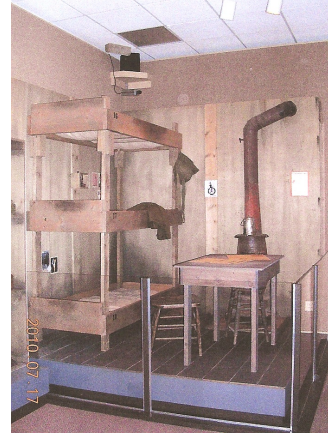


# 971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[www.971WingAFAC.com](http://www.971WingAFAC.com)

September 2010



Be it ever so humble - See below

### Social Calendar

- Jun 26 Thanks to Lila and Larry Best, 38 of us had a most enjoyable evening in their residence.
- Jul 01 At the El Pomar Center 28 Wing members participated in the Dominion Day (also known to revisionists as Canada Day) festivities sponsored by the active Canadian Forces here. Love those hors d'oeuvres. Yes, the speeches were good too. Senator Pamela Wallin, Chair of the National Security and Defence Committee, was guest speaker.
- Jul 17 Your scribe was invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the impressive POW Display in the Pioneers Museum, 215 South Tejon Street, where the above replica of a corner of a POW room recalled visions of Home Sweet Home 1943-45.
- Jul 31 48 of us thoroughly enjoyed yet another annual bash at the ranch of Charlene and Bill Champion.
- Aug 28 At Shirley and Jim Stewart's, 1530-1930, 15520 Kingswood Drive, 80921.
- Sep 12 Battle of Britain remembrance: 1400 at the Enlisted Club. Blazers with medals or civilian dress.
- Sep 25 At Pat and Buzz Wilder's, 16 Lake Avenue, 80906

**Name Change:** Susan Lynch has reverted to her maiden name so, once again, is Susan Gerdes.

## Editor's Corner - DREAMS

Some of us have partial control over how we direct our waking lives. Dreams can add new dimensions that, with practice, give pleasure, variety, excitement, and knowledge. But, untrained they can be far more frustrating, and with greater frightening dangers, than our awake life. The two worlds are one, but the awake world dismisses the dream world which actually is more amenable to behaving in accordance with our desires. It may be our most under-exploited resource. Recent UK and Dutch research confirms my 67-year-old feat of brain control. I believe I had, and have, the same range of dreams as you. I still remember a few, pre-kindergarten and scary, dreams that caused me to seek protection in my parent's bed, just as our children have done to us. I had the normal range of dreams during my school years, my 3-year banking career during which I also trained with the Militia (Infantry and Artillery), and my training time in the RCAF.

My dreams changed after I started my nightly forays of flying through the greatest fireworks displays of all time and grieving the ever-mounting loss of dear friends. I experienced my first nightmares and even a bed-whetting experience. After I found myself in POW camps with time on my hands and amid many great minds from a score of countries, I would lay back on my straw mattress at night, analyzing various discussions I had lost and being annoyed that my arguments had lacked effectiveness because I invariably thought of good points long after the topic had changed. Also constantly in my thought were longings for my home in Canada and my second home in England. Before falling asleep I would spend an hour or more mulling over all of this, seeking improvements - and finding them.

In Stalag Luft III, Sagan, it took many weeks of this, but eventually I discovered that I could set up a situation in which I would like to be and actually spend what seemed to be the whole night there to the point that I did not want to wake up. All non-violent, most of these dreams were with my wife and family but a lot also had me giving detailed talks, writing skilled essays, and solving intricate mathematical problems.

Others also developed this skill. In Nürnberg my barracks had no beds but scores of bed bugs. One cold March 1945 night, as over a hundred of us huddled together on the floor, I awoke to scratch my numerous bites. Next to me was Harry Wardle of Liverpool still sleeping with a look of utter bliss on his face. Soon, I watched his eyes, opening and seeing in shocked disbelief stars shining through broken windows and holes in the ceiling, courtesy of Bomber Command. "God damn it!" he muttered. I laughed, "Yes, Harry, you are still in Deutschland. Go back to sleep."

