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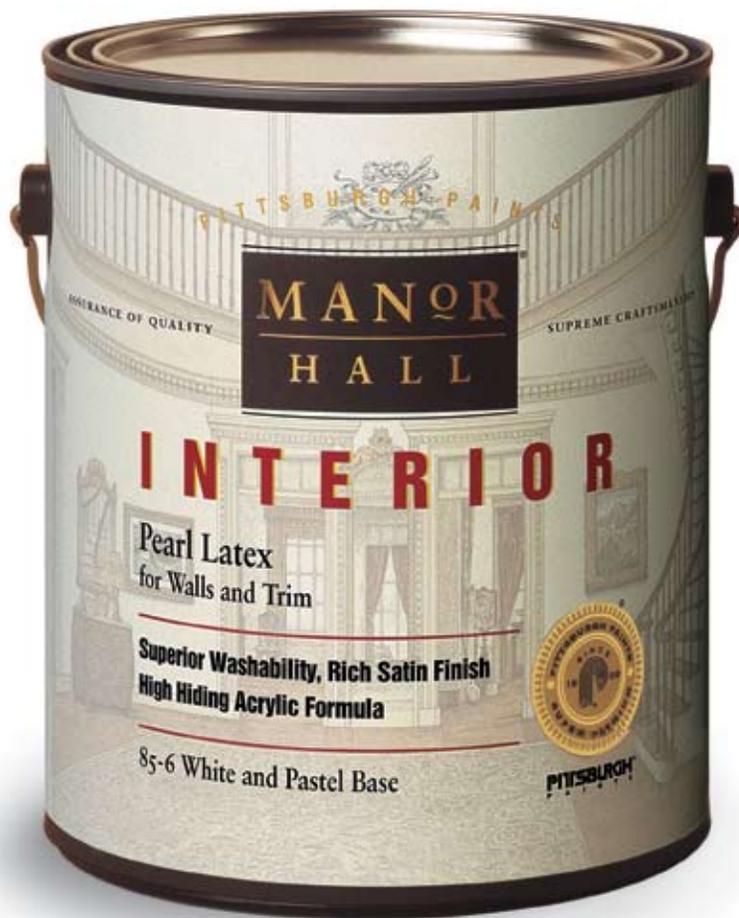
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**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
*Diplomat & International Canada* is published six times a year. Subscription rates: individual, one year \$35.70. For Canadian orders add 5 per cent GST. U.S. orders please add \$15 for postage. All other orders please add \$25.  
**SUBMISSIONS**  
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Published by  
**Sparrow House Enterprises Inc.**

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## Barton's bequest

At a Rideau Club dinner in early March, William Barton was feted for his considerable donation – \$3 million – to Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. At 90, Mr. Barton is frail, but quite able to get around, and his legendary quips punctuated the evening. Out to mark their colleague's generous bequest were his contemporaries – Jake Warren, former ambassador to the United States and high commissioner for London, and Geoffrey Pearson, who was Canada's ambassador to the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The triumvirate of diplomatic heavy-weights represented a lifetime of achievement, and offered a reminder of recent history. And, as was mentioned several times during the evening, their legacies lived on. It turned out to be an elegiac night. Within two weeks, Mr. Pearson had died. Two more weeks on, Mr. Warren passed away.

However, Mr. Barton, our cover story subject, just keeps going. And he doesn't mind living longer for one primary reason. As the widower who lost his only son two years ago told writer Charles Enman, he wants to keep growing his bequest so he can leave the William and Jeanie Barton Chair in International Affairs in even healthier shape than it is now.

Our cover story traces this distinguished diplomat's life. Mr. Barton tells our writer about growing up during the Depression, about how he served in the army, about how he eventually joined the foreign service and went on to become Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, and about how he continues, to this day, to cook every meal himself in his well-appointed retirement residence in New Edinburgh. On the policy front, the veteran envoy shares his pragmatic views on everything from Stephen Harper's attitude toward the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to his take on Russia; from Canada's involvement in Afghanistan to the war in Iraq.



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Mr. Barton also shares his views on disarmament. And guess what? The creator of a chair that will study that very topic doesn't believe in it. It's not that he doesn't find disarmament a charming ideal – it's just that he doesn't think it's achievable any time in the near future.

This spring issue has plenty of other good reads, too. There's a feature on Al Capone's connections to Canada, specifically to the city of Moose Jaw. Up front we have a selection of quotes from celebrity diplomats, a subject Andrew Cooper, associate director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, studied and then wrote about in his recent book. Also in our Diplomatica section, there's an interview with former diplomat Pamela Wallin, who talks about her role on the Manley Panel on Afghanistan, how she divides her time between New York City and Toronto, and what she thinks about another female journalist as the next governor general. In our recurring Diplomatic Agenda feature, Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin defends his country's right to hold the Olympics.

In Delights, book reviewer George Abraham looks at titles from the Middle East. Wine columnist Stephen Beckta gets closer to home with a look at some very drinkable wines from Prince Edward County. Meanwhile, food columnist Margaret Dickenson digests the final course of the meal – the mignardise. Culture editor Margo Roston drops in on Malaysian High Commissioner Dennis Ignatius and his wife, Cherry, and our history feature tells the story of Bill Miner, a gentleman bandit. Finally, in an advertorial feature, Australian High Commissioner Bill Fisher offers an insider's guide to travel in his country. Find out where to get the best wine, where to hit the slopes, and where to surf.

Jennifer Campbell is *Diplomat's* editor.

## UP FRONT

Photographer Brigitte Bouvier captured venerable diplomat William Barton at his retirement residence in New Edinburgh. Ms. Bouvier described him as a gentleman and a pragmatist and said he was quite willing to do whatever she asked. He shared some of his family and archival photos with her and posed patiently. See more of the photo shoot in our cover package which begins on page 16.



## CONTRIBUTORS

Brigitte Bouvier, cover photographer



Brigitte Bouvier started taking photos professionally after graduating from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's photojournalism program in 2000. She has shot for the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *The Ottawa Citizen* and *Maclean's* as well as a number of commercial clients. As an official photographer for former prime minister Paul Martin, she made politics look interesting. Born in Saskatchewan and raised in British Columbia and Alberta, she came to Ottawa immediately after graduating and her images have lit up the capital ever since.

## ANNOUNCEMENT



Cu Van Ha has joined *Diplomat and International Canada* as advertising advisor. He started his first national art magazine at age 20, while earning his undergraduate degree in architecture from Carleton University. Mr. Van Ha enjoys promoting creativity by combining his love for the arts, advertising and marketing to build success in business. His company, Cuative & Co. Publishing & Media, has produced and published many successful art, fashion, dining and design publications and media entities to date. Email [cu@prestoncatalogue.com](mailto:cu@prestoncatalogue.com) to reach him.

# Celebrity Diplomats

By Donna Jacobs

Stars shine. Some stars, especially the very bright ones, are directing their own dazzling spotlight to shine on a *cause célèbre*.

"Celebrities aim high," says political science professor Andrew F. Cooper. "Notwithstanding all of their flaws, whether due to oversized egos seeking applause or deficiencies of governance structure, celebrities do raise the level of expectations."

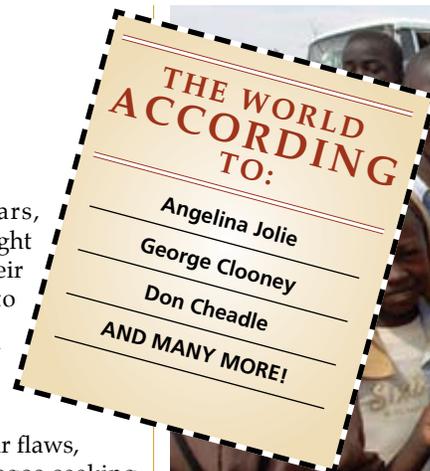
Dr. Cooper has become an expert on the various ways that celebrity diplomats – actors, singers, former U.S. presidents, billionaire businessmen, athletes and musicians – are changing the quiet, sometimes stodgy, world of conventional diplomacy.

Celebrity diplomacy does more than put "a human face" on international relations, he says. Celebrities bring in billions of dollars – their own or someone else's. Many millions come from their ability to embarrass, inspire and charm money from other people's deep pockets, or from government budgets.

Besides being a professor at the University of Waterloo, Dr. Cooper works as associate director of the Waterloo-based Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). He focuses on how the United Nations, World Trade Organization and financial institutions can work better.

His special interest in summits revolves around the role of the world's rising powers – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Mexico. A former visiting scholar at Harvard University, he provides media commentaries, most recently for *Al Jazeera*, *BBC* and *CBC*. At past G8 Summits, posted in the media room to interpret and comment on proceedings, he had watched celebrity power grow. But after the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, where Bono and Bob Geldof appeared, he started to write *Celebrity Diplomacy*.

The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland also draws stars – earning the description of "an Alpine version of the Oscars." In 2005, Sharon Stone, Richard Gere, British musician Peter Gabriel, Angelina Jolie, Bill Gates, George Soros



George Clooney travelled to Chad in January as a UN "messenger of peace" after spending time in Sudan's Darfur region.

and Bono were among the guests.

At that meeting, actress Sharon Stone was listening to Microsoft founder Bill Gates describe the simplicity of insecticide-treated bednets to protect Africans from malaria.

Onstage was Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa. Ms. Stone leapt up from the audience and addressed the startled man directly: "I'd like to offer you \$10,000 to buy some bednets today."

And then – almost in a revivalist fashion – she turned and exhorted the audience directly.

"Would anyone else like to stand up and help? Just stand up. Just stand up. People are dying in his country today, and that is not OK with me." The room seized up with tension and embarrassment – but only for a few moments.

"Stone, in her five minutes of Davos fame, managed to get 30 executives to collectively raise \$1 million," writes Dr. Cooper. Later, Ms. Stone explained: "These were people with a lot of cash. I thought 'I really have to get it now,' and that's why I made an ass of myself."

Of the dozens of celebrities he wrote about, Dr. Cooper knows and keeps in contact with one: actress Mia Farrow. "She is extremely committed," he says. A UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, she's visited Darfur eight times on her own.

She told *ABC TV News* in March: "I was given this [necklace] by a woman named Halima in 2004, a refugee. And she had been wearing it when her village was attacked. She'd been holding her infant son. Arab militia tore her baby from her arms and bayoneted him before her eyes. They cut them [children] and threw them into the well. She clasped my hand

and said, 'Tell people what is happening here. Tell them we will all be slaughtered. Tell them we need help.'"

Ms. Farrow used the diplomatic tactic of "classic linkage" by calling for a boycott of the "Genocide Olympics," says Dr. Cooper.

Ms. Farrow recently badgered Hollywood director Steven Spielberg into not signing the contract he had, ambivalently, sat on for a year to help the Chinese stage the Olympics. That was before, on another front, Chinese soldiers killed hundreds of demonstrating Tibetans and faced another Olympic boycott movement over China's long suppression of Tibet.

Ms. Farrow, with her son Ronan, angrily laid out her position in a *The Wall Street Journal* op-ed a year ago: China is actively and financially supporting the Muslim-dominated Khartoum government, which has killed between 200,000 and 400,000 Christian and native Africans, and has driven 2.2 million people from their homes. China owns the majority share in the country's two largest oil-rich reserves; up to 80 percent of the oil revenues from sales to China buy war materiel against the people of Darfur.

Under pressure, China publicly asked the Sudan government in Khartoum to allow the full deployment of a UN-African Union peacekeeping force.

Actress Angelina Jolie is a member of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations think-tank. "She has been a surprisingly adept diplomat," says Dr. Cooper. "You would have thought she wouldn't be particularly good or valuable, but she seems to be growing into the part with *gravitas* and maturity." Her February trip to Iraq's refugee camps fo-

ALL PHOTOS: UNITED NATIONS

cused more attention on camp conditions there and in Jordan and Syria than they'd yet received.

"Diana, Princess of Wales, was such a model (celebrity) because she was so fashionable, so pristine, somebody who had royal attachments, who was best known for her wardrobe. Diana, going to Angola, having amputees and casualties sitting on her lap, sharing, hugging – I am sure her handlers were well aware of all the risks. She did things beyond possibly risking her health. She walked in a field with landmines. And she was one of the first notable people to shake hands with someone with HIV/AIDS showing there wasn't any risk in doing this."

### Quotes from the stars

**Bono, lead man, Irish rock band U2:** "I'm tired of dreaming. I'm into doing at the moment. It's, like, let's only have goals that we can go after. U2 is about the impossible. Politics is the art of the possible. They're very different, and I'm resigned to that now."

*Time Magazine, Feb. 23, 2002*

"There are now two million Africans on retroviral drugs and that is pretty astonishing.

"It's strange because the good news makes the bad news even worse." The G-8 are not making good on their commitments. "This is a scandal."

Bono said the G8 had given only about half of the \$50 billion-a-year increase in aid to Africa promised at the 2005 summit at Gleneagles, Scotland.

*USA Today, Jan. 24, 2008*

**Actress Angelina Jolie:** "If [celebrities] are going to speak up, we have to know what we're talking about. We have to make sure we are willing to dedicate part of our lives to this. We shouldn't do it halfway."

Jolie practices what she preaches.



Bono and then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan



Angelina Jolie

She pays for her own excursions to the world's misery zones and last year made trips to Sudan and Chad to visit some of the 1.8 million people driven from their homes in Darfur by the genocidal attacks of the Janjaweed militia.

"I feel lucky that I stepped into this life and my eyes were opened," says Jolie. "What we need is political will. And that's what people like me can do: bring [these issues] to the attention of citizens and reinforce the political will."

*Time Magazine, Jan. 30, 2005*

**Actor Woody Harrelson:** A crusader for health and environmental issues, he drives a biodiesel-powered engine and eats no animal products and uses solar power. "If you're constantly there in the media, talking about this, that or the other, at a certain point," he said, "people don't put much

value to it."

*USA Today, June 23, 2006*

**Actress Salma Hayek:** has spoken out against domestic abuse and testified before the U.S. Congress. "I don't come from a family with domestic violence. I've never experienced it myself. But I'm very, very passionate about it. It's a big problem that no one talks about. It's work that needs to be done. I feel a lot of frustration. It's very hard to make changes in culture, in social consciousness."

*USA Today, June 23, 2006*

**TV host Oprah Winfrey:** "To whom much is given, much is expected." She is ranked by *Forbes* magazine's as the 215th-richest person in the world. "You can't live in the world, participate in all the benefits of the world, and not give back." She gives money to women, children and families via Oprah's Angel Network and The Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

*USA Today, June 23, 2006*

**Actress Ashley Judd:** Charity work has "reorganized my priorities. When I go to bed at night, I know I've done something of consequence, something that matters." Her work as Youth AIDS Global Ambassador has taken her to India, Central American and Africa.

*USA Today, June 23, 2006*

**Actor George Clooney:** In January, the UN named George Clooney a Messenger of Peace after he returned from a two-week trip to Chad, the Congo and Darfur. "I think what they're looking to gain from it is cameras following me to places that they're trying to get attention to and that's fine," he said. "That's a good use of celebrity if you ask me."

"I look forward to working with the United Nations in order to build public support for its critically important work in some of the most difficult, dangerous

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(Clockwise from top left) George Clooney, Richard Gere and then Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Brad Pitt and Mr. Annan, and Don Cheadle.

and dire places in the world.”  
*ABC News, Mar. 9, 2008*

**Actor Don Cheadle:** His causes include AIDS, disaster relief, health, human rights, refugees and the genocide in Darfur, about which he co-authored a book *Not on Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond*. With other *Oceans Eleven* stars Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Matt Damon and producer Jerry Weintraub, he has endowed the Not on Our Watch Foundation.

