the self-employed, only those registered to work in the UK. And in the case of Polish workers, the Home Office's estimate of 307,000 is probably little more than half the real figure, Barbara Tuge-Erecinska, the current Polish ambassador in London, told *The Times* newspaper.

As remarkable as the number of immigrant workers is the ease with which they have blended into society. Not only are they working, but also they are working hard, often holding down two or three jobs that ordinary Britons are loath to fill.

They have moved to parts of the country such as the Scottish Highlands, which have been hemorrhaging young Scots for the last 200 years, and almost none has applied for government income support. Integration has barely been an issue.

Philippe Legrain, the London-based author of *Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them*, said, "Britain does not need to integrate Poles any more than it would have to integrate the Germans or the French."

While the integration of white Christian Europeans has not been a cultural problem, there have been some hitches in the provision of local government services. No matter how hard new immigrants work, there are only so many places in local schools, hospitals and on public transportation. Income tax revenue takes time to filter down to local authorities trying cope with the sudden increase in population.

Mr. Legrain said, "Britain has a problem, more generally, with the public sector's ability to manage large projects. Britain's infrastructure is not up to scratch. That's true of health, education and transport in particular. This is largely due to decades of under-investment rather than any new arrivals from abroad."

Overall, he said, "Immigration is overwhelmingly a positive thing. The benefits are greatly understated and while, clearly, there are challenges, they are not insurmountable."

For the new worker, moving itself means the loss of support from family or friends. This can be hard on elderly family members left behind. There is also the adjustment to a new culture or cultures and learning a new language. But on the whole, the ability to move within the EU has improved the quality of life for anyone who does it.

A 2005 survey of 24,000 EU citizens from 25 countries conducted by Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, showed that migration within the EU increased job satisfaction, household income, working conditions, commuting time and housing. The same survey, which was conducted prior to the January 2007 accession of Romania and Bulgaria, also showed marked improvements in the quality of schools, health services, recreation and even public safety for migrants.

A key to making the open labour market work has been the policies encouraging "circular migration." Prior to enlargement, eastern Europeans wishing to chase better jobs in prosperous EU nations faced the prospect of never return-

ing home. After all, once someone has jumped through a series of complicated hoops to gain the right to work in another country, they are hardly going to put that all at risk to return home for six to eight months.

In the free labour market of the EU, no such obstacles exist. People can move to another country, work for years on end, and then return to their home country without so much as filling in a single form. When they return, they are just as entitled to schooling and health care as are people who never left. Knowing that all migration in the EU is, essentially, fluid, has quelled many fears of an immigration invasion in more prosperous countries.

According to a recently published World Bank report, circular migration has proved so successful the World Bank believes that other countries should imitate

ACCORDING TO THE
WORLD BANK, MONEY SENT
HOME TO FAMILY BY
PEOPLE WORKING IN OTHER
EU COUNTRIES "ENDS UP
RIGHT IN THE HANDS OF THE
POOR – THE BEST WAY TO
BATTLE POVERTY."

EU policies to encourage migrants to return home after brief periods abroad.

When speaking of immigration within the EU, the often-cited positives are obvious. Host nations gain a large pool of flexible labour that is both skilled and unskilled. This is good news in the face of the looming pensions crisis in countries such as Britain and Germany, where populations are rapidly ageing. Young workers entering the economy of these countries promise to solve this problem.

From the migrant perspective, the advantages are equally clear. They move to a better life while still maintaining strong links with their home country. But what was less clear until recently was how beneficial the free movement of labour has been to the poor people who stay behind.

According to the same World Bank report, money sent home to family by peo-

ple working in other EU countries is the second most important source of external revenue to those countries outside foreign direct investment.

"It ends up right in the hands of the poor," Willem Van Eeghen, lead economist for the World Bank's Europe department, and co-author of the report *Migration and Remittances: Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union* told *Diplomat*. "When governments give aid to a poor nation, inside the EU or out, it can often go astray or be siphoned off. When a family member sends money home it ends up in the pocket of a poor family to use immediately. There is no administrative leak and that is perhaps the best way to battle poverty."

European Commission figures suggest that four per cent of EU residents have moved at least once to another EU country. (Another three per cent have moved to a country outside the EU.) And 12 per cent have moved to another EU country at least temporarily, in pursuit of training or education. Those most likely to move included men, the young, and the better educated.

That immigration helps rather than hinders economic growth is shown by the case of Ireland. When Ireland joined the EU in January 1973, it was one of the poorest member states and has since become one of the richest, often called the Celtic Tiger.

For years, Ireland was a net exporter of people. But when the economy suddenly began blooming roughly 20 years ago, fewer people left. By 1995, growth was twice the rate of the rest of Europe, and by 2003, Ireland, for the first time, was a net importer of people.

Says Dorian Prince, the EU ambassador to Canada: "From an economic point of view, this is wonderful for Ireland. It can't continue growing at that high rate without more people."

Candidate nations are always seeking to enter the EU club. Theory always held that economies flourish in larger spaces, and so do individual people seeking larger fields of choice in making their lives.

It's a principle that five decades of EU existence has confirmed many times over, one that keeps nations, economies and people on the move.

Peter Zimonjic is a Canadian journalist who covers the EU for *Diplomat* from London. Charles Enman is an Ottawa writer.

'I want free trade between Canada and the EU within four years'

Dorian Prince, Ambassador of the EU delegation, has big plans for Canada. Before he leaves in the fall of 2010, he wants Canada and Europe to have a free trade agreement in place. *Diplomat* sat down with the Welsh polyglot and concert pianist to discuss these, and other plans.

DM: What are your priorities for your tenure in Canada?