After the euphoria of being freed and back with my families had worn off due to the harsh reality of creating a post-war career, I lost the ability to control my dreams although some vestiges remain. In 1960 I started to record my dreams. It has been intermittent. I may go months without bothering then record for a long series of consecutive nights. It does necessitate maintaining a pen and paper pad within reach to scrawl key words while still sleepy to aid memory when fully awake. I still have numerous recurring themes.

They include: It is easy for me to fly. A special hop, that I tell myself I must remember when I awake, gets me airborne over people and endless landscapes. Very real, yet I know I am dreaming. I am in the homes of friends, past and present, and they are larger with more rooms and objects than in "real" life. I am often with friends who died decades ago and they are still young and free of blemishes they may have had when alive. I tell them I can return to modern life and I ask them if they have messages they wish me to take back. Always they reply, "No, it does not matter." Today I have a final exam to write for a course I forgot I enrolled in, never attending a class. I badly need to urinate but am in a multi-story building with no, or broken, toilets. I am often in crowded public places in the nude but nobody notices. I often return to previous careers in schooling, banking, the RCAF, and teaching, knowing that I have retired from them but feeling there is more I need to do. I still solve intricate math problems and write beautiful essays I must remember when I awake. Many such dreams have allowed me to better phrase my essays and talks.

One dream during my POW nights remains vividly with me. I was questioning life. Answers were coming in with lucid, logical steps. Suddenly a huge wall with a tiny door sprang up before me and a voice cautioned: "You may go on, but if you do there is no turning back. It is yours to choose." I was curious to go on but I knew I could not desert my distant families, so forced myself to wake up - in a cold sweat. I often feel that that dream is still waiting for me. So far I have lacked the courage to return to it.

I would be grateful for some insight into your dreams. They conceal a beguiling mystery.

**THE TWIN OTTER:** As soon as he received the July newsletter, Darrell Levitt replied: "I loved the photo of the Twin Otter. Many times I have taken off in one of those - but I have never landed in one."

No, Darrell is not still up there. We all know Darrell is somewhat fussy, preferring to do things his own way, particularly when it involves coming down to earth.

Other paratroopers also have this fixation.

**HAIDA GWAII - A WORLD FIRST:** After 222 years the Queen Charlotte Islands are now officially Haida Gwaii (Land of the People). And we have a new national terrestrial park of 147,000 hectares (15% of the islands) plus a marine park of 500,000 hectares extending down to depths of 2,500 metres. This is the first part of our planet to be completely protected from mountain top to ocean floor.

**WHOA, NOAH!** Many are the tales of Noah and his arc, but the latest discovery gives us new information. A member of the RAF acquired a tablet with 60 lines of cuneiform writing as a memento of his 1945-48 stint in Mesopotamia. On his recent death his son took the tablet to the British Museum where an expert revealed it was a 3,700-year-old account of the Great Flood. It relates how God (female) warned the Sumerian king, Atram-Hasis, that a flood was imminent, so he was to build a large circular arc made of plaited-palm fibre and to waterproof it with bitumen to save his family, plants, and animals.

It is now inferred that the story relates to the massive flooding of what is now the Black Sea by Mediterranean waters that breached a natural dam a thousand years earlier and that the Jews were in captivity at the time in Babylon where they learned of the event and incorporated it into the Old Testament, changing the god to Yahweh and the name to Noah.

Similar, but smaller, reed boats are still used in Iran and Iraq to carry animals across bodies of water.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA,** with a team of over 100 researchers and \$35 million devoted to Arctic Climate-Change Research, is becoming the world leader, recently attracting Dr. Søren Rysgaard from Greenland to accept a new chair.

**SAGALASSOS:** History conveniently provides us with examples to prove opposing hypothesis. We use Afghanistan to prove that everyone hates and fights occupiers. Yet, Sagalassos, in SW Turkey, prospered by welcoming invaders. It became a going concern about 2500 years ago after my paternal-paternal ancestors, the Hatti, had pioneered the area before moving off to Hesse, Tours, and Quebec - a fact I learned after a mere 60 years of research.

