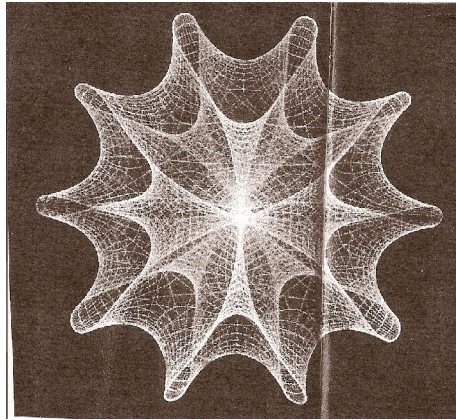


971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

Air Force Association Newsletter March 2008



In March our 10-dimensional universe, here folded, is all Irish.
Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Social Calendar

Jan	19	It was a cold night, but 51 of us found great warmth at our belated Christmas party hosted by Judy and Lew Lomas.
June		Berwick/Freimuth/Maestrelli
Jul		Dominion Day
Aug		Champions

HOME PARTIES: For an association lacking its own club house we have done remarkably well at sticking together for some 26 years. For this we can thank the few of our members who volunteer their homes for our monthly socials. We all look forward to these parties and enjoy them immensely. They are so much better than meeting in restaurants. We appreciate that the ageing process makes this chore more difficult each year so our hosts are all the more precious to us.

We still need hosts for March, April, and May.

SICK PARADE: Barbara Lay had a successful lumpectomy for breast cancer 07 January and started radiation treatments 04 Feb. Our thoughts, prayers, and best wishes are with you, Barbara.

DUES ARE DUE by 01 April. They remain at \$60 for Colorado Springs area members and \$36 for others. Send to Susan Lynch, 30 Polo Drive, Colorado Springs, 80906.

Address Changes:

Stewart: jstewart231@comcast.net
Levitt rcafmwo@q.com

Web Site: www.971WingAFAC.com
Send Inputs to: gsweanor@pcisys.net

The Editor's Corner

Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell - All in One Place

Investigators have discovered a weird universe containing a weird planet on which there are weird creatures. It appears to be a strange laboratory that doubles as a huge prison, but we are just in our initial stages of investigation. It is an unique place, hidden in a relatively quiet zone of a violent universe on a tiny ball that is part solid, part liquid, and covered in a gas of many components. This tiny ball circles a nuclear furnace that showers it with a relentless stream of dangerous particles from which it is partially shielded.

Originally it was seeded with unique acids that learned on their own to replicate and to produce the most bizarre forms. These structures are everywhere on the planet and in a bewildering variety of shapes. We are not sure yet why or how it is done but, at a very early stage in the growth of these forms, spirits are injected, even into the flawed ones, to grow with them and to serve out sentences. Some for a brief reward, others for chastisement, but most for sheer torture. It seems that economy is served by having all of these conditions on the one ball. Provision is made for the condemned to find ways of changing their lot during their tenure. But, no instruction are provided. It is all trial and error. A cruel sense of humour hid means of sustenance here and there, but these had to be found, understood, and modified.

All spirits condemned to this prison are stripped of any past memory and are saddled with receptors for pain and pleasure but, again, no instructions are allowed, so they experiment. An even stranger burden is the need to ingest other life forms in order to extract the energy required to perpetuate this existence which they deem desirable only because knowledge of any other existence is denied. To a certain extent inmates can learn from forebears and from each other. This often eases their existence.

Gradually these beings learned that co-operation was beneficial yet tempered by the cruel necessity to eat and the fact that scarce resources could be monopolized by the strongest and most ruthless. Members of the apparent dominant species keep getting together to build only to destroy, then to rebuild. It is a meaningless cycle, full of hardships.

From afar it presents a fascinating spectacle. An endless stream of spirits are forced into it and they interact in such diverse ways. All must endure pain in varying degrees and pleasurable sensations are rationed and temporary. All sentences are soon terminated and by a wide variety of means, many accompanied by intense and extended pain. Millions of those sentenced to this jail are goaded into terminating each other, but replacements are more than adequate to continue the show. In fact, all of these creatures have the ability, and an insatiable desire, to manufacture new frames in their own image for yet more spirits. None of these spirits is ever given a fixed sentence. They can be terminated early or late, rapidly or slowly, peacefully or violently.