DP: When I arrived, I was a bit disappointed. I spent the last four years as ambassador in Korea. Korea is on the other side of the world, they have 20 different languages, not related to any European languages, they've only been a democracy for the last 10-12 years. And yet when I look at the status of our political and economic relations with Korea, frankly, they're more developed than they are with Canada. With Korea, we have negotiated a free trade agreement. We have a science and technology agreement which is the most advanced we have with any country. We have a new-generation anti-trust agreement and projects in the energy sector. And we have a very intense political dialogue because of the North Korea situation. With Canada, we have a much heavier institutional structure. We have all these committees. On shared values, the EU is much closer to Canada than Korea. But we've actually done very little of practical value.

Over the next four years, to be absolutely brutal, I would want to bring our relations with Canada to the same level of tangible results as we have with Korea. That's ambitious but it should not be. If it's possible between two countries that have absolutely no shared history, it should be possible with Canada.

DM: What are your thoughts on Jean Charest's proposal for a free trade agreement between Canada and Europe?

DP: I think it's a very welcome initiative and I think it's an idea that's very much supported by the business community in Canada, and in Europe. But we have to put this in a slightly broader context. The German Chancellor, Ms. (Angela) Merkel, is very much pushing a new transatlantic trade group so we are now in a very interesting situation where for the first time



Dorian Prince: "A major breakthrough"

we are talking about future transatlantic trade issues. It's clear the two major blocs – North America and Europe – are not using our full potential for trade and investment. On June 4th, we'll have the EU-Canada Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany. I think this summit could be a major breakthrough. I think we are looking at a number of measures to help improve the whole trade and investment climate.

DM: Is Canada really just a gateway to the U.S.?

DP: You can't negotiate something with the U.S. and automatically think it will apply to Canada.

DM: Do you agree with Charest's vision of free movement of people?

DP: I think it would be in our interest. It seems to me that areas such as movement of workers, encouragement of exchanges of students and researchers, mutual recognition of diplomas and qualifications, I think would be highly beneficial. What strikes me about Canada when I compare it to the EU, on mutual recognition of diplomas, Canada doesn't have an open market like the EU. When we talk about movement of labour, it's not simply a question of people getting work permits. Just look at the number of doctors who qualify in the UK but then go and practice in France and Germany. It would be difficult (to do with Canada) but it would be extremely worthwhile.

DM: With respect to trade with Canada, what would the EU find beneficial?

DP: When we're talking about a trade agreement, what the EU would hope to export would be machine tools and high-value engineering equipment to be used in

the oil industry and energy products. In services, I would say Canada has as big an interest as the EU but when you look at our economies, in most European countries, 80 to 90 per cent of GDP is services. So if you don't put in services, it's hardly worth having an agreement. With insurance, I can see a lot of interest from Europe in the Canadian market. Equally, in other areas such as financial services and IT, I can see Canada doing extremely well.

DM: Surely Canada's oil is of interest?

DP: Geographically, it will continue to be easier for you to get it to the United States. But, in the energy sector, I think we in Europe have not paid enough attention to Canada. The ability of Canada as a long-term, secure, stable supplier cannot be overestimated.

DM: Have you seen much of Canada since you arrived in October?

DP: (He's been to Quebec City, Montreal, St. John's, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton). The first thing I realized when I arrived is that Canada is not just Ottawa. The provinces have a great deal of autonomy and each of them has a quite different view of Europe, I would guess.

DM: And you'll get up North at least during the Foreign Affairs Northern Tour.

DP: My predecessor said that's the one thing I must do. Another reason I want to go is that I learned the Korean language when I was there and I was fascinated to read that Korean is not only related to Turkish and Finnish but also Inuit. When I arrived in Ottawa, there's a stone sculpture outside the airport and I asked (my driver) why there was a Korean sculpture there. He said it was Inuit.

When I was in Quebec City, I went into the Museum des Civilization, which is very beautiful, and they have their Salles des Nations. I walked into the room and they had a TV screen and they had a Korean being interviewed. I listened and I thought his Korean was quite strange but I could still understand quite a bit of it. In features, I was convinced he was Korean but I looked on the sign and it said this is Mr. I-can't-remember-his-name, chief of the Inuit tribe in Northern Quebec.

Quebec's push for a Canada-EU free trade agreement

Premier Jean Charest says it's "crucial," and Prime Minister Stephen Harper is "very enthusiastic."

By Jeff Esau



Quebec Premier Jean Charest (right) and Quebec Economic Development and Trade Minister Raymond Bachand made a splash at the World Economic Forum in Davos in late January when they proposed a Canada-EU trade agreement.

When Quebec Premier Jean Charest made the rounds in Europe at the end of January, he told European leaders that a "new-generation" Canada-EU free trade agreement (FTA) is "crucial" and must go beyond mere mutual economic prosperity. He said co-operation should extend to "cultural, political and institutional spheres" like global warming, interna-

tional security, development aid and the fight against poverty.

Mr. Charest unveiled his international agenda at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He pitched his proposal to Germany's minister of the economy, Michael Glos, and to the European commissioner for trade, Peter Mandelson. According to Mr. Charest, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was "very enthusiastic"

about the scheme.

Accompanying Mr. Charest was Quebec's minister of economic affairs, Raymond Bachand, who handles the FTA file. He said reaction to the FTA proposal was positive, not only from politicians but from the more than 20 CEOs he met with individually.

In a February interview with *Diplomat*, Mr. Bachand said this "21st-century" FTA

proposal – which encompasses many non-trade issues such as the mobility of workers and the recognition of their professional qualifications – would trigger an influx of investment and expertise to Canada. This would give Canada a stronger voice in trade negotiations with China, India and other Asian markets, he said, and solve Canada's problems with an ageing population and shrinking workforce.