Although well inland from the coastal Greek colonies, Sagalassos had become partially hellenized, so, when Alexander the Great dropped by in 333 BC, they accepted him and saw their sphere of influence increase beyond the entire Aglusun valley. About 25 BC it welcomed Augustus who made it part of the Roman Empire. They became Roman citizens and continued to prosper. Hadrian was particularly fond of it, calling it the first city of Pisidia.

It was Mother Nature that put a painful stop to all this. An earthquake in 500 AD and a plague starting in 541 were surmounted, but a greater earthquake in 590 forced shaken survivors to abandon the city to the history books and to a team of Belgian archaeologists who are now excavating it.

**CANADA #1 in FOREST PRESERVATION:** The Canadian Boreal Forest of 5.8 million sq km is the world's most protected. It seems to have started in 2007 when PM Stephen Harper banned resource exploitation in two huge areas of the Northwest Territories. Ontario and Quebec followed, protecting large areas and even Alberta agreed to spare 20% of the forest in the tar sands area.

Ranking second, Brazil promises to protect half of its rain forest while Russia is a distant third in protecting its taiga.

Co-operation among the federal and provincial governments, resource industries, the First Nations, and environmental groups has led to the agreement to ban all resource exploitation from half of the boreal forest while allowing highly restricted commercial use in the other half.

Vigilance remains an imperative as such plans and promises too often give way to human greed.

**ELLESMERE and DEVON ISLANDS** continue in the spotlight, concerning space. NASA detected a yellow stain on the ice of Borup Fiord which has been known to scientists as a unique patch of sulphur produced by microbes interacting with a sulphur spring. The excitement here is that if orbiting space vehicles can detect this, they could look for similar markings on, say, Europa, that would indicate life. A team from the universities of Calgary and Arizona plus the California jet-propulsion lab have developed a sensor to analyse the chemical make-up of such stains and plan to send it off to Europa to analyse stains noticed there.

The Houghton Crater on Devon Island has been studied for years as it resembles Mars. This summer a team from the Mars Institute is testing a new rover going 200 km overland and over ice from Cornwallis to the Houghton Crater where they maintain a research station.

**THE PAIN OF CURRENCY DEVALUATION** is borne unfairly by the elderly. The Fraser institute reveals that the average Canadian family earned \$5,000 in 1961 on which it paid a total of \$1,675 in various taxes, leaving \$3,325. In 2009 this had increased to \$69,175 on which \$28,878 went to taxes, leaving \$40,297.

One example of this fiscal irresponsibility is shown in life insurance. Back in 1946 - 1953 when I had heavy flying schedules, mainly over uncharted country, we skimmed to pay high flying premiums for \$20,000 of insurance which would have maintained Joan and daughters for 10 years in the event I ploughed into an unmarked mountain hidden in cloud. We still have that insurance but its worth has been criminally devalued. Instead I could have bought gold at \$35 an ounce, but then that took 60 years to pass \$1,000 an ounce.

**OBESITY KILLS** and not only among humans. The University of Sheffield describes R136a1 in our neighbouring Tarantula Nebula as the heaviest star yet found. Weighing 320 times our sun and shining with 10 times its luminosity, it has a life expectancy of a mere 3 million years, burning away at 40,000 degrees celsius.

**THE BATTLES OF BRITAIN:** Over the years descriptions of many of these battles: Celtic, Saxon, Norman, Spanish, French, and German, have been included in these newsletters. While today's Britain has changed considerably from those of yore, it remains a bastion of inherited advances in human rights and it is gratifying that 971 Wing has chosen as its major remembrance the 1940 Battle of Britain. While Britain, France, and the USA must accept the major blame for paving the way for Hitler by vindictive handling of Germany and Austro-Hungary after WWI, there is no denying that WWII was thrust upon us and few now remember just how close we came to losing that war and plunging into a dark age of human cruelties. This surely would have happened had not the unfairly-criticized Chamberlain not quietly placed the rearmament orders he did in the early 30's. We can never thank enough those millions of people who suffered, sacrificed, and died from all corners of the world to avert that fate.

