



The Enlightenment

The Newsletter of the
Humanist Association of London and Area
An Affiliate of the Humanist Association of Canada (HAC)

Volume 4

Number 4

Special Edition

Our Planet – Our Home



President's Remarks

This is a special edition of the Enlightenment. Since the Humanist Association of London and Area does not meet in August, this extra issue may help to fill in the gap.

The picture of our planet on the front page was taken by an Apollo 17 astronaut in December 1972 from a point half way between the earth and the moon. It has become the most remarkable and most published photograph in history. It is usually shown in colour, making it much more impressive than the black and white image on our cover.

If intelligent extraterrestrial beings were to view our planet from this same vantage point, they would most likely reason that there is a good possibility that our world was inhabited by living organisms, both plant and animal. As they came closer they would be impressed with the geographical features of our lands and seas, and then observe signs of human activity in the form of cities and farms. They would probably conclude that what they observed from a distance indicates that intelligent beings had created a reasonably advanced civilization. They might even postulate and hope that what they were viewing was a race of peaceful people living in harmony with each other. When they landed, however, they would be most disappointed. Despite having achieved considerable scientific and technical expertise, and with democracy in place in some areas, they would find humans engaged in barbaric wars and find a significant number of the inhabitants living in poverty. In other words, they would find the good, the bad, and the ugly.

This unfortunate disparity is examined and commented on in the following pages. (DAH)

The Board of the Humanist Association of London and Area (HALA)

President – Don Hatch – 472-6167 – e-mail – dahatch@rogers.com

Past President – Derek Kaill – 432-6122 – e-mail - Derek_kaill@yahoo.com

Secretary - Kate Balogh – 432-6122 – e-mail, olgab36@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Claire Van Daele-Boseret – 451-5962 - e-mail, c.v.d.b@rogers.com

Membership Chairperson – Ed Ashman – 457- 9982 – e-mail, edward017@sympatico.ca

Member at Large – Dr. Rod Martin – 673-6635 – e-mail, ramartin@uwo.ca

Member at Large - Vacant

The Humanist Association of London and Area meets at the Cross Cultural Learner Centre, 505 Dundas Street in London, on the second Thursday of the months September to July inclusive at 7:30 PM. Please use the rear door off the parking lot. The Enlightenment is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Visit our web site at www.humanists-london.org

New members are welcome. Contact Membership Chairperson Ed Ashman at (519) 457-9982 edward017@sympatico.ca . Membership fees are listed below.

	<u>HAC</u> <u>Basic</u>	<u>HAC Limited</u> <u>Resources</u>	<u>Humanist</u> <u>Perspectives</u>	<u>HALA</u> <u>Basic</u>	<u>HALA Limited</u> <u>Resources</u>
Single	\$30	\$15	\$22	\$20	\$10
Family	\$35	\$20	\$22	\$25	\$15
Life	\$500				

Some of the Good Things

One bright, brisk and silent winter morning, I stood on the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona in complete awe of this spectacular wonder of the world. As I observed the multi-layered sedimentary rocks that portray ages of geological and biological evolution, my thoughts turned to Darwin and the theory of natural selection. During these moments my feelings and emotions could only be described as spiritual in nature. On another occasion I had similar feelings while standing in Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island, looking upward at trees towering hundreds of feet in the air. And there are of course, many other natural vistas on our unique and wondrous orb that draw forth feelings of awe and wonder. We are indeed blessed to have the opportunity and privilege of observing and enjoying these natural phenomena.

Along with these fascinations of nature, we have been greatly enriched by the creations of humans in the fields of art, music, literature and architecture. Masterpieces in all of these genera have been created throughout history. In the field of art, these works range all the way from cave paintings in France, through the old masters, the impressionists, the cubists, to modern abstract paintings. I can never view a Picasso painting without pausing and trying to figure out just what was going through his mind. In the music genera, the variety of enjoyable compositions is immense, ranging from the classics to the romantics, to opera, to twentieth century jazz, to the Broadway musicals, to the Beatles and other modern groups. I will never forget hearing the Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform the Gloria from Mozart's Twelfth Mass in Salt Lake City. It brought tears to my eyes. And of course there is a plethora of great literature going back millennia to Homer, the Greek philosophers and play-writes, the Roman poets, the Renaissance and Enlightenment writers, the great nineteenth century novelists, and many notable twentieth century authors. Shakespeare, probably the greatest wordsmith ever, deserves special mention. Finally, we must recognize outstanding architecture starting with the Egyptian Pyramids, then on to the Parthenon in Athens, the Pantheon and Coliseum in Rome, the great cathedrals of Europe, and modern skyscrapers. The iconic Chrysler and Empire State buildings represent early twentieth century architecture at its best, and the futuristic style buildings now being constructed in Dubai and elsewhere are truly impressive.

