

971 AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

RCAF ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March 2012

Colorado Springs
www.971WingAFAC.com



The rich-poor demarcation line in Favelas, Brazil

Social Calendar

- Jan 28 En route to our social at My Big Fat Greek Restaurant we suffered 8% casualties as Margit and Art took sick, but 23 made it. It is always great to gather with a score of our Wing members even if the background noise plays havoc with my hearing.
- Mar 03 1700, El Padrino Restaurant, Voyager Parkway and Northgate Road.
- Aug 11 Charlene Champion has offered to host continuing a old tradition.

WAR DRUMS: It seems like yesterday that, at a Wing party, Bob Freimuth hauled Mike Dooher and me over to LGen Pennie to voice our opposition to the clamour to invade Iraq. As DCinC he had to follow the party line but we veterans with bloody experience were free to criticize. We knew that wars are unpredictable, take millions of innocent lives, and seldom achieve the aims of the initiators. Obviously we did not speak loudly enough. As a strike on Iran could ignite a whole new series of upheavals we all have a responsibility to quench the war mongers. Life on this globe has enough problems. There is no need to manufacture more. I, and most Israelis, believe that the threats pouring out of Israel are bluff but they force Iran to increase its arsenal dangerously as Israel has done in the tinder box known as the Middle East.

So, I have replaced page 5 with its 3 book reviews with my concerns. Let us have your views. Remaining silent is cowardly failure.

SICK PARADE: We all cheer Barry Edward along in his slow recovery from a December cancer operation, and Yvonne Robitaille recovering from February surgery to a collapsed lung. And then, there is Darrell's knee and Margret's migraines. Meanwhile the hearing of Ye Olde Scribe continues to fade while Joan's macular degeneration plays havoc with her reading and sewing. The two of us now make one person but, for tax purposes, we still pretend to be two.

INPUTS: Always welcomed! Fell free to disagree with Ye Olde Scribe. He enjoys discussions which are a lot cheaper than buying scores of books and magazines. georgesweanor@comcast.net

Or - keep his stamp collection healthy with snail mail to 2702 Marilyn Road, Colorado Springs, 80909.

The Editor's Corner

Spaceship Earth

The 75,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms that comprise each of us have yet to explain how or why we embarked on this ship, or why we had to start as an amoeba to end up as a human. And every one of our billions of ancestors had to survive long enough to reproduce in order for us to be us. As the odds against this are so astronomical, are we not saddled with sobering responsibility?

We know this trip can, and does, provide pleasure and excitement, but it includes no end of certain and fatal risks. Much of this is our own fault. We have not been the best of passengers, but the ship also has flaws of its own and the territory it traverses is not a travel agent's dream. Millions of missiles have been fired at us, not only the hard, rocky, and icy stuff, but also continuous streams of invisible particles that challenge our defending cells and limit individual life spans. We and our ship are far from perfect.

The specifications for this ship are weird, haphazard, and lack consistent reliability. It is locked into a long but repetitive route by the source of its energy, a nuclear furnace that burns 3 million tons of hydrogen per second and has an 11-year cycle in the nature of its output that can be damaging to us and to our devices. We must circle or ellipse this fiery ball, going from one extreme to the other every 105,000 years. We travel at a tilt that varies from 22 to 25 degrees every 41,000 years. And we wobble in a 26,000 year cycle with Polaris now our north star while brighter Vega was 12000 BC and will be again in 14000AD.

This ship also has internal problems with a magnetic core that flip flops every 500,000 years and is now overdue for a flip. The last 3 flips coincided with extreme cold. Then there is continental drift and tectonic plates that generate earthquakes and that change climate as they change land-sea configurations. All of this, along with human complacency not to disturb valued life styles, is quite sufficient to convince the Deniers that Humans are so puny they cannot compete with Mother Nature in climatic upheavals, so continue to enjoy the status quo, oblivious to the future and the restraints they must accept if continuance is a goal.

