



# WHITECOURT A Monthly Review from the Radical Middle Advisor

NOVEMBER 2006 — VOL. 4 NO. 11 — CIRCULATION 5,250

www.whitecourtweb.com

## Chamber of Commerce Awards

The Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce put on a well received event with The President's Ball and Awards Night at the Travelodge Hotel. In the photo above, guest speaker Premier Ralph Klein presents the Citizen of the Year Award to Marlene Pinchbeck. Look-

ing on from left to right are: Chamber of Commerce President Leo Zelinski, Woodlands Reeve Jim Rennie Jr., MP Rob Merrifield and MLA George Vanderburg.

Other award winners were: the Commonwealth  
*(Continued page 8)*



LEST WE FORGET

## Sagitiwa to Whitecourt - Part Four

By Jerry Graham  
*(Ed - the following is a fair use, first hand account of early days in Whitecourt.)*

Continuing, we come to the homestead of one, Challoner J. Stiles, (now Roy Merrifield's place) quite an active politician, and the party who attended to the making and maintaining of

*(Cont. page 19)*



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### ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!

### Tuesday Fish & Chips



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## WHITECOURT *Advisor*

Publisher: Dan Parker  
Office: Sheena Brandvold  
Billing: Rita Thomas  
Music: Judy Davio  
Fish: Denise Steeves



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Advisor@WhitecourtWeb.com  
Website:  
**WhitecourtWeb.com**  
Circulation: **5,250**  
**Published Monthly**

## Vandalism and Systems Thinking - Part Two

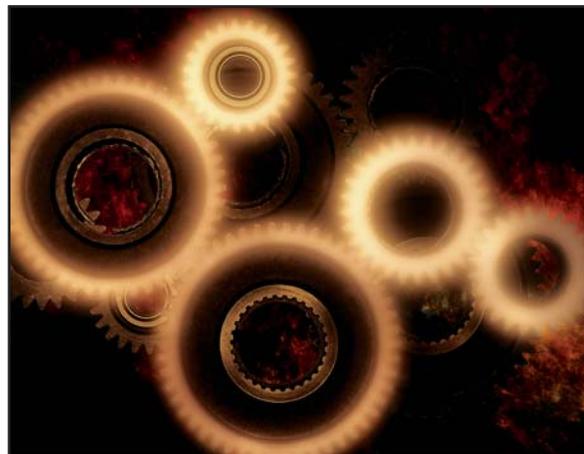
Compiled by Dan Parker

### The Story So Far

In Part I of this article, it was pointed out how many social problems, including vandalism, could benefit from a systems-thinking approach. A relevant book on this concept, *The Fifth Discipline, The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization* by Peter Senge, was briefly covered. To recap:

Overly simplified solutions lead to situations whereby billions of dollars and extensive human resources are thrown at some problems, only to see them

grow worse. This would include the war on some drugs, the fight against cancer and the threat of terrorism in Iraq and elsewhere. We have the technology to improve the



forementioned situations, yet they grow in spite of tremendous efforts. For the most part, this is because there are unintended consequences,

many of which come about from not defining the problem clearly enough.

A main reason for this is that we tend to break apart problems to make complex tasks more manageable. In very complex systems, such as social institutions, the hidden price of this is that we can lose sight of the consequences of our actions. It is futile to try to reassemble the fragments to see the big picture. This is

because the elements cannot be dealt with in isolation, due to the dynamic interrelationships between them. The

*(Continued on page 13)*



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Steve was in no shape to drive, so he wisely left his truck parked and started the walk home. Just as he reached the spot on the highway where Bernie was hit for the third time, a patrol car came along.

Try as he might, Steve had trouble walking with a steady gait, so that the patrol car slowed and stopped. The officer motioned Steve over. and asked "What are you doing out here at 2 A.M.?"

"I'm going to a lecture." the Steve said.

"And who is going to give a lecture at this hour?" the cop asked.

"My wife." answered Steve.

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**What's Up Doc?**

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings on display at that time.

"I have good news and bad news," the owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman inquired about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death."

"When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings."

"That's wonderful," the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?"

"The guy was your doctor..."

**Slow Off the Mark with Bill**

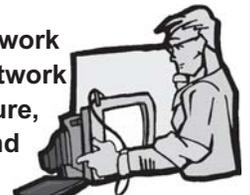
A doctor and a lawyer were talking at a party. Their conversation was constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice. After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asked the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"I give it to them," replied the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill."

The doctor was shocked, but agreed to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepared the bills. When he went to place them in his mailbox, he found a bill from the lawyer.

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"It's true," said the patient, "but my wife refuses to sleep alone."



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(NC)-Approximately 20 per cent of the fuel we pump into our vehicles actually goes towards keeping it on the move. Here's where the other 80 per cent goes:

- Engine and other losses - Most energy is lost in the combustion process as waste heat as well as from friction generated by the movement of mechanical parts or during braking. Energy is also lost in overcoming engine and driveline inefficiencies.
- Weight - A vehicle's weight plays a big role in determining its fuel efficiency. Just as it's difficult to lift or move a heavy object, the same goes for vehicles. It takes more energy (fuel) to move heavier vehicles than it does lighter ones, so light vehicles are the way to go.
- Rolling resistance - The width, diameter and tread pattern of tires influence the amount of energy a vehicle requires to turn on a road surface, thereby affecting the vehicle's overall fuel efficiency. Most tire manufacturers are developing high efficiency tires that minimize rolling resistance while maintaining safety and performance.
- Aerodynamics - Vehicles without streamlined contours, rounded edges and smooth surfaces are more likely to be a drain on your gas tank whereas an aerodynamic design reduces drag or wind resistance.

Visit Natural Resources Canada's website at [vehicles.gc.ca](http://vehicles.gc.ca) or call 1-800-387-2000 to learn about the EnerGuide Label for Vehicles, the Fuel Consumption Guide and for other tips and tools to encourage fuel efficiency.

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These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of this vehicle may vary. Refer to the Fuel Consumption Guide.

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Label for Vehicles, the Fuel Consumption Guide and for other tips and tools to encourage fuel efficiency.

- News Canada

**What a bigger waste**

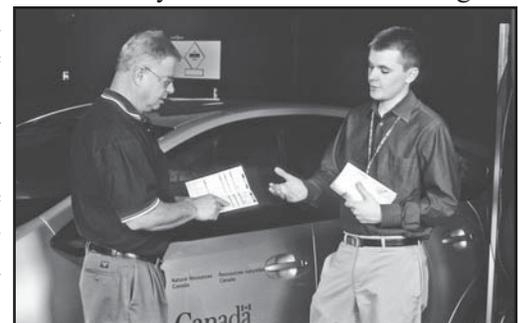
By Dan Parker

As has been covered in past issues of The Advisor, the bigger waste is that our money system requires that much energy be expended needlessly. A main reason is the exponential driver of compound interest and the need by most to get money through activity. This activity is counted as 'growth' by our GDP measuring system, whether it adds to wealth, or takes away from wealth. For example, in the case of the Exxon Valdez disaster, Alaska showed good 'growth' because of the clean-up costs. A majority of commuters, driving to massive heated towers, to shuffle paper needlessly and unhappily engage in meaningless work, is one wasteful outcome of the current money structure that is counted as 'growth'.

As Bernard Lietaer, former central banker and developer of the Euro states: "Money as compound interest bearing 'debt' creates extreme polarization of poverty and wealth distribution and the destruction of the delicate ecological balance that sustain the rich web of life in the planet, including human lives."

If a household acted like the macro-economy, it would run both air conditioning and heating at the same time (the better to churn and burn the expanding money supply made necessary by compound interest and outmoded economics). What is more, it would continue adding more air conditioners and heating elements.