We must also mention the important contributions of science and technology. The scientific advances of the last five hundred years beginning with Newton, Copernicus and Galileo, have been nothing less than spectacular. Steady advances in chemistry, physics, mechanics and engineering, have fostered the development of all the machines and electrical gadgets that have helped to practically eliminate the drudgery of former times. These advancements have also brought about unprecedented ease of travel and communication, resulting in the emergence of globalization. And we cannot forget the contributions of medical science toward eliminating diseases and prolonging life expectancy.

Yes indeed. Homo sapiens have created many great things since the dawn of civilization. And in addition to having the ability to accomplish all the achievements mentioned above, humans are endowed with other admiral traits. These include love and friendship for fellow humans, the desire to procreate and populate the world, the love of nature and the higher animals (a man's best friend is his dog) and a concern for the environment in order that all species may survive. With all these positive human qualities and the great achievements of humans, people everywhere should be able to celebrate the position they find themselves in with great joy and jubilation, and have confidence that what lies ahead for their children and grandchildren will be a life of happiness, peace and prosperity. Unfortunately, this is by no means a certainty. Read on.

Some of the Not So Good Things.

In the waning months of 1999, there was considerable worry that a lot of computer software might not be able to cope with the change of dates from December 31st 1999 to January 1st 2000. In the end the fear was unfounded, and the 21st century arrived with spectacular celebrations around the world as our globe rotated in its diurnal cycle. Overall there was a spirit of great optimism, and why not? The 20th century, with its barbaric wars and the cold war, was behind us, and economic conditions were tolerable in at least some parts of the world. Surely lessons had been learned and democracy would further expand to help bring prosperity to more of the world's inhabitants. But alas, the optimism faded on September 11th 2001, when fanatic Islamic suicide bombers flew jet aircraft into buildings in New York and Washington. Sometime later, war was declared against Afghanistan for the purpose of eliminating al Qaeda and capturing or killing Osama bin Laden, who had planned the attacks. We now know that neither objective has been achieved, and in fact, al Qaeda has proliferated.

Early in 2000, George Bush was inaugurated as President of the United States, the supposed leader of the free world, after some skullduggery in Florida and in the US Supreme Court. This has turned out to be an ominous and unfortunate event. For some time a group of wealthy capitalistic neo-con Republicans had been planning to gain power and establish their idea of an American Empire, and gain a guaranteed supply of mid-eastern oil. They managed to infiltrate the Bush Cabinet and use him, a man of questionable intelligence, as their puppet. They then proceeded to run the country for the benefit of the wealthy, without regard for the important middle class. September the 11th 2001 not only gave them reason to attack Afghanistan, but also an excuse to declare an illegal pre-emptive war on Iraq. This has turned into a quagmire with no easy way out. Regrettably, billions of dollars that should have been spent on education and health care have gone into this senseless war, and who knows how much of the steep increase in oil prices, that negatively affect all of us, is caused by the war? The founding fathers of the United States, who engineered one of the greatest democracies on earth, must be turning over in their graves, realizing that the democratic structure they created has been thwarted by wealthy lobbyists and the powerful military-industrial complex. Not only that, the separation of church and state so carefully and wisely enshrined in the Constitution by them, is being threatened by the religious right. One result of all this mismanagement is that the United States has lost the respect of most of the world. In short, things are in a mess in the U.S. and in other areas as well, as the following list of problems testifies.

These problems include the following:

- Islamic Terrorism. Could the terrorists get their hands on nuclear weapons?
- Dwindling oil supplies and increasing demand, resulting in higher energy prices.
- Global warming. Is it caused by CO2 emissions or naturally occurring cycles?
- Globalization. Jobs moving to low wage countries, causing a rise in unemployment.
- Corporatism. Rich getting richer, poor getting poorer, resulting in a dwindling middle class caused by large corporations lobbying governments to downsize and privatize.
- Corrupt, brutal dictators in some developing countries.
- An AIDs pandemic in Africa.
- Increases in domestic crime, often related to drugs and other illicit activities.
- Never-ending unrest in Israel/Palestine.
- Religious fundamentalism.
- Xenophobia and tribalism.
- The population explosion.