Mr. Bachand said a Canada-EU deal would also entice the U.S. into a "powerful" Europe-North America bloc. The Canada-EU summit on June 4 in Heiligendamm, Germany, just before the G8 summit which is also in Heiligendamm, June 6-8, is the target date for a deal. He said Quebec is leading the effort because of its strong ties to Europe and because "many of the sectors we are speaking about are within provincial jurisdiction. But of course at the end of the day it will be a Canadian initiative."

At first glance, the statistics make a compelling case for a Canada-EU free trade pact. Europe represents more than 450 million consumers in 25 countries, and the federal government estimates Canadian annual exports – aside from agriculture – would increase by \$2.4 billion if the proposed FTA became a reality.

Jason Langrish, executive director of the Canada Europe Roundtable for Business, said the FTA would "give us leverage in dealing with the U.S. because they know we are so reliant on them."

But William Dymond, a senior executive fellow at the Centre for Trade Policy and Law in Ottawa, said pursuing a Canada-EU FTA is based "mainly on sentiment and history." Mr. Dymond is former official with the Canadian mission to the European Union in Brussels and worked on the NAFTA negotiations. In 2002, he co-wrote an article in *Policy Options* titled "A Canada-EU FTA is an Awful Idea" where he argued the EU isn't deeply interested in preferential access to Canadian markets. He said we would end up "modifying our current laws and practices whenever they conflicted with European practices."

In a recent interview, he said Canada should focus on non-trade issues with the U.S., its biggest trading partner. "Why would Canada undertake the significant commitments involved with the EU, a minor trading partner that's becoming ever more minor?"

While Premier Charest is mulling Europe, the World Trade Organization is at-

tempting to liberalize trade and improve labour mobility worldwide. But WTO talks in Doha in 2006 bogged down over agricultural trade, with Canada contributing to the failure by refusing to give up supply management – a system where the government fixes prices on some commodities to assure farmers a profit. Mr. Bachand and Mr. Langrish both said

**WILLIAM DYMOND:
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Jean Charest in Davos

TRADING SPACES

Canada's trade deficit with the European Union tripled over a decade from nearly \$6 billion in 1995 to 19.4 billion in 2004, according to a Statistics Canada report released last spring. Over the decade studied, it peaked at \$21.5 billion in 2002. During the same period, imports from the EU to Canada increased at twice the pace of exports.

Exports to the EU from Canada rose on average 3.5 per cent per year; imports meanwhile, jumped at an average rate of 7.1 per cent annually. They were outpaced only by the monumental surge in imports from China.

Primarily, Canada sends machinery – particularly aircraft engines – to the EU. Those exports hit \$7.5 billion in 2004. Canadian imports of EU pharmaceutical products grew to \$4.2 billion in the same year, making the EU responsible for half of Canada's total imports of pharmaceutical products.

Canada's Northern diamond exports made up for a lot of its trade deficit with precious stones and metals increasing from just under \$200 million in 1995 to a whopping \$3.3 billion by 2004. Half of that amount was solely diamond trade.

In terms of dollar value, Quebec and Ontario are Canada's biggest sources of exports to the EU. Of all of Canada's exports to the EU, half came from Quebec and Ontario.

Source: Statistics Canada

the Charest proposal is realistic, leaving out agriculture because Quebec doesn't want to raise the same issue that stymied the WTO.

While Mr. Bachand argued Canada needs to move quickly on a deal with Europe because WTO negotiations have stalled, Mr. Dymond said the WTO has already removed most barriers, and a Canada-EU agreement would jeopardize Canada's U.S. markets.

Prime Minister Harper may be keen on Mr. Charest's FTA proposal, but the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade sounds cautious. Spokesperson Anne-Marie Parent said, "Should WTO talks not bear fruit, we would want to revisit with the EU how to achieve our trade interests."

Jeff Esau is an Ottawa writer.

The Afghan Conundrum

Glimpses through the fog of war

By George Abraham

The more things change in Afghanistan, the more they stay the same. Five years after the first western troops landed in the Panjshir Valley to take on the Taliban and al-Qaeda, there is word that a spring offensive by these same elements could undo the work. There is much at stake and the implications of a defeat are unthinkable. Unlike Iraq, there are too many armies and governments involved in the fight in Afghanistan and too many fault lines that criss-cross the blighted nation. The mission in Afghanistan is the closest we have to an international consensus, and yet "success" may be an illusion.

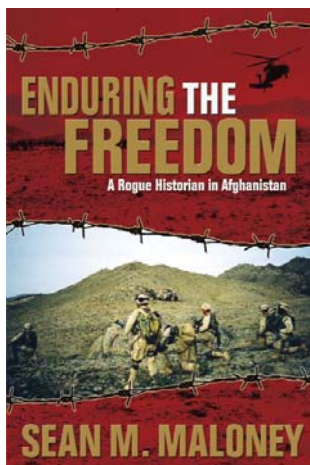
It is hard to tell which way the battle is going. We read about gun-slinging warlords, bazaars selling weapons, Kabul's limited writ, NATO as an "occupying force," the resurgent opium trade, too little reconstruction and the sense that ordinary Afghans are no better off than they were under the Soviets or the Taliban.

Is it a case of the media – to use Robert Kaplan's indictment – seeking "moral perfectionism" in a land that has known no peace for more than a generation? The book selections this month speak to the uncharted strategic terrain that Afghanistan represents.

***Enduring the Freedom: A Rogue Historian in Afghanistan*, by Sean M. Maloney, Potomac Books (2005), 336 pages**

As a teacher at the Royal Military College in Kingston and a military historian, Mr. Maloney's first-hand accounts from Afghan bases in 2003 and 2004 offer a detailed narrative of how the war is being waged. He finds much that is going right in Afghanistan and provides instances of coalition forces bringing the right amount of sensitivity to their operations in this fragile nation.