While the Battle of Britain was one small, short, battle in a 6-year struggle, it was the first to give us hope and it was vital in retaining the UK as an aircraft carrier and as a launch pad for ultimate victory.

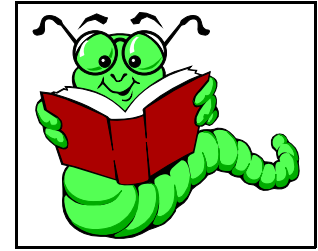
We, now basking in the wealth and comfort of a free society, should turn out in droves to remember, honour, and thank all those whose lives were torn so violently from them. Those who can retain dry cheeks have no inkling of the intensity of that struggle.

**BLOG SITES:** The internet has spawned a forest of blog sites, some insipid but many highly informative and deserving of the time to read them. Diana DeLuca, now with 145 articles on her site, [www.coololdtech.blogspot.com](http://www.coololdtech.blogspot.com) got me started, and I now have 42 articles on [www.yeoldinquisitivescribe.blogspot.com](http://www.yeoldinquisitivescribe.blogspot.com). These sites are not easy to find, even with Google. I did stumble across Dmitry Medvedev's good site: [www.kremlin.ru/eng/sdocs/vappears.shtml](http://www.kremlin.ru/eng/sdocs/vappears.shtml). And another site you may like: [www.howtosavetheworld.ca](http://www.howtosavetheworld.ca)

You can easily start your own after selecting a name not already in use. But do let us know how to find it. Got to go to see if Diana has posted yet another interesting article. Being a professor of English she knows more words than I do and can arrange them better.

## Book

## Reviews



### *Men O' War - Life in Nelson's Navy*

National Maritime Museum, Carlton Books, London, 2003, 128 pages

This well-illustrated book contains a wealth of data on the Royal Navy from 1793 to 1815. As of 31 Dec 1803 there were 871 active ships plus 59 under construction, divided into 28 categories, and a total strength of 30,000 men, including 711 skilled surgeons paid £200 a year, plus a few hundred women, mostly wives of warrant officers, who served in battle aboard ship. In the Battle of Copenhagen, 11 women served on HMS Bellona. In the Battle of the Nile one woman gave birth in the heat of battle. On HMS Prince George a woman serving on a gun crew had a musket ball pierce her arm. When HMS Revenge docked in port, 450 prostitutes came aboard to service 600 men in adjacent hammocks. A few men did attain high rank and fame starting out in the ranks such as James Cook and William Bligh.

The book details how, with superior organization, provisioning, seamanship, and gunnery, the Royal Navy was able to defeat navies of France, Spain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia. The vast majority of seamen were professionals granted a £20 bonus (a year's pay) on enlistment. Englishmen made up 63% of crews, Scots, Welsh, and Irish 22%, and foreigners 15% mostly dissidents from enemy countries. Boys recruited at age 12 were paid £4 a year and most became seasoned professionals. While Press Gangs did use force during protracted wars with France their main approach was persuasion and the offer of enlistment bonuses to commercial seamen. Pay averaged £1, 11 shillings, and sixpence per month out of which each man had to pay for his hammock and clothing. Rations provided 5,000 calories per man per day and included two servings of diluted rum and 8 pints of beer per day. Training and practice were continuous. Damaged sails could be lowered and replaced in 9 minutes. A mast could be disassembled or raised in 30 minutes when threatened by severe weather. A surgeon could complete an amputation in 2 minutes.

Disease accounted for 42% of deaths, battle 4%, and accidents 1 per ship per year. Stormy seas took the rest. Health was a main concern of Nelson who cautioned, "It is easier for an officer to keep his men healthy than for a physician to cure them." Discipline and trust were essential for hundreds of men to operate efficiently in cramped quarters under dangerous conditions so punishments were mainly for theft, drunkenness, or fighting. Punishments were not among the complaints seamen voiced to the Admiralty.