Obviously space does not permit an examination of the causes nor suggestions of possible solutions for all the problems listed above. Therefore, I propose to briefly zero in on six. The first three involve monotheistic religions. They are: the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, religious fundamentalism and Islamic terrorism. The fourth is global warming, the fifth is corporatism and the sixth is the population explosion.

Judaism is the oldest of the three monotheistic religions so I will start with the Israeli/ Palestinian debacle. In hindsight it can be argued that it is unfortunate that the State of Israel was created in 1948, causing no end of problems for the Palestinians. But after the holocaust, there was a great deal of sympathy for the Jewish people, and the UN sanctioned the creation of a new State, formed with considerable financial and military backing from the United States. This U.S. involvement is causing many Arab and other Islamic countries to hate the U.S., resulting in instability in the whole mid-eastern area.

Why did the Jews pick this particular area, surrounded by hostile peoples, to settle in? Because Yahweh (God) tells the Jews in the Torah that they are His chosen people, and He has given them this "promised land." But what if the Torah is a human creation and there is no Yahweh? Then there is no real reason to have a Jewish state in this hotbed of unrest. Recently a letter written by Einstein a year before he died has surfaced in which he said, "there is nothing chosen about the Jews, they are no better than other peoples. The word of God is for me nothing more than an expression of human weakness, the Bible is a collection of honourable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. No interpretation no matter how subtle can change this for me. Judaism and other religions are an incarnation of the most childish superstitions." Who can seriously dispute or question these conclusions coming from one of the greatest minds that ever existed, who was himself a Jew?

Thus we have this absurd situation where innocent people are being killed and subjected to great hardship because of a ridiculous myth that became the Jewish religion. How can the Israeli/Palestinian conflict be resolved? No one seems to have an answer. It appears destined to go on and on.

Out of Judaism sprang Christianity, founded not by Jesus, but by the apostle Paul. What harm has it caused? First, the Catholic Church has much to answer for. It can be argued that it prolonged the dark ages by discouraging the development of science and democracy, and of course the Crusades and the Inquisitions are a black mark as well. It is still backward today discouraging artificial birth control that is fostering the spread of AIDs, particularly in Africa, and refusing to treat men and women as equals. Turning to Protestantism, the Reformation was generally beneficial in that it permitted scientific and democratic progress, and many of the most stable and prosperous countries have been predominately Protestant. One of the most negative aspects of the Protestant Church today is the proliferation of the fundamentalist/evangelical churches, particularly in the United States. Some of these people are fanatics and their aim is to infiltrate government and create a theocratic America. They now have significant political influence, and without their support George W. Bush would not have been elected president.

The fundamentalists believe of course that the Bible is the divine word of God and that they are called upon to "save" humanity. Their zeal is propelling them onward and they are growing in numbers in the U.S. Unfortunately these misguided beliefs in the supernatural by a significant number of people are threatening the separation of church and state. What is the solution to this problem? One answer is better education of the young. It is unlikely that the adults can be

changed. Better schools that teach reality and critical thinking should help. There is hope in the long term because in Europe Christianity is declining and countries are becoming more secular.

This brings us to Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism. Islam is the most recent of the monotheistic religions founded by Mohammed in the sixth century. It quickly spread by the sword throughout much of the Mediterranean area and for a time Islam was a leader in science and mathematics. Unfortunately it split into two major factions, the Sunnis and the Shiites who hate each other. They have not adapted to modern times, and their treatment of women is abominable. Some of the fanatics are evangelical and want to spread Islamic beliefs throughout the world using terrorist tactics if necessary. Some Muslim youth are being taught to obey the Qur'an, to hate the west and to become suicide bombers. The situation is grim and it is hard to know how to combat the problem. Once again we face a serious situation caused by misguided beliefs in the supernatural. Because of these spurious beliefs, innocent people are being killed. When will humans stop being so barbaric?