Case in point: chartered Haj flights organized from the Kandahar airfield during Ramadan in 2003. A total of 710 pilgrims were flown to Saudi Arabia to make the trip to Mecca. "The irony was not lost on me ... the opponents of the righteous Taliban and the antagonists of the saintly Osama bin Laden, arranging the most sacred personal religious event



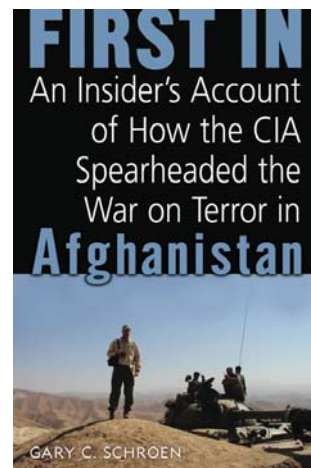
for a Muslim." Each pilgrim got bottled water, a Pashto-language newspaper and solar-powered radios that tuned in only to "friendly" frequencies. The bonus for the coalition was the huge influence the "hajjis" have as religious scholars on their return.

Mr. Maloney is glad Canada is in the fight, in sharp contrast with "the stench of hypocrisy and risk-averse behaviour" of many NATO members.

Gary C. Schroen, *First in: An Insider's Account of How the CIA Spearheaded the War on Terror in Afghanistan*, Ballantine Books (2006), 380 pages

This CIA insider offers even more evidence of the soft approach that has been the hallmark of the Afghan campaign. Full of fascinating vignettes, this book reveals for instance that President Hamid Karzai was nearly killed in October 2001 when a B-52 dropped a 2,000-pound bomb close to where the future president was meeting a CIA officer. An American special services officer working with Mr. Karzai's Pashtun guerrillas north of Kandahar had mistakenly called in his own geo-coordinates rather than the position of a Taliban unit nearby.

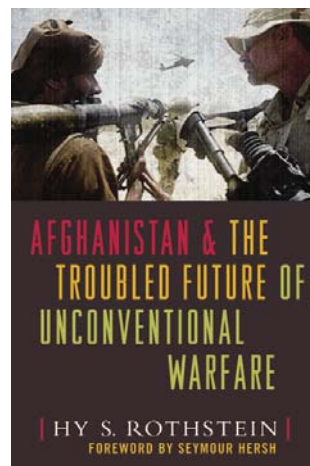
Mr. Schroen is a Middle East-South Asia veteran and has written a detailed account of how he led the first American team ("Jawbreaker") into Afghanistan after 9/11, spending 33 days in the Panjshir



Valley as guests and allies of the Northern Alliance. Besides the regular spyware, the team carried nearly \$13 million in cash to disburse among warring anti-Taliban forces. As the author says, "You cannot buy an Afghan's loyalty, but you can rent it."

Hy S. Rothstein, *Afghanistan and the Troubled Future of Unconventional Warfare*, Naval Institute Press (2006), 220 pages

As a former special forces officer, Mr. Rothstein brings a critical eye to military strategy in Afghanistan. A tenet of unconventional warfare, he says, is "to help win



a war by working with, as opposed to neutralizing or fighting around, local populations." In another section, he suggests that "imprecise use of force can ultimately prove counterproductive," driving people into the arms of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. He argues that the

**THE HAND-HOLDING
OF WARLORDS AND
THE COALITION'S
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ON THEIR GOODWILL
ARE WHAT MR. ROTH-
STEIN ADVOCATES.**

U.S. tendency is to "liberally apply fire-power" and accuses military planners of repeating mistakes made in Vietnam.

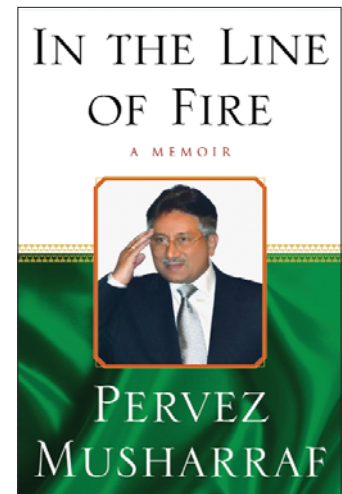
The hand-holding of warlords and the coalition's continued reliance on their goodwill are what Mr. Rothstein advo-

cates. The American (and Canadian) footprint in Afghanistan is far lighter than that of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. The continuing debate over whether to eradicate Afghanistan's poppy crop is a sign that the NATO coalition is avoiding any scorched-earth policy. In the end, you wonder if the war Mr. Rothstein would have waged is any different from the one currently being fought.

Pervez Musharraf, *In the Line of Fire: A Memoir*, Free Press (2006), 355 pages

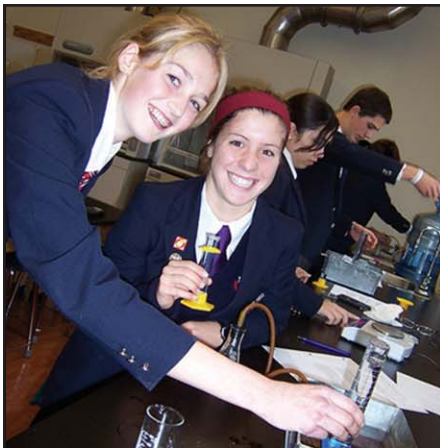
Here is the ultimate political insider's account. If Afghanistan has been compared to the Vietnam quagmire, Pakistan's role parallels Cambodia's – unable or unwilling to stop the free flow of men and arms across its border to the neighbouring conflict. The strategy of manipulating Afghan affairs to maximize Pakistan's influence often backfires, as it did in supporting the Taliban in the 1990s only to soon realize that this was one uncontrollable genie. Similarly, President Musharraf played favourites with Mr. Karzai because he distrusted the Northern Alliance, viewing it as a stooge of Russia, Iran and India.