Then if it were like our federal government, rather than examine if heating or airconditioning should not be run together; time and resources would only be committed to making the largely wasteful activities more energy efficient. Energy efficiency is a great thing, but it can only be viable in the context of a rational money system.



**Town Council Month in Review**

**October 11, 2006 News Release** - The Town of Whitecourt will be 'smoke free' as of January 1, 2007. At its October 10 Regular Meeting, Town Council passed Smoking Bylaw 1400 that prohibits smoking in all indoor public areas, including drinking establishments, restaurants and public transportation vehicles. Outdoor patios are excluded from this Bylaw's jurisdiction, as well as private workplace areas not accessible to the public. The Town of Whitecourt will develop and distribute information throughout the community prior to the implementation date to ensure the public is appropriately educated on the changes.

Progress on the Whitecourt Woodlands Multi-Use Facility continues. Tenders for the installation of the building pilings as well as mechanical, electrical and earthwork excavation services were awarded at last night's meeting, and construction will begin as early as next week. Whitecourt Avenue has been fenced off, and will be closed to traffic between Highway 43 and Sunset Boulevard. The facility has an 18-month construction timeline, with completion scheduled for the spring of 2008. The Town of Whitecourt will continue to keep the community informed on the progress of the project.

Enhancements and improvements continue to be made at the Whitecourt Twin Arenas. Town Council previously approved a number of projects to modernize the facility, and recently awarded contracts for the purchase and installation of a dehumidifier and new flooring. Future enhancement projects are scheduled at the facility throughout the next few months.

**October 25, 2006 News Release** - Representatives from Barr Ryder Architects and Planners, and Stuart Olson Construction presented an update on the Whitecourt Woodlands Multi-Use Facility to Council at the October 23 Regular Meeting. It was noted that tendering for the entire project is expected to be complete before the end of the year, and that the tenders awarded to date have been under budget.

Council awarded the 2006 FCSS Grant Allocations to assist with community social programs to three organizations:

1. Cool Program was awarded \$6,000 to assist with operational costs of the program that educates grade 8 students of Percy Baxter School about maturity and relationships.
2. Pat Hardy School Volunteer Care Bears received \$690 to purchase equipment in support of volunteer initiatives.
3. The Whitecourt Boys and Girls Club received \$24,729 to assist with operations and their after school program.

The Whitecourt Enhancement Grant offers local community organizations and groups financial assistance to develop or enhance recreation/leisure/cultural opportunities and events. Town Council allocated funds to the following organizations:

1. Trailblazers Snowmobile Club
2. Whitecourt and District Playschool
3. Whitecourt Club Volleyball
4. Whitecourt High School Football Association
5. Pumpjack Players

The "Whitecourt River Slide" is the official name of the water feature at Rotary Park. After receiving 39 submissions from community members, and following a recommendation from the Community Services Advisory Board, the official name was designated to Whitecourt's newest family attraction. **The Town of Whitecourt would like to thank all residents who participated in the initiative for their submissions.**

Council has directed Administration to amend the Domestic Animal Bylaw. Proposed changes include a restriction on the number of cats residents can own, and changes to the fines for offences under the Bylaw. The Bylaw will return for first reading at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

Due to the Remembrance Day holiday, Town Council's next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14. Please make note that the Town Office will be closed on Monday, November 13.

If you wish to live wisely, ignore sayings, including this one.



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## Afghanistan: A Modest Proposal

By Gwynne Dyer

Most people in Afghanistan are farmers. If Hamid Karzai's Western-backed government in Kabul is to survive, it must have their support. So not destroying their main cash crop should be an obvious priority for Karzai's foreign supporters. But what the hell, let's go burn some poppies.

"We need to realise that we could actually fail here," said Lieutenant General David Richards, British commander of Nato forces in Afghanistan, last week. In south-western Afghanistan, where 7,000 British, Canadian and Dutch troops were committed during the summer to contain a resurgent Taliban, the guerillas now actually stand and fight, even against Nato's overwhelming firepower and air power, and everything that moves on the roads gets ambushed.

The combat in Afghanistan is more severe and sustained than anything seen in Iraq, for the Taliban fight in organised units with good light infantry weapons. In the past month, Britain and Canada have lost about half as many soldiers killed in Afghanistan as the US lost in Iraq in the same time, out of a combat force perhaps one-tenth as big.

Concern in Europe about Western casualties in Afghanistan is already so great that none of the Nato countries was willing to commit more troops to the fighting when their defence chiefs met in Belgium on 13 September, despite an urgent appeal from General Richards for 2,500 more combat troops. Most of them just don't believe that a few thousand more troops will save the situation in Afghanistan.

To limit their casualties, the British have already abandoned their original "section-house" strategy of spreading troops through the villages of the south-west in small groups that would provide security and help with reconstruction. They were just too vulnerable, so they have been pulled back to bigger base camps and replaced by Afghan police (who

*(Continued on page 11)*



Brad Morgan of Osprey Custom Metal Fabrication holds up a giant aluminum soccer ball created (as all soccer balls are) of 12 5 sided pieces and 20 6 sided parts. For more information see [www.ospreymachine.com](http://www.ospreymachine.com).

A woman's work that is never done is the stuff she asks her husband to do.



**Jenny's back, at the same location, under a new name.**  
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### Great Prize for Ag Centre Draw

The Whitecourt Agricultural Society is selling raffle tickets on a 2007 Chevy 4x4. The proceeds are going toward the construction of their indoor riding arena to be built at the Whitecourt Agricultural grounds, Highway 32 south.

Tickets are 3 for \$20.00 or 1 for \$10.00, they are available at SMYL, RPM Power, Trim-Line, Dynamic Esso, Glenn's Service and Repair, Whitecourt Star, Whitecourt Vet Clinic, and Hilltop Vet Clinic. The draw date is November 18, 2007.



### Don't Forget Rotary's Arnie Stephenson's Koats for Kids

There are still a few days left to drop off your gently used coats, blankets, mittens and other winter apparell for re-use. The dropoff spots are Whitecourt Star, Royal Bank, JL Clothing, Tiddlewinx Toys, Angel's Drycleaning, Whitecourt Drycleaners, Garden Market IGA, ATB Financial, Extra Foods and CIBC.

Coats will be given out on November the 4th at the Repeat Boutique from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For pickup, you can call Gwen Dionne at 779-1400 or Dan Parker at 778-5577.

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A man went to visit a friend and was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog. He watched the game in astonishment for a while.

"I can hardly believe my eyes!" he exclaimed. "That's the smartest dog I've ever seen."

"Nah, he's not so smart," the friend replied. "I've beaten him three games out of five."



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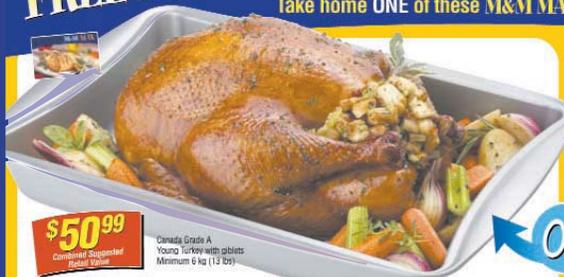
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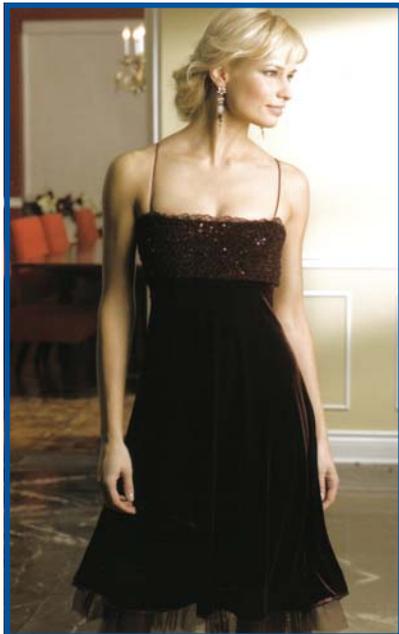


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MIDTOWN MALL ♥ 706-3547



Jean-Guy Carrier, second from left, accepts the Small Business of the Year Award for Theodore's Den.