Some have suggested that Islam needs a reformer to adapt the religion to modern times, but Islam does not have a pope-like figure that could unite the Sunnis and the Shiites, let alone the multitude of different tribes. It took Christianity 1500 or more years to stop atrocities such as burning at the stake, and it could take Islam another generation or so to become less brutal. There are moderate Muslims, so let's hope they will begin to have more influence. In the meantime western nations must do all they can to counter Islamic terrorism and prevent more attacks like 9/11 and the bombings in Madrid and London.

Now on to global warming. Recent satellite images of the Arctic showing the receding ice cap have pretty well convinced even the die-hard skeptics that global warming is real. The arguments are over the causes and the actions that need to be taken to help halt or reverse the phenomenon. Al Gore and company contend that greenhouse gasses, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂) are the causes and therefore the burning of fossil fuels must be reduced. Graphs of CO₂ levels in Gore's book *An Inconvenient Truth* show that CO₂ levels have recently increased from a long term average of about 225 parts per million to 350+ parts per million today, thus causing more infra red radiation to be reflected back to earth. Others claim that global warming is the result of natural cycles influenced largely by activity on the sun, and that CO₂ reflecting infra red radiation back to earth is a minor factor. At the present time the greenhouse gas theory people seem to be winning and these proponents advocate that all possible efforts must be taken to reduce CO₂ emissions. Regardless of the causes of global warming, it still makes tremendous sense to reduce the burning of fossil fuels because there is a limited supply of oil and natural gas on our planet. This scarcity of supply and the increasing need for energy in the developing countries is causing unprecedented rises in the prices we pay at the pump for gasoline, so it is imperative that conservation be implemented and new sources of energy developed. Also, the burning of fossil fuels, particularly coal, spews other harmful pollutants into the air, such as sulfur and nitrous oxides that cause health problems and acid rain. Thus, regardless of the real causes of global warming, the recommendations to reduce the burning of fossil fuels should be followed, and land devoted to growing corn for ethanol manufacture should be diverted back to growing food crops to help reduce food prices.

While on the subject of global warming, it is plainly evident that natural weather-related disasters whether they be hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, floods or earthquakes, are increasing in numbers and severity. The number of lives lost and the physical damages have been horrific. Some claim global warming is responsible. It is impossible to be certain, but in any case, if global warming is responsible in any way, cutting back on the use of fossil fuels makes sense.

Now a word or two about corporatism: In her book *Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein documents many of the negative aspects of what has become known as corporatism. This is the adoption by corporations of Milton Friedman's economic theories of letting free enterprise rule the market place with a minimum of government interference. According to Friedman and his ilk, Governments should not be involved in activities that can be privatized and run for a profit. These include utilities, health care, and even education in the form of charter schools. Another prime example is the contracting out of services to companies like Halliburton and Blackwater by the U.S. military, often without tendering for the lowest price. The end result is that a few people, often with ties to government, are getting exceedingly rich, while the important middle class is shrinking. Corporatism thrives under right wing governments, but changes are in the wind, particularly in the U.S. where the Democrats gained control of both houses, and the wrongdoings of companies such as Enron have been exposed and executives prosecuted. Klein outlines many of the horrors caused by corporatism, but ends on a slightly optimistic note, saying that the general public is becoming more aware of deteriorating conditions and is leaning more toward liberal style governments.

Finally, a few words about the population explosion. It has been said that it would take four earths to provide the resources needed to enable everyone on earth to live the way we do in Canada. Because of limited resources, it is postulated that the population of the earth should be no more than three billion, or half of what it is now, if the earth's bounty is to be shared equally in prosperous societies. Tragically it is in the poorer countries where population is increasing fastest, and in some of these countries the Catholic Church is discouraging artificial birth control, thus adding to the problem. The reality is that the largest families are in the poorest countries and the smallest families are in the wealthiest countries. Logically every effort should be made to increase prosperity in the developing countries to bring about a reduction in births. This should be the aim of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but these organizations come under political influence and results to date have been dismal. Without some means of halting the exponential growth in population, poverty will not be reduced, and serious catastrophic famines will almost certainly occur.

In his book *The Upside of Down*, Thomas Homer-Dixon documents five of the economic and environmental problems that lie ahead. The five, that he terms tectonic stresses, are population stress, energy stress, environmental stress, climate stress, and economic stress. Despite the seriousness of these problems, he does not despair. He points out that we possess the knowledge and wherewithal to deal with the problems if only humans will recognize and admit the dangers, and cooperate to deal with them effectively. Somehow we must get over our obsession with continued economic growth and concentrate on stability and sustainable development. All that stands in the way are the undesirable human traits of egoism, greed and xenophobia. We need less of these and more understanding and compassion.

