



International Institute of Concern for Public Health



Rosalie and the author at the Toronto launch of Mary-Louise Engels' new biography: *ROSALIE BERTELL: Scientist, Eco-Feminist, Visionary*



Conferences attended this year included

Fall 2004 - Democratizing the United Nations by including the presence of women and women's issues, New York City. A paper prepared by Dr. Bertell was presented by Marion Odell.

Summer 2005 - Reunion of the Alternative Peace Prize Awardees attended by Dr. Bertell and Marion Odell who participated in workshops and other events.

Fall 2005 - ENERGY-VISION in Toronto. IICPH was a co-sponsor of this event and presented a workshop on educating the general public about the health effects of low level radiation and its connection to nuclear electric power generation. The power-point/overhead presentation will be available on our website in early January with hints on how to use it.

Fall 2005 - Ontario Environment Network Conference which concentrated on nuclear power, health effects and renewable sources and their ability along with conservation to replace coal-fired and nuclear power.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

After five years of concerted effort by determined activists, the Metz Pig Factory Farm near Ste. Marie de Kent, NB, has closed. Willi Nolan, our volunteer Project Manager deserves great credit for the successful result. The Association for the Preservation of the Bouctouche Watershed along with PODIUM, a group of women concerned about the health effects of the liquid manure spread on farmers' fields from this large hog operation carried out a successful campaign to reduce the harm to the health of both people and wildlife.

In her report this year, Willi said, "The women of PODIUM are feeling satisfied and grateful for IICPH's assistance in the certainty that it was the persuasive health impact evidence that turned the tide in their favour. The APBW (aka "troublemakers") are walking tall in the community and one of their number is planning to run for parliament in the next federal election."

Willi is convinced that the right approach to achieve success for environmental activists is to address the public health issues as they affect communities and individuals. Local politicians found it impossible to ignore the community pressure to do something about the incidence of failing human, marine, and animal health to which the pollution contributed. The word of their success is spreading fast. More about this is on our website.

EXPOSURE TOUR

Willi Nolan is now embarked on an "Exposure Tour" of native reservations with the Sierra Club and the Aboriginal Rights Coalition. They expect to tell the true stories of the desperate situation of individual (non-elected) Aboriginal people. They will be looking at drinking water, waste management, self-sufficient renewable energy systems, preservation, protection and restoration of natural resources, over-prescription and abuse of medications, health concerns and links to hazardous exposures, etc.

LEPREAU NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Lepreau is the oldest nuclear power plant in Canada. It is situated on the St. John River. The New Brunswick government is eager to have it refurbished. The federal government recently announced that it was not worthwhile to put any money into its refurbishment. Recently CAMECO and Bruce Nuclear Power have been talking about taking on this task. The few Atlantic Energy Coalition activists are overworked and Willi Nolan has asked IICPH for some help on this issue. As we are already deeply involved in trying to stop the use of nuclear fuel-powered electricity plants, we will endeavour to accede to this request along with other Nuclear Waste Watch organizations.



GOOD LIFE GATHERING

The Good Life Gathering was designed by **Willi Nolan** and a proposal sent to IICPH. Traditional Native Elders and leaders from Ontario joined with the local First Nations spiritual leaders in this event. The



main purpose was to look at and experience ways that people could work together to find solutions to provide a good life for all. The Gathering was open to youth of all races and cultures. Participants came from the all over North America.

The Gathering was headquartered on Willi's farm. The young people set up their own tents, participated in cooking, bringing firewood and other daily chores and daily activities. They worked to develop an organic garden. Environment issues that took centre stage were explored with enthusiasm by this concerned and dedicated group. Another topic covered sustainable building for both emergency shelter and long term buildings for many uses. Eco-forestry was explored and there are plans for developing a teaching-learning forest to demonstrate and show that sustainable forestry can provide wood without destroying the forest.

In the sharing sessions, one of the topics discussed was how our schools have failed to provide a safe and supportive environment that enables every student to succeed no matter their social or economic situation. Other hard questions were faced such as how to deal with violence, peer pressure, racism, family problems, and poverty. The communication between leaders and participants will continue.