The book contains descriptions of ship to ship and ship to shore communications codes, the alphabet in flags, linguists to translate documents from captured ships, marines, and many other aspects of navy life. It gives this old veteran a renewed respect for the skills and fortitude of people in the navy of Nelson's time and the realization of the relative ease, simplicity, and comfort of operating a WWII squadron.

### *Canada and the Korean War*

Department of National Defence, Ottawa, 2002, 158 pages

This excellent book is a gift from Roy Thompson. It includes an historical background, 16 maps, and 79 pictures. There is an amusing account of the relaxed state of government in Canada. Key officials were enjoying the weekend at cottages without telephones when on Sunday, 25 June 1950, Mary Macdonald, secretary to Lester Pearson, heard on CBC radio that North Korea had invaded the South. She rushed by car, foot, and rowboat to inform them. Truman sparked a UN "Police Action" to avoid seeking war powers from Congress and Canada joined in, quickly dispatching 3 ships (all undergoing repairs) to Hawaii, ordering the recruitment and training of a brigade, and contributing 426 Squadron plus 21 pilots to serve on Sabres with the USAF. The peak Canadian contribution was 8,123, small compared to the US total of 1,153,000. Canada suffered 1,543 casualties with 309 killed, 1,202 wounded, and 32 POWs who survived. Details of effective Canadian actions await the November newsletter.

## Canadian Governors representing our King or Queen

David Johnson, president of the University of Waterloo, is replacing term-expired Michaëlle Jean as Governor General. A graduate of Harvard (where he was a top hockey player), Cambridge, and Queen's universities, he taught law at the U. of Toronto, was Dean of Law at UWO, and principal of McGill and Waterloo. He has authored over 20 books. He now joins a distinguished club that was started in 1533.

By emphasizing Dominion Day (to revisionists Canada Day) that recalls Confederation 01 July 1857 we slight our earlier impressive history. The immense First Nations' history, all a valued part of our heritage, is too much for this account which samples only our European history from the founding of New France to Confederation. During this period we had 38 Governors:

16 French under 4 monarchs: François 1, Louis XIII, XIV, and XV,

22 British under 4 monarchs: George III, IV, William IV, and Victoria.

FRENCH		BRITISH	
1533-35	Samuel de Champlain	1764-68	James Murray
1612-29	Samuel de Champlain	1768-78	Sir Guy Carleton
1648-51	Louis d'Ailleboust de Coulonge	1878-86	Sir Frederick Haldimand
1651-56	Jean de Lauson	1786-96	Baron Dorchester
1658-61	Vicomte d'Argenson	1797-07	Robert Prescott
1661-63	Baron Davaugour	1807-11	Sir James Craig
1663-65	Sieur de Mézy	1811-15	Sir George Prevost
1665-72	Sieur de Courcelle	1816-18	Sir John Sherbrooke
1672-82	Comte de Frontenac	1818-19	Duke of Richmond
1682-85	Joseph de La Barre	1820-28	Earl of Dalhousie
1685-89	Marquis de Denonville	1831-35	Baron Aylmer
1689-98	Comte de Frontenac	1835	Earl Amherst
1699-05	Louis de Callière	1835-37	Earl of Gosford
1705-25	Marquis de Vaudreuil (Philippe)	1838	Earl of Durham
1726-47	Marquis de Beauharnois	1839	Sir John Colborne
1749-52	Marquis de La Jonquière	1839-41	Chas Thomson, Baron Sydenham
1752-55	Marquis Duquesne de Menneville	1841-43	Sir Charles Bagot
1755-60	Marquis Pierre Vaudreuil-Cavagnal	1843-45	Sir Charles Metcalfe
		1846-47	Earl Cathcart
		1847-54	Earl of Elgin
		1854-61	Sir Edmund Head
		1861-67	Viscount Monck

Since Confederation there have been 17 British and 11 Canadian Governors, representing 6 monarchs: Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, and Elizabeth II.