Religions and the Future of Humanism

It will be noted that three of the six concerns discussed above involve religions, specifically the monotheistic religions, causing one to wonder what will happen to them in the future. Sigmund Freud is reputed to have said, "Religion belongs to the infancy of the human race. It has been a necessary stage in the transition from childhood to maturity. It has promoted ethical values which were necessary to society. Now that humanity has come of age, however, it should be left behind." Freud's statement raises a question. If we leave religion behind, what should replace it? What should a secular society look like? Religions fill a social and psychological need for

many people. How can these needs be provided? Is living according to the non-theistic humanist principles a plausible and practical alternative to monotheistic religions?

Many humanists would say yes. While the number of card-carrying humanists in Canada and the United States is not large, the situation in some European countries, particularly in Scandinavia, is more encouraging. As already mentioned, these countries are quite secular, church attendance is very low, and they are generally peaceful and prosperous, with a high standard of living. These role models give encouragement to the humanist cause and suggest that North American humanists should try to learn from their experiences. Doing so could help humanists find ways to help turn the present fundamentalist movement in the U.S. into a passing fad.

Humanism has been around in some form or other since Grecian times, but it has been overshadowed by Christianity in the Western world.” Christianity, however, in spite of its proliferation and its purported promotion of ethics and morals, has not been able to successfully deal with and counteract the negative human traits of selfishness and greed. Christianity has other shortcomings as well, but there have also been positive attributes. Many churches have outreach programs that benefit the underprivileged and they do try to impart moral and ethical values to their youth. In addition, many believers get comfort and spiritual satisfaction from belonging to a church. Therefore, if something like humanism is to replace religions, humanism must provide the non-supernatural benefits of religions. In the past many humanists have been slow to realize these needs, as Paul Kurtz notes in the June/July 2008 issue of *Free Inquiry* magazine: “Our movement has thus far been unable to develop an effective full-featured approach to living that can serve as a vibrant alternative to religious doctrines. That I submit, is the frontier for neo-humanists and multi-secular appeals.”

Kurtz goes on to state what humanism should be about: “Humanists are uniquely committed to a set of humanist values and principles. These include the civic virtues of democracy and the toleration of diverse life styles. Such humanists cherish individual freedom. They celebrate human creativity in all its forms and the fulfillment thereof; love and shared experiences; happiness and well-being; the values of the open pluralistic society; the right of privacy; and the autonomy, dignity and worth of each person. Neo-humanists, as we might call them, are deeply concerned with social justice and the common good, environmentalism and planetary ethics. They may have a deep appreciation for nature and a sense of awe about the magnificence of the universe and the continuing evolution of life. Their focus is on the good life here and now for themselves and their fellow humans. They recognize that humans are responsible in their own sense for their own destinies and that they need to use intelligence and good will to solve problems. They attempt whenever possible, to deal with conflict rationally and to work out compromises using science, reason and humanist values.” He also points out that, “If the old-time religions no longer satisfy, then we need to build centers that *do* – places where intelligent people can meet like-minded people and share ideas and values.” Today’s polls show that those professing no religion (about 20% in Canada) are the fastest growing group in society. Does this not indicate that there is an eager audience for what humanists have to offer? Humanists face a huge challenge in getting their message across, and in establishing a critical mass of people that can be a powerful influence for the betterment of humanity in the future.

One of the main activities of humanists is to promote freedom of choice. Freedom for women to choose regarding abortion, freedom to choose ones lifestyle, and freedom to die with dignity. In Canada we have the first two, but humanists and others must protest vehemently if a right wing

government threatens to take them away. Obtaining the right to die with dignity through assisted suicide is an ongoing challenge. The elimination of public funding for all religious schools is another challenging long-term goal.

No kind of beneficial change can occur, however, without competent dedicated leadership. Nietzsche talks about good leaders being especially talented people who rise above the “herd.” They will have a desire for power, but only the kind of power that is put to good use. The humanist movement must find outstanding leaders as well as respected, nationally known spokespersons in order to be a significant factor in helping to bring about a better, more peaceful world, where all resources are shared equally.