Deniers need to ponder lowly Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that thrived in an oxygen-free atmosphere some 3.5 billion years ago (bya) and that produced the methane that warmed the planet when the sun was weaker. They also freed oxygen and hydrogen. It took a while but the build up of oxygen some 540 mya (million years ago) permitted the explosion of new, more advanced, life forms as exhibited in the Burgess Shales of Alberta, and that led to us. Life forms much smaller than Humans did all this.

Species extinction is a regular event averaging 3 per day, and sudden mass extinctions of over 50% of species, while rare, did occur 445, 365, 250, 205, and 65 mya. In fact only 1% of the species that evolved are alive today. That should tell us that we all evolve to fill delicately-balanced niches that we tamper with at our peril. Biologists warn that 50% of current species will go extinct within 100 years due to activities of Humans who, at 7 billion strong, while not yet as numerous as bacteria, are ever so much more prolific at destroying ecosystems and pumping harmful gases into an atmosphere that barely tolerates us.

Many of us are smart enough to know what we are doing and what we must do, so we conduct periodic conferences around the world at which our representatives do a lot of talking but reflect our reluctance to make the sacrifices our survival demands, so now it is too late to appoint a new pilot for Spaceship Earth. It is also too late for a navigator or engineer. There just might be one last option - all human passengers on this ship would have to decide that they want a world fit for a few more generations of grandchildren and agree that something closer to an European life style with its population restraints will have to be quite sufficient for their highest aspirations. Perhaps our Earth Spirit, Gaia, determined to save itself, is injecting a dimly-understood will into all our Occupiers and the rebels in places like Iran, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Syria. With the guidance of those who have toiled to understand the nature, and limits of, this ship and its life forms we might prolong and better our voyage. Happiness does not require an excess of material goods.

In the past we have had mass conversions to religious beliefs. Now we need mass conversions to a Warren Buffet modest life style - a big step up for most of humanity but a reluctant downgrade for the entrenched greedy. This scribe sees no alternative and Time, whatever that is, is running out.

GUNS: Having developed a deep hatred of them in WWII, I cannot explain why these were allowed to gather dust for decades in my den closet. Glancing into it this Christmas, my grandson, Lee, saw what a treasure trove it was and dug out, among other artifacts, a German helmet, a Colt 45 revolver and a Mauser 8 mm rifle, cleaned them, and researched them on the internet, using their serial numbers.

The helmet I had liberated in 1945 at a Luftwaffe base at Straubing on the Danube.

I had acquired the Colt 45 in 1938 from a WWI veteran, not knowing it was one of 5,000 purchased in 1915 for officers of the Canadian Mounted Rifles. It is now a valued collectors' item. The Mauser 8mm rifle was one imported from Germany by Turkey and used at Gallipoli as well as in WWII. Many were then sold to the USA and I bought one to include with many artifacts when teaching world history classes. It too is now a collector's item.

I still prefer my book collection, but it made Lee happy. Who knows what else he will find? His grandparents are two packrats.

COMMON SENSE:

The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, the public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be reduced lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance.

Cicero, 55 BC

The New Year lies before you
Like a field of snow
Be careful how you tread
As every mark will show.

TIME:

In my day an error of 4 seconds in the timing from a cheap watch of the altitude of a heavenly body above the horizon could throw the resultant position line out a mile. Now for the same GPS error we need an error of 1/200,000 of a second from the atomic clock aboard a satellite.

ESPRIT DE CORPS, Canadian Military, MAGAZINE fills page 42 of the February 2012 issue with a reprint of my "Christmas Eve 1944 - and Afterthoughts" article. My thanks to Julie Simoneau, production manager.