**STEPHEN HAWKING**, from his chair (wheel) at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario, argues that our species, in order to survive after the next century, must colonize space. Might I suggest, Stephen, that it would be slightly less impossible to reform, and limit, the human species so that it ceases its destruction of this planet and its life forms to make it worthy of setting foot on distant planets? We do have seeds, here and there, among individuals and organizations striving towards this goal. Let us support them.

**INUIT VICTORY:** It is encouraging, if costly, to see a Nunavut judge order a stop to the about-to-begin German-Canadian seismic exploration of the area around Lancaster Sound, the Serengeti of the North, with its huge paths of migrations of marine mammals that depend more on sound than sight. Yes, we do need to know the geological history of this ancient region but not at the expense of Inuit culture and livelihood. Inuit know that seismic activity, as well as killing and deafening marine life, results in them avoiding an area for up to 21 miles and to alter migration routes. The late timing of the injunction is costly to the researchers but perhaps it will result in greater consultation with the Inuit who are not adverse to increased scientific knowledge - as long as it precludes sea-based oil wells.



**WHEN MICROSECONDS COUNT!** Lethbridge, 23 July 2010: Executing a low-level manoeuvre while practising for an air show the next day, Captain Brian Bews of 3 Wing Bagotville had an engine malfunction in his Hornet necessitating the immediate use of the seat-ejection mechanism. It worked! Brian escaped with a few bruises. As usual, the air show was performed in spite of the loss, but the remaining 2010 shows were cancelled. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> Hornet (CF-18) lost by the Canadian Forces with 8 of the 17 pilots killed.

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Canada continues to lead the industrial world in the soundness of its economy. The deficit for the fiscal year 2009-10 is \$46.9 billion down from the forecast \$53.8 billion. It is now predicted the country will be back to a surplus budget in 2014. This is due to a culmination of reducing civil service growth, no increases in foreign aid or defence spending, increased tax revenues and a decrease in unemployment insurance from a rebounding economy, Canada had budget surpluses averaging \$9 billion annually from 1997 to 2007. Individual provinces still fear rising deficits due to increasing health costs.

**REUNION:** The 8<sup>th</sup> FCO/ADTech/AWC Reunion will be held in the Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, 19-21 August 2010. To date 350 have signed up including Joan Peterson, Frank and Ida Fraser, Ron and Marlene Willard.

**REUNIONS:** Strong believers in reunions, Joan and I are annoyed at the Grim Reaper for slashing an end to all of our reunions but not before we enjoyed 15 of them: 7 POW reunions, 3 in the UK and 4 in Canada, 2 WWII Aircrew reunions in Winnipeg, two 426 Sqn reunions, three B-29 reunions, and one Specialist Navigator reunion in Winnipeg, with attendance ranging from 4,000 to 200. All were good and well attended, but the best were the 6-day POW reunions in which the RAF and RCAF Associations tried to outdo each other. Each time the RAF would give us a tour of operational bases and put on a varied air show just for us. Each day was filled with theatricals, visits, and sight-seeing. Even Elizabeth and Philip invited us to a garden party. For 3 of these 7 reunions accommodation was provided by universities: Southampton, Warwick, and Ottawa.

All this plus a heart-warming week in the home of a Luftwaffe general who had bombed me as I had bombed him. They drove us to one of my old POW camps, now converted into homes for Turkish workers, and had us meet some of their Luftwaffe friends - crews who had fought our nightly raids.

**ARCTIC ANTICS** keep growing. This August for 20 days we descended on Resolute and Pond Inlet with Griffen, Globemaster, Hercules, Twin Otter, and Aurora aircraft, HMCS Montreal, Glace Bay, Goose Bay, CCGS Henry Larsen and Des Groseilliers along with two Danish ships, HDMS Vaedderen, and Knud Rasmussen plus USS Porter and USCGC Alder - and, of course, the Inuit Rangers this time joined by Army reservists from Southern Ontario. That was Exercise Nanook. Quite impressive! Rather than hunting al Qaida they trained to cope with a large oil spill in the North West Passage whose ice is becoming a scarce commodity. Exercise Nunaluvit leaves the deep south of Resolute for places like Eureka and Alert. Exercise Nunakput, frolics in the western Arctic. All are organized by Yellowknife's Joint Task Force North. A 3-ocean nation, Canada needs this Arctic attention.



