

Addendum to Last Harangue – Dec. 13, 2009

The Last Harangue was prepped in May, 2009. The intention was to share it with family then. When plans for a 60th unfolded, it was then delayed to pass on at a later date. Here's a little fresh info to see how much my family accept and actively engage or not in the ideas in *Last Harangue*.

Of course, some family think what I write and the kind of assorted "depressing" groups I volunteer with, is an indicator that I must be living a joyless, pessimistic life. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It's too late to be pessimistic. *I have seen the enemy and he is us*. Pessimism leads to depression and inaction. There will be no happy ending so a happy journey is more important now, than ever. I've seen the future and it is radically reduced consumption or extinction. I'm aware of my privileged and charmed life but, my life has been further simplified, my core unburdened. Even walking 40 minutes to and from the bus is a joy, including last winter in the snow, going to and from 2224 W14, so that Alec could help me take care of Daniel twice a week.

Thanx to Tee and Danny

Countless times this past 16 months, as Daniel slept - dreaming, giggling, burping up on me I've napped peacefully with him. I've lain on the floor beside him amazed again at each little development. I've put him back to sleep at 3 a.m. my share of times, listening for amusing ages as his protests slid from vigorous cries to yawning sobs to peaceful breathing. These are times as a parent of three, I was too exhausted or impatient to enjoy as much or remember as well through the haze of sleeplessness holding down a full time job – though I was much younger then. But most of all, when I am not looking after Daniel, renovating a float home, or getting peace of mind doing my own hobbies I am hyperactive volunteering with a dozen organizations – monthly meetings and web-steward stuff. Endorphins have as always, been my natural anti-depressants.



SaveOurRivers.ca

D'j'a know that as far as we know there is not one single ex-BC Hydro engineer involved with or even registered with **Save Our Rivers**, the Gordo Campbell anti-privatization organization.



The *Ashlu* above-tourism and salmon rich. The *Ashlu* right - no salmon left on this river BUT freshet river power is only available in spring when it's not needed. Hmmm!

Not one of hundreds who worked their entire career, were paid handsomely, and now live on a pension half again the size of my teaching salary. Not one who thinks the legacy W.A.C. Bennett promised future generations worth saving from IPPs who will in turn siphon off billions of the dollars that we pay BC Hydro and which were recycled back through the system to pay for health and education. Go figure!



Silly Humans

At some level of your humanness – you 'sorta, kinda' believe that humans are somehow the most intelligent, amazing self directing creatures ever. Some of you believe humans are divine creatures – chosen as most important by a god who will someday reunite you with Jesus et al. Some of you just believe we are so smart we can decide and create our own future to the point of space travel out of our own Universe. Let's call this the *human's forever crowd*.

There have been so many amazing creatures but 99+% of all of them have gone extinct since life first appeared 3.8 Billion years ago – earth being 4.5 Billion today.

We humans have now created conditions which have dictated a radically increased rate of extinction losing thousands of species per year. WHAT makes us so invincible? It's as if the large majority of people in the developed world are acting like 16 year old guys. "*Nothing can kill the human race. We're super beings. Bring on Armageddon! We can handle it!*"



Our Family Divided

No one in this extended family is undereducated. None of us is naïve We know there is little difference in the ability of the left to govern on behalf of the people's welfare as poorly as the right. In fact if one was judging both on brain power, the average GPA on the left is actually higher – how could it not be when a typical Liberal gang lieutenant like Kevin Falcon who drew a 2.8 GPA, before successfully running three companies into the ground, became Minister of Hwys and now Minister of Health. There are plenty of small business owners in the NDP but they have a different philosophy of life. And that is the simple difference between left and right – philosophy. Gordon Campbell et al, funded by large greedy corporations make decisions based on maximizing their profits- P3s are perfect. Those on the left make decisions balanced on human compassion and economics to wit:

The BC Liberals since 2001:

- B.C. Rail \$1 billion giveaway to CN Rail, lost email cover-up. Since 2005 alone, CN has donated \$139,160 to the BC Liberals and nothing to other parties.
- worst child poverty in Canada for six straight years, despite our enormous wealth -- because spending on social programs was slashed early and never restored to pay for corporate tax cuts.
- 25 per cent income tax cut in 2001 was followed by a temporary sales tax increase, a permanent 50 per cent increase in Medical Service Plan premiums, higher tuition fees, carbon and fuel taxes and other user pay taxes -- meaning a dramatic increase in

regressive taxes that hurt low and middle income earners while the wealthy come out ahead.