The Pakistan president goes to great



lengths to dispel "tendentious stories casting aspersions on our counter-terrorism operations" by giving blow-by-blow accounts of al-Qaeda arrests and citing his own close escapes from death as evidence of his sincerity. His implicit warning to Canada and others: If you push me too far, you will have the same unholy mess in Pakistan as well.

George Abraham is *Diplomat's* contributing editor.



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Appetizers must capture attention

Continuing my series on the various courses of a menu, we move from hors d'oeuvres to appetizers. Just as I insist that hors d'oeuvres should be something superb, something unique in terms of ingredients and presentation, my same strategy holds true for appetizers. After all, first impressions count.

Appetizers are the first course served at the table and thus must capture everyone's attention. Recipes and ingredients should be tempting; presentation should be inviting. Guests appreciate exotic appetizers. Well-accepted choices for appetizers include seafood, smoked fish, terrines, pâté, foie gras and stuffed fish, creations of all kinds. Also included on the list, are carpaccios of this or that, goat cheese, dried meats and enticing combinations with certain fruits (such as figs, melons and persimmons).

In our home however, we achieve the perception of exotic by bringing ordinary ingredients together to create extraordinary recipes. Often I simply sear small floured squares of affordable pâté, drop them on mounds of garlic buttered lentils and drizzle them with a balsamic red wine sauce. On other occasions, I quickly rub a simple peeled and cored pear with a touch of wasabi, stuff it with soft un-ripened goat's cheese and wrap it in a shawl of prosciutto. So you see, exotic doesn't have to be expensive.

Innovative combinations, which delight both the eye and the palate, flatter guests. The host's efforts to present something original are well appreciated. Let's face it, we are living in a time when people enjoy a culinary adventure – something beyond the traditional, predictable fare.

To make appetizers look luxurious, serve them on oversized plates or bowls, plates of unusual shapes, in seashells or edible containers such as pastry cups. Certainly stacks (whether on plates or in glasses) impress and intrigue. Nor can one deny the level of flavour such techniques are capable of achieving.

When it comes to serving sizes, appetizers should be substantial without being overwhelming. An appetizer should stimulate the appetite, somewhat appease it, and set the tone for what is to come.

I have found that most appetizers can easily be adapted to become hors d'oeu-



MARGARET
DICKENSON

vres. The use of oriental porcelain spoons frequently facilitates this option. As well, many appetizers conveniently lend themselves to being transformed into a main course dish by adding what I refer to as "a salad dimension" or by increasing the portion size or the quantity of particular elements. These make a refreshing alternative for a brunch as well as a "light" lunch menu. With a little imagination, this technique can be applied to virtually all my appetizers from the prosciutto wrapped wasabi pears (recipe to follow), and smoked salmon kasha (or wild rice)

martinis, to seductive sushi rolls, tuna carpaccio and irresistible teased catfish Oriental salad.

Usually, the appetizer is served once everyone has been seated. However, for large sit-down events, lunches or in general when time is at a premium, appetizers may already be placed on the table at individual place settings before guests are seated. Of course, guests should only begin eating once the host has done so, or has invited guests to begin.

Bon Appétit.

Margaret Dickenson is author of the international award-winning cookbook *Margaret's Table - Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining*. (www.margaretssenseofoccasion.com).



LARRY DICKENSON

PROSCIUTTO-WRAPPED WASABI PEARS

Makes 4 servings

Whenever possible, I like to add a bit of easy pizzazz to a meal. The textures, colours and flavours orchestrated into this appetizer, are dramatic and irresistible. Basically an assembly recipe, it is ideal when hosting a few last-minute guests.

4 whole ripe pears (e.g., Bosc, each: 4 oz or 115 g), peeled and cored with stems attached
 2 tsp (10 mL) wasabi paste, divided
 4 tbsp (60 mL) soft unripened goat cheese (first addition)
 4 slices (thin) prosciutto ham (total weight: 3 oz or 85 g)
 8 fresh young sprigs of cilantro

Garnish

2 tbsp (30 mL) soft unripened goat cheese (second addition)
 2 tbsp (30 mL) sieved blackberry jam

1. Shortly before serving, rub all interior and exterior surfaces of each pear with wasabi paste (about 1/4 tsp or 1 mL per pear).

2. Fill cavity of individual pears with 1 tbsp (15 mL) of goat cheese.

3. Place each stuffed pear in centre of an oversized dinner plate; wrap pear elegantly with one slice of prosciutto ham.

4. Tuck sprigs of cilantro dramatically into folds of ham at pear stem.

5. To complete each presentation, garnish plates artistically with a small scoop of goat cheese (1 1/2 tsp or 8 mL) and drizzles of sieved blackberry jam (1 1/2 tsp or 8 mL).

6. At (or near) top of plate, add an individual drop of wasabi to be consumed as (or if) desired.

Note: Soft unripened goat cheese freezes well. Simply put leftovers in an airtight plastic bag and freeze it for future use.

Shopping tip: Purchase pears with stems (for attractive presentation) and only select pears that are ripe (i.e., not hard) as they must be eaten with a fork and knife.

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The difference between spending \$20 and \$70? Sometimes nothing.

I was recently asked if I could teach someone to tell the difference between a \$20 bottle of wine and a \$70 bottle of wine. It took me a while to answer the question. "Did I even know the difference?"