(Continued from page 1)

Credit Union for Staff of the Year Award; Adam's Trucking for Corporate Citizen of the Year Award and Theodore's Den for Small Busi-

ness of the Year Award.

From all reports, attendees had a good time at what promises to become an annual Chamber of Commerce event.



Hazel and Leo Zelinski share a laugh with Premier Klein.

**F  
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Y**  
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On November 11, please try to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. The parade starts at about 10:30 a.m. at the Legion and participants are asked to be inside the Whitecourt Community Centre at Central School by 10:45 a.m., with two minutes of silence being at 11:00 a.m. More details are on page 12.



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(Continued from page 6)

will make deals with the local Taliban forces to save their lives.)

The rapid collapse of the Taliban government in the face of America's air power and its locally purchased allies in late 2001 created a wholly misleading impression that the question of who controls the country had been settled. Afghanistan has always been an easy country to invade but a hard country to occupy. Resistance to foreign intervention takes time to build up, but the Afghans defeated British occupations (twice) and a Soviet occupation when those empires were at the height of their power, and they are well on the way to doing it again.

The various warlords who allied themselves with the United States are the real power in most of Afghanistan, and in the traditional opium-producing areas in the south they have encouraged a return to poppy-farming (which had been almost eradicated under the Taliban) in order to get some cash flow. Poor farmers struggling under staggering loads of debt were happy to cooperate, and by now Afghanistan is producing about 90 percent of the world's opium, the raw material for heroin.

*“Pakistan has agreed with the tribes of Waziristan to withdraw its troops from the lawless province, giving the Taliban a secure base on Afghanistan's border.”*

## Back Country Framing



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That's the price you pay for disrupting the established order, and the US should just have paid it. There's no real point in destroying poppies in Afghanistan, because they'll just get planted elsewhere: so long as heroin is illegal, the price will be high enough that people somewhere will grow it. Even if it is ideologically impossible for the United States to end its foolish, unwinnable "war on drugs," it should have turned a blind eye in Afghanistan.

But it didn't. For the past five years a shadowy outfit called DynCorps has been destroying the poppy-fields of southern Afghanistan's poorest farmers with US and British military support. This was an opportunity the Taliban could not resist, and the alliance between Taliban fighters and poppy-farmers (now often the same people) is at the root of the resurgent guerilla war in the south.

It begins to smell like the last year or two in a classic anti-colonial war, when the guerillas start winning and local players begin to hedge their bets. After taking heavy casualties, Pakistan has agreed with the tribes of Waziristan to withdraw its troops from the lawless province, giving the Taliban a secure base on Afghani-

(Continued on page 25)

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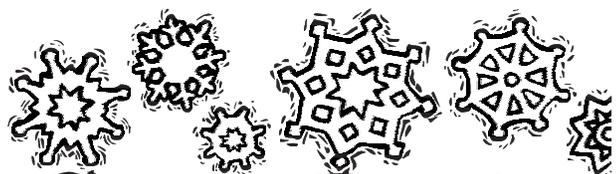


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Archival photo above was supplied by Doug Pederson.

### Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Saturday, November 11

The parade will leave the Legion at approximately 10:30 a.m. to march to the Whitecourt Community Centre in Central School. Please be seated inside the Centre by 10:45 for the start of the service. At 11:00 a.m. there will be two minutes of silence, before the rest of the service.

After the service, the parade will march past the cenotaph, located in front of the Senior's Circle. Lord Strathcona's Horse from Edmonton were invited to take part, along with the local groups of veterans, RCMP, youth groups, fire department and other organizations.

There will be a social at the Legion after the parade finishes, with plans to have live entertainment later in the evening.

### Community Services Advisory Board

Meets 2nd Tuesday of every month except August

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Forest Interpretive Centre - Council Chambers

Contact Name/Number: Community Services Department, 778-6300

Event Description: A public meeting where Council appointed Board Members meet to discuss and review local recreation and FCSS issues.

### November 24 Santa Claus Parade and Christmas Tree Light-Up

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for the details of this fun Chamber of Commerce annual event. See page 18 for photos of last year's event.

## MOBILE BONE DENSITOMETRY

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*(Continued from page 2)*

idea is that one has to engage in 'systems-thinking'; to see past the illusion that the world is created of separate, unrelated forces.

'Unmentionables' is a term used by some systems-thinkers to designate topics that are 'taboo' in a discussion. This might include such things as how a superior at work is not considerate of employees or how money is created from 'thin air', as debt, at compound interest, by private institutions. 'Unmentionables', which do not enter a discussion or dialogue, function as blind spots in an organization or community.

Bridging perceptual differences is a key part of solving



ing serious problems. This issue is alleviated by the five disciplines advocated by Peter Senge in his ground breaking book. They are: building shared vision to foster long term commitment; keeping an open mind to challenge our mental models or paradigms; using team learning to both deal with complexity and to see the larger picture that lies beyond our individual perspective; personal mastery to continually learn how our own actions affect our world; and systems-thinking, which is the fifth discipline that integrates the other four.

*“ Bridging perceptual differences is a key part of solving serious problems. ”*

While there is some recognition of complexity in regards to vandalism, there is no concerted effort to clearly define the problem in terms of the interrelationships or connections between the various observations. The key question to ask is why some societies, without threat of punishment, have raised young people who rarely disrespect elders and almost without exception aspire to become working members

of social institutions; while in others a significant percentage of youth need to have heavy sanctions applied against them before they become grudging members of an establishment.

Some of the causes of vandalism put forward are: solutions that put all the blame on society, without a concomitant emphasis on personal accountability; excessive materialism and a lack of spiritualism in our society; irresponsible media glorification of destruction and violence; a lack of a parent's time or guidance due

to overwork; law enforcement handcuffed by excessive paperwork and poorly thought out youth laws; and last but not least the degree of corruption and hypocrisy within establishment institutions themselves.

Canadian principal Jim Cooze had categorized vandals as: 1. Vindictive kids who carry a grudge against a teacher or other staff member; 2. Malicious kids who thrive on causing trouble; 3.



Ideological kids who want to call attention to a particular problem or cause; 4. Bored kids who combine destruction with theft to fulfill a need for excitement; and 5. Frustrated kids who are filled with rage and feel school (and society) are indifferent and hostile. From a systems-thinking viewpoint, one can see that it is likely there are significant interrelationships between the feelings of being bored, frustrated, ideological, malicious and vindictive.

**Surveillance in the Short Term**

There are several standard solutions given for controlling vandalism. Some are effective but seem misguided, if the solution is to be long

*(Continued on page 14)*

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(Continued from page 13)

lasting. Chief among these is increased surveillance. This can be broken down into surveillance by the general population and surveillance by officials, usually with the aid of electronic spying equipment.

In the case of the general population being urged to report on criminal incidents, one has to ask, why is it necessary that the population in general be told to do such things? People still naturally run to help an elderly person who has fallen, so why do they not naturally report behaviour that is destructive to society? Why does a significant segment of the general population not get involved in such matters as a matter of course?

There is no doubt that increased surveillance is effective, at least in the short

run. In the Sacramento City Unified School District, more than half of all vandalism occurs during summer months. School officials and local police asked neighbors in 100 houses near the school to report suspicious acts. In 1993, before the project began, the district lost about \$1 million to vandalism. With the neighbourhood program in place, the vandalism price tag dropped to about \$60,000.