- No increase in the minimum wage for eight years and labour laws changed to make it much harder to unionize or join a union -- while the legal contracts of Hospital Employees Union members, teachers, and other workers were torn up.
- continuing export of whole raw logs. Woodworkers lose jobs, forest companies --who've collectively donated millions to the B.C. Liberals -- get cash.
- privatization of one-third of B.C. Hydro to Bermuda-based Accenture and the semi-privatization of B.C. Ferries.
- Campbell's Harmonized Sales Tax -- the largest ever transfer of wealth from consumers to big business -- \$1.9 billion a year out of public pockets, into the coffers of giant corporations who bankroll the B.C. Liberal Party; extra 7% HST charged on everything from haircuts to home repairs, not a cent going to needed public services currently being slashed to the bone.
- 18 per cent Medical Service Premium increase over three years will also hurt ordinary taxpayers.

The B.C. Liberals have declared war on the working, poorer classes. That is something that would fracture any polarized family like ours.

Since coming to power in 2001 the Campbell Liberals have managed to successfully seriously mortgage off our children's future. We know now that the P3s for the S2S Highway, Canada Line, and Golden Ears Bridge for example, while costing taxpayers less initially right now, making their books look better, will cost our kids many hundreds of millions more over the years with profits pouring off shore. The assault on BC Hydro and public power towards licensing IPPs will cost our kids Billions in higher electricity rates over the decades.

August 2009

California is getting hit hard by drought, wildfires and a bad economy. Some of the biggest reservoirs and lakes in the state are anywhere between 40-77% below normal for water levels. Some lakes such as Lake Oroville have dried up almost completely.



Wake-Up Call

We wake up to morning radio news, music or sports, plug into our cell phone, iPod music machine, watch TV sports, Commercial TV, and stay connected to the Matrix all day long never walking, riding or driving anywhere thinking enough about the activities we are engaged in which are bringing on this recent escalation in

destruction. We have let Pandora out of the box and all of the evils, ills, toils and sickness are upon us with lessening hope.

Dec. 4, 2009 - CBC

Canadian un-employment rose by 79,000 in November; the rate of rise slowed by only 0.1%.

Nov. 30, 2009 - CNN

U.S. job losses **have** slowed -- to only 11,000 more each month.

Aug. 17, 2009 -- CBC News 18:33 h -- 6:33 p.m.

"Markets fell today as investors reacted to news that consumer markets are stalled and falling due to increasing unemployment."

Meanwhile we have thrown \$ 500+ billion /half a trillion of our children's future tax dollars / standard of living into massive national debt to prop-up our totally unsustainable, planet destroying gratuitous consumer life-style. Many of the make work projects are carbon heavy / concrete renewal of bridges and highways for cars as well as useless investment in automobile production - GM/Chrysler failing, \$4 Billion bailout eaten away. We needed to massively restructure our ideas and solutions to simplify our lives in order to save any human habitable climate and a planet and we didn't and it is quickly becoming irreversible.

Margaret Atwood

Pockets of aboriginals around the world, notably the West Coast Salish of BC, had time to develop culture - specifically art. The saddest thing about Al Gore being right about climate change is that with all the challenges we are bringing on forcing us into a permanent darker survival mode, we won't have time to create art, music, dance and other culture.

Star Trek: 2009

Even if you're not a Star Trek fan try watching the opening sequence of Star Trek: 2009 and see if you don't love the idea of noble mankind some ridiculous 300+ years into the future, star traveling. Then think about how many of us responsible for climate change believe we will solve the problem without having to really change our way of life, not too much, just a little.



China -- BBC Aug. 18, 2009: 600 children poisoned by lead, leading to a range of symptoms from learning disabilities to seizures. OMG, does anyone doubt that this is only the tip of a massive iceberg of looming health problems due to manufacture of our crap. Clean potable water is becoming scarce and respiratory illness / cancer is skyrocketing in China.

Taiwan, Aug. 2009: Typhoon Marokot kills hundreds

Ontario, Aug. 2009: "Freak" tornados and funnel clouds cause hundreds of millions damage in Vaughn, Ont.

BC, Aug. 2009: BC government (tax-payers) have spent over \$200 million this fire season. (seven year average annual costs-\$75million). And yet, some of us still think it's okay to fly any time we can and drive all we want.