“I really try to feel what it would possibly be like to have been attacked and trudged through miles and miles and miles of desert,” he said.  
*CNN, May 4, 2007.*

**Actor Leonardo DiCaprio:** In addition to his campaign against “blood diamonds,”

he is best known for his environmental work and his focus on clean water (see [www.leonardodicaprio.org](http://www.leonardodicaprio.org)). He released his video *The Eleventh Hour* on global warming last month.

“What is it, over 90 percent of the scientific community has a consensus that mankind does have an impact on our climate? I tend to side with them.” He drives a hybrid car and has built a house with all the bells and whistles of green technology. “Solar panels and everything,” he said. “It’s insulated in the proper ways. I’ve got clean air, clean water. It’s very complicated stuff, but it’s green.”  
*ABC News, Aug. 10, 2007.*

**Actor Richard Gere:** His causes range from campaigning to get out votes during the Palestinian Authority election of Janu-

ary 2005 and AIDS eradication to defence of Tibet against domination by China.

“I’ve not been pro-boycott [of the August Olympics in China]. But I think if this is not handled correctly, yes – we should boycott. Everyone should boycott.”

The longtime Buddhist and friend of the Dalai Lama said he was grieving for “my brothers and sisters” in Tibet but “sad for both sides” in the dispute ongoing since China annexed Tibet in 1950. “As educated, as sensitive as the Chinese are, why they’ve misread the Tibetan situation from the very beginning is beyond me.”

*International Herald Tribune, Mar. 15, 2008*

**Actor Brad Pitt:** In 2006, he and Angelina Jolie each endowed their new Jolie-Pitt Foundation with \$4 million from which they have provided \$1 million for refugees from the Darfur crisis and \$100,000 for the Daniel Pearl Foundation (named for *The Wall Street Journal* reporter whose kidnap and beheading were masterminded by convicted terrorist ringleader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in 2002). They have also provided money to Global Action for Children and Doctors Without Borders, and to families affected by HIV/AIDS and by extreme poverty.

Mr. Pitt is also working on plans to build 150 eco-friendly homes in the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, partly funded by his \$5 million Make It Right Foundation ([www.makeitrightnola.org](http://www.makeitrightnola.org)). He and Ms. Jolie have bought a mansion in the city’s French Quarter.

At their California home, they use a water capture system and solar power. “There is no concept of waste in nature,” said Pitt. “Anything that’s discarded becomes fuel or becomes food for something else. We can be living the same way.”

Donna Jacobs is associate publisher of *Diplomat*.



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## An Emerald evening

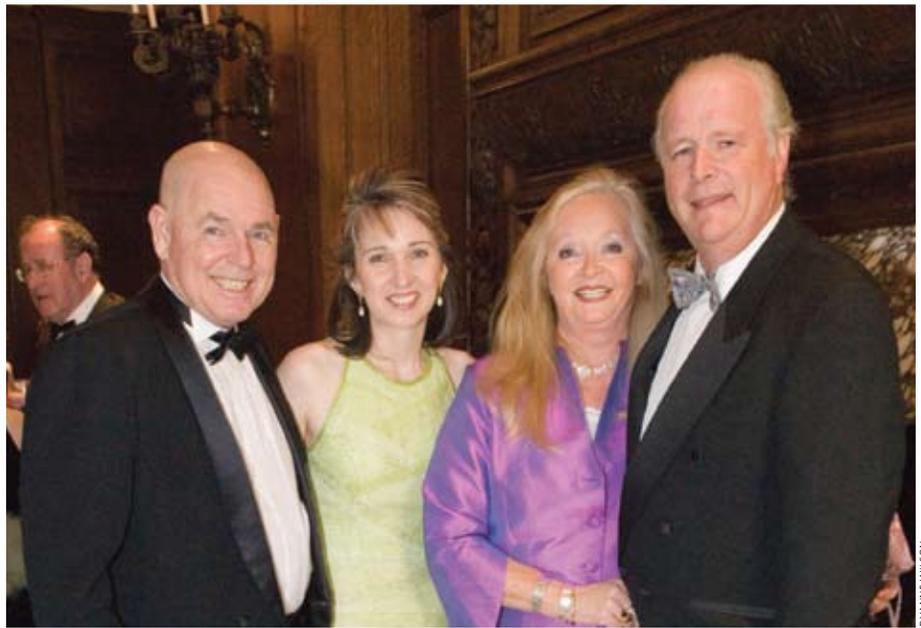
Peace in Ireland is a lot closer to reality today than it was in 1978 when the Ireland Fund of Canada was founded, but there is still important work to do there, says an organizer of the Ottawa fundraiser that annually contributes to the fund.

The fund, a non-political registered charity founded by a group of Canadians including former Lieutenant-Governor Hilary Weston, takes on community projects in Northern Ireland and Ireland that bring young people together to foster reconciliation and understanding between the Protestant and Catholic traditions.

The Ottawa chapter was founded 18 years ago, and, coincidentally, the current Irish Ambassador was involved in its founding. Declan Kelly was in Canada on an earlier posting and took part in the initial meetings. Last year, when he returned as ambassador, he got to see how the fund's Canadian fundraising events have matured.

"There is no doubt that the fund has played an important role in bringing about peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland," Mr. Kelly said. "Over the last 20 years, I have been privileged to experience the work of the fund first hand in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Denver, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Toronto and, of course, here in Ottawa."

The Ottawa chapter's big fundraiser is an annual ball known as the Emerald Ball, which is presided over by Mr. Kelly and his wife Anne. This year's event took place April 19 at the Chateau Laurier and began



DYANNE WILSON

Irish eyes were smiling at this year's Emerald Ball which raised \$20,000 for the Ireland Fund of Canada. Irish Ambassador Declan Kelly (right) and his wife Anne attended along with Ottawa mayor Larry O'Brien and his fiancée Colleen McBride.

with a cocktail reception, followed by a three-course meal, and then dancing with a rhythm and blues band. It raised \$20,000.

The ball has helped fund several projects and groups in the past, including the Irish Children's Aid Society, an Ireland-Canadian university scholarship, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Building Bridges Breaking Borders program.

The same fund has also given money to Ottawa events, including a St. Patrick's Day parade in the city. One year, it provided \$15,000 to the University of Ottawa Celtic Chair.

Two diplomatic missions are involved in the ball – the Irish embassy and the Brit-

ish High Commission. They support it by alternating hosting duties of a reception for sponsors. This year, Mr. Kelly hosted the event at his temporary Rockcliffe residence. (The official residence is undergoing renovations.)

The Ireland Fund is part of the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland. Canada has three chapters – the other two are in Toronto and Edmonton – and the fund exists in several other countries including Australia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, China, Monaco, New Zealand and the United States of America. Since its inception, the worldwide fund has raised \$300 million.



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In 1932, Liu Changchun, a young Chinese man, boarded a ship from Shanghai to Los Angeles. It had been 36 years since the first modern Olympics and the Chinese were making their first appearance in the Games, with Mr. Liu as the only athlete representing a country of 400 million people. Mr. Liu won no medals, didn't even come close. It took 52 more years until the Chinese won their first gold medal, in 1984, again in Los Angeles. That year, we did not stop at one gold – we won 16. China is used to waiting.

The waiting now is much shorter. Within a few weeks we will see the opening of the Games in Beijing, a moment the world looks forward to every four years. For China, the long-term wait lasted 112 years. Many comment that the Olympics is China's coming-out party, a showcase for a modern, prosperous and confident nation. To China, the Olympics is also a process for building a better society. With this event as a spur, hundreds of kilometres of subway have been built, capable of handling up to eight million travelers every day by 2012, and nine million by 2015, when Beijing will surpass New York as the city with the longest subway system in the world.

Traffic congestion will be eased, saving tens of millions of hours for commuters every day – more time for sleep, more time with families. With the construction of a myriad of state-of-the-art sporting facilities and new hotels and shops, tens of thousands of jobs have been created, spreading tangible benefits to the ordinary residents of Beijing and beyond. More than a million people have registered

to volunteer at the Games and the use of English has spread even to many senior citizens.

The Olympics to China is not only a matter of this coming August. It has been with us all these years, shaping our lives in subtle yet decisive ways. As its

opening gets closer, our

lives have already benefited enormously from the Games. The Games, in turn, will be our present to the world as a token of appreciation. It's a party hosted by China for the whole planet.

Yet this party is in peril. A variety of "causes" have been invented to undermine the Beijing Games. It could be Darfur today, Tibet tomorrow and something else next. The Olympic year has become an open season on China.

To tell the truth, that's not surprising – it had been expected. However, we have to distinguish between well-meaning criticisms and malevolent sabotage.

We understand the world's expectations of China with the 2008 Olympics and the good intentions behind most of those

expectations. China is not perfect yet, as could be said for any other country. In fact, with the Games in mind, nobody wants more than we Chinese ourselves to further improve the country's environment, human rights, rule of law as well as the living standards of the people. In the last seven years, nobody has made more effort in that direction than the Chinese government, and nobody deserves more credit for it than the Chinese people.



However, there has always been someone trying to hijack the Games for the advancement of their own causes, more often than not on the shaky foundation of misinformation. According to some, China is a giant oil leech on Sudan and a weapons monger besides, and should be held responsible for the strife in that country. In fact, though, China is only the Number 2 market for Sudanese oil and accounted for



The China National Stadium, also known as the "Bird's Nest," will serve as the main stadium for Olympics.

only eight per cent of weapons imported by Sudan in 2006. When there are bigger oil buyers and arms merchants, why single out China?

When it comes to Tibet, we have all seen the riots on TV and it is clear they threaten innocent people's lives and life savings. These well-organized, destructive and murderous crimes have been spun in the media as "peaceful" protests by "Tibetan exiles," who are exiled only from the truth. These purveyors of misinformation want a boycott of the Olympics to advance their self-righteous cause at the expense of something shared by all of humanity. This is exploitation in its worst possible form.

China has waited for more than a century for the Games, and as a country we can afford to wait still. But to the athletes, the wait has been lifelong and the opportunity won't come again. Out of what degree of selfishness could anyone even



think of depriving the dreams of others, especially when history has shown that boycotts solve nothing? Are the boycott-promoters ignorant, or do they just not care?

The Olympics is not merely for the few – the strong athletic few, the powerful political few. The Games are for ordinary folk like you and me, and that's why the Games rise above all other championships and tournaments. Their most glorious moments are not the opening ceremony, not the firing of the Olympic flame, nor the attendance of heads of state and governments. The glory is in the transient moments of human achievements in the Games themselves, and the cheering crowds in the stadium or at TV sets around the world.

The Beijing Olympics is not a party about China, nor should it be a platform for politicians, countries or groups. It is a party for us all. There are no reserved seats for the self-serving, Olympics-exploiting few who would kill the dream.

Lu Shumin is China's ambassador to Canada.

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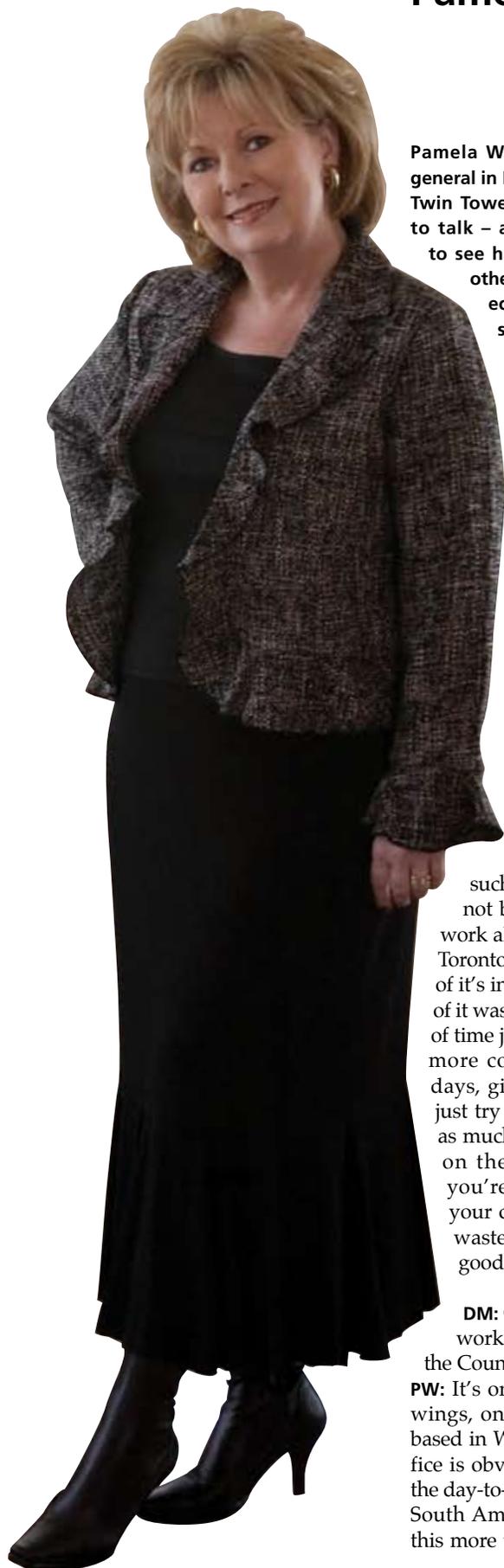


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## Pamela Wallin's life on the run



Pamela Wallin became Canada's consul-general in New York a few months after the Twin Towers fell. In that job, she learned to talk – and listen – to Americans, and to see her country through the eyes of others. That theme continued in the eclectic ensemble of assignments she juggles these days: She was a member of the Manley Panel on Afghanistan, she serves on several corporate boards, including CTV, she works as a senior advisor to the president of the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas and – as if that's not enough – she's the chancellor of the University of Guelph. *Diplomat's* editor Jennifer Campbell caught up with her when she recently touched down in Toronto, where she lives half the time.

**Diplomat Magazine:** Tell me about a regular day in your life these days.

**Pamela Wallin:** Well, there's no such thing as a normal day, at least not by anyone else's standards. My work all involves travel, some of it's in Toronto, some of it's in New York, some of it's in Ottawa. As it turned out, some of it was in Afghanistan. I do spend a lot of time just in motion and that's a much more complicated proposition these days, given airlines and weather. You just try to make the best of that, to get as much done as you can when you're on the ground and always, when you're heading to the airport, have your computer fully charged. I never waste those moments. Airplanes are good quiet time for working.

**DM:** Can you tell me a bit about your work with the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas?

**PW:** It's one large organization with two wings, one based in New York and one based in Washington. The Washington office is obviously a little more focused on the day-to-day policies vis-à-vis North and South America. The Rockefellers started this more than 40 years ago. Obviously, it

has connections because of NAFTA and both Canada and the United States have been trying to expand this trading relationship south. On some issues, it's bilateral, on some it's trilateral and on some it's North-South. What I'm trying to do there is not create a separate sort of Canada program because I think the important thing is for us to be integrated into the discussion. When we take a look at energy, then let's put Canada at the table because we're the largest supplier. But you'd also want Brazil at the table and maybe even Hugo Chavez (laughs).

**DM:** So is that what you'd call your day job?

**PW:** Well, no, not really – it's one of the day jobs. I'm also chancellor at Guelph and at certain periods, during convocations and board meetings, that's pretty full-time. Then I'm involved on several boards that are also very busy. I love the eclectic nature of the work because it's everything I have an interest in. It's nice, almost like journalism continued in the sense that in the world of journalism you never knew what you'd be doing on a given day. Now I do it without the cameras rolling. So I still have that diversity. And there's a lot of volunteer work too. Sometimes there just aren't enough hours to the day.