PIPELINES: Tar Sands discussions in the January newsletter have sparked more: Political and oil interests are in overdrive to market this huge Alberta resource. How are profits being used to build a long-term sustainable economy in an environmentally-safe world? China has purchased a major interest. Thwarted by Obama's correct support for the common Nebraska folk against the Keystone route to Texas for the crude to be refined there before joining the export market, never warming a Canadian home, the Enbridge route, a \$5.5 billion project, now has centre stage. It is planned to carry 525,000 barrels of raw crude daily 1,172 km through pristine land and over the headwaters of the Mackenzie, Skeena, and Fraser watersheds and 785 rivers and streams to Kitimat where supertankers with 2.2 million barrel capacity would navigate the treacherous fiords to Pacific and Asian markets, so what real gain to Canada is this current rush? Very little of the \$8.3 billion Alberta taxes gleaned in 2011 from non-renewable resources, or the \$15 billion it expects in 2012 goes to the Heritage Fund for a rainy day. It is spent to provide services for the immigrants attracted by the oil boom and to retain the Alberta no-sales-tax policy and other benefits.

Over 4,000 people and 300 native groups have filed to be heard by the federal review panel due to give its verdict in 2013. A titanic struggle between short-term greed and environmental husbandry?

Like the US election we are bombarded by very meaningless, yet expensive, sound bites from both sides so where lies a sane policy? Curbing demand of course remains the best choice. Reams have been written from Andrew Nikiforuk's devastating attack in his *Tar Sands* book to *Ethical Oil* by Ezra Levant who argues Canada's regulations are so much more environmentally sound than most of the other oil producers. Most of the lengthy articles in highly respected magazines emphasize that, while technology has improved, it is still far from what is needed to free the bitumen safely from the sand.

Enbridge employs some 6,000 people, is over 60 years old, transports 65% of western Canadian oil, supplies 13% of US imports. This pipeline would start from their Edmonton refinery. As it is their land the First Nations should, and do, have the major say, but the impact reaches much further.

Canada's landscape is scarred by too many exhausted mines. A slower, extended pace, with finished, not raw, products would benefit all.

STEPHEN HAWKING, one of the world's greatest physicists, on his 70th birthday in January warned that Humanity cannot survive another thousand years on this planet and must find and colonize other homes. With a brilliant mind that has enlightened us and authored various books, 3 of which I have but cannot pretend to understand, Stephen is a research director at Cambridge University and holds a chair at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario,

For 48 years he has suffered from a motor neurone disease that usually kills in a few years. It has eaten away at his nervous system gradually paralyzing him. Now confined to a wheel chair and unable to speak he communicates by twitching cheek muscles. With a sensor attached to his eye glasses and touching his right cheek muscle his thoughts can be transmitted at the rate of one word per minute, yet he still informs us on mysteries such as Black Holes.

It was so heart warming a few years back to see great joy transform his face as he floated free for a few minutes in a high-flying aircraft that looped to simulate the weightlessness of space.

FRUSTRATED? - TAKE A HIKE:

Wondering what was left in life at age 45 after his sign painting business failed, Jean Béliveau left his wife, Luce Archambault, and home in Montreal and started running which slowed to a walk on reaching Georgia, USA. Eleven years and two months later he walked home via Vancouver to embrace his wife who had waited for him but now threatens to chain him to the house.

During his 75,500 km walk, that wore out 53 pairs of shoes, Jean admits he learned much about life from the 1,600 families in 64 countries who gave him food and shelter. He remains a strong advocate for world peace and the welfare of children.

Well, he did take a month to do some planning and to get Luce's approval, and he did have \$4,000 in his pocket while pushing a 3-wheel stroller containing a tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit, and food.

Annually, Luce would fly out to wherever he was to force him to pause for a week or two.

PAF in the RAF: Never adequately appreciated or remembered, we need to remind ourselves of the immense contributions Poles made to the Allied WWII victory. Last October, Tadeusz Sawicz, the last of the 145 Polish pilots who fought in the 1940 Battle of Britain, died in Toronto at age 97.

Sawicz, flying the open cockpit PZL-P11, survived numerous battles with superior Luftwaffe fighters before escaping via the Middle East to Britain to join the RAF.

He played a major role in building up the PAF within the RAF, earning DFCs from both the RAF and USAAF. He retired in 1947 as a Wing Commander, and emigrated to Canada in 1957 making a career in aeronautics. Poland held a state funeral for him in Warsaw.

GOING UP - NATURAL DISASTER COSTS:

The insurance company *Munich Re* has been keeping records since 1980 and inform us that 2011 has been the costliest yet - \$380 billion. The two previous peak years were \$250 billion each in 1996 and 2005.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SEQUEL: The Heneger and Constable Brewery donated free beer to the troops, but in the crucial days after D-Day there was no room for it in the supply lines to Normandy. Pilots of Spitfire Mark 9s modified their underwing bomb and fuel-tank racks to hold beer kegs but that left little ground clearance and some were scraped open on landings. Undaunted they modified fuel tanks to hold beer. Where there is a will there is a way. (Submitted by Gerry Robitaille)

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE CARABAO:

was founded in 1900 by bored US officers in the Philippines to lampoon the Order of the Dragon formed by officers who fought in the Boxer Rebellion against Chinese who took up arms against foreigners profiting from forcing opium onto them and the Philippines insurrection against US occupation.

This month Bob Freimuth flew off to Washington invited to join their latest meeting.

AMONG THE SILLY VIEWS POLLUTING MY COMPUTER SCREEN

is the persistent one denying the legitimacy of Obama's Hawaiian birth certificate - as if it matters. What does matter is how the individual organizes his genes, environmental experiences, education, skills, and health, plus choice of spouse and inner circle to serve country and world better than competitors. Of course he has faults like all of us but, compared to his opponents, he rates highly. That should be enough. The original ban was to bar European royalty, but today what European would want the job?

WAR DRUMS

Instead of promoting European-Union-style integration for our mutual benefit we are, all of us, playing a highly dangerous game in the Middle East. The major players are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, and the outsider with the big guns, the United States. The old truth about 'Power Corrupts' is in full play with all parties guilty of lying in a game of one-upmanship for dominance. People who are no threat to us are being cast as villains and military might is at an explosive level making it probable that some poor soldier, believing all this rhetoric, will ignite a spark that will result in politicians shedding crocodile tears over the deaths of thousands of more kids. On 03 July 1988 the USS Vincennes while in Iranian waters shot down an Iranian Airbus en route to Dubai killing all 290 aboard. The US has never apologized for this goof but the International Court of Justice in 1996 had it pay \$61 million in compensation, letting it off lightly. There are no Iranian warships in either the Saint Lawrence or Mexican Gulfs so are not those carriers now off the Iranian coast an act of aggression? Tensions are so much higher today that a similar mistake could be catastrophic.

Rhetoric begets rhetoric; force begets force; wars beget wars - and the common folk pay. We all need to retrench. How much of the behaviour we dislike in Iran is a reaction to our behaviour? The US snub of its 2003 baring of its soul in a plea to the US for Middle East accommodation has left it angrier and believing its isolation dictates it must go it alone.

The age-old sequence continues from the ancient oriental trade routes to Rome and Carthage, to European and US empire building. First commercial interests intrude into the lands of others, become wealthy, usurp their influence, and call in the military power of their home governments.

A ray of hope is shining from the motives of some, not all, who have given, or are still risking, their lives in the Arab Spring's surge for a better tomorrow. This is causing a major, but devious, shift in US policies toward its basic values rather than its commercial interests.

The Sunni House of Saud, having shared much of its oil wealth with its people, retains a firm grip of control, denying dissent and human rights especially to women, and relies heavily on US military might to ensure it, and not its Shia rival Iran, is the area's dominant power.

Iran, with the proudest historical record of all, had its oil exploited by the West, endured the West's support of Sunni Saddam's invasion that took a million lives and used poison gas with ingredients supplied by the West, is surrounded by nuclear-armed nations, and now suffers painful sanctions. As in Saudi Arabia the ruling Ayatollahs deny human rights and democracy to the people.

Israel, resurrected by the West and by its own talents but on land that saw the killing and evacuation of millions, shows little gratitude in its treatment of the Palestinians who, contrary to the utterances of some US politicians, have inhabited the area longer than the original Jewish tribes. Paranoid that its survival demands uncompromising vigilance it uses assured US backing in its own interests even when it harms its benefactor. Never harmed are 50 Jewish synagogues, schools, and hospital in Iran and the 200,000 Iranian Jews who live in Israel. Why destroy this happy fact?

All of this has caused changing alliances, rhetoric the opposite of action, deep distrusts, and dangerous fear. Like Global Warming, Environmental Disasters, and Human Suffering, where so much is man made, we do not need to build yet another tinder box in the Middle East.

The military power of the US has mainly failed since Korea. Its carelessness with economic power gave us a recession mainly restricted to Europe and the US. Its humanitarian power, used unobtrusively in the spirit of the Arab Spring, may work wonders.

US political infighting must give way to global safety. Trying to outflank Republican hawks by keeping all options, including military strikes, to prevent Iran from acquiring the ability, if not the will, to build a nuclear weapon when nothing is said of Israel's 200, or the larger arsenals of other countries, is self defeating. Iran is less of an aggressor nation than all the others.

Firm actions for a stable peace, coupled with human rights and mutual respect, are imperative. Thanks, Qatar, for again leading us by facilitating the Hamas-West Bank unity government.

DAVID R. ADAMSON, 1923-2011 (88), OUR #8 NORAD DCinC, 1976-1978.

As Dave had started out with the 162nd Saskatchewan Horse Cavalry Regiment, a horse was provided at his retirement ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base in August 1978 for him to ride off into the sunset. He reached it on Vancouver Island, 31 July 2011.

Born 10 March 1923 in Marwayne, Alberta, he attended #2 Manning Depot in Brandon, Manitoba, #8 EFTS Boundary Bay, BC, and earned his wings at #15 SFTS Claresholm, Alberta, in 1942. He took Operational Training at #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, New Brunswick, from 17 Aug to 06 Nov 1942.

David was posted to 180 Squadron RAF at Foulsham on 31 Jan 43 and flew his first operation 13 Jun 43, just 12 days after the formation of the 2nd Tactical Air Force as part of Fighter Command. His crew:

Sgt D.R. Adamson (Pilot)
P/O L.A. Baldchin (Nav/B)
Sgt I.H.W. Mack (WAG)p
Sgt D.H. Webber (AG)

An attack on the Bois Cocquerel V-1 site, 26 Jan 44, completed his tour of 30 operations, and he was shipped back to Canada to instruct at Pennfield Ridge, followed by a tour at RCAF Suffield, Alberta, where he met Majorie at the Spring Ball on base. He then returned overseas to fly with 412 Transport Squadron, followed by a one-year United Nations stint as Air Operations Officer in Gaza, Palestine.

Promoted to Group Captain, he returned home to become base commander at Trenton, Ontario. In 1968 he was moved to National Defence HQ in Ottawa where he worked on the unification of Canadian Forces and served on the Canada-US Permanent Joint Defence Board.

In 1973 he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of NORAD in Colorado Springs followed by a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General to become Deputy Commander, NORAD. He retired from the Canadian Forces 18 Aug 78 after 41 years of service.

David asked that his ashes be divided between Marwayne and his ancestral home in Ireland. He is survived by Marjorie and 3 daughters: Shirley, Barbara, and Brenda.

A REMINDER FROM VALERIE: 2012 is well on its way and we need hosts!!! Please consider hosting a party at your home with a co-host; co-hosting at someone else's home; or arranging a party at another type of venue. (Betty Davis and Louise Ellis arranged a dinner at the Edelweiss, and Carol has arranged many, many restaurant outings, including one last month at My Big Fat Greek Restaurant, which was very enjoyable).

Remember...if you host you can either do a full dinner, where you provide the entree, beverages, plates, cups, & napkins and others bring appetizers, sides, and desserts, OR you can choose to have an appetizers & desserts party, where you don't have to provide any food.

Please, don't wait for someone else to do it...host a party this year!!!



THE IRISH CLADDAGH, a romantic symbol, is composed of two hands holding a crowned heart. The Claddagh shows the bonds of love, friendship and loyalty. The right hand represents Dagda, the father of Celtic Gods, while the left represents the mother goddess, Anu. The mystical, universal Celtic spirit Beathauile is the crown.

DARRELL'S PAGE: Yes, I know you miss it but a very painful knee forced him to opt out this time.

THE LAWSON SAGA

Living a few streets apart, two Toronto kids, Tom and Kelly, attended the same high school where they fell in love but both knew that romance flourishes best when accompanied by good grades that can lead to careers that are interesting, worthwhile, and rewarding. Envyng the pride his Dad had in his 1941-45 time with the RCAF and RAF as a fighter pilot, flying Spitfires and Mustangs, Tom chased off to the far end of the lake to endure the rigours of RMC and a degree in electrical engineering, but on graduation in 1979 did race back to Toronto to marry Kelly, acquiring a firm base that prepared him to face the world. The first step was to complete pilot training so that he could fly Starfighters out of Baden-Soellingen, Deutschland, with 421 Squadron. Four years later he was back in RMC for a master's degree and a stint at teaching. As if that was not enough, they promoted him to the important rank of major and sent him off to the USAF staff College in Montgomery where he also completed a degree in Public Administration at Auburn University.

Missing the bracing air of high latitudes and altitudes he found his way to Cold Lake to qualify on Hornets and to return to Baden to fly with 421 and 439 Squadrons. When Baden closed, which he claims was not his fault, he found refuge with 410 Squadron in Cold Lake where they made him take charge of the Fighter Weapons Instructor School.

Like most of us he failed to escape a posting to AFHQ (actually enjoyable but no one is brave enough to admit it), but his tour as a career manager lasted only two years before he was back up in the air again, this time with 412 Squadron Challengers but that terminated after two year as career management tentacles reached out to grab him and put him in charge of the department, yet somehow he managed to complete the USAF Air War College program. He did survive a number of staff positions before given command of Trenton in 2006, but that lasted only a year because they promoted him to BGen to be RMC commandant.

In 2009 the Chief of the Air Staff needed an assistant and chose Tom for the job, only to have Colorado Springs lure him here in 2011 to be our NORAD Deputy Commander.

Now for the Commander who commands the Commander: Kelly was a legal and medical secretary and did serve as secretary to the Baden Base Surgeon during their first tour there. She gave all that up to mother three boys, not returning to work outside the home until all were in high school. For the last decade she has been transcript officer for the House of Commons. She has been a member of several top choirs and, as a talented skier, knows the hills of Colorado were designed for her.

Of the three boys, the oldest, Benjamin, is now flying with 414 Squadron as a Combat Systems Officer, the same squadron his grandfather, George, had flown with for his final tour.

Our Wing welcomes the Lawsons. With an ageing membership our winter activities have declined but, as the weather warms, we hope to see them at many of our social gatherings.

OUR 22 NORAD DCINCS/Deputy Commanders

DCinC, NORAD: The change from Air Marshall to Lieutenant General occurred with Fred Sharp

12 Sep 57	C. Roy Slemon	(Marion)	11 Aug 86	Don M. McNaughton	(Fran)
15 Aug 64	C.R. Dunlap	(Hester)	11 Aug 89	Robert R. Morton	
26 Aug 67	William R. MacBrien		03 Aug 92	Brian L. Smith	(Erika)
23 Jan 69	Frederick.R. Sharp		02 Aug 94	Dave O'Blenis	(Loreen)
15 Sep 69	Edwin M. Reyno		08 Aug 95	Lou Cuppens	(Chris)
01 Sep 72	Reginald J. Lane	(Barbara)	08 Apr 98	George Macdonald	(Melanie)
02 Oct 74	Richard C. Stovel	(Helen)	08 Aug 01	Ken Pennie	(Lise Doucet)
16 Sep 76	David R. Adamson	(Marj)	14 Aug 03	Eric Findley	(Carla)
18 Aug 78	Ken E. Lewis	(Barbara)	02 Aug 07	Charles Bouchard	(Sylvie)
25 Jun 80	Ken J. Thorneycroft	(Joan)	10 Jul 09	J.M. Duval	
26 May 83	Don C. MacKenzie	(Marg)	15 Aug 11	Tom J. Lawson	(Kelly)

SURE AND BEGORRAH (by God), IN MARCH THE WORLD IS IRISH

And, as my ancestry is 75% Irish, I am free to both praise and criticize the Irish, and they deserve great gobs of both. Their genetic mix is Scythian, Egyptian, Spanish, Celtic, Scandinavian, Norman, and Anglo-Saxon, so it is misleading to generalize.