Cormac McCarthy's characters in *The Road*-

a father and his son wander for years in post-apocalyptic America, the father holding stubbornly onto the hope that there will still be a future worth living for his son, while all that surrounds him suggests otherwise.

The father recounts that "there were times when he sat watching the boy sleep that he would begin to sob uncontrollably, but it wasn't about death. He wasn't sure what it was about but he thought it was about beauty or about goodness, things that he'd no longer any way to think about at all."

This acute awareness of human mortality has been sobering in understanding that the Dore, Hall, Read, Rodwell, MacLeod, Kirkham clans are in their final generations. In less than a few generations time the human race will be in tatters heading towards final extinction because we today did not drastically reduce our footprint. 3% or even 12% reduction by 2025 is a joke when Monbiot shows what is needed is 40% and another 50% by 2050.

Wall Street etcetera

Henry Hazlet 1946- *There is no more persistent and influential faith in the world today than the faith in government spending. Everywhere government spending is presented as a panacea for all our economic ills. Is private industry partially stagnant? We can fix it all by government spending. Is there unemployment? That is obviously due to "insufficient private purchasing power." The remedy is just as obvious. All that is necessary is for the government to spend enough to make up the "deficiency".*

Your "repair" guys don't know what they are doing. Harper et al, Campbell et al included. Trillions have been poured down an economic black hole in an attempt to prop up an economic system based on moving money, not on sustainability. We will eventually enter a great depression when all the money has been sopped up into record profits and private wealth of those who convinced the government they "could create jobs" "make things better" to keep the capitalist system going even though their system of greed caused the depression to start with. What suckers we plebeians are. How will our kids ever fund a decent life let alone one as wastefully, consumptive and unsustainable as the one in which the depression/war gen shifted into and the boomers were raised in!

Post Secondary – Shop class, BCIT or UBC

When I went to visit Justin's Tring High School, I was very impressed with the assorted modern classrooms full of hand-tools, modern power-tools, low and hi-tech milling machines, plastics molders and computerized mini-lathes. Believe me as an educator, this is a rare thing to see in England, Canada or the USA.



Since the mid-1980s, education journals touted articles such as "Preparing Kids for High Tech and the Global Future" as we headed further into the "post-industrial" future of schools. Warehouses became clogged with unused high school shop equipment as we shifted funding towards computer literacy. We created a generation of kids who have heads full of factoids, high SAT scores, who can't hammer a nail or do anything useful with their hands away from the keyboard.

We've lost touch with our stuff. What ordinary people- your grandfolks once made, we now buy; what they once fixed we have repaired, or more commonly just replace. When it comes to hand



skills - we've become insanely stupider. Until recently we expected appliances and power tools to come with a blown-up parts diagram and schematics but now they arrive with esoteric fasteners for a tool we don't even own as if we dare not even think of exploring a possible simple repair. "And did you want the extended warranty with that?" is a huge moneymaker for Future type shops. Thankfully for the few remaining handy-folk, repair manuals are usually available on-line somewhere.

We've come to rely heavily on the hand-skills of the Asians. The problem with this is that the Asians are in Asia and of no use to us when our Transit buses need fixing, our porch deck needs replacing or our bathroom plumbing is due for an overhaul.

We've forgotten that productive labour is the foundation of all prosperity and encourage our kids to go for the moneyed, Wall street – meta-work, trafficking in surplus dollars skimmed from other people's actual hard work. The University educated today are not hired so much for grades or majors, but for personality, pliability and complaisance. With the collapse of Wall Street, Bay Street, and London's Square Mile - knowledge workers will become permanently redundant and it becomes possible once again to think the thought, "Let me make a living and myself useful with mine own hands."

Technical school enrollment today includes a fast growing population of four-year knowledge degree students who are returning to learn marketable trade skills. Here in B.C. for the most part BCIT and certified community college grads find jobs while more and more University grads are unemployed.

There is nothing wrong with **Garrett, Spencer, Liam, Alec, and Daniel** studying to be a neurosurgeon, engineer, teacher, concert pianist or computer programmer if that is their true interest, bent, and talent BUT there is great harm in not encouraging our kids to learn hand skills and enter the skilled labor trade professions.

I strongly encourage more parents to see the light. We'll always need electricians, plumbers and house framers, welders, mechanics, and pipefitters. How many office workers will we need now that the phony Wall Street world is gone?