It should be noted that even this decreased amount is still much higher than would have occurred 20 or 30 years ago. So there is both increased surveillance and increased vandalism happening in regards to a few decades ago. This is occurring despite technological advances which should have alleviated some underlying causes of crime.

Electronic surveillance can also be very effective. A dozen years ago, Alabama's Huntsville City Schools were subjected to frequent vandal attacks, and annual insurance costs had risen to more than \$1 million. The school board authorized a closed-circuit television system, motion sensors, heat and smoke detectors, and magnetic door switches.

Within the first few months, the \$1.6 million surveillance system reduced vandalism costs to \$200. How-

ever, in reading the list of electronic equipment above, one is reminded of a prison, rather than a school. What happened over a few generations that led from communities building schools with volunteer labour, to having the youth of that community attacking the schools on a regular basis?

Aside from encouraging an 'us versus them' mentality in a community, the dangers of

*“ As could be predicted by systems-thinking, the easy way out did lead back in, when the communist leadership decided to quell dissent by ramping up a surveillance society. ”*



extensive surveillance are obvious enough. At what point does it stop? In every case, the long term results of a surveillance society are not good. Think back to all of the collapsed communist countries. Good behaviour cannot just be imposed from the outside, it must also spring from within. This cannot happen in a society where the citizenry has lost belief in the leadership.

As could be predicted by systems-thinking, the easy way out did lead back in, when the communist leadership decided to quell dissent by ramping up a surveillance society. Any increased surveillance should be viewed as a stop gap, triage method of treatment. The real work is in changing the conditions that cause people, including youth, to lose faith in a society, whether that society be designated communist or capitalist.

(Continued on page 27)



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## Stumping in the Grassroots

PC Leadership candidate Mark Norris dropped by The Advisor last month for a visit. The overall theme of his approach was for change and a focus on quality of life issues. Considerations for the latter included: better long term care access for our seniors: improving health care facilities: and looking at partnering with local and federal levels of government to deal with such issues as meth addiction and homelessness.



The following is from a press release on *The Real Plan for Alberta* platform of Mr. Norris.

### Three objectives for Party Reform:

- Ensure party leadership takes a visible, active role in party events, the policy conference, the annual general meeting and constituency events.
- Encourage new members to join the party and refresh constituency and executive levels. The party will defend the constitution and strengthen the nomination process. We'll also breathe new life into the election of party officers by encouraging real and active campaigns for key positions.
- Improve policy and communication vehicles. Prepare white papers for discussion on important policy issues, and circulate them to constituencies for comment before important policy positions are taken.

### Six key areas for Democratic Reform:

1. Strengthening the oversight of government spending and operations. We need to strengthen the Auditor General.
2. Opposition members should be included in more government committees. Increasing the transparency of lobbying and government relations' efforts. We need a lobbyist registry to ensure transparency.
3. Democratizing and de-politicizing election dates. We need Fixed Election Dates, starting with a target of Spring 2008.
4. Increasing transparency in the funding of political parties and leadership races. Everyone knows who is backing the Norris campaign. The other contenders should name their backers.
5. Opening the debate about term limits for senior elected officials. After a long period in office it becomes hard for a Premier to maintain focus and keep a sense of connectedness with Albertans. Mark Norris supports term limits; they lead to renewal and a government that is closer to Albertans.
6. "I ask you to share my optimism for the future. I hope you see in this plan an honest, transparent direction that supports you and your family's aspirations and dreams. We're entering a new era in Alberta - one where we'll need to focus on sustaining prosperity and develop a quality of life that links Alberta's past with its future. I ask for your support on November 25," said Norris.

*Ed - Any PC leadership candidate coming by The Advisor would have shared space with Mr. Norris.*

# Anything & Everything

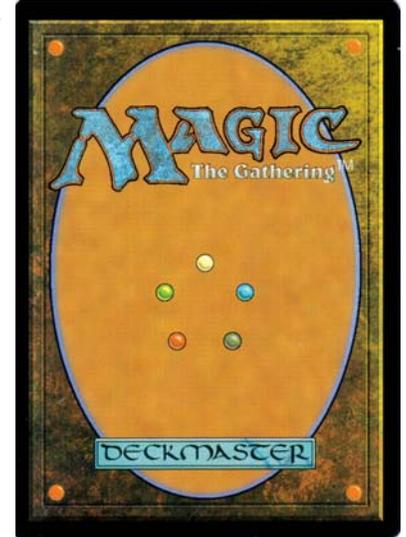
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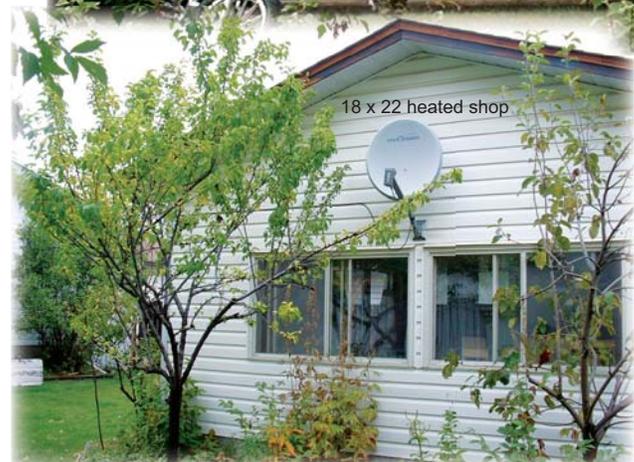
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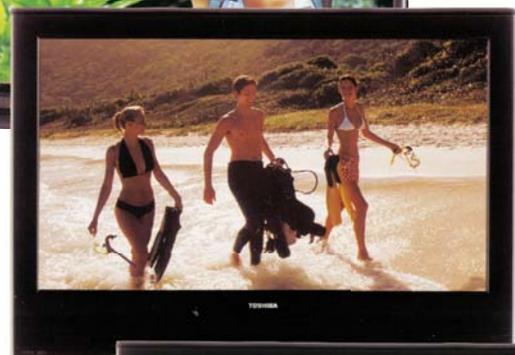


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*Frank Wagoner Family, late 1920's. Back Row, L. to R: Clarence, Grace (Kallbom), Ethel (Baxter), Bertha, Myrtle (Baxter), Raymond. Front Row, L. to R.: Mrs. Annie Wagoner with Arthur in front, Mr. Frank Wagoner, Ruby and Marie.*

(Continued from page 1)

roads, although neither task involved much in the way of spending or effort. At this stage of growth, no one spoke of roads to any extent, and the road which we are now travelling was simply known as "The Mink Creek Trail". The installing or replacing a culvert here or there, (wooden culverts by the way), took care of all the money allotted to roads for maintenance and repairs in Whitecourt and

district.

Moving on, and on the same north side of the road, we come to the homestead of one, Vrol Vrolson, a hardy Scandinavian with a penchant for neatness, the numerous birch trees surrounding his log house and well kept grounds, still stand as evidence of his tidy habits, even after the lapse of so many years.

Moving on, and on the same north side of the road, and passing through what was a most beautiful lane of birch trees before Calgary Power sacrificed beauty for utility, and as usual on the north side, we come to the abandoned farm which Frank Wagoner purchased from one, Sam Haines, at an early date in Whitecourt's history. It was always open house at Wagoner's, a favorite gathering place. Frank was a most

progressive farmer, while no one ever attended to the household and other chores any more completely or willingly than Mrs. Wagoner. The Wagoners raised a large family here including Grace (Mrs. Kallbom), Myrtle (Mrs. Leo Baxter), Raymond, Clarence, Ethel (Mrs. Harold Baxter), Marie (Mrs. Clarence McIlwaine), Bertha, Ruby (Mrs. Jack Braithwaite) and Arthur.