**DM:** Tell me about your time with the Manley Panel. What did it entail?

**PW:** It was huge, for me, a life-changing experience. It entailed everything that I've spent time on in my life: journalism, traveling to war zones, understanding the American point of view, caring about my country. It was an amazing experience. You had five people – we all knew each other and each other's work. We all thought at one level we were pretty well informed and then we sat down and started hearing from people who were there to inform us. We were hearing evidence from people who'd been there, whether it was the military, NGOs, aid workers, or ex-pat Afghans, they were people who had informed views. We also started to change and morph, which is something that comes with more knowledge. We learned from as many vantage points as we possibly could and it was inevitable that we would go to Afghanistan.

I think we all were struck by the spirit of the people. This is one of the poorest countries in the world, with GDP of Haiti. They've been at war for 30 years with the Soviets, followed by the horrors of the Taliban, and they have a very tribal culture. Yet there are people who are committed to rebuilding their lives and their families and their country.

Our own soldiers and the soldiers of other countries as well have really embraced that mission. Of course, soldiers join the military because they want to go into combat zones but it was beyond that. The (Canadian) soldiers had really embraced the mission in the largest sense of what we were there to do which is to give control and the ability to control back into the hands of the Afghans. I think that really confirmed for a lot of us that this was a job that was worth doing and worth doing well.

**DM:** Did your opinion on the mission change when you went to Afghanistan?

**PW:** I didn't have a 180 or anything like that but I guess it was like my time as consul-general (in New York). When you go somewhere for an extended period of time, you look at that country a different way but you also start seeing your own country differently because you have the privilege of seeing your own country through other people's eyes. That's what happened for us in Afghanistan. The Afghan people were wonderful. They were very grateful and respectful and said to us time and again, 'we're sorry your young men and women are dying for our cause.'

**DM:** What were your thoughts when news broke that Prince Harry was in Afghanistan? It seems 10 days was enough to 'make a man' of him.

**PW:** I do think that and I've felt that change in my own life in the couple of war zones that I've been in and the rough spots over the years. It seasons you in the same sense that I think anybody experiences when they face their own mortality, whether you're battling cancer or in a war zone and not sure where the enemy is or might be. I think it forces you to face that issue and to think slightly greater thoughts than we all do when we're running around trying to get from point A to point B and do our work.

So I do think it matures you and seasons you and it's very hard for those kids particularly to have a normal life and in a bizarre way, this was probably one of the few times where (Prince Harry) could

be treated like everyone else. I felt quite badly that he was outed in that sense because he wasn't looking for special status. He just wanted to make his contribution. It's a very good feeling. I very much felt that – that we had done something useful, that we'd contributed to the debate and understanding in this country.

**DM:** So your personal feelings about Canada staying in Afghanistan are the same as the panel's?

**PW:** Absolutely. It was unanimous. What our discussions were about – and they were animated – is that we all cared so much. We were bound and determined

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to write something that was accessible. If you couldn't find Afghanistan on a map, or if you'd studied it on a daily basis, that there would be something there that you could read. I don't know what the numbers are now but the department told us there'd been more than 200,000 downloads of the report. In Ottawa, you can get your hands on it so that means people in other places were really seeking that information out. The level of awareness went up. You can see it in the newspaper stories, the letters to the editor and the debate in Parliament. People just had more information and that's a good thing. Everyone's entitled to their own opinion – I just want it to be informed.

**DM:** During your time as consul-general in New York (2002-2006), what was your most memorable moment?

**PW:** Oh, I don't know – there was one a day. When you actually see a Canadian say 'I didn't understand that' about an American or when you have an American

saying 'Oh, I didn't know that's how you did it,' those moment of clarity were the ones that gave me real satisfaction. Some of them are funny and some were kind of tiny but, for example, going to a conference where Americans and Canadians were talking about a piece of legislation the American said 'Has that legislation been tabled?' 'Yes', said the Canadian. Canadians were pleased and the Americans were upset and they went back and forth with this conversation for five minutes until I asked a former U.S. ambassador to stand up and explain that tabling means very different things in the two different countries.

There was a senior American official who was using a Blackberry and I said 'Glad we could help you out.' He said 'What do you mean?' And I said 'Well, we invented those things.'

It's not to go in with your flag on your forehead. That's not how you accomplish this. What we care about, what Americans care about is what answers our own needs, what helps us solve our own problems. So that's the approach we have to take, rather than win and lose and being right.

Diplomacy needs a lot more subtlety than sometimes we approach it with. I believe it's important that leaders talk – they need to understand what makes the other tick and have a good enough relationship that they can pick up the phone. No one in the world has a relationship like these two countries. We're too big, and integrated and connected to rely on ad hominem foreign policy. We're the smaller player in this game and the one that's much more dependent. So let's make it work. Let's not find reasons to fight. Let's find ways around that.

**DM:** What are your thoughts on Barack Obama's NAFTA-gate?

**PW:** It's my experience from my time there that Democrats of all stripes have very mixed views on this issue and it depends where the political leaders are. If they're campaigning in an area that's suffering high job losses and the manufacturing sector is in trouble, they're going to say things that appeal to that sector. But I think everybody knows – certainly informed people know – that we're so far beyond that image that Ross Perot talked about NAFTA – as this giant sucking sound to the South where all the jobs were going to Mexico. The jobs aren't going to Mexico or Canada, they're going to China, India or Vietnam. I think it's the job of political leaders to be more expansive but

that's a hard job in a seven-second clip in the middle of an election campaign. I am not fearful that somehow NAFTA will be dismantled but I do think, as Canadians, we do take these things for granted. In the days after 9/11, there wasn't one day that I wasn't thankful that NAFTA was in place and that we had protection for that trade relationship. We can't think that it's not vulnerable or (that it is) invincible.

**DM:** Looking at world affairs, what's your biggest concern today?

**PW:** On two different levels. One, I think that there does have to be some resolution in Pakistan. I think it's one of the most dangerous places in the world and one of the countries that is feeding the very problem that we're trying to deal with in Afghanistan. We need to employ an awful lot of diplomatic and political resources to deal with that situation and try to calm the waters there.

And, I think the election in the United States is important for us. Not that I think there are radical differences in the parties. I do think that we, as a country, have to spend a little bit more time and attention on that relationship because there is so much at stake for us economically.

There's no joy in watching trouble south of the border. I use the corner-store analogy. If you ran the corner store and you sold 87 per cent of everything out of that corner to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, you'd know everything about them that you could possibly find out. Coke, Pepsi? What do their kids like? Who wants the chocolate bar at midnight? Let's understand these people. I also like and love their democracy, which is open and clumsy and these elections seem to go on forever, but if you can get through the primary process, there's mettle there. It's a chance for us to get to know and understand it.

**DM:** What's Canada's role in the world?

**PW:** I think Canada's role in the world could be, and should be, to be a voice of reason and to participate in a very targeted and specific manner. We are not a superpower. We don't have a military role with the size and breadth of America's. I don't think anybody wants that for us. They don't. I don't think the sense here is that Canadians want to play that role. But I also believe Canadians don't want to be spectators.

Part of what we rediscovered during the Afghan panel was a certain amount

of updating for people. This notion that we're just peacekeepers, out there doing nice things and wearing blue berets is long out-of-date and there are very few places in the world where that task is called for. We're in the middle of insurgencies and counter-insurgencies and peace-making at the very best. So this is again an opportunity for Canadians to rethink and to come up to speed on where we are and look at the realities of this decade and this century and not rest on laurels that are out-of-date.

**DM:** Who should be the next governor general of Canada?

**PW:** (Laughs) I have no idea.

**DM:** Pamela Wallin?

**PW:** Um, (laughs again) I've done a lot of public service. I actually think those jobs are very important – I'm not one that thinks it's some outdated tie to the British monarchy. The Governor General is our equivalent of commander-in-chief. I think that in our system, we need the prime minister and the governor-general. They have two very different roles. I think the ceremonial and the inspirational is really important.



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# LIVING LEGEND, LIVING LEGACY

Canadian diplomat **Bill Barton** had an illustrious career, much of it devoted to peacekeeping and disarmament. Now, at the age of 90, he warns that there will be no end to war anytime soon – for all the same old reasons

*By Charles Enman*

**W**HEN LEGENDARY CANADIAN diplomat Bill Barton, at age 89, gave Carleton University \$3 million last year, he ended up agreeing with suggestions that the money be spent in the pursuit of arms control and disarmament – an odd combination, given that Mr. Barton thinks

global disarmament is a chimera, a hope that will never come to pass.

“Disarmament is a wonderful idea,” Mr. Barton told *Diplomat* magazine in a series of conversations in his well-appointed New Edinburgh apartment. “But the political situation in the world is such that the big boys will never go for it.

“The Americans will never give up their weapons because someone else will get them. The Russians will never give them up because they want them to use as a lever against the Americans.”

Furthermore, Mr. Barton says, warfare itself won’t end any time soon. He regards the primary causes of war as the same now as always: religion, race and economics. He thinks that it’s reasonable to hope for peace – but thinks at the same time that countries need to prepare for war.

War and peace, Mr. Barton says, is an extraordinarily difficult subject now. “My worry [now] isn’t so much that a small nation will get and use nuclear weapons as that some small sect will do so.”

An Islamist sect?

“At the moment, that seems the risk – but any small group [could be the risk] over the long haul.”



William Barton, above, holds a photo of himself (at left) during his time as Canada’s ambassador to the United Nations.

BRIGITTE BOUVIER

It's more than a 50-year reach back to the beginnings of Mr. Barton's diplomatic career. He was a part of history in a unique way. He has fond memories, for example, of former Liberal prime minister Lester B. Pearson – Mike Pearson – who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his intervention in the Suez Crisis of 1956. It was in 1956 that Mr. Barton represented Canada in the Vienna negotiations that established the International Atomic Energy Agency, the nuclear watchdog organization of the United Nations.

"I never really knew Pearson (personally)," Mr. Barton says, "but in his era we were punching above our weight in the world community.

"There were a number of reasons for this. Part of it was that there just weren't many major international players back then. It was effectively a world of 50 or so states. Now we have roughly 190 states and they all have ways of pressing their agendas. Of course, this dilutes our influence.

"But it also made a difference having the postwar military punch that we had back then. Pearson was a great advocate of peacekeeping but I don't think he would have believed in reducing the strength of our military as we have done."

Pearson, in other words, would not have approved of so much unilateral Canadian disarmament.

Mr. Barton says Canada's reduction in military strength began with the Liberal government of former Liberal prime minister Pierre Trudeau and was based on a somewhat deluded picture of the world.

"I once has dinner with Trudeau, down in New York, when he was Pearson's parliamentary secretary – and I came away with the impression that he was an airy, fairy professor, not someone in touch with reality.

"Under Trudeau, we fell in love with peacekeeping. I think that we were looking at the world through rose-tinted glasses. A lack of realism crept it. We wanted the world to be a peaceful place. I guess the wish became father to the belief."

Trudeauesque notions of the way the world works are still enchanting some Canadian politicians, Mr. Barton says – especially NDP Leader Jack Layton.

Bill Barton is in his third act and the play can't go on forever – but his remarkable donation to Carleton will nevertheless extend his influence long after the curtain falls on his own extraordinary life.

His donation will finance the William and Jeanie Barton Chair in International Affairs in the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs. The gift is the third-largest individual donation in the university's history and it will keep the study of arms control and disarmament secure from all the vagaries of changing university priorities.

Whatever reservations he may have about the idealism of the academics who benefit from the chair he has established, he's comfortable with the dichotomy. "This resonates with everything that I did in my career," he says. "The causes of arms control and disarmament are critical ones and will never lose their importance. I am delighted that my donation can be put to this use."

When Mr. Barton was considering endowing a chair at Carleton, Fen Hampson, director of the Norman Paterson School

**"BILL IS A BIT IN THE MOULD OF LESTER PEARSON. HE IS MODEST, NOT A SELF-PROMOTER, IN SOME WAYS A MAN OF VERY OLD-FASHIONED VALUES – ALL TRAITS THAT WERE IN SOME WAYS TYPICAL OF THE AMBASSADORS AND ENVOYS OF THAT ERA."**

for International Affairs, had first suggested it be called "The Bill and Jeanie Barton Chair in Arms Control and Disarmament," but, as Dr. Hampson explains, Mr. Barton demurred.

"He said, 'I believe in arms control but not in disarmament.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'It's not going to happen soon.' And I said, 'Does that mean it shouldn't be a goal?'"

"He replied, 'No, of course not. It's important that we continue to have our goals, but we need to be practical and realistic about what is achievable.'"

Dr. Hampson goes back with Mr. Barton some 22 years, beginning from the moment he joined Trudeau's Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security as a young researcher. The older man's influence was important from the

beginning.

"Bill is a bit in the mould of Lester Pearson. He is modest, not a self-promoter, in some ways a man of very old-fashioned values – all traits that were in some ways typical of the ambassadors and envoys of that era."

Dr. Hampson says Mr. Barton's chief merit was his realism, conditioned by idealism, but never tipped over into fantasy about the real possibilities in the real world.

"It's not that Bill has no ideals. He clearly does, especially in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. But there's nothing woolly-eyed about his idealism. He recognizes what is achievable, doable. He never allows the best to become the enemy of the good.

"So he's both idealistic and pragmatic."

The idealism is there, though in the background. The paramount concern is always, 'how can this situation, as it exists on the ground, be pushed in the general direction one wants it to go?' Progress in most matters is in increments. Fighting that fact simply impedes the process.

Mr. Barton's grounded reading of people and situations made him exceptionally effective in diplomacy, Dr. Hampson says. But the man's intellect was no less instrumental.

"This is a man gifted with a formidable intellect and wisdom and a very shrewd negotiator. Many of his colleagues have commented on that fact. The historical memory, the easy reach for facts and details, were quite remarkable. He also displayed a terrific wit and sense of humour. And today, 22 years later, Mr. Barton can still remember things with an acuity, lustre and clarity that suggest that all these things happened yesterday.

"It's wonderful, and a sure sign that he keeps his mind fully engaged."

In his apartment, where he still cooks every meal, Mr. Barton smiles as he ponders a reporter's suggestion that Trevor Findlay, the first Barton Chair at Carleton, has far more belief in disarmament than he does.

"I know, I know, Trevor and I have talked about this ... but he'll learn," he says, and laughs softly.

He's made his assertion that the Russians and Americans won't go for it. Both states, along with three other nuclear-armed states – the United Kingdom, France and China – have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, opened for signature in 1968 and aimed at limiting



Early signs of a future in disarmament: A demonstration platoon from Calgary's infantry training centre, where Lt. Barton commanded troops, offered a small-arms and gas decontamination display in Calgary in 1940.

the spread of nuclear weapons. Only three nations of the world – Israel, India, and Pakistan – have never signed the treaty, and all three have nuclear weapons. North Korea, which signed the treaty and then withdrew, is assumed to have tested a small nuclear device a year and a half ago.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty called for eventual disarmament, but not even non-proliferation has been achieved. "It's a very difficult subject," Mr. Barton says. In any case, he believes Dr. Findlay's idealism on the issue of disarmament will fade. "He seems to have his head screwed on right. He'll realize it's a bit of an idle hope."

Regardless of their differing opinions on disarmament, Trevor Findlay likes the "symbolism of this donation.

"The issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are so important ... we need more such studies, and money attracts money, so I hope that other potential donors, at Carleton or other institutions, will follow suit. Mr. Barton has done a wonderful thing in ensuring that those

studies at Carleton can go on indefinitely."