It is interesting to note that no BC private school offers, nor has facilities for, hand-skill shop courses; they are all about academic university prep. It is therefore incumbent upon public schools to accept their responsibility in this ever-more important area of study. Let the private schools focus on areas of study which are becoming ever more useless.

BCTF Teacher Magazine 2009 Nov/Dec

MMA Roman GLAD-iator

One day Tee called to share her “best” dad award story. She and Daniel in the stroller, were passing by a father loading three young kids into his large SUV. She noticed he had bent down and put his large, half full, plastic cup of Cola, under his truck, before strapping his toddler into the car seat as the other two kids jumped in. As he stepped into the car, Tee reminded him that he had forgotten his drink to which he responded loudly with a string of freakishly f-ing foul language- telling her to mind her own frac&in business. It serves to make me think of a society in collapse??

As Roman society began to fall apart, bloodlust at the Coliseum rose to new heights. Politically undesirable folks ended up being hacked, beaten and burned to death for entertainment and lighting.

Yes I have watched MMA. I have suffered with curiosity and eventual disconcertion, through a couple of bloody matches. I spent my entire rugby career playing hard, but knowing head injuries were to be avoided if possible. In MMA, elbows to the head and face are an integral part of a perfect KO or TKO match. I cannot help being reminded through MMA how blood-sport rose as Roman society disintegrated as the economy was imploding. They too had relied too heavily on one source for over-extended centralized wealth- the breaking backs of their global peasants.



Planetary Parasites

*We could, if enough of us wanted to, form a new relationship with our planet. We could become the gentle symbionts we were meant to be instead of the planetary parasites we have unwittingly become. **Sea Sick** – Alanna Mitchell*

Pray to God

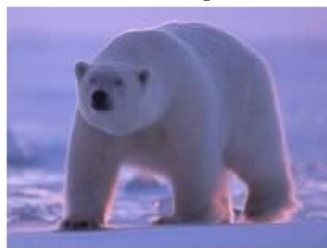
This past summer an Alabama governor was praying for rain to come to his climate-change-parched croplands. His key belief, that she might be persuaded that humans are worth saving. This Merry dance of death – we are performing as if in the days of the plague.

Dec. 2009 - CBC Newsworld

World Scientific surveys see a sharp decline in polar bears surviving in the Arctic. Yet on the CBC Newsworld “[Canadian Inuit see a large increase around garbage dumps around the Hudson Bay & Churchill Manitoba and are claiming their populations are increasing](#)”.

The traditional denning areas are concentrated in the Russian Arctic and there are fewer and fewer babies surviving there. Access to food in their roaming territory is scarce and they have to

travel more over melting permafrost and ever more fractured ice and open water.



Polar bears usually travel up to 1000 km in a season, unless there's a supply of human garbage, like around Churchill. This female above named **Wrangle** was satellite tracked for 4800 km while she roamed to survive on seal and fish. The poem [Polar Bears Are Gone Now](#) is more of a warning regardless of how long it takes. Hey! We all have to die. If we didn't then living wouldn't be important. None of us knows how long we have, but some of us unconsciously assume it's forever, that we're immortal, so we never really get around to doing anything important or making each day matter. **Make your days count for something for future generations. STOP driving take Transit.**

Why can't we family all just get along?

You know! “How do we expect the Israelis and Palestinians to if we can't?” Now I'm not saying it's like the US Civil War, brother against brother or sister in my family, but there are terrible polar opposites in politics that I find unexplainable considering we all grew up middle class, went to the same socially tolerant schools, and started off somewhat centre left leaning, with concerns for the welfare of all, including the poor. Some of us never forgot where our mother came from with the occasional bag or two of groceries left on the South family porch, perhaps by a local Doctor Tate's family. We spent our childhood's learning through Scouting / CGIT that we should share that which we don't really need to live adequately ourselves with those less fortunate; raising money for the John Crosby to assist isolated West Coast communities, etc.

Now today, there are those in our family who worked and voted to get and keep Gordon Campbell's big business corporate Liberals in power; in the re-election of this cabal of thieves to power, despite BC Rail and other shenanigans, while other's of us worked to replace him with an intelligent, decent, man of the people. There can be no doubt that Gordon Campbell et al are already the worst thing ever to have happened to this province. The stench is already sickening. I find it's now time to burn bridges.



Kettle Valley BC

Siempre - LR Dec. 13, 2009