(Continued on page 20)

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*(Continued from page 19)*

Immediately opposite is the homestead of Oscar Kallbom and adjoining that of Fred Karlzen. In the days of which we write, when any reference was made to Oscar, Fred and Erik, it was understood the subjects were the aforementioned pair and also one, Erik Hedin. The three of them had been boys together in Sweden and had arrived in Canada together. While no one ever referred to them as The Three Musketeers, that is just exactly what they were.

They had grown together, had worked together all their lives, and after a friendship that endured through possibly fifty years or more, all passed away here.

Fred Karlzen and Oscar Kallbom married here but Erik remained a bachelor to the end. Mrs. Karlzen and some members of the Karlzen family still live in Whitecourt and District, while Mrs. Grace Kallbom as well as Lawrence and Donald, her sons, are residents.

Next, and on the north side of the road, comes the homestead of one, Dave Wartman, a highly capable millwright or mechanic, who operated a sawmill about this time. No one really understood Dave, if actually there was any such possibility, his views on almost any subject being sure to be decidedly different, and accompanied as a rule by adjectives not altogether acceptable in polite society. However for the most part, no one paid much attention to him, which em-

boldened him on occasion to express his opinion of someone right in that person's presence with disastrous results.

Rounding the bend in the road here, and to the north side of the road still, was the homestead of Wm. Ury who still went south of the border on occasion to toil for some U.S. railroad. Next, and on the same side, the homestead of I.S. Hunt, another railroader, who continued in the employ of Canadian Northern Railway at Winnipeg. Commuting between here and Winnipeg as he did, would have been an expensive item had he not enjoyed the privilege of a pass from the railroad. Opposite and on the south side of the road was the homestead of Andrew Prestlien, a man possessed of all the true characteristics of a Scandinavian, other than that of being somewhat shy and retiring. Andy, a good solid citizen, was inclined to be noisy.

Nels Sonmor, another Scandinavian, joined Prestlien to the east, while Bill Hinkelman still farms where he did 'way back when. The Ward family,

*(Continued on page 21)*



*Eric Hedin stands at left, by the Whitecourt Hotel circa 1920. Next is Gus Chaisson. Axel Olson is barbering John Torgerson.*

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*(Continued from page 20)*

Ben and his wife, who everyone called “Ma”, and girls Lucy, Sarah, Verlie, Tessa, boys Dave, Wes, Orval and Bob resided somewhat to the east. Chris Prestlien and family, (every member thereof, drowned in the disastrous flood that

swept that area in 1926). Wes Ward with his wife and family also resided in that area, Mrs. Ward having been a teacher in Whitecourt just a few years previously.

In the area generally referred to as “the bottom of

the flat”, we had the farms of Don Underwood and Dave Anderson. Don, who at the time to which we refer, was operating a pool hall in a tent for the benefit and amusement of construction workers on the railroad grade. Dave Anderson, or “Squeeze Organ Dave” as he was called was always good for a number or two at the dances, and his facial contortions while rendering “The Big Lake Waltz” rivaled anything the wind might blow up said ‘Big Lake’.

Getting back to Whitecourt we now set out over what was called

the Greencourt Trail, and after ascending the hill we come to the homestead of Jas. Hobbs, in the area now occupied by Amoco (Pan Am.) offices. Also close by is the homestead of William M. Glass, a southern gentleman from Georgia, with a real pleasing southern accent and personality. The term “southern gentleman” is at times used very loosely, but Mr. Glass exemplified it perfectly. A man of extremely high moral character, who rarely

if ever spoke of his home in Georgia. It was later learned when the author was assisting in the winding up of Mr. Glass’ Estate, that Mr. Glass had been admitted to the bar in his home state, information he never divulged during his many years in Whitecourt.

What brought him here or why he chose to remain here and do a bit of carpentry will never be known, but from his exemplary conduct at all times coupled with his honesty and integrity, it is safe to assume he was not “hiding out”. His reason, if any died with him.

*“Chris Prestlien and family, (every member thereof, drowned in the disastrous flood that swept that area in 1926).”*

Joe Johnston came next. He was located in that area now occupied by The Glenview Motel. About here the trail left what is now Highway 43, and proceeded to angle over “Switchback”, a very sandy dogleg that took a bit of negotiating with a Model T Ford, a fact to which the author will readily testify. A man by the name of Van Tack had a holding in that

*(Continued on page 22)*



*Ma Ward, Bob, Nina Ward and Baby Jean.*

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*(Continued from page 21)*

area, and did a bit of brick manufacturing in a sort of crude way. Much in the fashion of sun dried bricks known as adobe in Mexico and elsewhere. Here again, talent was revealed, when this party enacted a scene from Oliver Twist at one of the Christmas concerts. His rendition of 'Fagin' was superb and no wonder; we later learned that he had been a professional actor at one time.

Syd. Smith, already mentioned had a homestead in this same area, and a short distance along the way, and down by the Beaver Creek, Leo Baxter was getting established. Leo, a New Brunswicker, had noticed fish in the creek, and that did it. The fish were not herring to be sure, but what a substitute they made, and besides catching them was fun.

Leo often contributed his bit at the local concerts, etc.

he being especially good with selections from Henry Drummond. He and his brother Harold blended their voices nicely in some of the old ballads, and as a change of pace, Harold would take hold of a guitar while Leo fiddled. The pace seldom slackened. Leo and Mrs. Baxter raised a family there, and still reside there, even if the fishing is nowhere nearly as good as it used to be.

Next, and down by the

Beaver Creek we found Jim Hammond. This man had a wealth of stories concerning life in and around Montana. He always sported a pair of torn overalls, and it was really puzzling how even a brand new pair could develop this torn condition, so much in keeping with the man, in twenty-four hours or less! As a story teller and a humorist he was superb, and equal to many of the stand-up comedians now appearing on T.V. Possibly not too difficult a task. Jim had a homely philosophy, an insatiable appetite for Piper Heidsick chewing tobacco and genuine love for his fellow man.

Ascending the hill which we call the McCaffrey Hill, (bypassed by Highway 43) we next come to the farm where Jim and Frank McCaffrey, two brothers, lived. They had done a tremendous lot of work carving a farm out of heavily timbered land, and they were not young men by any means and had arrived in Whitecourt from Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Both died here. Jesse French also had his holding in this area and just a bit farther on, P. Knust had cleared, and was farming, what in the days

*(Continued on page 30)*



First bridge over Beaver to Baxter homestead, 1921. Left to right are Leo Baxter, Jim Hammond, Syd Smith.

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### Bioenergy investment energizes Alberta's agriculture sector

Red Deer... The Alberta government is committing \$239 million over the next five years to strengthen and expand Alberta's bioenergy sector by encouraging manufacturers to bring more bioenergy products to the marketplace.

Doug Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development said this investment provides a significant opportunity to position Alberta as a leader in producing renewable energy from organic materials. It will also create new markets and new environmentally-friendly product and process opportunities for Alberta's agriculture industry.

"Bioenergy is emerging as the foundation of key value-added biorefining industries across all of North America, and this funding ensures Alberta has the policies and programs in place to take advantage of the exciting opportunities developing in this sector," said Horner. "The development of bioenergy infrastructure within the province will not only add great value to our agriculture industry, it will also contribute to the long-term sustainable growth of Alberta's economy and strengthen our rural communities."

The investment will be used to administer the Renewable Energy Producer Credit program that will help Alberta industry effectively compete with other jurisdictions that provide programs and tax exemptions to distributors who blend bio-fuels. At a total cost of \$209 million, the four-year program is being established to serve as a catalyst in enabling the introduction of renewable products into the traditional fuels and energy marketplace. The credits will be available to eligible commercial bioenergy products processed in Alberta from April 2007 to March 2011. This program will replace the existing Alberta ethanol road tax exemption policy.