I'm not a wine snob in any sense. I am equally happy quaffing a \$10 bottle of basic wine at a pool party out of a plastic cup as I am debating the virtues of a revered first growth over a multi-course

SOME OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE WINES ARE DEAD, FAR BEFORE THEIR TIME. EVEN WHEN FIRST BEING RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, THEY CAN HAVE FLAVOUR, BUT NO SOUL.

dégustation menu. But, at my restaurant, I do consider it my job to offer wines that fill people with joy, regardless of price.

To understand price, let's explore what it costs to produce a so-called premium wine. First, there's the cost of the land on which the grapes grow. For the most part, anyone can make decent Cabernet in the best vineyard sites in Napa or a fine Pinot Noir on the majestic slopes of Chambertin in Burgundy. This is why the land there is expensive. The terroir, as the French call it, or the taste of the land, is very good in these places.

Next, there are yields. In hot regions with rich soils, it's easy to harvest 12 tons of grapes per acre of land with sparsely planted vines. The wine that will be produced from these vines will be alcoholic water with very little flavour. To concentrate the wine, growers must plant densely so the plants compete for the water and nutrients in the soil. They must also "green harvest", the process of cutting off bunches of grapes early in the year so that the vine can put all of its efforts into the remaining bunches, resulting in more concentrated and ripe fruit.

Next there is the expensive process of hand-sorting to pick out only the best grapes, without rot or mildew, from the rest of the harvest. That way, they ensure



STEPHEN BECKTA

PHOTO: PAUL COUVRETTE

only the healthiest get into the wine. After that, the grapes must be pressed very gently, lowering the yield even more (the more you press, the more juice you get, along with bitter tastes and textures of the skins and seeds).

Finally, for many wines, producers buy new, \$1,000 French oak barrels in which to age and season their wine. Mustn't forget about the marketing budget for nice labels. Producers also have to store the wine and pay salespeople while carrying an incredible inventory costs.

So now you know how to make an expensive wine. But do you know how to

tell the difference between a bad wine and a great wine? It's usually not related to price. Some of the most expensive wines are dead, far before their time. Even when first being released to the public, they can have flavour, but no soul. They just taste . . . dead. It's the difference between eating a freshly picked tomato out of your mother's garden, versus the pieces of chopped tomato on top of a slice of pizza that has been sitting under a heat lamp in the local pizza joint for a few hours. One makes you feel alive; the other offers you mere calories.

So how do you spot the wines with soul? If only it were listed it on the label. There is no sure-fire way of picking them out of a wine-store lineup, but here is a little help:

- Small is better. It's hard to make great food for a million people at the same time. Ditto for wine.

- Buy the producer, not the region. Just because a wine comes from a great vineyard or region doesn't mean that the winemaker knew how to bring out the life in the wine. Great producers get their good names by interfering with the wine as little as possible.

- Trust your palate, not your preconception. Countless times a label has caused me to like or dislike a wine based upon what I am supposed to do. You are supposed to like expensive Bordeaux. You are not supposed to like a basic country wine as much. Be open to a local country wine offering more than the Grand Chateau and it just might. How to tell the difference between a \$20 wine and a \$70 wine? The one that has more soul should cost \$70. But often, it doesn't.

Here are a few wines with soul that I have found lately:

Sacred Hill Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2005 (LCBO General List \$15)

Le Clos Jordanne Pinot Noir "Village", Niagara 2004 (Vintages \$25)

Bon Courage Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa 2004 (Consignment, \$16, gskeggs@sympatico.ca)

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



Sacred Hill Sauvignon Blanc, a wine with soul, won't set you back more than \$15.