There have been so many enquiries for next year's Good Life Gathering that we now need to focus on how to accommodate more people. Although IICPH provided the money for supplies and resources, we will need to enlist other NGOs and other funders to expand this program.

Many thanks to our generous contributors in New Brunswick

CHERNOBYL PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Rosalie Bertell's Comments on the Joint News Release from WHO/IAEA/UNDP

This press release of 5 September, 2005 which purports to be a consensus of more than 100 scientists represents some very poor scientific conclusions. Example, Under "Major study findings", one finds the following quote:

"Approximately 1000 reactor staff and emergency workers were heavily exposed to high-level radiation on the first day of the accident; among the more than 200,000 emergency and recovery operation workers exposed during the period 1986-1987, an estimated 2200 radiation-caused deaths can be expected during their lifetime."

Radiation caused deaths is a loaded statement. It assumes that only death is considered to be a detriment and eliminates consideration of all severe and debilitating morbidity or genetic/teratogenic damage to offspring. Moreover, it indicates that these scientists, trained by the documents released by ICRP (international Commission on Radiological Protection) over the last fifty years, have accepted without question that the only health effects "of concern" attributable to radiation are deaths to cancer. These are administrative considerations and not scientific decisions... There is no mention of the mitochondrial DNA (mDNA) which is sixteen times more vulnerable to radiation than cellular DNA, and the damage of which is expressed as different but equally devastating illnesses as cancer."

The rest of this article goes on to describe how five million people now live in contaminated areas of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine; about 100,000 living areas have been classified in the past as areas of strict control. The press release calls for relaxing zoning definitions in the light of their "findings". Dr. Bertell strongly disagrees "There appears to be a conscious vested interest behind this".

To read more of this report, visit our website at:

www.iicph.org/docs/bertell_response_pressrelease_chernobyl_2005.htm



NIAGARA in NEW YORK STATE HEALTH STUDY

Lead by Dr. Rosalie Bertell, IICPH is conducting the first phase of a health study for a school district concerned about the health of children in one of their schools which has a pesticide factory next to it. This factory has been in operation since the Manhattan Project of WWII years. Over the past five years one of our board members, Louis Ricciuti has been investigating and gathering documentary evidence of waste sites in the region as well as anecdotal stories of illness in children attending schools near some of these waste sites. Thanks to the awareness that he and others have been able to arouse in the area, concern in some communities in the area has been developed. Dr. Bertell and her research assistant are now hard at work developing the evidence and preparing the initial report. News about this will be on our website as soon as the report is finished which should be early in 2006.

From: Lynn Jones
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2005 4:27 PM
To: Rosalie Bertell
Subject: Something incredible has happened!

Hi Rosalie:

The CSNS hearing for SRBT is next Wednesday, November 30th. We just received the CNSC staff's supplementary CMD. (...) They are actually recommending to the Commissioners that SRBT's license *NOT* be renewed!

Of course it's not over yet, and there is lots of work to be done, even if the commissioners accept the recommendation, (...) but anyway it is very good news.

We are asking the Sisters to pray for a positive outcome for all concerned, and for community healing physical, emotional, spiritual and interpersonal.

I will keep you posted. As ever, thank you for your incredible leadership, courage, support and prayers!

Love,
Lynn



OUR BUSY YEAR

Rosalie has been so busy this year, she has not had time to tell us of all her numerous activities. Some of the issues we have espoused have come to the fore in a manner unprecedented before. More and more of the younger generation are becoming interested in Dr. Bertell's work around low level ionizing radiation, peace and militarism. Numerous radio interviews have been given by phone, two film interviews, trips to Europe and to New York about UN matters. Writings of various types and answering hundreds of email enquiries have filled a considerable amount of her time. A fuller report will be sent in our next newsletter.

IICPH has also experienced a very full year, exciting and filling us with a renewed sense that the time is ripe for change. So many bright young people are becoming concerned about environmental health issues that it is very heartening for those of us who have been working for a break-through all these years.