Melting ice, 12,000 ya (years ago), created the fresh-water Irish Sea, enclosed by north and south land bridges to Scotland and Wales that by 9500 ya ago saw hunters following game to the newly greened Ireland. Britain was still attached to Europe. Oral histories, while great in Ireland, tend to be called myths which tell that the first organized immigrants were the Fir Bolg, from the Belgae of Gaul and Britain, the Fir Domnann, from the British Dumnonii, and the Gaileanga. Ireland has never been united and they blame others, mostly the English, when the basic truth is the Irish do not get along with themselves. During the battle of Moytura in 2000 BC, an Irish king was losing until his wife plunged in, killed the enemy king, and won the day. They named the city of Enniskillen after her. The Irish plundered Wales and England, returning with slaves including, in 401, Saint Patrick, who escaped after 6 years, only to return as a bishop, set up his see in Armagh, and convert the Irish to Christianity. Irish monks then went on to convert England and much of Europe. Instead of uniting against 200 years of Viking slaughter and pillaging that started in 795, Irish factions united at times with the Vikings against other Irish factions. When Brian Boru was making great strides in uniting Ireland, rivals joined the Vikings to kill him in 1014 near Dublin, a Viking stronghold. An Irish warlord, Dermot MacMurrough, in 1166, invited the English (actually the Normans) in to help him regain his crown as king of Leinster. Irish, such as Patrick Sarsfield and thousands of his followers, defeated in wars in Ireland, fled to France in 1691 forming regiments that were of considerable help to the French in their wars. Then, while criticizing Britain, the Irish built the British Empire. Of the troops that took Quebec, 25% were Irish, 25% Colonists, 23% English, 15% Scots, 4% German. Sullivans alone provided 4 admirals for the Royal Navy (plus my relative, Toronto's 2nd mayor). Irish clergy invented the traverse for Royal Navy guns and the use of limes to prevent scurvy. Irishmen fought on both sides during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Generals Sir Guy Carleton and Richard Montgomery were born a few kilometres apart in county Donegal. Montgomery was killed in 1775 leading the U.S. attack on Quebec defended by Carleton who lectured the U.S. prisoners on the crime of molesting an honest man in his home. He freed them to walk home with only sufficient weapons to safeguard against attacks from natives. Irish Fenians from the U.S. raided Irish settlers in Canada, 1865-1871, with never any compensation from the US. While beneficial in the rest of the world, British imperialism in Ireland was harsh although, during the potato famines, the British did more than others in providing help like importing large quantities of corn from North America. Early English settlers in Ireland became more Irish than the Irish and fought subsequent English settlers.

Ireland and England had the same population in 1700. Ireland had peat, England had coal and iron which permitted the Industrial Revolution. During the mass potato-famine exodus in the 1840s, 17,000 Irish died en route, mainly of typhus. The U.S. enforced higher restrictions, so got the wealthier portion of the refugees. Canada got the disease-laden ships that killed many Canadians who tried to help in Quebec. Genealogy is made difficult because no records were necessary as the Irish were simply going from one part of the Empire to another. The problems in Northern Ireland were between Irish who remained in Ireland and Irish who spent a few hundred years in Scotland becoming Presbyterians while there. The Irish brought their quarrels with them to the New World. Every 12th of July the Orangemen would commemorate the 1690 Battle of the Boyne victory over the Catholics (King William III of Orange vs King James II). As their parade passed the Catholic church in my home town, Port Hope, the Irish parish priest would toll the funeral bell. Humorous but sad. This practice did not fade out until after World War II. - Nevertheless, **we forget all that to remember the wealth of Irish wit, literature, song, dance, humour, and pretty, vivacious, colleens.**

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!