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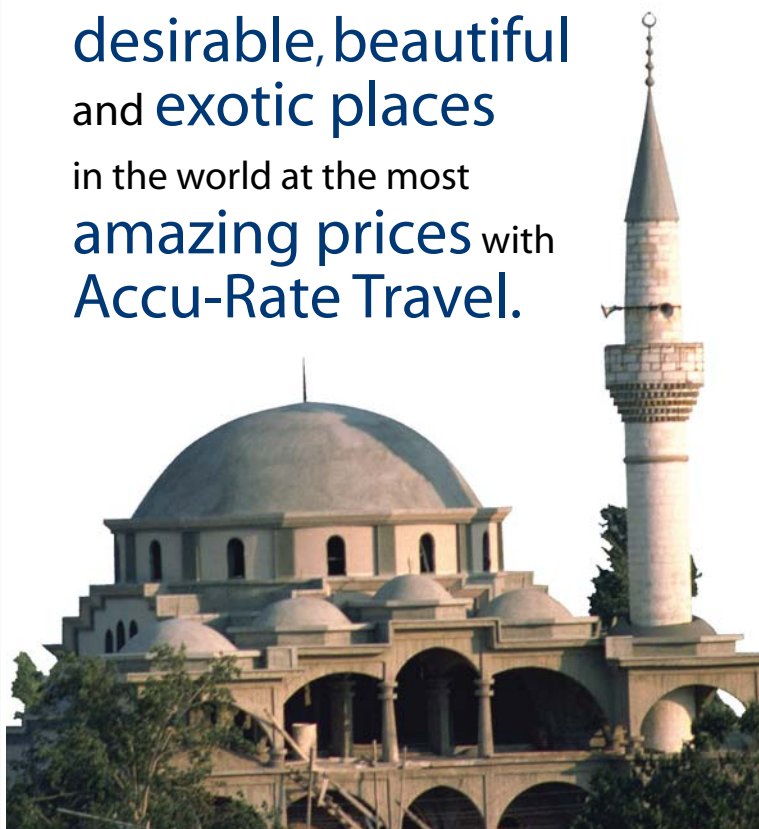
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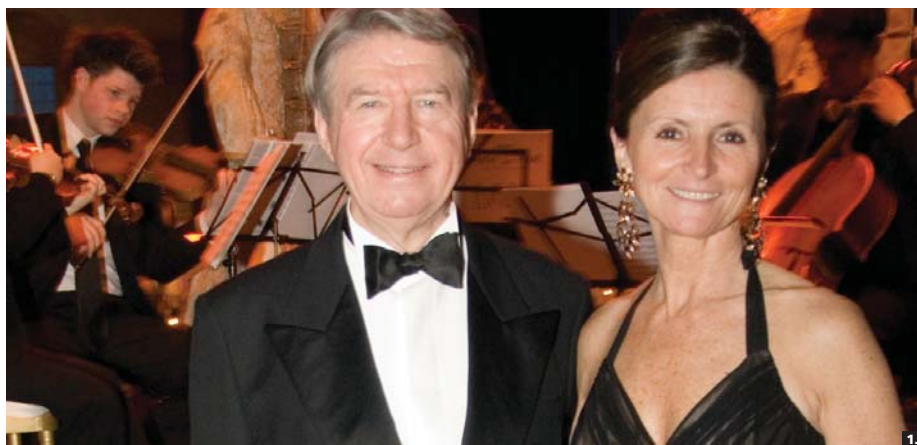
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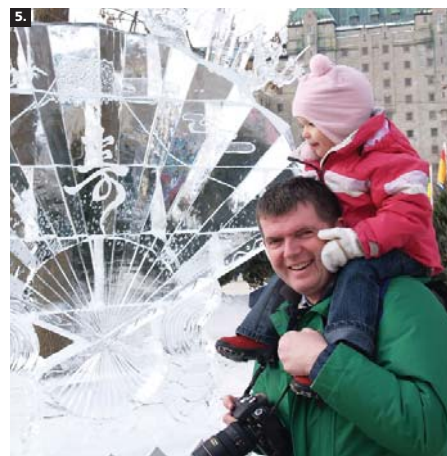
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THIS PAGE 1. The diplomatic hospitality group of the Canadian Federation of University Women held a snowshoe day every Friday morning over the winter. Shown left to right are CFUW-Ottawa members Enid McNeil, and Doreen Riedel with Kyoko Numata, wife of Japanese Ambassador Sadaaki Numata. Photo: Alison Hobbs. • 2. Kyoko Numata stands for the Austrian national anthem at the Viennese Ball on Feb. 3 at the National Gallery of Canada. Susan Wilkins, wife of U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins, stands in the background. Austrian Ambassador Otto Ditz and his wife Maureen are the honorary patrons for the event. Photo: Dyanne Wilson. • 3. Debutantes and their cavaliers take to the dance floor at the Viennese Ball. Photo: Dyanne Wilson. • 4. The International Club of Ottawa held a cooking demonstration on Feb. 22. Shown left to right are club member Lia Mazzolin; Fameeda Singh, wife of Guyana High Commissioner Rajnarine Singh, Ulfah Hardono, wife of Indonesian Ambassador Djoko Hardono, chef Ken Stuart, of the Bahamas, and hostess Jeanne Roy. Photo: June Craig



THIS PAGE 1. French Ambassador Daniel Jouanneau and his wife Odile were king and queen of the Snowflake Ball this year. The ball took place Feb. 10 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Photo: Dyanne Wilson. • 2. Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean arrives at the Black and White Opera Soirée at the National Arts Centre on Feb. 17. Photo: Dyanne Wilson. • 3. Margus Hallik, of Estonia, races down the slopes of Camp Fortune on Jan. 27. He placed third among the men at the Ottawa Diplomatic Association's annual ski day. Photo: Sam Garcia. • 4. Austrian Ambassador Otto Ditz and his wife Maureen at their national day reception held at their Rockcliffe residence Oct. 26. Photo: Austrian Embassy. • 5. Slovenian Ambassador Tomaz Kunstelj poses with his daughter at the annual diplomat's tour of Winterlude put on by the National Capital Commission and The Westin. Photo: Markus Antonsson. • 6. Diplomats pose in front of a snow sculpture at Winterlude. In front: Slovakian Ambassador Stanislav Opiela poses in front. Left to right: His wife, Viera Opielova, Australian High Commissioner Bill Fisher, Panamanian Ambassador Romy Vasquez, Norwegian Ambassador Tor Berntin Naess and Icelandic Ambassador Markus Orn Antonsson.





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Terry Fox's legacy of hope

By Laura Neilson Bonikowsky

April marks an emotional Canadian anniversary, though it hardly seems possible that 27 years have passed since Terry Fox ran his Marathon of Hope. Terry's determination to make a difference lives on in the annual run that was born Apr. 12, 1980, when he dipped his prosthetic leg into the cold Atlantic off St. John's.

Terry was born July 28, 1958 in Winnipeg, the second of four children. He was a patient and persistent child. He loved long games, and spent many hours with the table-hockey game, devising complicated season schedules. He'd play for both teams, even after his interest waned, because he "wanted to see who won."

In Grade 8, Terry's greatest wish was to play basketball, but he wasn't a natural. His coach tried to steer him toward other sports, like cross-country running, but he never gave up his goal. Sheer determination got Mr. Fox on the team, ranked 19th out of 19 players. He had one minute of game time all season. But he persevered, practicing early every morning.

His persistence paid off; by Grade 12, he was co-winner, with his friend Doug Alward, of the athlete of the year award at his Port Coquitlam, B.C. high school. Mr. Fox continued playing basketball at Simon Fraser University. As an athlete, he was used to pain, but near the end of his first year, he developed a new pain in his right knee. In March 1977, he learned it was not the cartilage problem he'd suspected, but a tumour. The cure? Amputation above the knee.

The night before his surgery, after reading about an amputee runner, Terry decided to conquer this new challenge. He endured 16 months of chemotherapy; watched the people around him at the cancer clinic; and decided to do more than help himself. He wanted to help find a cure. Never one to set easy goals, he decided to run across Canada to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

His distinctive hop-skip run carried him nearly 40 km per day. As word of his cause spread, people lined the streets, applauding, urging him on, and giving

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money. He drew inspiration from the crowds, toughing out the pain of sores and abrasions under his prosthesis. On Sept. 1, 1980, after a strong start from Thunder Bay, he developed had a pain in his chest that couldn't be eased. He kept going until there were no more people along the road, then climbed wearily into the van driven by his friend Doug. The cancer had returned and was lodged in his lung.

After 143 days and 5,373 km, Terry returned to Port Coquitlam. He told a press conference: "I'll fight. I promise I won't give up." For the next 10 months he fought as hard as he could against the

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disease ravaging his young body. Though honoured with many awards, including the Order of Canada, he refused the role of hero.

Terry died, surrounded by his family, June 28, 1981, one month before his 23rd birthday. Across the nation, people mourned the loss of the young man with the amiable smile.

Today, people around the world remember him as they participate in the annual Terry Fox Run and contribute to the Terry Fox Foundation, which has raised more than \$360 million for cancer research.

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

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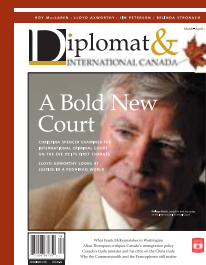
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Istanbul, the City of Extremes

By Innes Welbourne

It's a Sunday afternoon and an impoverished village family drives two goats down the side of the highway cutting through Istanbul's financial district, Levent. It's a striking image, set against the ultra chic backdrop of Kanyon, Istanbul's new monument to contemporary life, retail and entertainment, and commerce.

Such is life in Istanbul, where ancient and modern, religious and secular, hopeful and desperate co-exist, often in single breath, moment or corner.

Despite recent setbacks, such as a major earthquake and massive financial crisis within the last decade, the city is booming. Things are moving quickly. Where they're moving is another matter. Will it be closer to Europe and eventual membership with the EU? Will it be closer to its eastern neighbours? No one quite knows. Still, business is booming. Major western brands such as Starbucks are on an expansion spree, while others have decided to venture here for the first time.

In any case, capitalism is nothing new to the Turks, who probably invented the world's first and perhaps most impressive shopping mall with the Covered Bazaar in 1464. Over the last 500-plus years, it has grown to more than 58

**A LABYRINTHINE STRUCTURE
WITH ITS OWN STREETS,
MOSQUE, POLICE STATION
AND RESTAURANTS, THE COVERED
BAZAAR IS AN EXHAUSTING BUT
MUST-SEE EXPERIENCE.**

streets and 4,000 shops, and welcomes between 250,000-400,000 visitors daily. It is located in the Old City, Sultanahmet, which is also home to the domed wonder of Hagia Sophia, the tiled masterpiece of the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. A Labyrinthine structure with its own streets, mosque, police station and restaurants, the Covered Bazaar is an exhausting but must-see experience.

Another must-see is Istanbul from the Bosphorus, its defining geographical feature, which divides its European and Asian sides. Head to Eminönü and take the Gypsy Ferry. Leaving every morning from the Bogaz Iskelesi, the Gypsy Ferry



A domed wonder: Hagia Sophia is the tiled masterpiece of the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace.

zig-zags up and down the Bosphorus from the mouth of The Golden Horn with a rest stop near the Black Sea that allows you enough time to take a meal before you head back in the afternoon. It is well worth the three or four new Turkish lira (\$2.50-\$3.40 Cdn) you'll spend to see all the old palaces and Ottoman residences waterside with a steaming hot Turkish tea in its tulip-shaped glass and saucer in hand. If you're really hungry before you leave, try a "Balik Ekmek" (fish bread), perhaps one of the finest sandwiches ever invented.

Back on terra firma, several Bosphorus venues offer up expensive drinks and a look at the bleached, Botoxed and Rhinoplastied set in the summer. If you're not budget sensitive, visit Reina in Kurumesme or Anjelique in Ortaköy, impressive places to sit and drink during the sunset hours while the incredible falling sun limns the Asian shore in red gold hues and Istanbul's wealthy flaunt too much of everything they shouldn't.

If you don't care for appearances, or Asian views, but do care about your budget, grab a hair-raising taxi ride to Tünel and find Asmalimescit Sokak in Beyoglu. This street has become a funky little scene over the last couple of years with some of the city's best cafés and bars. Prices here are nowhere near as

steep as along the Bosphorus. There's Babylon, which welcomes acts from all around the world, while a wide selection of mehanes (Turkish tavernas) will serve you great meal of meat and fish dishes and mezze (Turkish cold starters) with a glass of Raki or a number of new restaurants and bars serve up an array of international flavors to quench all sorts of appetites. Otto, a cool little pizza joint serves up thin-crust pizzas while Nevzat, one its owners, spins an eclectic mix of electro-pop for Turkey's hip entertainment and movie crowd.

It's impossible to be bored in a city that comes alive with so many impressive sights smells and sounds – not least of which is the call to prayer which summons the faithful five times a day from the thousands of minarets which spear Istanbul's skyline.

Once heard, it's a sound you'll never forget. Rather like the first time you see a woman at a bus stop in Taksim swathed head to toe in a black chador standing next a unusually tall woman in a too-short skirt, who turns out not to be not a woman at all. It's just another day in Istanbul, Turkey's city of extremes.

Innes Welbourne is a Canadian writer and part-time voice-over narrator who's been based in Istanbul for the past two years.



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