Respecting and Protecting Our Planet

Humans are able to survive with only five essential resources: air, water, food, clothing and shelter. This was brought home recently when pictures appeared in the press showing a remote isolated tribe of natives living in the Brazilian rain forest. They were living in thatched huts, wearing only loincloths and were aiming bows and arrows at the aircraft taking the pictures. These Indians have obviously survived for centuries living off the land on just the basics necessary for existence. If left alone they can presumably continue to survive for centuries to come. Could it be that they are happy with their lot, have no desire to change and just wish to be left alone? The Brazilian government has known about them for about a hundred years and plans to protect them, but is fearful that illegal logging could disturb their way of life now that the GPS coordinates of their location are known. In any case the carbon footprint of these natives is about as small as it is possible to get. Presumably they do use fire for cooking, but by and large they exist with little or no detrimental effect on the environment. Contrast this with billionaires who own mansions in several countries, own large cars, private jet aircraft and huge yachts, all consuming great amounts of energy, leaving a large decadent carbon footprint without much concern for the environment. Of course these are two extremes, and the rest of us come somewhere in between, but all of us in the developed world have a responsibility to be more mindful of doing our part to cut pollution and conserve resources. Recent increases in fuel prices may now force us to reduce our carbon footprint.

Why are so many of us overly extravagant and why do we pollute air and water, the two most essential ingredients for life? We are not likely to run out of air, but we could run out of clean, breathable air, and we could run out of clean, fresh, potable water. Increased concern and appropriate actions are needed to protect these essential resources that are too often taken for granted. Without concrete effective actions, the environment could be polluted to the point of no return. In capitalistic systems, government regulations and enforcements are usually necessary to encourage or force industries to reduce pollution, and education programs and incentives are required to encourage the general public to recycle and conserve. Some type of agreement like the Kyoto Accord that is accepted by all countries is urgently needed.

For the first time in history there is the real danger that civilization could come to an end by means of nuclear war. Up until now world leaders have realized that employing nuclear weapons against another nation possessing nuclear weapons would be futile because of severe retaliation. In fact, possession of these weapons by adversaries has acted as a deterrent against their use. Now, however, the threat of fanatical terrorism changes the picture. It is imperative that these terrorists do not get their hands on nuclear weapons. Preventing nuclear war requires the kind of statesmanship exhibited at the time of the Cuban missile crisis by

President John F. Kennedy. This is why dialogue with Iran is so essential, because Ahmadinejad has threatened to wipe Israel off the map, an act that he could only accomplish with a pre-emptive nuclear strike. The destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the contamination from the melt down at Chernobyl manifests the ghastly effects of nuclear war and should be warning enough to make the idea of blasting off nuclear weapons unthinkable. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that some fanatic would not hesitate to use these means of mass destruction, making it absolutely essential that rogue nations do not acquire these weapons.

Surely reason and common sense will prevail in the long run, and humankind will find the means necessary to prevent our good earth from being subject to further contamination and destruction. Perhaps, if from time to time we take a look at the remarkable picture of mother earth photographed from the Apollo 17 spacecraft, we will realize that our home is not indestructible, and that it is our responsibility to preserve this wonderful gift for our descendents. Look at it again. This time in colour.



In The News

Recently it was announced that **Dr. Henry Morgentaler** was awarded the Order of Canada Medal. As was expected, this award generated considerable controversy. Anti abortionists and some Catholic Church officials condemned the selection committee for selecting Dr Morgentaler, but others praised the committee for being broad-minded and fair. Humanists of course were overjoyed, saying the award was long overdue. Dr. Morgentaler was not only a pioneer in obtaining the freedom for women to have a legal abortion, he was also the first president of the Humanist Association of Canada. The humanitarian qualities of this man are plainly evident in the following excerpt taken from a speech he gave to the Empire Club in April of 1990.

“By fighting for reproductive freedom, I am contributing to a more caring and loving society based on the ideals of peace, justice and freedom, and devoted to the full realization of human potential. Having known myself, the depth of human depravity and cruelty, I wish to do whatever I can to replace hate with love, cruelty with kindness, and irrationality with reason. As we approach a new decade, a new century, and a new millennium, let us dedicate ourselves to the achievement of a just and compassionate society where women work together with men in equality and love, to bring about a millennium of universal brotherhood and sisterhood based on the potential of human beings for goodness, creative self realization, a loving acceptance of self and others, and a sense of responsibility towards the planet, other species, ourselves and the future of our children.” No question, this great man deserves the Order of Canada.