**PAULATUK:** The current mayor, Ray Ruben, of this thriving community of 311 souls on the Arctic coast, 95 km south of the Cape Parry Dew Line site, is the son of my good Inuit friends, Ed and Mabel Ruben, and was a toddler when I played with him 1962-63. Like all young Inuit boys he chased about the Great Outdoors naked from the waist to the knees, serving the dual purpose of fertilizing the tundra and saving the washing of countless diapers.

A dozen Inuit from Paulatuk had come north to accept DEW-Line employment and government housing. Other Inuit, along with the Hudson Bay post and the Catholic priest, followed to build a new hamlet nearby. Although unable to read or write, Ed Ruben became our most efficient janitor. After the phase-out of the Dew Line, they returned to Paulatuk where Angik School provides education up to Grade 11, there are 2 resident RCMP, a 2-nurse health care unit, an airport that receives 3 weekly flights from Inuvik by Aklak Air, and a bay frequented by float planes in the summer. There remains an annual sealift down the Mackenzie River from Hay River on Great Slave Lake. The manager of the Tuktu Nugait National Park 40 km to the East resides in Paulatuk. In Inuvialuktun, Paulatuuq means Place of Coal, and, 105 km to the west, the Smoking Hills have been emitting smoke for centuries from burning underground coal fires, providing a good pinpoint for winter navigation.

Ray is the second Inuit child I befriended to have come to my attention as current officials. Renee Ruben, who insisted on calling me Squadron Leader George, is now a federal government expert on northern environment. She must have taken to heart my plea to her and others that this was their country and to get an education so they could avoid us invaders from the south ruling and exploiting their land. When I brought her an orange every day she considered us partners as we strolled across the frozen tundra each enjoying a Florida orange while she educated me on Inuit life as only a 5-year-old can do. She also proudly wore under her parka a red dress that Joan made and mailed up for her. My Inuit family helped to compensate for my absence from my own family for 13 months.

**REFUGEES:** Applauding Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, and all those billionaires who have pledged to donate half their fortunes to charities does not excuse you and me from doing more for the billions of oppressed inhabitants of this tiny globe. Over 80% of the current 16 to 40 million refugees (depending on the criteria you use), including 4.6 million Palestinians and even more Afghans and Iraqis, have sought refuge in neighbouring poor countries that cannot afford adequate care, like Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Tanzania, Kenya, and Chad. Millions of refugees have been raped or used as forced workers or child soldiers. Thousands have perished after paying unscrupulous people-movers for 'safe' passage. Over 6 million have languished in "temporary" tent cities for over 5 years. Meanwhile the US Department of Agriculture claims 25% of the food produced in the USA is wasted amounting to 2,150 trillion kilojoules of energy lost annually. Worldwide, 23% of the fish caught is wasted according to New Scientist magazine.

Of 4 million immigrants in Canada over 22 years, 15.4% have been refugees. Since WWII Canada has protected 800,000 refugees, granting permanent residence in the past 5 years to 147,000. The United States and Australia have been among world leaders in granting asylum. The top 10 emigrant countries have been: Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia, Burma, Sudan, Congo, Somalia, Iran, Eritrea, and Iraq.

Frightening as it is, we aint seen nothing yet. Man-made Global Warming will increase refugees to 250 million by 2050. Yet we continue to bring far too many innocent children into this nightmare. They will also face highly disruptive Cyber wars already pioneered by Russia, Israel, China, and individuals.

**THAT IS ALL, FOLKS!** I will end with my usual ineffective plea to receive inputs from you at [georgesweanor@comcast.net](mailto:georgesweanor@comcast.net).