GOOD NEWS FROM GERMANY

Germany is STILL phasing out nuclear power. The Conservatives were pushing for nuclear power but the SPD has won the day and are staying the course on phase-out and renewables. The German wind power lobby, BWE, expects huge investment in alternative energy expansion in wind, solar, biomass, hydro and geothermal.

RUSSIAN STUDY AN INDICTMENT of LOW LEVEL RADIATION

Cold War leaks from a weapons plant in the Ural Mountains and chronic exposures to low levels of ionizing radiation 50 years ago lead to excess cancers in exposed workers, a landmark study by Russian and U.S. scientists disclosed.

The study is the latest blow to the notion that there is a threshold of exposure below which there is no health threat, and there might even be a benefit. This will be a blow to those who cling to the hormesis theory. The results add weight to the report of the U.S. National Research Council released summer which backed the hypothesis that radiation is risky at even the lowest doses. (Science, July 8, 2005 p.233)

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/309/5732/233

FLUORIDE FRIEND OR FOE?

Fluoridation of water has been practiced in many industrialized countries for many years including the U.S. and Canada. Our intrepid Aliss Terpstra has joined in the campaign to ban fluoridation of drinking water. Water fluoridation was presented as an effective and inexpensive way to reduce dental decay in mass populations in the 1940s. Data collected from the very beginning failed to support this position. Government, military and private industry colluded to promote water fluoridation and even scientists like Linus Pauling fell for it. "Scientific" calculations established that a concentration of "one part per million" in drinking water is safe and effective. Peer reviewed dental research shows that benefits are topical not from ingestion. Excess ingested fluoride causes a reduction in mineralization of enamel and dentin. Children in fluoridated cities have similar dental decay problems to children in non-fluoridated cities.



For more information check our website at www.iicph.org



NUKE ENERGY NO SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Recently nuclear energy is increasingly mentioned as a way to combat climate change. Around the world the nuclear industry and others are touting nuclear as “clean” energy that could replace fossil fuels. To counter their arguments it is worth visiting one of the Heinrich Boll Foundation website: www.kyotoplus.org

DR. BERTELL NOMINATED

Dr. Bertell was nominated for the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE along with 999 other women (1000 Women for Peace). An organization in Europe sponsored this initiative to get women in the peace movement the recognition they deserve. Unfortunately none of them were chosen. It was a good idea whose time had definitely come. We are hoping it will be repeated.



Dear Subscribers,

When I first joined the Board of IICPH little did I realize what adventures were in store!

This year I have represented IICPH in a coalition “Energy Vision” of a dozen or so energy organizations led by Greenpeace, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Pembina, Sierra Club of Canada and others. At every meeting I learned more about alternatives to nuclear and coal.

It was many years ago I first met Rosalie Bertell who made it clear to me that nuclear power and nuclear weapons were closely connected. So I oppose nuclear power and with two grandchildren with asthma I also oppose coal power.

The United Church has also been part of my learning curve. Starting with the nuclear waste Seaborn Panel in 1989 I was ready to join a group under the direction of David Hallman to take part in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s dialogue on the problem of high level nuclear waste over the past three years. I feel Rosalie is there beside me as we debate with the experts on just what can be done with the growing mountains of spent fuel rods, contaminated reactors and the devastation caused by our uranium mines, the largest in the world.

One thing leads to another and now I am part of United Church involvement in COP11/MOP1. Or, the Montreal United Nations Climate Change Conference November 27 to December 9. This is the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change(COP11) and the first meeting of the parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol (which expires in 2012) with more specific targets and timetables.(MOP1). It is also the first to be held in North America. Canada is the host and will be President of the conference in the person of Stephane Dion.

The newspapers, egged on by the strong nuclear establishment, will argue that nuclear energy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is not true if the whole life cycle is considered.

You’ve seen the ads saying nuclear is safe, clean and cheap. Two reactors with high safety ratings were Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. All nuclear reactors leak radioactivity during operation even without specific spills and they are hugely expensive. Our diminutive nun has noted this for many years along with health warnings on all radiation, low level included.

There is a danger at this UN conference that the nuclear forces will be at it again even as the sun shines and the wind blows in our faces.

Shirley Farlinger,
Director of the IICPH

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