An additional \$30 million, three year commitment will be initiated immediately through a commercialization program supporting technology investment in the province. It will support establishment of the infrastructure required to market and distribute bioenergy products within the existing market for fuel or electrical power. The \$30 million in funding is available through the Energy Innovation Fund. "The development of alternative fuels is a key pillar of Alberta's Integrated Energy Vision," Energy Minister Greg Melchin said. "This is an

important investment to further diversify Alberta's vast and diverse energy portfolio."

Both the \$209 million and \$30 million investments are key components of Alberta Agriculture's nine-point bio-energy plan.

The \$200-million Energy Innovation Fund is a provincial initiative that supports Alberta's Integrated Energy Vision: to build on world-class knowledge, expertise and leadership to responsibly develop our vast energy resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The fund was announced in August. Sponsor Ministries are Energy; Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Environment; Sustainable Resource Development; and Innovation and Science.

Whitecourt

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If you cannot pick up the brochures, you can use the Internet and this page to set up your shoe box.

Cut out the appropriate label and tape it on top of your shoe box gift. You can also download the shoe box labels from [www.samaritanspurse.ca/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca/occ).

Mark the correct age category:

2-4 Years Old
5-9 Years Old
10-14 Years Old

**BOY**

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---

Mark the correct age category:

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Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs.\* You can use the attached donation envelope or you can give online. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation. Place the envelope on top of the gift items inside your shoe box so it is clearly visible.
- DROP OFF**  
Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and drop off at the Collection Centre nearest you during collection week, November 13-18, 2006. For locations and dates, call 1-800-303-1269, or visit [www.samaritanspurse.ca/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca/occ). You can also send your shoe box gift to: Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child 20 Hopewell Way NE, Calgary, AB T3J 5H5



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small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoo's, harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, small Etch A Sketch\*, Slinky\*, etc.
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pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or pencil crayons, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, colouring and picture books, etc.
- HYGIENE ITEMS**  
toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- OTHER**  
hard wrapped candy only (no chewy candy or gum), T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, etc.
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In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family.
- Do Not Include:**
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- \* The suggested donation has increased in order to accommodate higher shipping costs, and to expand assistance to children and their communities. This is the first increase since Operation Christmas Child began 13 years ago.



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(Continued from page 11)

stan's border. Karzai, seeking allies who will help him survive the eventual pull-out of Western troops, is appointing gangsters and drug-runners as local police chiefs and commanders. The end-game has started, and the foreigners seem bound to lose.

Only one chance remains for them. The futile "war on drugs" will drag on endlessly elsewhere, but if they legalised the cultivation of opium poppies in Afghanistan -- AND BOUGHT UP THE ENTIRE CROP AT PREMIUM PRICES -- they might just break the link between the Taliban and the farmers. Store it, burn it, whatever, but stop destroying the farmers' livelihoods and put a few billion dollars directly into their pockets. Otherwise, the first Afghan cities will probably start to fall into Taliban hands within the next year to eighteen months.

GWYNNE DYER has worked as a freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster and lecturer on international affairs for more than 20 years, but he was originally trained as an historian. Born in Newfoundland, he received degrees from Canadian, American and British universities, finishing with a Ph.D. in Military and Middle Eastern History from the University of London. He served in three navies and held academic appointments at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Oxford University before launching his twice-weekly column on international affairs, which is published by over 175 papers

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in some 45 countries.

His first television series, the 7-part documentary 'War', was aired in 45 countries in the mid-80s. One episode, 'The Profession of Arms', was nominated for an Academy Award. His more recent works include the 1994 series 'The Human Race', and 'Protection Force', a three-part series on peacekeepers in Bosnia, both of which won Gemini awards. His award-winning radio documentaries include 'The Gorbachev Revolution', a seven-part series based on Dyer's experiences in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in 1987-90, and 'Millenium', a six-hour series on the emerging global culture.

A woman comes into the kitchen to see her husband strolling about with a fly swatter. She asks what he's doing, and he promptly replied "Killing flies."

She asks "Well, did you get any?"

"Yeah," he says, "three males and two females."

"How'd you know what gender they are?" his wife asked.

"Oh, it's easy," he said. "I killed three on a beer can and two on the phone."



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A woman awoke excitedly on her birthday and announced enthusiastically to her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for my birthday! What do you think it means?"

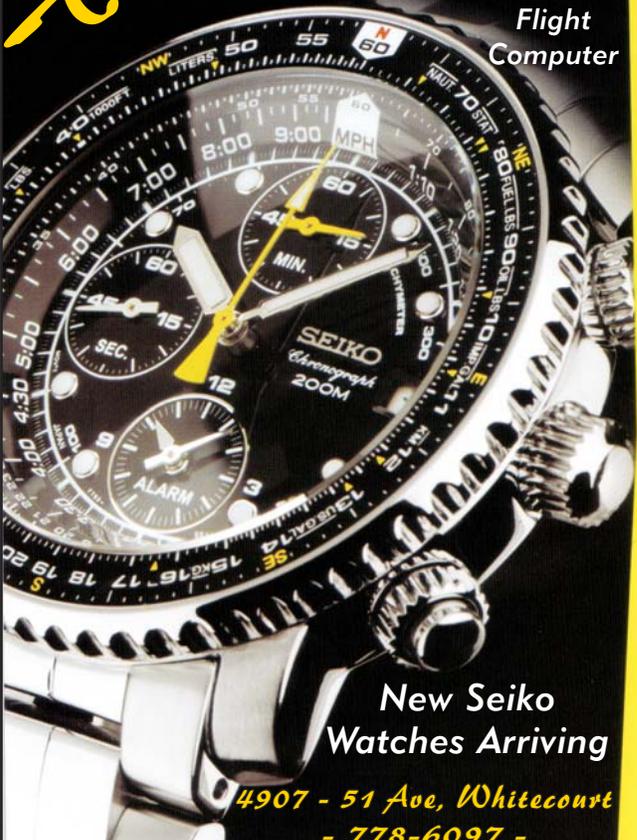
With certainty in his voice, the man said, "You'll know tonight."

That evening the man came home with a small package and handed it to his wife.

With anxious anticipation the woman quickly opened the package to find a book entitled - "The Meaning of Dreams".

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### Closing the information gap

*FAO's AGORA initiative widens access to agricultural research by more countries*

(GNA) Rome, – Over 100 of the world's poorest countries will now be able to access leading food and agriculture journals for little or no cost with the launch of the second phase of the Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) initiative, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced today.

AGORA is a successful public-private partnership between FAO, 37 of the world's leading science publishers and other key partners including the World Health Organization and Cornell University. Introduced in 2003 and providing access to 69 low-income countries, AGORA has recently expanded to include universities, colleges, research institutes and government ministries as well as non-governmental organizations in an additional 37 lower-middle-income countries.

AGORA responds to the needs of thousands of students, researchers and academics in poorer countries, who continue to face challenges accessing up-to-date information which is vital to their work. "We have seen from the first phase of this initiative that there is increasing demand for access to vital information by poorer countries. In less than three years, AGORA has already helped bridge the knowledge gap by providing 850 institutions access to over 900 journals in the areas of agriculture and related subjects," notes Anton Mangstl, Director of FAO's Library and Documentation Systems Division. AGORA is making an important contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by providing essential information to improve the livelihoods of those who need it most. - *Good News Agency.*

**November is...Family Violence Prevention Month**

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**November 16, 2006**  
**5:00 - 8:00 P.M.**  
**Seniors Circle**

Admission - \$5.00  
 Refreshments & Appetizers provided

*The existence of family violence in our community affects our safety and security, our health and our dignity. It affects our ability, individually and collectively, to live free of fear. November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta and the theme is It's Your Business! For more information, contact the Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre. Toll-free: 1-800-467-4049; Crisis: (780) 778-6209. The above ad is sponsored by Zadderey Agencies Royal LePage.*

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(Continued from page 14)

**Structure and Vandalism**

The design of a facility or area is another factor in reducing vandalism. Lighting, open spaces, eliminating blind corridors and the overall “quality of the physical environment” can determine whether public spaces are perceived as alienating or welcoming. One school designer advocates school spaces that keep social interaction on a small scale “so no individual feels lost or insignificant.”