Actually, there is much to admire about many of these spirits. With primitive means they are trying so hard to understand where, when, why, and how. They do make progress but, alas, they have such a long way yet to go. Under such circumstances their only recourse to retain a sense of humour, recognizing the joke is on them while they wonder if all of these spirits are actually only one with a multitude of expressions concealing the ironic twist that what they appear to be doing to others they are simply doing to themselves. Perhaps, that is why so many care for others.

This jail, or laboratory, is but a passing phenomenon. It will end in spectacular violence. Peace and quiet will not ensue. For a long time Violence is scheduled to reign supreme, but will eventually die itself only to be reborn in new violence. It is definitely not a stage for the purpose-oriented, or for those who desire tranquillity.

Applying a large enough magnifier, the whole scene is nothing but an immense conglomeration of endless vibrations, each in itself quite innocent, and subject to temperature. Most of these vibrations have been harnessed by Nature who controls this universe, but these fascinating and clever spirits are learning to control an increasing number for themselves. Nature appears quite ruthless, uncaring, and indifferent, yet it tolerates those who adapt to its whims.

We will continue to monitor this phenomenon to determine if it serves any purpose, but really, can all that violence be in any way desirable? Yet, somehow, these poor, imprisoned mortals attract our interest.

Pax Vobiscum!

WOMEN IN THE SERVICE IN WWII by Darrell Levitt: We always seem to speak of aircrew when we recount the deeds of RCAF personnel in World War II. There are however, a group of RCAF blue that are very seldom remembered—The RCAF Woman's Division.

At the beginning of the war not only did young men flock to the recruiting centres to join and fight for Canada but so did the young women. By the thousands they descended upon these centres hoping for their chance to prove their worth and aid in stopping Hitler and his gang of murderers. Many of these young ladies would find themselves on troop ships destined for England to do "their bit" for Canada. Most however, would remain in Canada serving in little known locations and jobs.

Across Canada at remote Air Stations and large cities 15,000 women donned the uniform of the RCAF. So many in fact that the Canadian government created a special division just for them, it was to be known as the RCAF (WD).

My mother, Doris Levitt (nee: Lancaster) was one of those ladies in blue. In June 1942 she reported to an RCAF recruiting Centre in Edmonton and in very short order (11 days to be precise) was in the RCAF and on her way to Toronto for basic training. Doris was assigned the trade of "Clerk Medical A Group" and would spend the remainder of the war in several hospitals across Canada. Her main duties were that of transcribing doctors' medical notes on patients and ensuring that they were placed in the correct medical documents. Upon completion of her training in Toronto it was off to RCAF Station Lancaster Park, Calgary, # 10 Repair Depot, Hospital as a Medical Stenographer. It was here that she had her first close up look at war. One of her duties entailed "in processing" of wounded returning from the European theatre. Undaunted she soldiered on for three more years from hospital to hospital across Canada processing the wounded.

At the end of the war she was transferred to the Veteran's Hospital in Edmonton, where she continued with her Medical Stenography duties. Additionally, she was tasked with the in-processing of returning veterans.

When asked about her wartime service to Canada my mother simply states "Well I really didn't do much". This is an understatement, as an 18-year-old girl she preempted her youth as so many another men and women did in support of the Canadian war effort. She thrust herself into situations that were completely foreign to her and conducted herself in the highest standards as all did in the tradition of Canadians at war and peace.

So the next time you stop and remember Canadians at war, lest we forget the ladies of the RCAF (WD) and all women in the service of Canada.

TREES AND MYA: To add to BC, AD, BP, BCE, we now have MYA (million years ago), BYA (billion years ago), and LYA (light years ago).

Anyway, 410 mya, a volcanic spring in Rhynie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, covered and perfectly preserved for us, in fossil form, the first primitive land life: ankle-high plants still with insect-like creatures clinging to them. Interspersed with this low-lying life were Prototaxites up to 6 metres tall and one metre in diameter, similar to the fungus growths that grew in Quebec (next door to Scotland at the time) and which lived off bacteria, lichens, and algae. These life forms first developed 465 mya in the Ordovician Period.

In an equatorial flood plain that is now Gilboa, NY, a complete tree has been uncovered that lived 385 mya (Devonian Period) and grew to 30 metres tall, an amazing leap from Ordovician times. The evolution of stronger tissues to carry water and nutrients sparked competitive growth for a place in the sun to power photosynthesis. All this caused an immense climatic change. Previously-poisonous oxygen was pumped into the atmosphere, forcing adaptation. Plant life weathered rocks, creating soils that provided food and shelter for an explosion of new emerging life forms.

TOMORROW BE DAMNED - WE WANT IT TODAY!

The waterlogged peat lands of SE Asia lock away 155 gigatonnes of CO₂, equal to the entire world's fossil fuel emissions for the past 5 years. The jungle growing out of this peat is being rapidly stripped away, including former national parks. Draining the peat to plant commercial palm oil trees releases the stored CO₂. 130,000 sq km have already been clear cut. The despoilers argue that Kyoto or Bali agreements do not apply to developing countries, so, if the rich countries want this harvesting to be stopped or reversed they must pay the governments and logging companies and find other lands for the exploding population that is moving in to farm the changing landscape. (New Scientist 01 Dec 07)

HELP! With 77 soldiers killed and 500 wounded over the past 6 years, Canada has been seeking additional help from NATO allies in Afghanistan. As usual, complaints have been levelled at France and Germany for, although being quite successful in their assigned roles, remain in the safer parts of the country. Esprit de Corps magazine has sprung to their defence, arguing that Canada has 3,127 serving abroad of which 2,537 are in Afghanistan. France has 33,000 serving abroad with 2,000 in Afghanistan where 13 have been killed and 100 wounded. Germany has 8,000 troops abroad on UN/NATO operations with 3,500 in Afghanistan plus 6 Tornado reconnaissance jets. Germans are actually working beyond the constitutional confines we placed on them after WWII, forbidding the employment of German troops outside their borders.

Mar 2008

ARCHAEOLOGY INTERPRETATIONS; This is very slow work. For instance, it is now 30 years since a group of Italians discovered 17,000 cuneiform tablets as well as figurines dating back 4,300 years in the ruins of what was once the thriving city of Elba, Syria.

We now learn that a major form of worship back then was to deceased queens who gradually were transformed into goddesses. Also revealed is the age-old stupidity of arms races. Elba began a munitions industry, supplying allied states with state-of-the-art spear points with over 2,000 going to Nagar (Tell Brak), a city founded 6,000 years ago. Then, being so well armed itself, Elba invaded Mari. This alarmed Sargon of Akkad who amassed sufficient might to sack Elba so thoroughly that it ceased to exist.

YES, WE WERE SMARTER BACK THEN: The Regular Force Christmas party in the Double Tree Hotel was well attended with a great bunch of people seated around round tables of ten each. Conversations were almost impossible due to the loud and painful noise which today passes as dance music.

Back in the UK in WWII each town had one or more dance halls where all went stag. As we were posted frequently to different bases many of us would use our first free night to go into town to ignore the pubs and find the dance halls. The music was soft, permitting the gentle art of conversation to flourish as we tried to convince the girls that we were worth getting to know. It was a gentleman's game. The drill was not to monopolize any one girl but to dance three numbers with a chosen partner, walk her back to her chair, then pick on someone else which permitted us to dance with from 20 to 30 girls per evening. If there was one in whom you were particularly interested you would try to return to her for the home waltz which allowed you to ask if you could walk her home. Of course there was the blackout with all street signs removed to confuse expected invaders. The Germans never invaded to be confused but we did and we were. Walking the girl home, often well over a mile, was no problem as she knew the way. Getting back to base, after making so many wrong turns, was a nightmare. Many's the night we would get back at 0400 only to have to awake at 0700 to go flying.

But, it was well worth it. That is how I met Joan.

THE VALUE OF WATER: A TV news commentator revealed that public speakers are the highest paid of all occupations. That really emphasizes how valuable water is. For the last three talks I have given to some 300 people I received, for each performance, a glass of water. All that those politicians got was money which does not taste nearly as good when swallowed.

THAT IS WHY I SPURN THOSE \$10 million BILLS now in circulation in Zimbabwe.

MOTHER JONES, CHINA, and the ENVIRONMENT: *Mother* reminds us that, to give us cheap cashmere sweaters, China bred 26 million goats that are eating Inner Mongolia's fragile plains, turning to desert each year some 1,200 square miles. Also, in becoming the world's leading producer of furniture, China so deforested it's old growth that resultant landslides destroyed 5 million homes. This prompted China to ban further cutting at home, so they went on to strip forests in Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Burma, and Russia. Resultant fires in Siberia drove ozone levels above EPA limits in Vancouver and Seattle.

Deforestation accounts for one fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions, more than the world's cars, trucks, and planes combined.

Yet, we continue to put the economy ahead of the environment. We continue to worship the God of Continual Growth in a planet that can no longer sustain it. Retrenchment is neglected to our peril.

Our generation is on the way out, but it is leaving behind a criminal legacy.

WHEN BOB and TRUDY TRACY moved to Ottawa 17 years ago they left behind many friends in this area, so it is time for an update.

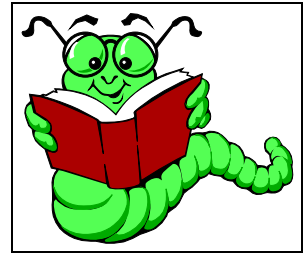
After ably managing the Airforce magazine, Bob retired in 2004, but has kept very busy running the Highland Mist Pipe Band and working with the Royal Canadian Legion, among other things improving their pipe band. He praises the 70-branch Legion for opening its ranks to relatives of veterans of the Services including the Police. Today, of the 350,000 membership, 200,000 are from the younger generations. Unlike other veterans' organizations, membership is remaining steady.

Trudy, an RN, has great praise for the Canadian Health Care System. In 2004 she underwent eight hours of intricate heart surgery and claims her two doctors, a Scot and a Pakistani, at the Ottawa Heart Institute worked a minor miracle as she is now fit as a fiddle.

Since 1982 Bob and Trudy have organized the 4-day Estes Park, Colorado, Tattoo over the second weekend of September. And, can you not visualize Bob and his bagpipe tiptoeing through those miles of tulips in Ottawa?

CANADA'S CLAPPER: In August 1864 the SS Queen Victoria left Quebec for Charlottetown carrying statesmen and for 2 months its elegant stateroom was used to thrash out the terms of Confederation. In 1866 the ship sank in a hurricane off New England while returning from Cuba with cigars, tobacco, and fruit. The US *Ponvert* made a heroic rescue, so the ship's bell was given to the captain. In 2007 the people of Prospect Harbor, Maine, who now own it, made a duplicate of it to present to the people of Charlottetown.

Book Reviews



Wherever he has dwelt in his 88 years your scribe has found good, bad, and indifferent humans. We, in the Western World, have developed what we believe to be the best of living standards and we are free to praise or criticize them. We now like to use the term “industrialized nations” to include the likes of Japan, China, India, Malaysia, and Thailand. In spite of wide differences in internal wealth distribution we are indeed fortunate but, while doing much good for the rest of the world, we often overlook our aggressiveness in grabbing far more than our fair share of world resources. We pay insufficient attention to the third of our population that survives on less than \$2 per day.

Lacking the numerous lifetimes and unlimited travel funds that a search for TRUTH requires, this scribe has had to rely on his ever-growing library of 1,928 books and countless magazines and does review for you what, to some, are controversial. Having just finished four such books let me present (#4 may have to wait until May due to lack of room):

1. **VOICE OF HEZBOLLAH - THE STATEMENTS OF SAYYED HASSAN NASRALLAH**, Verso, London, 2007 by Nicholas Noe with translations by Ellen Khouri - 420 pages
2. **WHAT WE SAY GOES**, by Noam Chomsky, Metropolitan Books, NY, 2007, 223 pages
3. **THE IRAN AGENDA**, by Reese Erlich, PoliPoint Press, Sausalito, CA, 2007, 220 pages.
4. **THE AGE OF TURBULENCE**, by Alan Greenspan, Penguin Press, NY, 2007, 531 pages.

VOICE OF HEZBOLLAH

This book is a collection of interviews with, and statements from, Nasrallah from 1986 to Aug 2006 with footnotes supplying historical data as needed. Nasrallah was born in 1960, the eldest of 9 children, to an impoverished Shiite family in Lebanon. Displaying from an early age a keen interest in books and learning, he was educated in Tyre, Iraq, and Iran. In 1982 he joined Hezbollah that was formed in response to the 1982 Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon. In 1992, after Israeli helicopter gunships murdered Hezbollah leader Abbas Mussawi, his wife, and son, Nasrallah was chosen to be his replacement. He launched welfare programs for the poor and transformed Hezbollah into a guerrilla movement to oppose the occupation. While a devout Muslim, believing that Islam was the best in reaching out to the poor, the oppressed, and the dispossessed, he fought imposing it by force, arguing that all political positions should go to the most talented regardless of religion. He avows no subservience to Iran or Syria and no quarrel with nations other than the harsh Israeli occupation. He contends Hezbollah must retain the freely-given support of the people. When asked about the \$100 million annually given to Hezbollah by Iran, Nasrallah considers it aid from a friendly country like the humanitarian aid Iran provided the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia. He also states that the Sane who restrict themselves to words have achieved nothing whereas the Insane who venture into guerrilla tactics are causing Israeli withdrawals. He considers Hezbollah part of the government and a servant to it, arguing that all Hezbollah military actions have been in response to Israeli aggression. He appears to have a good insight into Israeli thinking and he believed that Israel, with US connivance, planned a second invasion, this time in October 2006 after the Israeli tourist season (the UK *Guardian* and the US *New Yorker* confirm this), so he organized his defences, largely Katyusha rockets, to remain effective even with Israel disrupting all means of transportation. He admits the July 2006 capture of a couple of Israeli soldiers to exchange for some of the thousands of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel was botched as several Israeli soldiers were killed when a pursuing Israeli tank ran over a buried ammunition cache that exploded. This precipitated the planned invasion 3 months early.

Nasrallah appears quite reasonable and a person we should listen to and deal with.

WHAT WE SAY GOES

Noam Chomsky is the 8th most quoted author of any time period. He was born in 1918 in Philadelphia and is a linguist, philosopher, author, and political activist. Since Vietnam, he has published numerous critiques of the Foreign policy of the United States and of other countries. He roams the world to uncover injustices.

Chomsky takes his title for this book from the statement by George Bush in 1991 “There is a new world order that we are establishing and the main principle is **what we say goes**.” Claiming the vast majority of US voters oppose current foreign policy and that lengthy and costly elections are more on imagery than issues, he argues the US is now a leading outlaw state. He describes numerous US unilateral aggressions that get little publicity compared to the critical coverage of moves by opposing nations or groups. He defends Evo Morales in Bolivia and Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, and

criticizes the US for ignoring all Iranian overtures for dialogue. He claims Iran has a horrible government and a weak military but is no threat to anyone. He describes how Israel has made Gaza a huge prison and argues that Nasrallah is reasonable and pragmatic. He also says it is a mistake to criticize Bush's grammar, claiming it is deliberate to reveal him as one of the boys. He shows that the US supported Saudi Arabia subsidizing madrassas in Pakistan and complains that the US will support any regime docile to its wishes. He argues that many Israeli actions are designed to provoke a Palestinian return to violence. NATO broke its promise not to move eastwards in return for Gorbachev allowing the reunification of Germany. The major-powers UN Veto and clinging to nuclear arsenals also merit criticisms. His list of US military defeats starts with the numerous failed invasions of Canada. Yes, he does praise US contributions to the world.

THE IRAN AGENDA

Reese Erlich has covered the Middle East since 1987, also reporting for the CBC and NPR. Interviewing many during his 2005 visit to Iran, he reports a thriving underground economy and many dissident groups in a country run by a dictatorial clique that oppresses its own people, but a clique caused by foreign intervention. In spite of much oppression from the UK, USSR, and US there is little grass-roots dislike of the West. The UK imposed martial law in 1919, made large profits from Iranian oil, blockaded Iran when Mossadegh tried to nationalize oil, and, with the US, imposed the Shah who crushed all opposition and allowed the UK 40% and the US 50% of Iranian oil. Erlich shows the USS Vincennes was illegally in Iranian waters in 1988 when it shot down a commercial Iranian airliner killing 290. The US backed Iraq in its bloody invasion of Iran. Iran helped in the fight against the Taliban and contributed \$560 million to reconstruction. With a greater percentage of minorities than the US, and with many groups vying for power, Iran is difficult to govern. Women are 60% of university graduates but face discrimination. Ahmadinejad initially tried to improve their rights. He attacked drugs, wealth and corruption but was blocked by clergy. His oft-quoted remark about wiping Israel from the map was meant to leave Palestine a single country, as many westerners support, with equal rights for all including Jews. There are 338,000 Iranians living in the US and 20 TV stations speak Farsi with little unity of purpose among them.

Erlich argues the bellicose Israeli-US diatribe against Iran is dangerous and counter-productive. It simply increases terrorism and prevents dialogue in a very complicated area of the world. He accuses the US media, mostly controlled by 6 companies, of giving a very slanted view of the issues.

FACTS

1. Worldwide, food prices have jumped 75% since 2005.
2. It takes 8 kgs of grain to make 1 kg of beef.
3. The Chinese who averaged eating 20 kg of meat in 1985, will consume 50kg in 2008.
4. In 2007, biofuels consumed 1/3 of US corn (maize) harvest.
5. Filling a SUV gas tank with ethanol uses enough corn to feed a person for a year.
6. Santa remains jolly because he knows where all the naughty girls live.
7. The World Health Organization claims that noise causes 210,000 deaths annually.
8. If either scientists or theologians were to explain everything their funding would immediately dry up.
9. Rain-soaked Germany leads the world in generating solar power.
10. As creators of fertile soil, Earthworms were declared sacred by Cleopatra who made it a crime to kill any.
11. Iraq's weapons of mass destruction went to Alberta to extract and refine tar-sand oil. Baghdad burns, Calgary booms, the environment pays.

QUOTES

1. "Let China sleep - for when it awakes the world will shake." Napoleon, 1897
2. "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Gorbachev and Reagan, 1985
3. "If I kissed you, would it rush global warming and damage the Arctic or would it be just enough to break the ice?"
4. "Would there be any resistance if I asked to take you ohm?" (3 and 4 from *New Scientist*)
5. "When freedom destroys order, a society's need for order will destroy freedom." Eric Hoffer
6. "Civilizations die from suicide not murder." Arnold Toynbee
7. "Officers are transferred so frequently they never learn from their mistakes." Donald Rumsfeld.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. We thought that the expanding universe was increasing its rate of expansion, but now José Senovilla at the Basque University in Bilbao explains that it is Time that is slowing down and will freeze to a stop in a few billion years.
2. Discovered in August 2007 in the constellation Eridanus (to the right of and down from Orion), the billion-light-year-wide void that is 35% colder than the rest of the sky could be the imprint of another universe pushing against ours, repelling gravity and galaxies.

MATHEMATICS

Certain paths are required to get ahead in this world. Like everything else these can be proven by mathematics. Just convert the alphabet to numbers, then weigh the importance in percentages:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
K N O W L E D G E																									=	11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5	=	96%
H A R D W O R K																									=	8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11	=	98%
A T T I T U D E																									=	1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5	=	100%
B U L L S H I T																									=	2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20	=	103%
A S S K I S S I N G																									=	1+19+19+11+9+19+19+14+7	=	118%

SO, Knowledge and Hard Work will get you close; Attitude will get you there; but Bullshit and Ass Kissing will put you over the top.

NAMES: As a young boy, being a stamp collector, I learned the names of every country and thousands of cities. So many of these names have changed over the years that now I am quite confused. I need to list, and try to remember, changes. For a start, here are some Arctic Canada changes which should last until either Russia, owned by Vladimir Putin, or the US, owned by Kuwait, Singapore, China, Dubai, et al, takes over the Canadian Arctic:

Western Arctic:	Inuvialuit:	Sacks Harbour:	Ikaabuk:	Chesterfield Inlet:	Igluligaarjuk
Central & Eastern Arctic:	Nunavut:	Coppermine:	Kugluktuk	Arctic Bay:	Tsiigehtchic
Northern Quebec:	Nunavik:	Whale River:	Kuujuaraapik	Broughton I.:	Oikigtarjuag
Labrador:	Nunatsiavut:	Frobisher Bay:	Iqualuit	Lake Harbour:	Kimmirut

COMEDIAN JIM CARLIN'S MESSAGE

The paradox of our time is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time, more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology brings this letter to you, and a time when you can either share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind. **AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:**

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

LIGHTS OUT FOR EARTH HOUR! It started in Sydney Australia in 2007, quickly spreading to Toronto, Chicago, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen, and other cities. Join us for the next mass warning of our over-consumption. Turn off your lights and live in darkness for one hour, 2000-2100 (8 TO 9 pm) on 29 March.

THE DAVID and LOREEN O'BLENIS SAGA continues. Old generals never die either. This one has retired from Raytheon and is now managing the Smith Fall's airport and instructing the younger generations. Loreen still volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House and the Heart and Stroke Foundation and has actually been infected by the golf bug. They enjoyed the All Weather Fighter reunion in Niagara Falls as well as a tour of South America that included Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru with its Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu et al.

PAT and WENDY DENNIS: Another couple we miss. Wendy's green thumb got her a part time job with the largest nursery in Kitchener and she nursed her 82-year-old mother back to good health after brain surgery. After building a basement library for all his books, Pat penned and presented, at a military symposium, an 18,000-word paper on NATO AWACS that might grace the Canadian Military Journal. In April he lost his 84-year-old father who, during WWII, completed 54 operations on Mitchells with 180 RAF Squadron.

GLOBAL WARMING! It is true! The Inuit of Sachs Harbour (72°N) on Banks Island now export bananas! In 1994 the Russian ship *Kapitan Khlebnikov* called in at Sachs Harbour and purchased 30 of 100 cases of bananas offered for sale. I hate to spoil a good story so you need not read on A Supply Flight, destined for Cambridge Bay, had terminated at Sachs Harbour due to bad weather and off-loaded all its perishable food.

THE HEAVENS BY PETER RALLIS; Venus is one of the brightest objects in the night sky. If you look at it through binoculars or a telescope you are likely to notice that it exhibits phases just like the moon and that it is pretty much a cloud covered entity. The typical temperature there is around 900 degrees Fahrenheit. This is due to two factors. First is its proximity to the Sun. Second is the Green House effect of its atmosphere which is **97%** Carbon Dioxide. The planet Mars is our other planetary neighbor. Looking at it with the same binoculars or telescope you see a splotchy, reddish landscape and perhaps what appears to be a polar icecap and an occasional dust storm. Temperatures vary from about -220F in the Martian winter to about 68F in the Martian summer. This is due to two factors. First is its proximity to the Sun. Second is the Green House effect of its atmosphere which is **95%** Carbon Dioxide. Of the two factors that effect temperature on both these planets it would seem obvious that proximity to the sun is the greater influence. The Earth is in the middle. The temperature here varies from -130F to 160F. This is due to two factors. First is our proximity to the Sun. Second is the Green House effect of its atmosphere which is **0.0037%** Carbon Dioxide. Figure it out. Global warming has a whole lot more to do with the Sun and its proximity than Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere. As this issue is published The eastern sky will give us some gems to look at. The Twins, Castor and Pollux will be high and bright almost due east. Just a little to the south and higher still, is Orion, the hunter whose Jeweled belt of three stars is easy to pick out and will lead you to Betelgeuse, Bellatrix, Rigel, and Saiph which are his shoulders and kilt bottom respectively. Between the Twins and Orion you will find Mars. If you are viewing with binoculars The Trapezium structure and the Orion Nebula should be easy to find in Orion's kilt and just below his belt is another bright nebula.

A MARCH NEWSLETTER NEEDS A LITTLE IRISH HUMOUR:

Susie Lee fell in love,
She planned to marry Joe.
She was so happy about it all,
She told her Pappy so.

So Susy forgot about her Joe,
And planned to marry Will.
But after tellin' Pappy this.
He said, "There's trouble still."

But Mama knew and said, "My chile,
Jis do what makes yer happy.
Marry Will or marry Joe -
You aint no kin to Pappy!"

Pappy told her, "Susy gal,
you'll have to find another;
I'd just as soon yer Maw don't know,
but Joe is your half-brother."

"Ye cain't marry Will, my gal;
And please don't tell yer mother,
cause Will and Joe an' several mo'
I know is yer half brother."

I FEEL GUILTY: I know my arithmetic is quite basic and nowhere near as exotic as that used by politicians and economists, but accepting a tax rebate when the country has a \$9 trillion debt only increases the hatred our grandchildren will have for us. With over two billion people, a third of our world's population, surviving on less than \$2 per day, with global warming screaming at us to pay some attention, with millions raped and slaughtered in places like Darfur and the Congo, with millions being oppressed and deprived of dignity in places like Palestine, Tibet, North Korea, and Zimbabwe, with our rich marine life being decimated by humans, with a lengthy election campaign squandering millions of dollars on repetitive sound bites drowning out detailed remedies, with ever more people being born into a life of pain and poverty, there is more than enough to engulf us in gloom and doom.

In spite of all this, there are many in every country who are donating their lives and fortunes into a belated attempt to save this planet. It is vital that we support them, taking care to select the honest from the self-serving.