Disarmament and arms control are easy ideals to support, but the world hasn't been making real progress in implementing them. The number of states having nuclear weapons threatens to grow. Incidents of illicit possession of nuclear materials occur frequently. The International Atomic Energy Agency cites 275 cases from 1993 to 2006, including 15 involving highly enriched uranium, or plutonium, both bomb materials. Russia alone has enough nuclear material to make up to 40 bombs.

"This issue isn't going away. We have to address it," Dr. Findlay says.

That would be obvious to Bill Barton. He was present at the creation, representing Canada in the discussions in Vienna in 1956 that led to the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He had two stints at UN headquarters in New York, the second, from 1976 to 1980, as Canadian Ambassador to the UN.

Those were heady days for Canada. From 1977 to 1978, the country had a seat on the Security Council, and for a month in each of those years, Mr. Barton held its revolving position of council chair.

By common consent in UN corridors, he was one of the most canny, subtle and intelligent representatives Canada had ever sent.

He lent his name to a group of Western diplomats – "the Barton Group" – who met weekly to hold the feet of the great powers to the fire on disarmament and more general security issues.

In 1980, he retired from what was then the Department of External Affairs, but hardly to a life of hammocks and croquet.

In 1984, the Trudeau government asked him to become the inaugural chairman of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, a Crown corporation that was to increase Canadian understanding, both among government and the public, of issues relating to peace and security. The late Geoffrey Pearson, another policy heavyweight, was the institute's chief executive. Mr. Barton retired from the institute in 1989, three years before the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney abolished it.

Though free of formal employment, in his early 70s, he retained membership in the Canadian Institute of International Af-

fairs, a non-partisan discussion group, as well as in the United Nations Association in Canada, a charitable organization seeks to engage the Canadian public in the work of the UN and in international issues.

His personal engagement in the world, and especially in the issues that were close to his heart, continued unabated. In 1993, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. Now 90, he can look back on a full and very long life.

"I never had any notion I would live to this age," he said recently. And while his mind, to be sure, retains an extraordinary clarity, his physical condition in no way denies the accretion of years.

"I think 90 years is enough time – I can only expect to see more of the same. But I would like to keep living so I can build up my estate, so the university will get that much more benefit."

Nothing morbid in those words. He speaks with a straightforward simplicity, free of rancor and bombast. He is still the old-school diplomat.

**M**r. Barton believes that ethnicity, religion and economics have always been the cause of conflict in the world.

"The problem is that we're always saying, 'Our group comprises all the real people – and all the other groups are something else.

"It's fear of 'the other,' I suppose. If someone has a different cultural background or different religion, we don't count them as being fully human.

"And economic differences lead to conflict between those who have and those who don't have."

Is there hope for a more peaceful future?

"I don't know, but I think so. As we get more civilized, we seem more tolerant of differences of culture or ethnicity or creed.

"As for the economic differences, we can hope that technological progress will help us even out the inequities."

He cites the United States as a nation that has obviously made great progress in the past five decades.

"There's far more respect for women and for black people than we could have imagined just after the Second World War. And this kind of improvement I think is happening in many parts of the world."

He's less sanguine about prospects for resolving the psychological separation between the West and much of the Muslim world.

"I don't know that much about the



United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim with William Barton, who presided over a morning meeting of the 33rd regular session of the General Assembly in October, 1978.

Muslim nations, but I think their societies have been more primitive, more like Europe in the 15th Century, and they will have more catching up to do.

"But I hope in time we will all recognize that we have to live together and work together on this planet.

"But who knows? When the future comes, it never looks the way we expect it to."

**A**mong his foreign postings, Mr. Barton spent four years, from 1972 to 1976, in Geneva. He served there as ambassador to the European office of the UN, to the Disarmament Conference, and to the office of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (the GATT, now subsumed into the World Trade Organization).

For part of that time, his second-in-command was Percy Eastham, now living in retirement in British Columbia.

"Bill was a wonderful friend and man but also an excellent boss," Mr. Eastham recalled in a recent interview. "You could go to him when needed, but he expected you to run your part of the show. He didn't try to second-guess you particularly."

He was also a quick study. Mr. Eastham was impressed by how quickly Mr. Barton came up to speed on the intricacies of the GATT discussions.

"The intellect is very fine, and whenever I've been in discussion groups with him, he's kept up with the best of them, always offering an insightful analysis."

Mr. Barton's concern for weapons control and non-proliferation betrayed great concern for people, but the compassion

came with real spine, Mr. Eastham recalls.

"Certainly, he's a man of peace, but he's well grounded in the art of war and of asserting your rights as a country. He's no pushover, though he usually pursues his aims in a multilateral approach that takes into account objectives shared with other countries."

His predecessor in Geneva was the late George Ignatieff, father of the Liberal MP and leadership contender Michael Ignatieff. "The contrast with Ignatieff was great. Ignatieff was more flamboyant and more of a character. Bill was quiet; Bill never took anybody by storm."

**M**r. Barton was born in Winnipeg in December 1917. At age 4, his family moved to Vancouver, where he lived most of the time until his graduation from the University of British Columbia in 1940. His father was an accountant, his mother a housewife.

The Great Depression arrived when he was only 12, and he remembers the family being poor but never deprived.

"I can remember my father coming home the odd time and saying we had 10 dollars to last a whole week," he says. "But he never complained and we always had the essentials. The things we didn't have, we never missed."

Every summer, he enjoyed family vacations at Boundary Bay, on a peninsula of land south of Surrey over which the American border runs.

"For a month, we would stay in a rather ramshackle cottage – really, more shack than cottage – and my father would



Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier met Mr. Barton at a Carleton University event in Ottawa, after Mr. Barton made his bequest.

drive back and forth each weekend from the city.”

The cottage had a wood stove, one tap with running water, no refrigerator, and an outhouse in back.

“We were fine with it,” Mr. Barton says.

These were the years of American Prohibition, and on some Fridays there would be excitement, if agents of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service came looking for liquor.

“A lot of Canadians stayed on the American side, and there was no Customs agent, you know – so many Canadians, including my father, brought liquor in freely, in spite of the American Prohibition.

“But if the ‘revenuers’ were around, on Fridays we would have to go to the Canadian side and catch my father before he drove over the border. You wouldn’t want him to bring any booze across.”

As a teenager, Mr. Barton had dreams of becoming a teacher or a lawyer. In the late 1930s, he enrolled in an honours course in English and history at the University of British Columbia, where he also served in the Canadian Officers’ Training Corps.

When the Commonwealth declared war on Nazi Germany in September 1939, Mr. Barton, as part of his COTC training, was taking a course on gas warfare at Nanaimo. He wanted to join the army, but he had been blind in one eye from birth and, since he was within seven months of earning his degree, he was advised to return to university. He graduated in 1940 and then joined the army. But there was no chance of the war coming to Bill Barton.

When the war with Japan broke out in December 1941, he was back at Nanaimo, this time serving as an instructor in anti-

gas warfare.

“We were supposed to be in training, but our general didn’t think we were ready for full deployment, so he declared that we were protecting Vancouver Island. So at night we had a blackout, and we heard rumours of submarines off the coast, but nothing ever really happened that I know of. It was kind of a joke.”

In 1942, he was sent to the Suffield Experiment Station in Alberta, where the British were leading research on gas warfare. Eventually, he became chief instructor of the chemical weapons school.

After the war ended, the Department of National Defence invited him to join the newly created Defence Research Board, which he joined in 1946. He quickly rose through the ranks, by 1950 becoming the board’s secretary.

In 1952, he was seconded to the Department of External Affairs, which wished to tap the scientific knowledge he had acquired in the previous six years. “I was very quickly wedded to External Affairs, and I joined the department in 1954,” Mr. Barton recalls.

His assignments were a grab bag, everything from defence liaison with the United States, to atomic energy, in the spotlight following U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower’s “Atoms for Peace” speech at the UN in December 1953, which called for the peaceful use of atomic energy to be used peacefully by schools, hospitals and research institutions throughout the world.

In 1956, Mr. Barton went to Vienna. Then came the Geneva and New York assignments that made Mr. Barton one of

the most prominent and respected of Canadian diplomats.

Retired diplomat Paul Lapointe was Mr. Barton’s deputy at the United Nations from 1976 to 1979. He believes his effectiveness was the product of his industry, humility and willingness to deflect attention.

“There are a lot of divas around the UN, but that was never Bill’s style,” he recalls. “He was the grinder, the guy who did his homework, the unassuming guy who was always ready with whatever was needed – the right words in a document, the right strategy, whatever. He was especially effective in small groups, which is where most of the work at the UN is done.”

(Almost all UN work is done behind the scenes. By the time public presentations are made, agreements have been worked out and the public statements are almost never a surprise to any diplomat.)

“Bill was inconspicuous, but he got the job done. Part of his strength was that everyone liked him. I don’t know of anybody who disliked Bill. He was not boastful, people from all delegations considered him a friend.”

In his years at External Affairs, Mr. Barton got to know quite a few major Canadian players.

While he wasn’t impressed by Trudeau’s feelings on disarmament, Mr. Barton applauds the late prime minister’s overtures to Cuba, at a time when the United States opposed such amity.

“I’m no expert on Cuba, but I always believed there were only advantages in keeping communications open.”

He doesn’t wish to comment upon the prime ministers who came after his retirement from External Affairs in 1980. But he does venture an opinion on Conservative Prime minister Stephen Harper’s government’s approach to his old department.

“My impression is that Stephen Harper doesn’t listen very much to the department. He only wants the lines of communication to run from the top downward. But that’s a mistake, I believe. He should allow himself to hear the facts of situations as the experts see them.

“That doesn’t mean that he should do what they suggest – but he needs the benefit of hearing another side to the story. It can only be to his advantage.”

In September 1947, at Suffield, while working for the Defence Research Board, Bill Barton had lunch with

**BILL BARTON ON TODAY'S WORLD****Canada's involvement in Afghanistan:**

I approach this subject with prejudices, because the UN and NATO went in there, and I was a UN man, so I'm instinctively in favour of our being there.

I don't think we should assume that the Taliban will never change, and once we leave, they'll just take the country over again.

The Taliban is subject to change, just as we are.

We should be talking to the Taliban. We should always be talking to the people we are engaging militarily. They could be part of a political solution.

I suspect that there are some people among them even now who could be part of a political solution.

They would have to soften some of their views, for example, on the oppression of women.

But give them time and I believe that could happen.

One thing, however, we must do – and that is announce a definite departure date.

**The Iraq War:**

I didn't agree with the Americans going in there in the first place. I didn't believe there were weapons of mass destruction.

I thought Cheney and Wolfowitz and Perle and that gang had their own ideas about how things would go. Things turned out differently, but now that they've gone in, the Americans have a responsibility to the country. They can't pull out quickly. That would be disastrous.

The problem is, we don't know how much difference staying there another month or year or decade might make. Iraq is very complicated.

I'm torn about what the Americans should do.

I do think that if they decide to leave relatively soon, they must avoid locking themselves into a definite departure date. That would be crazy.

**Russia, India, China:**

I don't worry about Russia. I don't think they have aggressive intentions. I do think they're flexing their muscles, as all powerful nations do, to make sure they get the recognition they think they deserve.

I think Putin believes Russia is acting as a force for good in the world.

China is becoming far stronger economically, as everyone knows.

And India, with its huge manufacturing resources, is growing nearly as quickly as China is. I don't think many people are aware of that.

I think the influence of these three nations is going to grow at a tremendous rate over the next 50 years. We can't imagine the influence they will have.

Jeanie Robinson, a young woman he had never met before. Her brother, a scientist at Suffield, had suggested a foursome for lunch – he and his wife, Mr. Barton and Jeanie.

"I can't tell you what exactly appealed to me – I just liked her, everything," Mr. Barton recalls. "She was clever, a good housewife, and a very good cook," he adds, laughing.

That first meeting was in September, they were engaged in October, and married in December.

She passed away in 1996.

The Bartons had a son, Scott, a nephew of his wife's whom they adopted. Scott had Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism, and required a lot of attention.

"But he was a nice kid – I was very fond of him," Mr. Barton recalls. Scott, who had recently been living in a care centre, passed away suddenly in 2006, leaving Mr. Barton with no immediate family. The single upside was that the money he had carefully been saving to provide for Scott's future care, could now be put to another use.

He had already created two scholarships at Carleton. Now, he was free to enlarge his contribution, an opportunity that became the Barton Chair at the Norman Paterson School.

Jeanie Hicks, who is Jeanie Barton's niece, says she has never understood how Mr. Barton, with all his professional duties, always managed to make himself so available for family.

"He, and Jeanie too, were always present. I could count on them. When my father died, when I graduated from high school and university, they were always there."

Mr. Barton, at one time an inveterate cross-country skier, taught her the sport.

For years she has gone to his apartment on Saturday mornings for waffles and coffee and a few hours of reading newspapers together. She remembers a long discussion she once had with him about how she was considering changing professions.

"Bill didn't really say anything. He asked a few questions and listened. He made no recommendations at all. But at the end of the discussion, I knew what I was going to do. Certainly, this is a very wise man."

She's especially impressed by his continuing clarity of mind. At the recent celebration of his 90th birthday, guests made up a list of difficult questions about his birth year, 1917.

"It was kind of scary. We couldn't

stump Bill. He even got the question about which prime minister died in 1917." (For the record, it was Mackenzie Bowell.)

She says when her uncle goes, as he one day must, one of the things she'll most miss is his sense of humour. "He's had that wonderful career, and how does he think about it? Well, several times he's described it as '40 years of undetected crime.'

"You can't top a guy like that."

**M**r. Barton's choice of Carleton as the recipient of his donation required hard thinking.

UBC, where he graduated nearly 70 years ago, had given him an honorary degree. And Mount Allison University, in Sackville, N.B., also had its claims. His wife had studied there and that university had also conferred an honorary doctorate on him.

"The thing was that Carleton University was in Ottawa, the city where I was living, and Carleton also had more financial need than the other two. So I decided to put my money where the need was greatest."

He intended to make no stipulation about how the money should be used, since he wanted the university to have entirely free rein. "But they talked me into this, and I'm delighted by the chair that's been set up."

**F**lora MacDonald was Canada's secretary of state for external affairs – the equivalent of today's minister of foreign affairs position – during the short-lived government of prime minister Joe Clark in 1979-80.

When the government came in, there was never any question of removing him from his position as Canada's ambassador to the UN, she says. "Because of the respect and regard with which the department and the diplomatic circle viewed him, we certainly decided to continue him in place."

She says one of the funniest incidents of her life occurred in Mr. Barton's company. Pope John Paul II came to the UN to make a speech, Ms. MacDonald went to New York for the occasion and she and Mr. Barton attended a reception for the pope.

When they entered the room, the protocol officer, recognizing Mr. Barton, introduced the couple as "The Ambassador from Canada, Mr. William Barton, and his wife."

This would never do, and they explained the situation.

The next introduction was for "Cana-

da's Foreign Minister and her husband."

"Well, we all said, 'no no no.'"

The pope had been hearing all this confusion about who was married to whom, and when the couple, finally properly introduced, were presented to him, he said: "Is there something I can do for the two of you?"

There was another shoe still to fall.

The reception was being broadcast over closed-circuit television, and Mr. Barton phoned his wife, herself something of a joker, to find out if she had been watching.

"Well, she had, and she told him, 'Don't speak to me ... call my lawyer.'"

"It was quite a day."

**F**or most diplomats, the rewards are the knowledge that they are doing important things, and enjoying a certain level of prestige and respect. But few get rich.

For Arthur Menzies, a former ambassador to China and among Mr. Barton's friends for nearly six decades, there is no mystery about Mr. Barton's financial achievements. He was always canny about where he put his money. More important, the Bartons lived a simple life.

"People who achieve, it often goes to their head and they're pleased with themselves and always dress and party for the occasion. Not Bill and Jeanie. They dressed well but never ostentatiously. They were never spenders just for show purposes."

Mr. Barton and Mr. Menzies, six months older, are two of the oldest surviving members of the department. "Once you get past 85 or so, you can only hope to still have one's wits. We've been lucky."

**T**here's no doubting that there's less spring in Mr. Barton's step than there once was.

His sense of balance is more precarious. He has sciatica. His good eye is losing out to macular degeneration. Sometimes there is an annoying ringing in his ears.

"I realize that I'm getting to be an old man," he says.

But he takes each day as it comes.

And there is that final project – using that failing eye to look out for the best investment opportunities, so that the final disbursement to Carleton, when it's made, is the most generous possible.

His niece's words were on target: "You can't top a guy like that."

Charles Enman is an Ottawa writer.

# Sharing the wealth

UBC devises a plan to share drug revenue writes **Don Cayo**

**T**here is not much value, and usually even less prospect for future funding, in scientific discoveries that just sit on the shelf. So the savvier universities in Canada have begun to focus ever more on commercialization – on pushing new research to the point where it can lure in a private partner and result in something new to sell.

But what of the old notions of academic idealism? Of the drive to simply make the world a better place?

There is room for that, too, under a new policy adopted late last year by the industry liaison office of the University of British Columbia. It commits UBC to ensuring any future drug discovery from its researchers and its labs will be accessible to all who need it. This follows the lead of a handful of elite schools such as University of California (Berkeley) and Yale, but it blazes a new trail for Canadian institutions. Some, like University of Manitoba, have a similar policy for specific projects – sometimes this is a condition of funding from outside agencies like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – but UBC is the first to adopt it campus-wide.

What will it mean?

The first case where it applies is a contract with a private company to produce a newly developed cheap, benign version of an expensive old drug that's rife with nasty side-effects. For this, all it requires is a simple provision in any contract with a private partner to ensure it will be made available at cost in countries where most people can't afford to pay the usual retail price.

This drug, a replacement for Amphotericin B or "amp-the-terrible" as it is known in the lab, can cure lethal fungal infections. In rich countries like ours, it can extend the life of AIDS or cancer patients, many of whom die of fungal infections before the main disease has a chance to finish them off. In poor countries it could be a godsend to the 200 million people a year who contract leishmaniasis. This fungus, which most rich people have never heard of, kills about 500,000 people a year in India alone.

For other kinds of discoveries, the contract details will be a bit more complex. For example, if a UBC-discovered drug that is already on the market is tweaked as a result

of new research, the policy will apply only to the new component. It will not retroactively affect the existing drug. So a case-by-case deal will have to be struck with any company that makes the newer version.

The ability to make such practical case-by-case accommodations is a key feature of the policy, says Barbara Campbell, who was UBC's associate director of industry liaison when the policy was adopted. Indeed, she said, flexibility was pretty well the only concern that came up when the drug companies that UBC deals with were asked to comment on a draft policy last summer. They wanted such things as an option to produce low-cost drugs for poor countries themselves, rather than to automatically license other companies, she said, and UBC agreed they had a point. No doubt many poor countries would love to get the jobs that would result if low-cost versions of the drugs can be made locally. But the drug companies have a point in wanting to retain control. For one thing, they will better able to ensure consistent quality. They may be able to finesse some tax benefits at home, as well.

And, as I found out three years ago when I wrote about an immensely successful program to eradicate river blindness from West Africa, altruism can win an often-maligned drug company some major points when it comes to both public relations and staff morale. Merck, the company that holds the patent to the only effective preventative and treatment for this once-widespread disease, has pledged to donate as much as is needed for as long as it is needed to wipe out the disease. Not only has it, not surprisingly, received some positive publicity for this oft-repeated commitment, it has also found it to be an unexpectedly effective recruitment tool. Simply put, researchers like to work for a company they believe is doing good.

UBC may gain a similar recruitment advantage for being first to the plate with its new policy. I hope it does. But I wouldn't count on it lasting too long. Any edge it gets is likely to be eroded when other universities sign on to similar policies. I expect there will be lots of them. I hope it will be soon.

Don Cayo is a Vancouver writer.



TUNNELS OF MOOSE JAW

## Al Capone's Canada

The Chicago gangster once said he didn't know 'what street Canada was on' but the city of Moose Jaw insists he spent time there – and it offers tours of the tunnels he and fellow gangsters allegedly used for rum-running, **George Fetherling** reports

**S**ir Christopher Ondaatje, the London philanthropist who writes stately books of adventure travel, is now also the author of a semi-memoir entitled *The Power of Paper: A History, A Financial Adventure, and a Warning* (HarperCollins Canada). It tells how he made his fortune as a financier and stockbroker in Toronto. In doing so, however, it unintentionally repeats an old canard about, of all people, Al Capone. Like so many other writers and speakers, Sir Christopher reports that Capone once said "I don't even know what street Canada is on." The quotation has often been taken out of context this

way, leaving the impression that Capone was dissing the entire country, which he was not.

In 1931, the year Capone was finally convicted of tax evasion, he was seen more than once at what was then Toronto's finest hotel, the King Edward. Reputable people with no inclination to exaggerate or romanticise had spotted him there. *The Toronto Daily Star* sent one of its reporters, Roy Greenaway, to Chicago to try to confirm or refute these claims. Greenaway put the question to Capone in person. "I don't even know what street Canada is on" was simply Capone's way of saying

"Go away, kid." That much is clear from Mr. Greenaway's 1966 memoir *The News Game*. John Robert Colombo, the trivia collector, found the line and pasted it into *Colombo's Canadian Quotations* (1974) but without proper background or set-up. Such is one of the habits that render his reference books pretty worthless qua reference (without preventing them from being entertaining pastiches at times). From there, in any case, the sentence has been quoted and requoted endlessly.

That Prohibition-era American gangsters had Canadian associations was hardly news, then or now. Even the pop

culture is full of allusions to the fact. In Damon Runyon's story "Lily of St Pierre" a wounded New York gangster is sent by Montreal associates to the tiny French island off Newfoundland to recuperate – in one of the booze-transshipment warehouses owned by... (Mr. Runyon dared not use the family's name.) People of a certain age will recall Robert Stack as Elliot Ness on the TV series *The Untouchables*. The show ran from 1959 to 1963. What seemed to be its signature scene involved Mr. Ness and his men using a truck as a battering ram to break down the doors to some Chicago warehouse. Once the shooting stopped, Mr. Stack would pick up one of the bottles of hooch, hold up the label and say, "Looks like a Canadian print job." Or there is that revealing line in *The Godfather II* in which Lee Strasberg, playing Hyman Roth, the character inspired by Meyer Lansky, tells Michael Corleone how as young men Mr. Roth and Michael's father "made a fortune" smuggling Cuban molasses (used to make rum) across the border into Canada in false-bottomed trucks.

That the Prairies were also mixed up in the phenomenally lucrative bootlegging business is beyond dispute. The historian James H. Gray did much of the spade-work in his 1972 book *Booze: The Impact of Whisky on the Prairie West*. Peter C. Newman, focusing more narrowly on one set of individuals, filled in large gaps with his book *Bronfman Dynasty* (1978). But Capone, well, that's a different matter. Or is it? There were Capone sightings not only in Toronto but in Windsor, where it hardly seems out of the question that he would have had business interests in those days.

But Moose Jaw? The city of 33,000 in south-central Saskatchewan has built a great deal of tourism traffic by exaggerating what may have been its slight connection to Capone. There is a Big Al's Café near the bus station and a Capone's Hide-away Theme Motel down near the now-closed railway station (where trains once connected the city directly to Chicago). Shops along Main Street, a thoroughfare that is extra wide, pleasant and in no sense manic, sell Capone coffee mugs, Capone tee shirts, and toy tommy guns. Such enterprises aim at the surprisingly large numbers of people who visit the Tunnels of Moose Jaw. This is a private business that offers two guided tours deep beneath Main Street, one retelling the story of the city's Chinese community, the other retailing the unrelated local Al Capone folklore. The former is careful, accurate and rewarding; the latter is entertaining



A gangster-era still in the 1920s



There's no evidence that Al Capone (above, in hat) – shown speaking to his attorney, William F. Waugh (right), with an unidentified man – was ever in Moose Jaw but that doesn't stop the Saskatchewan city from using the tenuous connection for tourism purposes.



TUNNELS OF MOOSE JAW

Regina court documents show that Arthur Flegenheimer of New York once brought a suit against Alphonse Capone (middle) – shown with friends, Mike Ahern (right) and Albert Fink – of Chicago seeking compensation for 60 cases of Canadian liquor that turned out to be bad.

as, in the proprietors' words, "research tourism".

Accidents have played a key role in Moose Jaw's recent economic revitalisation. In 1910, for example, a crew drilling for natural gas discovered instead a geothermal spring a thousand meters underground. For 25 years, beginning in 1932, the spring supplied a spa called the Natatorium with hot water rich in sulphates and other minerals, not unlike that found at the Banff Hot Springs in Alberta, the Radium Hot Springs in B.C. or indeed the

Manitou Springs elsewhere in Saskatchewan (or for that matter the baths at Bath in England). The well had to be shut down in 1971. By the end of the following decade, however, a new deeper one was operating. This led to creation of the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa Resort in downtown Moose Jaw, round which is built a large hotel. You'll find it there, directly opposite the casino.

Similarly, in 1985 a hole suddenly opened up on Main Street, gobbling up a passing truck and revealing the first of

what proved to be a long complex network of brick tunnels. The passageways connect the two sides of Main to River Street, where one of them links a number of buildings said to have been gambling joints and bordellos in the 1920s. In those days the city was run by a notoriously corrupt police chief, the kind whose presence is the first requirement for status as a wide-open town and who did indeed have bootlegging credentials. Of course, such tunnels were not uncommon when hotels and office buildings had steam plants and resident stationary engineers to run them. No doubt they offered protection against the Prairie winters as well, to say nothing of providing a place for Chinese immigrants, most legal but others not, to live, in very poor conditions, and work in the laundry and other businesses located there.

The 50-minute tour of this underground Chinatown is played straight and gives people rather a cogent introduction to the racism that the Chinese in Canada endured for so long. The Capone tour of the same length is more about laughs than learning. To be fair, though, the subject is one about which facts are few once one gets away from the Moose Jaw's demimonde more generally to focus on Capone in particular. After plans for these attractions were announced, old-timers – a former barber who claimed he used to cut Al's hair, a retired doctor who said he once treated him for tonsillitis – came forward. There was considerable debate about whether Moose Jaw should be calling attention to its seamy past. The pro-tourism forces carried the day. Twenty-some years ago, before the great commodities boom, Saskatchewan was still a have-not province.

Is there any credible evidence that Al Capone was ever in Moose Jaw? Apparently not. Is there some reason to suppose that he knew people who knew people there? Court documents in Regina show that Arthur Flegenheimer of New York once brought suit in Saskatchewan against Alphonse Capone of Chicago seeking compensation for sixty cases of Canadian liquor that turned out to be bad. They settled out of court and the defendant refunded the plaintiff's money. Mr. Flegenheimer was also known by the cognomen Dutch Schultz. Capone must indeed have known what street Canada is on. But he wasn't saying.

George Fetherling is a Vancouver novelist and commentator.

## The low-down on Prince Edward County grapes

People often ask me about local wines. With its relatively mild climate due to the moderating effect of the large and deep Lake Ontario just to the North, the Niagara Peninsula is in many ways the perfect place to grow grapes in Ontario. Many professional wine folks initially scoffed at the idea of seriously growing grapes in Niagara due to the harsh winter climate, but the wine industry that is now flourishing there, along with the many award-winning bottles that have been produced, have proven the skeptics wrong.

Now, there is a new frontier even closer to home that has similar skeptics scoffing – Prince Edward County.

Located at the northern tip of Lake Ontario near the sleepy town of Picton, this area is much colder than Niagara. It's so cold, in fact, that it is considered suicide by most growers not to bury the canes of their vines in the ground every fall to prevent total loss due to the extreme winter conditions. This process is called "hilling up" and is required for areas that regularly get winter temperatures in the -25 Celsius range. At -21 Celsius, most grape vines lose the primary node on the cane, affecting production in the following growing season. At -26 Celsius, growers can lose the whole bud and the vine will quickly die due to frostbite. And to make it just a little more challenging, most grapes need to be netted in mid-August to prevent the local robins from making off with the whole harvest in their cute little beaks. There are not many areas in the world that people would be crazy enough to put up with these hardships and dangers in order to try to grow wine grapes. Why do it? Why not just go two or so hours south where things are proven and the weather is so much nicer, you ask? The answer is limestone.

Considered the gold standard of grape-growing soils, limestone makes up the bulk of the Cote d'Or in Burgundy, the spiritual home of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Prince Edward County is the only moderately temperate place in Canada with a bunch of limestone. Actually, most of the limestone that makes up our Parliament Buildings in Ottawa



STEPHEN BECKTA

came from this part of the world, back in the day. This soil offers a mineral-rich flavour and silky texture that is quite captivating.

Waupoos winery was the first to plant grapes in the county back in 1993. It also opened the first winery in 2001. Until recently Waupoos specialized in hybrid grape varieties that are more winter-hardy but yield lesser wines than traditional grapes like Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Since Waupoos launched, 13 more wineries have opened up in the county with the best being Huff Estates, Clossen Chase, Sandbanks, Rosehall Run and Norman Hardie. Almost everyone brings in grapes from Niagara to supplement their meagre production, at least for the moment.

Personally, I see nothing wrong with this practice if the wines are bottled separately and marketed as such. Many wineries, however, choose to blend Niagara juice with PEC juice and call their wines "Ontario", which I believe hurts their up-and-coming brand.

Last year was the first that wineries could put the designation "Prince Edward County" on their labels, having recently been accredited VQA status as an official wine-growing region. They needed to grow 500 tonnes of grapes locally in order to get the designation, and this small group of wineries is very proud. But to me, the gem in the lot has to be Norm Hardie. Not only are his wines the standouts in terms of quality and price, but he has the depth of experience to be able to mentor many winemakers in the county to their full potential. Mr. Hardie spent six years traveling the world's great wine regions, many times sleeping on floors and working for little or no money in order to learn his craft from the best growers and winemakers. He also spent seven years as sommelier at the esteemed Truffles Restaurant at the Toronto Four Seasons Hotel, which gave him an incredible palate and broad consumer perspective. All this makes for a huge fish in a very small pond.

To listen to Mr. Hardie, Prince Edward County is the next Burgundy – weather and critics be damned. Take a (short) drive to the limestone coasts of Lake Ontario one beautiful summer day, meet the growers in your neighbourhood over a glass of their finest Pinot Noir and you might just agree.

Cheers!

Stephen Beckta is owner and sommelier of Beckta dining & wine.

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#### Clossen Chase Vineyards

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Clossen Chase Vineyards calls itself a reflection of the true nature of Prince Edward County. This winery is housed in a heritage barn. The wine-makers use "centuries-old European traditions to create exceptional quality Pinot Noir and Chardonnay." They hold daily tastings and are open from Tuesday to Sunday, May through October.

#### Huff Estates Winery

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Bloomfield, Ontario  
(613) 393-5802

Huff Estates Winery bills itself as a producer of wines that express the finest terroir. "With two separate vineyards growing Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, our goal is to capture the essence of the soils and meso-climates of this unique region." It specializes in Bordeaux and Burgundy wines.

**Norman Hardie**  
 1152 Greer Rd.  
 Hillier, Ontario  
 (613) 399-5297

Norman Hardie selected his location for the combination of great soil, the micro-climate and the gently sloping topography. He honed his wine skills working around the world and focuses on small batches of high-quality wines. "The vines are from France. The limestone soil is in Southern Ontario. The taste and nose are from me. I invite you to experience my experience."

**Rosehall Run Vineyards Inc.**  
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**Waupoos Estates Winery**  
 3016 County Road #8  
 Waupoos, Ontario  
 info@waupoosestateswinery.com  
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The Waupoos Estates Winery has a tasting bar, boutique and lakeside restaurant. "Offering a variety of well-balanced, aromatic wines, we are proud to be considered pioneers in the industry. Our winery, created out of natural limestone, will become an important landmark in the area, but it is the heart and soul of the people involved in our development that will have truly become a cherished part of Prince Edward County's heritage."



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# A rock and a hard place

## Why peace eludes all efforts in the Middle East

by George Abraham

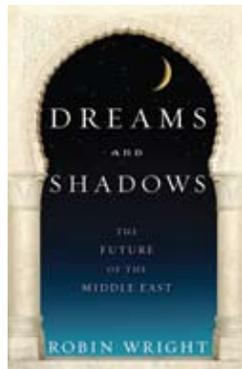
There are those who believe that September 11 would never have happened had Jan. 2, 2001 ended on a positive note. On the table was a set of ideas developed by then U.S. President Bill Clinton: a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and most of the West Bank, with a capital in East Jerusalem, international buffer troops to guarantee its sovereignty, and an unlimited right of return for Palestinian refugees to the nascent nation.

The U.S. president's proposals – that have almost universally been described as unprecedented both before and after they were first articulated – had already been accepted by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and, with just 17 days left in office, Mr. Clinton had waited 10 days to hear from the Palestinian side. This was to be the departing U.S. president's abiding contribution to world peace, but it ended with a historic equivocation: "La-Na'am," in the words of an American mediator in the talks, Arabic for a simultaneous yes and no.

Dennis Ross, the tireless American mediator who worked under presidents George Bush, Sr. and Mr. Clinton, in a recent book tells the world starkly who was responsible for missing the opportunity for peace and locking in a root cause for terrorism. "Only one leader was unable or unwilling to confront history and mythology: Yasir Arafat." The Palestinian leader, who died in 2004, wanted more time and clarifications on Mr. Clinton's take-it-or-leave-it proposal, leading to a collapse of the talks and the offer being removed from the table. The eight million disenfranchised people whose cause he championed with a mix of peacemaking and violence are no closer to gaining a homeland than in 2001.

Why has the Palestinian-Israeli conflict stuck in the throat of the world for 60 years? That's a six-decade period that saw colonization end, the Cold War peak and then disappear into the mist of history, and a plethora of new nations born from the economic and philosophical wreckage of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Yet the Palestinian tragedy continues. Former British prime minister Tony Blair, appointed to his role last year as special envoy to the Middle East, is another in a parade of international heavyweights who have tried to make peace in the region and failed.

Now, with the American administration on the cusp of a diplomatic "surge" in the region, Canada is largely missing in action after spearheading multilateral negotiations on the issue of Palestinian refugees in the 1990s. Here are some recent attempts to explore the Middle East conundrum.



**Robin Wright, *Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East*, Penguin Press, 2008, 465 pages**

With three decades of experience in the Middle East, this veteran American journalist appears to have begun writing the book on an optimistic note. It was written in the wake of three "seminal" events in 2005 and 2006: the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri and the forced exit of Syria from that nation; a sham referendum in Egypt and the resulting street demonstrations; and the election of the radical Hamas movement as the governing force in the Palestinian territories.

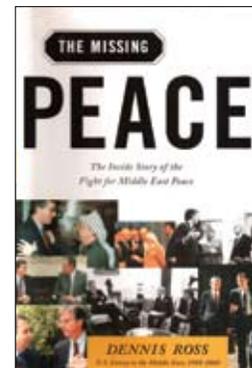
Ms. Wright captures the Middle East's many ironies that partly explain why peacemaking has always found stony ground:

- The elections that brought Hamas to power in early 2006 were the most credible yet, but many nations cut off relations with the new government, Canada being the first.
- The Muslim Brotherhood, still sturdy since its conception in 1928, remains the best organized political movement in the region, yet is banned as a terrorist organization in the two nations where it had established a forceful presence, Egypt and Syria.
- Lebanon's politics have long been a dysfunctional mess, yet its people are the

most free, their society the most civil, in the whole neighbourhood.

- And, lastly, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has ruled with the iron fist of emergency laws ever since Sadat was assassinated in 1981.

In a book featuring long interviews with people from around the region, Ms. Wright offers this insight from the ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani: "To get people to accept a constitution, or the idea of voting, took us time. Some people didn't see it as important." This contradicts the western belief that all people desire democracy and would fight for it if only we stood by them. In the final analysis, though, the author brands most of the so-called democratizing changes in recent years as "participatory despotism" and concludes that the "American experiment" of spreading democracy via the invasion of Iraq has proved "counter-productive."



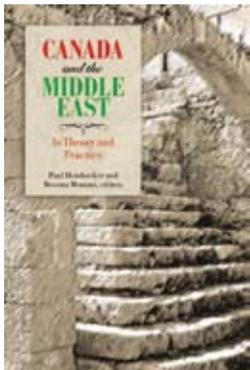
**Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004, 840 pages**

Mr. Ross remains the standard bearer when it comes to Middle East mediation, despite persistent misgivings throughout his 12-year stint (1988-2000) that the U.S. and he himself were less than "honest brokers." He writes, "My being Jewish gave Palestinians, and Arabs more generally, a ready-made handle to explain publicly why America was not following its 'interests' in the Middle East."

The envoy delivers an insider account of high-stakes diplomacy and he was prophetic when he offered this prognosis after Arafat's thumbs down on Jan. 2, 2001: "The game was over. For the foreseeable

future, it would be necessary to switch gears; we would be out of the peacemaking business and back to a preoccupation with crisis prevention and the defusing of conflict."

This provokes the question of why the Americans have remained the only credible interlocutor between the Palestinians and the Israelis, a question that hovers over the next book.



**Paul Heinbecker and Bessma Momani (editors), *Canada and the Middle East: In Theory and Practice*, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007, 232 pages**

If Norway can play a bridging role in the most intractable of trouble spots, why not Canada? (The Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians were shepherded behind-the-scenes by Norway, among other diplomatic initiatives in Guatemala and Sri Lanka.) This timely book shows that the response depends on whom you are asking. The best perspective comes from a political science profes-

or at McGill University, Rex Brynen, who says that Canada failed to follow through on its outstanding work on the refugee file in the early 1990s. Suffering from an "in-grained lack of adventurism," Mr. Brynen argues that Canadian diplomats should have worked more closely with Mr. Ross and the Clinton administration in the 1999-2000 period to help prepare for the negotiations that eventually collapsed on Jan. 2, 2001.

The book breaks new ground by including the perspective of two academics on the role of Canada's Jewish and Arab communities in the crafting of foreign policy. While describing "societal input" as one among many factors at play, they see this sort of advocacy as an inevitable part of a global shift toward identity-based politics. "Canadian international policy should be informed by the values, ideas, and preferences of Canadians themselves, rather than just determined by political leaders on the advice of a professional public service." Those "Canadians themselves" emphatically include those of Jewish and Arabic backgrounds, in the view of contributing writers Brent E. Sasley and Tami Amanda Jacoby.

But this lobbying on behalf of "kin states" by Canadians makes it harder for Ottawa to lead a diplomatic effort to mollify the issues that divide Palestinians from Israelis, says Mr. Brynen. This study of all aspects of Canada's diplomacy in the region is a must-read for anybody who sees a natural role for Pearsonian bridge-building in the Middle East. As the McGill professor argues, Canada has "ample reason to keep trying."

**RELATED READING**

**Kingmakers (Hardcover)**  
**by Karl Meyer (W.W. Norton)**

A narrative history tracing today's troubles back to grandiose imperial overreach of Great Britain and the United States

**The Epicenter of Crisis: The New Middle East (Paperback)**  
**by Alexander T. J. Lennon (Editor) (MIT Press)**

The book argues that six contiguous states epitomize the security challenges of a post-9/11, globalized world: Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

**Impossible Peace: Israel/Palestine Since 1989 (Hardcover)**

**by Mark Levine (Zed Books)**  
This account of the peace process shows how by learning from history it may be possible to avoid the errors long dooming peace in the region.

**The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for**

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# Malaysians' home reflects their energy

High Commissioner Dennis Ignatius and his wife, Cherry, make people feel at home in their Rockcliffe abode

By Margo Roston



ALL PHOTOS: DYANNE WILSON

The receiving rooms at the residence of Malaysian High Commissioner Dennis Ignatius and his wife, Cherry, are warm and welcoming. In these rooms, they pulled up the wall-to-wall carpeting and installed hardwood made of merbau, a tree indigenous to the Asia Pacific.

**W**hen you hang up your coat in the foyer of the home of Malaysia's High Commissioner Dennis Ignatius and his wife, Cherry, you can't help but notice the tubes of tennis balls stashed on the shelf.

They say something about the people who live here and sure enough, once through the door, you meet an experienced, warm, active diplomatic couple. Mr. Ignatius plays at the New Edinburgh

tennis club, enjoys cross-country skiing on MacKay Lake not far from his Mariposa Road house, and goes out cycling.

Along with the formal trappings at their Rockcliffe Tudor-style house, there are buckets full of bright red geraniums in the entranceway and photographs of their daughters in the study. The aromatic scent of Malaysian curry puffs spices the air.

"When people come to our house, we want them to feel at home," says the high

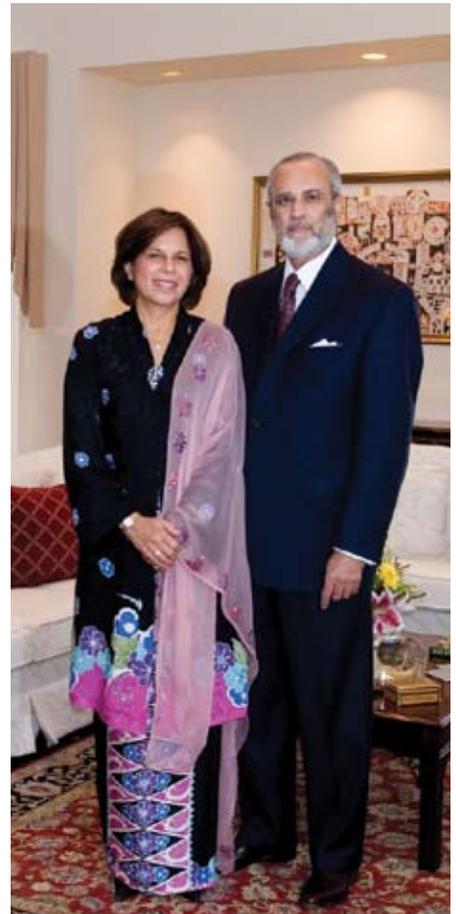
commissioner.

Built in 1930, the house is surrounded by a high cedar hedge, keeping it hidden from passing traffic and students at Ashbury College across the street. The Malaysian government established its high commission in 1957, bought the Rockcliffe property and renovated it between 1978 and 1981, and then moved from its former location in Alta Vista.

The focal point of the nearly 900-



The dining room is accented in blue and has a cozy fireplace.



Mr. and Mrs. Ignatius



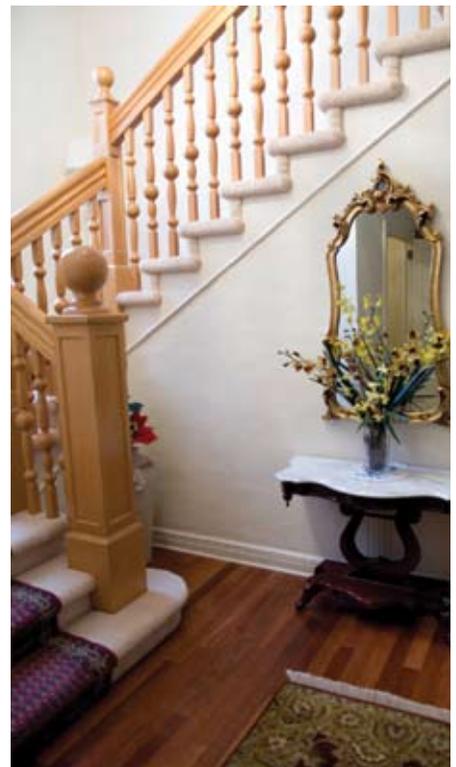
Guests are invited to sign a book at this table, next to the Malaysian flag.



Lilies dress up the Ignatius's table.

square-metre house is the reception area, a contemporary room with tall windows and patio doors opening onto a south-facing garden. Beige walls with white trim act as the perfect foil for the floors, a project tackled by the couple when they arrived in Ottawa in 2001. They pulled up the wall-to-wall carpeting and installed hardwood floors made of merbau, a tree indigenous to Asian Pacific rainforests. "It gives the house a richer feeling," says the

high commissioner. Central to the reception room is a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace that divides the room into two areas, both filled with treasures, many of them collected from their 36 years in diplomatic posts from China to South America. Silk carpets and teak and marble furniture from China are combined with pieces of Malaysian pewter, and batik art by Lee Joo For. On the day we visit, Mrs. Ignatius



Upstairs, the residence has four bedrooms and a family room.

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The home is filled with treasures collected over their 36-year life as diplomats.

is wearing a traditional Malaysian outfit – a silk batik sarong, a matching batik kebaya or traditional blouse, and a beaded chiffon selendang or long scarf.

The main floor also has a comfortable small study and a large dining room accented in blue, with a cozy fireplace. There are four bedrooms and a family room upstairs and two staff bedrooms downstairs.

At formal dinners, guests dine off a dark blue, gold trimmed dinner service with the gold crest of Malaysia. Mrs. Ignatius runs the house and entertains with the help of two live-in staff. They have enough entertainment space for a large crowd.

"We had 300 people to a Christmas party," she recalls. She also likes her menus to combine western food with Malaysian specialties. Satay with peanut sauce, spring rolls and salmon with curry spices are among the favourites she serves.

The couple will be retiring soon from diplomatic life (with several pieces of Inuit art added to their international collection). With daughters and grandchildren in the U.S., they say they won't be going home to Malaysia, but haven't decided exactly where they will settle down.

There's no doubt, though, that their easy-going enthusiasm makes it clear they are looking forward to many more miles of travel together.

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor.

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# Stick 'em up!

## Meet a gentleman bandit named Bill Miner

By Laura Neilson Bonikowsky

The masked man waited as the train chugged away from Mission Junction Station. Billowing steam disturbed the thick fog as the locomotive pushed through the dark of night. The fog gave perfect cover as the man and two accomplices sneaked onto the train. His breath was warm inside his mask as he climbed over the wood tender. The engineer, busy at his controls, was completely unaware of his assailant until the man grabbed him, pressing a pistol's cold barrel against his temple. The assailant spoke with a southern drawl: "I want you to stop the train at Silverdale crossing. Do what you are told and not a hair of your head will be harmed."

The engineer, Nate Scott, replied, "I am at your service," and eased back the throttle. The train wheezed to a stop. The masked man pushed the fireman, Harry Freeman, off the train, instructing him to "Uncouple the train at the express car, please." The second man jumped into the cab, pointing a rifle at Scott's face. The third man headed for the express car, where Herbert Mitchell stood watch. After threatening to blow the door with dynamite, the robber assured Mr. Mitchell: "Cooperate and no harm will come to you." The trio of bandits then grabbed the cargo and rushed off, offering a polite "Goodnight, boys" to their victims.

It was September 10, 1904; Bill Miner and his accomplices had just made history – Canada's first train robbery. Miner chose the CPR Transcontinental Express No. 1 because it was scheduled to carry \$62,000 of Cariboo gold to Vancouver. A last-minute delay put the bullion on a later train. Nevertheless, the three got away with \$6,000 in gold dust, \$1,000 cash and several registered letters and parcels, unknowingly taking \$50,000 in U.S. bonds and \$200,000 in Australian securities.

Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, circa 1847 (how he reported his birthdate depended on his mood), Bill Miner was raised to have manners, and became known as the Gentleman Bandit. He gained some popularity in Canada for his daring attacks on the unpopular CPR. Immortalized in the loosely historical 1982 film *Grey Fox*, Miner is some-

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thing of a folk hero, viewed as a charming bandit lending colour to Canadian history.

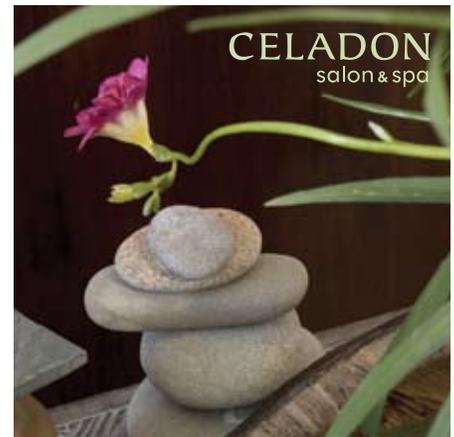
But Miner was inept, better at prison breaks than robbery. He was caught often and escaped almost as often. He began his criminal career in 1866 by robbing a Wells Fargo stagecoach, netting \$75,000 and the attention of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, famous for catching hold-up men. The agency would add him to its list of successes and later would assist the B.C. provincial police with its first train robbery investigation.

Miner remained unrepentant, despite several incarcerations, including three sentences served in the notoriously brutal San Quentin prison, escaping only to be recaptured. His third San Quentin imprisonment amounted to 19 years, five months, 27 days. The Gentleman Bandit walked out for the last time on June 17, 1902, aged 54.

During his extended stay at San Quentin, stagecoach hold-ups had changed. The express cars of trains had replaced stagecoaches for shipping valuables. He emulated desperado John Chapman's effective method for train robbing. Miner's first train hold-up was in Oregon in 1903; he bungled the job, blowing apart the baggage car, not the express car. He escaped but his accomplices were arrested.

After the 1904 CPR robbery, Miner lay low, living quietly near Princeton, B.C. On May 8, 1906, he hit the CPR again, near Kamloops, in a comedy of errors. Miner again attacked the baggage car instead of the express car, which was still attached to the train he'd told the engineer to take down the tracks. He searched the baggage car, overlooking a shelf holding \$40,000 packets of bank notes, making off with \$15 and a handful of liver pills. He was caught and sentenced to life imprisonment in B.C., but escaped and fled to the States, where he resumed his "career."

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



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## Entertaining's other bookend

**T**o ensure easy and successful entertaining, I have a list of reliable, well-tested tips. To begin, I believe that in order for hosts to be relaxed and enjoy themselves, they must strive to make entertaining personal, doable and memorable. Achieving the first two elements may be obvious, but what about the third? How does one make an event memorable?

For guests (children included), an occasion has a good chance of being memorable if they are treated like VIPs. And what better way to make guests feel like very important people than to offer a tasty hors d'oeuvre as well as a prompt drink shortly after their arrival and then, to present them with chocolates or some sort of finishing touch before they leave? Voilà! Those are my bookends to easy and successful entertaining.

In our home, regardless of the type of event (dinner, lunch, BBQ, tea, drinks party or reception), these two components are always on the menu. Their value in contributing to the overall enjoyment of an occasion must not be underestimated. Remember that as much as first impressions count (i.e., hors d'oeuvres), final touches of hospitality also linger in guests'



MARGARET  
DICKENSON

memories.

Having already dealt with hors d'oeuvres (in the Nov-Dec 2006 issue), let's explore the latter concept. We never miss serving chocolates with coffee after a meal (be it formal or casual), or sim-

ply as the last item at a tea, drinks, cocktail or garden party. Even though guests might vow that they could not eat another bite, their hands automatically reach for the treats. Everyone likes one last sweet taste and anything chocolate is a huge hit.

My homemade chocolates are definitely popular. Guests love them and I love making them. Making batches of my own original creations, as well as coming up with new combinations, is exhilarating, relaxing and even therapeutic. Most of my recipes are simple and fail-proof, and can be prepared in minutes. Many include dried fruit, nuts and ginger. They come in a variety of shapes, textures and flavours. Each is unique and scrumptious – from my international award-winning Cranberry Nut Clusters (see Jan-Feb 2005 issue) to my Dark Chocolate Toffee Mint

Sandwiches, Ginger Chocolate Coins and Maple Marzipan Pearls.

Most often, I offer a variety of homemade chocolates spilling out of a decorative ethnic box. Indeed, this is the perfect (or only) opportunity to put some of those dust collectors to practical use.

But before being carried away by a seductive wave of decadent "homemade" chocolates, let's remain focused. The key message is that a finishing touch (usually interpreted to be a chocolate), really should be included in the menu regardless of the occasion. Homemade or commercial, it really does not matter. With a clever presentation, all chocolates can be made to look tempting.

When it comes to finishing touches, my imagination goes wild. There is no need to be limited to the traditional chocolates. Although Ginned Dates (see March-April 2004 issue), Marzipan Mini Fruit and Cream Cheese Strawberries are included in my menu finale, I also like fruit and chocolate "duets". Imagine the intriguing and tasty petite culinary experience that can be loaded on a Saucy White Chocolate Blueberry Spoon or packed into a Chocolate-Dipped Cherry, a Toffee Chocolate-Dipped Strawberry or a Pecan



LARRY DICKENSON

Chocolate-Dipped Pear Wedge. (These are all recipes from my cookbooks.)

For a special occasion, chocolate-dipped fruit elevates breakfast to new levels of appreciation and fun. A finishing touch irresistibly completes the spectrum of tastes experienced on any and all menus.

The recipe below, Toasted Almond & Currant Clusters, offers a chic black and white chocolate that has everything one could want in a final taste – crunch, chewiness and a rich flavour of fruit, nut and chocolate. Bon Appétit!

Margaret Dickenson is author of the international award-winning cookbook *Margaret's Table - Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining* and is creator and host of *Margaret's Entertaining Minutes* on Rogers TV. See [www.margaretsenseofoccasion.com](http://www.margaretsenseofoccasion.com) for more.

#### Toasted Almond and Currant Clusters Makes about 20 chocolates

3 1/2 oz (100 g) white chocolate, chopped  
1/3 cup (80 mL) currants  
1/3 cup (80 mL) toasted slivered almonds

1. Partially melt chocolate over barely simmering water in a double boiler (or soften in a microwave oven at medium-low heat). Remove from heat; carefully stir until chocolate is completely melted and smooth.
2. Add currants and almonds; combine carefully. Drop clusters of chocolate mixture (about 2 tsp or 10 mL portions) onto a wax paper lined tray. Refrigerate until firm.
3. Transfer chocolates to an airtight plastic container and store refrigerated for up to several months.

#### Double Boiler Alternative

**TIP:** Instead of using a double boiler, use a heat proof bowl placed over a saucepan of barely simmering water.

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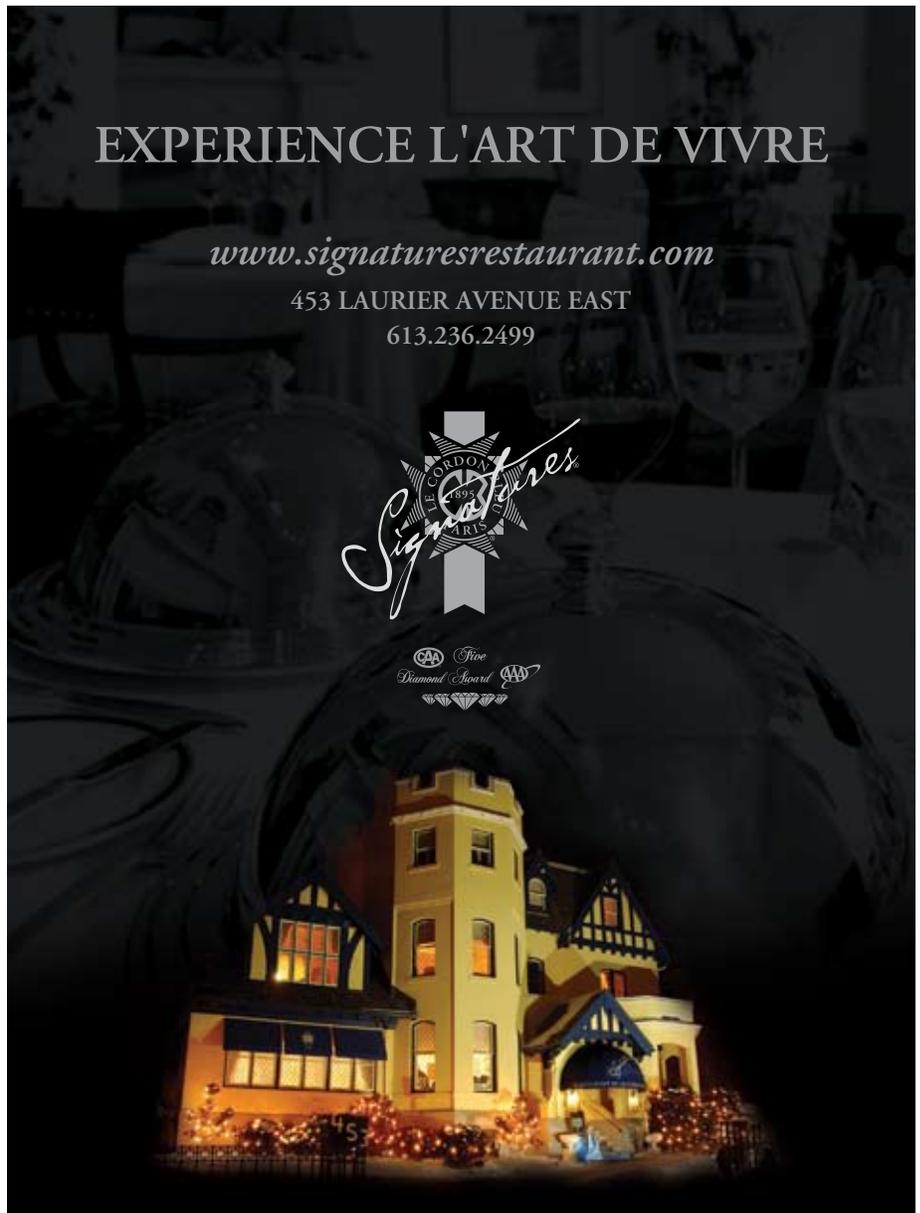
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**New Heads of Mission**

**Michael D. Smith**  
**High Commissioner for The Bahamas**



Mr. Smith comes to diplomacy from politics. He served as a parliamentary secretary (in communications) to the Prime Minister's Office and the ministry of tourism. He was a member of parliament for two terms beginning in 1992 and served as deputy speaker for more than two years.

Mr. Smith studied at Minnesota State University and did postgraduate courses at Ryerson University in Toronto, Public Administration International in the UK, and at The Irish Management Institute.

Prior to his political career, he was a broadcast journalist and served as executive chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas for five and a half years after a 14-year career where he served as news director and anchor at the Corporation. He was founding editor of *The Bahamas Journal*, a daily newspaper and hosted a weekly radio and television program which focused on The Bahamas in international affairs.

Mr. Smith is married with two children.

**A.M. Yakub Ali**  
**High Commissioner for Bangladesh**



Mr. Ali joined Bangladesh's foreign service in 1981 after getting a master's degree in arts from Dhaka University in 1975, followed by studies in international politics and administration of international organizations, at the University of Paris.

In 1976, he became a section officer in

Dhaka. From 1985 until 1987, he served as second secretary and then first secretary in Paris. He served as first secretary in Morocco from 1991 to 1993. For the following three years, he returned to Dhaka as director of international organizations. For five years, beginning in 1996, he was counselor and minister at the embassy in Washington. On his return to Dhaka in 2001, he became chief of protocol. From 2003 to 2006, he was high commissioner to Sri Lanka. From 2006 until he came to Canada, he served as high commissioner to Kenya.

Mr. Ali, 55, speaks French and English and is married with two children.

**Paulo Cordeiro Pinto**  
**Ambassador of Brazil**



Mr. Cordeiro is a career diplomat who has been posted to Ottawa two previous times.

He joined the foreign service in 1979. He worked at the ministry on the African and Asian desks before becoming the assistant director for international organizations. In 1985, he worked at the United Nations offices in Geneva. From 1988 to 1990, he was first secretary at the embassy in Bolivia and then served in Ottawa from 1991 to 1993. He returned to the ministry for a couple of years before becoming director of strategic studies. From 1997 to 2000, he was a counselor at the United Nations in New York and then became minister-counsellor for two years starting in 2001. In 2003, he came back to Ottawa as minister-counsellor before being sent to Haiti as ambassador in 2005.

Mr. Cordeiro Pinto is married to Vera Lucia Ribeiro Estrela de Andrade Pinto and they have three sons.

**Rafet Akgünay**  
**Ambassador of Turkey**

Mr. Akgünay joined the foreign service in 1977 after completing a graduate degree.

Mr. Akgünay's first posting was to Cyprus as second secretary, and then he served in Tel Aviv, Athens, and Rome



before returning to the ministry in 1985. He worked in several departments at headquarters including military affairs, joint security, and policy planning, before being sent to Washington as counsellor from 1993 to 1997. On his return to Ankara, he became deputy director general of the policy planning directorate before becoming chief of staff of the presidency in 1998. Two years later, he was sent to China as ambassador for a four-year posting. He then held a string of senior appointments in Ankara, including chief advisor to the prime ministry and deputy undersecretary for political affairs. That job wound down in April when he was sent to Canada.

Mr. Akgünay, 54, is married.

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**Graham Neil Edwards**  
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**THIS PAGE 1.** Erzsebet Fenyvesi, wife of Hungarian Ambassador Pal Vastagh, hosted a cultural coffee morning for the Slavic diplomatic spouses group March 26th. In back, from left: Ulker Shafiyeva (Azerbaijan), Nadija Lupascu (Romania), Ms. Fenyvesi, Viera Opielova (Slovakia), Nada Naseva (Macedonia). In front: Dalia Baker (Israel). • **2.** At the same coffee gathering, from left: Barbara Carriere (Canada), Aleksandra Vujacic (Serbia), Ralitsa Tcholakova (Canada), Tea Kunstelj (Slovenia). (Photos: Ulle Baum) • **3.** Netherlands Ambassador Karel de Beer and his wife Margaretha Terlouw hosted a dinner at their residence in March as part of the National Arts Centre fund-raising program, Music to Dine for. Shown here are performers Kerson Leong (violin), Stanley Leong (cello), and their parents, mother, Tu Mach and father, Kin-Wai Leong. • **4.** Kuwaiti Ambassador Musaed Al-Haroun (left) invited the Arab members of the diplomatic corps to a farewell lunch in March for outgoing Egyptian Ambassador Mahmoud El-Saeed (right) and Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Bin Hussein Al-Sowayegh. Mr. El-Saeed retired on his 60th birthday in March and Mr. Al-Sowayegh returned to Saudi Arabia after a two-year mission. • **5.** Lithuanian Ambassador Ginte Damusis hosted a national day reception in the salon of the National Arts Centre in February, shortly after she arrived. (Photo: Sam Garcia)



**THIS PAGE 1.** Several embassies took part in the Tourism & Vacation Show at Lansdowne Park April 4-5. Shown at the Czech Republic booth, from left: consul Karel Hejc; Tylka Brozova, assistant to the ambassador, and Ambassador Pavel Vosalik. • **2.** Panamanian Ambassador Romy Vasquez attended the launch of the Latin American film festival. (Photo: Lois Siegel) • **3.** The launch was hosted by Brazilian Ambassador Paulo Cordeiro Pinto (left) and his wife Anita (middle) at their residence. Filmmaker Jean-Daniel Lafond, right, husband of Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, attended. (Photo: Sgt. Eric Jolin) • **4.** Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Tangi and his wife Alia attended the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts reception at the National Gallery March 27. (Photo: Frank Scheme) • **5.** The Canadian Federation of University Women's diplomatic hospitality group had a tour and maple syrup tasting at Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm March 28. Some 135 people went. At the Heritage Sugar Shack, (from left) Ken Stanley shows Erzsebet Fenyvesi (Hungary), Eyad Alawwad, 7, (Saudi Arabia) and Stela Andrei (Romania) how he makes maple syrup. (Photo: Ulle Baum)

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# AUSTRALIA: ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH FOR IT?



BY WILLIAM FISHER  
*High commissioner for Australia.*



hen I was invited to write about visiting Australia, it made me think, “Well, if I were a Canadian, what would be most fun?”

Obviously Canadians are not going to go to Australia to see things they can see in Canada – but in fact there’s not much in Australia that looks like Canada, other than the people themselves who are perhaps more like Canadians than any other people in the world.

I was going to say that a Canadian wouldn’t go to Australia to ski. But then, thinking a bit more about it, I realised



A SKIER AT MOUNT PERISHER,  
NEW SOUTH WALES



THE TWELVE APOSTLES, A COLLECTION OF LIMESTONE STACKS IN VICTORIA

that skiing in Australia is utterly unlike skiing in Canada. In the first instance, it takes place in June, July and August, and there is not much skiing in Canada then. More importantly though, skiing in Australia will not take you to pine forests and high bare mountains, but will take you through a magic landscape of gnarled gumtrees, twisted in every direction, an eerie backdrop as your skis flash by. So don’t rule it out. There are good ski resorts in both New South Wales and Victoria.

Most Canadians tell me they go to Australia for the beaches. And why wouldn’t they? There are literally thousands of beaches around the coast of Australia, surf beaches located on the east coast south of the Great Barrier Reef, and in cooler waters along the South Coast and up the coast of Western Australia. When I say surf beaches, I mean just that. This is not the gentle waters of most Canadian beaches. Do not, please, set off on a championship beach, like Bells Beach, in high surf with your novice surfboard at the ready unless you have a taste for the more extreme end of high adventure. Most beaches are pretty manageable most of

the time, though. The beaches closer to the cities – there are for example 22 beaches within metropolitan Sydney – are all terrific, each one very different from the next, and all are patrolled by volunteer lifesavers.

At this point, Canadians always ask me about sharks. Actually, we Australians are secretly proud of our killer wildlife. But I have to say that Australians love to exaggerate about sharks in the same way that Canadians obsess about attacks by bears. In fact, we lose the same number of people to sharks each year in Australia that you do to bears in Canada – one or two. The last fatal shark attack off the netted beaches of Sydney was in 1933, so you would have to be a pretty unlucky statistic to be the next one. On the other hand, the isolated beaches off the desert coasts of South Australia and Western Australia are home to the Great White Shark. Human swimmers usually only make it to the beaches there once every few years, so if it is going to be you, make sure before you go into the water that you are looking as little as possible like a seal, seals being the sharks’ principal diet. Better perhaps to stick to Surfers



THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Paradise (it's a city, on Queensland's Gold Coast).

While on the subject of our exotic wildlife – and I only raise this because it seems to be a favourite question of Canadians – snakes and spiders are not all the threat they are cracked up to be. I have lived in Australia most of my life and I don't think I have ever seen a snake in the wild. I can't say I've thought twice about spiders either, so it's not that you Canadians are going to come across many. But if you travel in the outback, your chances of meaningful encounters with both rise disproportionately. That's part of the attraction. Right across the far north, for example around Darwin, you can add salt water crocodiles and jellyfish to your list of dangers. These are more serious. In Darwin, you will see signs up with red circles through images of crocodiles, saying "NO SWIMMING." They mean it.

That, then, is the bad news. The good news is that Australia, especially for Canadians, is a really welcoming destination. The Australians love Canadians – recently I saw a survey on which countries Australians "liked" most, and Canada came out, of course, among the top, so your welcome is pretty much assured, even though you may find Australians more informal, casually dressed, bigger drinkers (this is

true) and more profane than would be considered polite in Canadian circles. Australians can also be rather searingly direct. Political correctness, while expanding, has not yet reached endemic proportions, in most places anyway.

It's amazing I've got this far and not talked about food. This is something that Canadians will greatly enjoy, Australian restaurants being relatively cheap (prices in dollars might seem similar to Canada's but then you do not have to add on to the listed price the 30 per cent or so extra of GST, PST and of course service). Most restaurants in Australian cities – if less so in the south than in the north – are more open air, light and casual affairs, although, of course, if you are after formal dining that's easy to come by too. But I think Canadians would most enjoy the open air style eating found all around the coastal cities of Australia, with excellent fresh food and, of course, lots of wine. Beware though, driving under the influence of alcohol is much more seriously policed in Australia than in Canada. The police set up random breath test stops at any place at any time, so if you make a habit of drinking and driving you will, regretfully, sooner or later, get caught.

Which brings me on to wine. I hardly need to tell Canadians that this will be one of the joys of your visit to

Australia. In fact, it is a joy even greater than Canadians are aware, because the choice of Australian wines is vastly bigger than is available through the monopolies in Canada. There are 17,000 Australian wines – and so little time! Do try to get a good appreciation of the different regions – Hunter Valley, Mudgee, Orange in New South Wales, Yarra Valley, Great Western in Victoria, all over Eastern Tasmania, Coonawarra, Clare, Barossa and Southern Vales in South Australia, Margaret River, Swan Valley in Western Australia. You will



WINE-TASTING IN AUSTRALIA'S BAROSSA VALLEY

find that you can get medium wines very cheaply, good wines very reasonably, and fabulous wines for as much as your purse allows you. Perhaps the most important difference between dining out in Canada and dining out in Australia is that in Australia most restaurants, other than say big hotels, encourage you to BYO – bring your own – which allows you to save mightily on the price of the wine and spend accordingly more on the food.

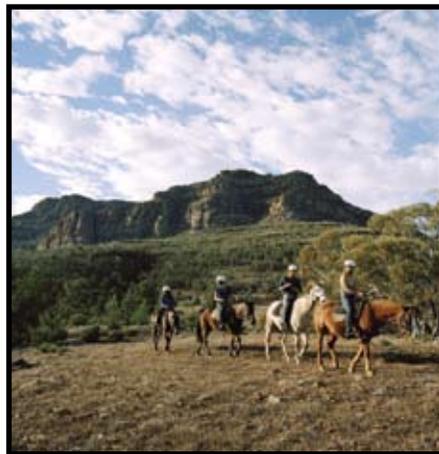
So back to the main question, where would I suggest Canadians go particularly if they had only a shortish time in Australia? Sydney, obviously. It really is one of the world's great cities. Every day is a party, the atmosphere seems always on holiday, the sightseeing is fabulous, the food is terrific and the beaches stunning. A trip up the Northern Beaches of metropolitan Sydney is a must, as is a trip on the Manly ferry. For less than 10 dollars you get a harbour cruise, the famous Manly Beach, and the best view possible of Sydney from the water. Equally, a trip west of Sydney into the Blue Mountains, easily accessible in two hours or so by train or car, is a new experience to Canadians because you are right into a world of eucalyptus forest and great ravines. Personally, I'd then recommend either or both a trip down the south coast of New South Wales from Sydney to Jervis Bay, and/or a beach safari up the thousand kilometres or so of the north coast of New South Wales through all the great surfing meccas like Byron Bay.

Next, I'd stop in Melbourne, a truly lovely and liveable city which boasts the best food and the best theatre in Australia. A trip from Melbourne up the Yarra Valley wine areas is fantastic. From Melbourne, there is easy access by overnight boat to Tasmania, a world of its own, especially for the cold water seafood and (again) excellent colder weather wines. For the more adventurous, there is a terrific five to eight day bushwalk across the mountains of Tasmania, but only for the hardy. Of course, Canadian veterans of the Rockies or the far north would find it a breeze.

I always recommend that people go to both South Australia and Western Australia. Both Perth and Adelaide are lovely cities, about a million people each, and both (yes, yet again) close to wonderful wine-growing areas which afford some great tourism. In Perth, a

day trip out into the Indian Ocean to Rotnest Island is magic. Another slightly longer trip down to Margaret River, for wine or surf or both, is worth several days of your visit. In Adelaide, the wineries extend in every direction but west (that's the sea) but I think Canadians would find a special delight in flying down to Kangaroo Island which, as the name implies, is a world-renowned centre for its unique wildlife and is well served by eco-tourism accommodation.

I've left the two most obvious destinations for last – the outback and the Great Barrier Reef. The outback, be aware, is truly vast, indeed it's most of the continent. The best way to see something really different – but it takes funds to do it – is to fly to the famous Ayers Rock in Uluru, just about in the centre of the continent. The changing colours from red to purple through dawn, day and dusk is one of the most enthralling sights on the planet. From



HORSEBACK RIDING AT FLINDERS RANGES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

there, you can travel to the north of the Northern Territory and outside Darwin visit Kakadu National Park, another UNESCO World Heritage Site with an extraordinary variety of landscapes and a virtually guaranteed up-close encounter with crocodiles. The outback also allows you the opportunity to meet indigenous Australians and see centuries-old artwork, and perhaps take home a real piece of Australia Aboriginal artwork yourself. As for the Great Barrier Reef, what else need I say? Any one of the several centres up and down the 2,000-kilometres of the Queensland coast allows you access to the Reef, but bear in mind that the Reef is a long way

offshore, not on the coastline. The best way to see it is to spend time on some of the reef islands, such as the Whitsunday Group, or make day trips out of Cairns. Cairns also gives you access to the (World Heritage listed) Daintree Rain Forest, one of the oldest rainforests in the world, even older than the Amazon, and the only place on the planet where the rainforest meets the sea.

I've talked about destinations, but I must add there are some great (the Australian adjective is "beaut") things to do. You must go to the Sydney Opera House for a performance as well as for the architecture. Australia is full of terrific theatre and entertainment, so see if you can fix your trip to include a few of the good fun festivals like the Sydney Biennale, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Festival. And it's all in English.

You can't leave Australia without coming face-to-face with sport. All you've heard about Australians being sports-mad is true – though Canadians will be appalled to find that, so far, this doesn't extend to hockey. For something truly Australian and local, go to a surf carnival (this is surf lifesavers club competition, not surfboard riding) on any summer weekend in Sydney or the Gold Coast. Genuine masochists can spend a day at the cricket. Best of all, try (between March and September) to catch an Australian Rules Football match in Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth, and a Rugby League match in Sydney or Brisbane. For the true Australia, and a real grudge match, see if you can watch either code of football in any small town. There is no padding. Be thankful you don't have to play against them yourself.

One final word. Australia is a continent and it is in the Southern Hemisphere, so that means choose your seasons carefully. By and large, the north, including the Barrier Reef, can be hot and sticky during the summer months November to March, which is also the rainy season. Similarly the south can get quite chilly – though of course not much by Canadian standards in June, July and August. So adjust your itinerary to whatever time of year it is that you are going. You won't make it around Australia in one visit anyway, so use each visit to prepare to do the opposite one next time.

*William Fisher is the high commissioner for Australia.*

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**TASMANIA**

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(Continued from page 52)

smoker” because he was a chain smoker and smoked through his sittings with the artist. But the establishment decided it was better to gloss over that fact and had the artist turn the cigarette into a piece of chalk.

This huge hall features a portrait Dodgson. Also known as the Great Hall and established in 1529, it has plenty of connections to Alice. First, high on the left-



Children run through a door in a garden at Oxford. That same door inspired Charles Dodgson to write about a young girl’s zany journey in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.

hand wall, the fifth window from the entrance has depictions of her and some of the creatures from the book. The brass firedogs which guard the two fireplaces have long necks that motivated Dodgson to make Alice’s neck grow. He modelled the White Rabbit after Liddell, who left dinner every night down a spiral staircase behind the head table. That became the rabbit hole in the book.

A chestnut tree in the deanery garden has the horizontal bough where the Cheshire cat sat. Alice Liddell did have a tabby cat called Dinah, who is one of her allies in the book. Cardinal Wolsey’s great kitchen at Christ Church also figures in the book’s “pig and pepper” episode.

The book is full of inside jokes and references from the happy afternoons Dodgson spent with Alice and her sisters. There were picnics, ceremonies, and the occasional visit to his photo studio on the roof of one of the residences. For the interested visitor, these visual reminders remain of one of the world’s most beloved fantasies. Those who want to see it firsthand should contact the head custodian and book an “Alice Tour.”

Jennifer Campbell is editor of *Diplomat*.

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CHRIST CHURCH

Visiting Christ Church at Oxford is a worthwhile journey on its own but it's made more charming when a tour guide points out all of its connections to the story of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Charles Dodgson, who wrote the book while teaching at the venerated institution. The inspiration for the book was Alice Liddell, daughter of the dean at the time.

## Alice's Oxfordian Adventures

By Jennifer Campbell

**F**or us, a visit to Christ Church was about seeing where Cuthbert Simpson, the dean of this prestigious Oxford institution and my husband's great-uncle, was buried. I was traveling England and Scotland with my husband's two sisters and we were all keen to discover some of our heritage.

But once we made our way past the crusty custodian – the latest dean was being officially named the next day and the cathedral was closed for a rehearsal and this *factotum* was having none of our pleas about distant relations – we discovered the place is crawling with other stories.

There's the fact that a long list of famous folks studied there, among them philosopher and physician John Locke, religious leaders John Wesley and William Penn, as well as Albert Einstein. Not

enough? A total of 13 British prime ministers, to make no mention of cabinet ministers and bishops, studied at Oxford.

Still, the story with the most tangible connection to Christ Church is probably that of Charles Dodgson who, in 1851 at the age of 19, arrived to study mathematics. He became more famous under his pseudonym, Lewis Carroll, and remained there for the rest of his life. First he studied, and then, for 26 years, he taught.

While at Christ Church, Dodgson, at the time the mathematics don, met the children of his friend H.G. Liddell, who was then dean. Dodgson, a lifelong bachelor and a deeply religious man, had asked if he could photograph the Cathedral from the deanery garden and while he was setting up his equipment, Liddell's three daughters, Alice, Lorina and Edith, asked

if he'd take their photo, too. Thanks to the fantastical stories Dodgson told them, the four became fast friends and regularly visited back and forth.

On our personal tour (it turned out some staff were more excited about my in-laws' ancestry than the chippy guard we first encountered), a friendly verger took us through the cathedral and showed us the garden, with a concrete wall at the back, and a door leading to? Well, let your imagination wander. That's what Mr. Dodgson did and this, literally speaking, is where Alice's Adventures in Wonderland began.

Our visit to the dining hall was really to see the portraits of all previous deans. Cuthbert Simpson's is called "the

(Continued on page 51)

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