Researcher Gary Holland writes that “perhaps no approach will totally prevent acts of vandalism. Therefore, property should be designed and constructed with

*“However, experience has shown that when such acts are overlooked or ignored, additional destruction will occur.”*

materials that promote ease of maintenance and quick clean up. Facilities which are hard to clean and equipment that may require difficult to obtain replacement parts are much more prone to neglect and damage. Examples of design features which inhibit vandalism include:

- The use of materials with rough-textured, dark-colored surfaces to discourage graffiti. An alternative is to use smooth, hard surfaces which are easily cleaned. Stone or masonry surfaces are poor choices since they are both easy to mark and difficult to clean.

- Elimination of recessed

entryways and unused space under stairways to reduce unobserved activity.

- Replacing broken windows with plexiglass or some other shatter-resistant window covering.

- Elevating the height of street signs to reduce damage and theft.

- Using ceramic tile on walls in areas where people congregate. Also, wallpaper should be washable and strippable.

- Utilization of night lighting to reduce unobserved activity and enhance the appearance of the property.

Mr. Holland also comments on the ‘broken windows’ theory, writing: “for all practical purposes, no explanation may ever be available for why an abandoned

building was damaged or the back door of a small business was spray painted or a young tree trampled. However, experience has shown that when such acts are overlooked or ignored, additional destruction will occur. Over time, a variety of people may be involved in minor acts which, individually, are not necessarily malicious.

The resulting blight negatively impacts the area and will probably be expensive to repair.

Thus, a fundamental component to reduce vandalism is to frequently inspect

(Continued on page 28)

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Three men wanted to cross a river. They had no idea how to cross it, so one man knelt down on his knees and prayed “Lord give me the power and strength the cross the river.” suddenly the man became very strong and swam across the river. The next man thought: if it worked for him, it’ll work for me. So he knelt down and prayed “Lord give the skills and the strength to cross the river.” the man built a canoe and rowed himself across the river. The last man thought: if it worked for both of them, I know it’ll work for me. So he also knelt down and prayed “Lord give me the wisdom and knowledge to cross the river.” He turned into a woman and walked across the bridge.

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*(Continued from page 27)*  
property for maintenance needs or damage and quickly correct the situation. Maintaining private and public property in sound working order and appearance not only fosters pride and caring in the public but encourages others to maintain their property as well.”

Again, the above should be viewed as a stop-gap, triage treatment. There is no cure implied in treating every-day members of society, whether they be young or old, as though it is natural they should wish to engage

in senseless destruction as a matter of course. There is a deeper problem here that must be addressed. Once again, it’s not a question of either/or regarding short term fixes or long term solutions. It a question of using both approaches.

### Community Youth Programs

A community can design programs that help alleviate some of the causes of vandalism by creating programs and infrastructure that can turn negative energy into positive energy. The Boys

and Girls Club and the proposed skateboarding park are two instances of such an approach in Whitecourt. Much more can be done regarding the latter project, in the opinion of this writer.

Gary Holland weighs in on the issue of community programs by stating “Studies have revealed that acts of vandalism by people of all ages increase when a sense of alienation from the community exists. Involvement in community activities can, therefore, encourage a sense of pride and belonging. The inclination to deface or dam-

age property in a community with which one is strongly identified will be very low. Since teenagers and young adults are primarily responsible for vandalism, efforts should be made to provide activities which promote a sense of stewardship for the community in addition to enhancing personal development.

Athletic programs might be provided during the summer vacation as well as during the school year. Many other possibilities exist as well, such as Scouting programs,

*(Continued on page 29)*



(Continued from page 28)

4-H, and community service groups. Some communities have encouraged teenagers to organize specifically to combat vandalism and other criminal acts by youth. The teenagers are responsible for monitoring a certain area and reporting maintenance needs or acts of vandalism to police or school administrators. The redirection of youth activities toward constructive, worthwhile purposes promotes a sense of pride and responsibility." It should be noted here, that if society is perceived as corrupt or phony by youth, then attempts at redirection will ultimately fail. Once again, there must be a two pronged approach to solving the issue of a civility in decline.

### Off to See the Wizard

M. Scott Peck, author of *The Road Less Traveled* was one of those to comment on a general malaise in society today. In his book *A World Waiting to be Born*, he opens with the statement: "An illness is abroad in the land". Peck then goes on to describe a full page in *U.S.A. Today* placed by a major investment firm. The ad showed how the firm's services allowed a person to check a potential contact's credit rating, before "buying a beer for my new best friend".

This ad would be largely be perceived as clever and astute in today's world. Not so, in days past. Such obvious dishonesty would have been condemned by most people, and the perpetrators of such behaviour would

have been generally shunned in a community. Scott concludes "something is seriously wrong" when such an ad makes the rounds for stamps of approval, and everyone thinks its a good idea. Personally, I can remember a conversation at a large workplace where honesty that worked against the honest person's own material interests was regarded as 'stupidity' by the majority there. Not too long ago, such behaviour would have been regarded as 'honourable' by most.

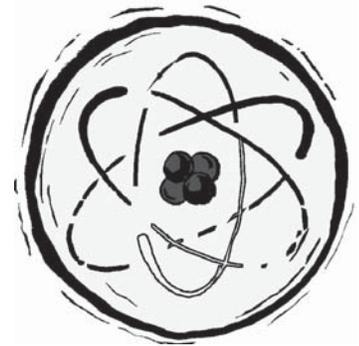
Next month the final installment of this three piece series will look at the 'missing ingredient' or 'unmentionable' in the vandalism problem, and indeed in crime in general. Despite terrific advances in our technology, many of our political and economic institutions remain mired in centuries-old structures that cannot help but create needless inefficiency, ineffectiveness and ultimately gross injustice. And the more injustice there is built into a system, the more there will be vandalism, crime and at the extreme edges, terrorism. In effect, it is quite possible that the youth of today are somewhat like canaries in the coalmine regarding societal health.

As futurist Alvin Toffler relates in *The Third Wave*, the last significant change in human affairs occurred during the birth of the industrial

age. It involved "one long blood-drenched drama of wars, revolts, famines, forced migrations, coups d'état, and calamities". In assessing the start of the information age, Toffler concludes "today the stakes are much higher, the time shorter, the acceleration faster, and the dangers even greater". New developments since the last major age transition include nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, along with a possible looming ecological catastrophe.

Toffler concludes his 1980's bestseller with "much depends on the flexibility and intelligence of the elites, sub-elites and super-elites. If these groups prove to be as shortsighted, unimaginative, and frightened as most ruling groups in the past, they will rigidly resist the (knowledge age) and thereby escalate the risks of violence and their own destruction."

What is left out here, is that it is highly unlikely there will be any winners under the repeating history scenario this time around. Events in the Middle East so far show that innovative thinking lies in the future. Given the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it is important that a justice based approach to peace be given some serious consideration. In the documentary "The Fog of War", Robert McNamera, who was secretary of defence at the time fo the Vietnam War, was perhaps overstating



the case when he said that there was no chance to learn from history with the advent of significant nuclear weaponry. However, he is correct that those doing the learning will be living in a significantly different, and diminished world. It is imperative in this case that foresight rule over hindsight.

Toffler's work is mainstream enough that he has dined at the U.S. White House and the congressional house speaker wrote a forward to one of his books. Because of this approach, many of the specific concepts behind his concerns could only be hinted at. Next month, *The Advisor* will attempt to look at some of these unmentionables and conclude this series with a look at possible ways forward to positive change.

*“As futurist Alvin Toffler relates in The Third Wave, the last significant change in human affairs occurred during the birth of the industrial age.”*

A very melancholy man who was always up on the latest accident and death statistics once cornered Samuel Clemens, who wrote under the name of Mark Twain.

“Mr Clemens, do you realize that every time I breathe, an immortal soul passes into eternity?”

“Have you tried cloves?” asked Twain.

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future."*

*Marilyn Ferguson  
Writer*

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in person.**

(Continued from page 22)

referred to, was known as a "fair sized patch".

Thereafter, one ran out of what was known as settled area until he started getting fairly close to what was known as Lonira. We should not overlook however, one Billy Meeres who was farming in on Beaver Creek, three miles or maybe more off the so-called highway. Also near the Beaver, we had Currie, J.H.P. Cross, and Ausmans, while Cochran Brothers, Pete and Bud, were getting to go ranching around there.

Meeres lived on the south side of Beaver Creek and his ford known as Meere's Crossing was a real good fishing spot. Meeres liked nothing better than fiddling at the dances (an all night job, usually from possibly nine in the evening until possibly six or so next morning!) The music, by the way, consisted of a small reed organ (played by Mrs. Ward) while Billy Meeres or Danny Fraser bore down on the fiddle. Not being altogether conversant with modern trends, the author is unable to say whether this was 'soul music' or not, but at least it was satisfying.

Somewhat further up the creek near a peak known as "Baldy", Pete Cochran and his brother Bud were getting established. Both were horsemen from Nevada, and had brought quite a number of animals into the country, with a view of ranching. Now while this part of our fair province offers much, it has never actually proved itself highly suited to ranching. Some years prior to the period of which we write, a party on his way to Peace River had been caught in an early winter storm here, decided he could attempt to winter his animals, numbering thirty or more and all highly bred with some even registered, on Eagle Flats. During the winter the hardship proved far too much for the animals which had never been accustomed to such conditions, and all died.

In some years, with something of a break from 'Old Man Winter', ranching might prove successful, but unfortunately one is unable to forecast what winter here has in store for him. For absolute

safety's sake expect it to be cold and let it go at that.

Cochranes had arrived in the fall of 1919 and picked about the toughest winter in memory to get established. Their introduction to Alberta, and Whitecourt in particular, must have left them wondering. During that winter the price of hay soared to seventy-five dollars a ton and one took delivery at Sangudo (two days away). Oat bundles, and hardly any were available, ranged in price from fifty to seventy-five cents each.

And strangely enough cattle prices remained fairly constant, with if anything, an inclination to drop; and drop they did next fall, (the bottom dropped out of the market completely), and farmers who had paid seventy-five dollars a ton for hay wondered what it was all about. And who helped the farmer? He helped himself in so far as possible, as governments then in power had not yet embarked on "creeping", or should one say "galloping" socialism.

*“ Cochranes had  
arrived in the  
fall of 1919 and  
picked about the  
toughest winter  
in memory to get  
established. ”*

But getting back to our 'tour' and in the Beaver Creek area we find the homestead of one. Dexter Whitcomb who with his two sons had filed on an area of three quarter sections here. Whitcomb was a good carpenter, and readily found work in the Hamlet, but his optimism regarding his farming operations at times struck the author as being far above and beyond anything the situation warranted. In the course of one conversation, he remarked that nothing gave him greater pleasure than to just look over his holdings when the sun was rising, and to think that as far as he could see the land was all his. His dream however faded fast, as he left in a matter of two years or so without, in so far as the author knows, ever making a dent in his undertaking.

Next month, Jerry Graham continues his coverage of the Whitecourt pioneers, taking a trip up the mountain roads. The full title of Mr. Graham's work is *Sagitawa to Whitecourt - A Salute to the Pioneers*.

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# ROYAL LEPAGE

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Jeanne MacMillan  
Realtor  
Cell: 778-1779



Nicole Barrett  
Realtor  
Cell: 204-0742



Troudy Kowaliuk  
Associate Broker  
Cell: 778-1140



Dan Parker  
Realtor  
Cell: 706-6151



WOW! Located minutes from town on 8 plus acres this magnificent home overlooks the valley and the McLeod! 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. - **\$535,000**



IDEAL FAMILY HOME - SWAN HILLS  
This 1378 sq. ft. bungalow has it all: a total of 5 bedrooms, 1/2 bath, full bath and a 3 piece bath.



Indulge yourself! Exquisite 1617 sq. ft. bungalow. Custom designed, custom built, completely finished up and down. Great Room, main floor laundry. - **\$469,000**



Superb quality throughout. Hardwood on main floor, 10' ceilings, 3 covered decks, two fireplaces, 30 year shingles - **\$549,000**

**List with us  
at Royal LePage.  
A Canadian  
best seller  
since 1913.**



Nestle into this well-cared for comfy 1996 Winolta with new flooring in the addition and living room. This home features 3 bedrooms, two 4-pc baths with an inviting ensuite c/w a corner soaker tub, built-in china cabinet, professionally done addition and a bright roomy kitchen. Why pay lot rent when you can own land in a quiet tree-lined friendly neighborhood? It also comes with a double detached garage and completed yard with fencing. This can all be yours for **\$214,900!** Call Jeanne at 778-1779 to book your appointment.

**We have buyers waiting  
for the right properties.  
Call 778-8010 if you are  
thinking of selling.**

**Become part of an exciting new downtown retail environment. New store bays with street access planned for Midtown Mall. Call Dan Parker at 706-6151 for more information.**

By permission of CITI Commercial Real Estate Services Inc., exclusive agents for Midtown Mall.

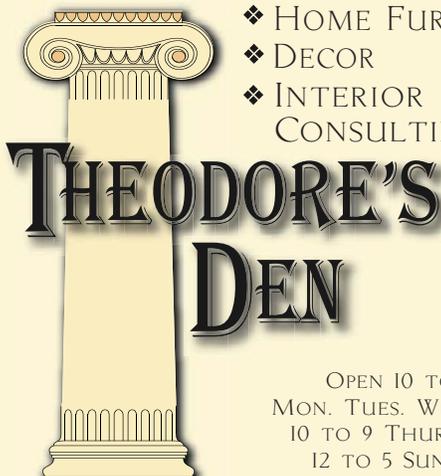


This bungalow comes with some upgrades and a few perks too. The livingroom of this home not only has a wood-burning fireplace and lament flooring that extends into the master bedroom, but come's with a newly purchased leather sofa set, and a 57" inch Sony big screen TV. So relax after your hard day, and kick your feet up in comfort. Perhaps the 18 x 22 heated workshop is more for you, or maybe you'd like to lounge on the newly built deck accented by soft glowing moonlights, overlooking your nicely landscaped backyard. However you like to unwind I'm sure you'll find it in this home. **\$249,900**



**Look no further.** Completely updated spacious bi-level in a desirable hilltop location! New carpets upstairs, all new paint, laminate flooring and new shingles. 3 bedrooms upstairs, 2 downstairs, private kitchen. Home and yard are immaculate. Priced to sell - **\$364,900**

**Whitecourt: (780) 778-8010 ♦ www.whitecourtroyalpage.com**  
**Fox Creek: (780) 622-2211 ♦ www.foxcreekroyalpage.com**



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Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday