

REPORT ON THE YEAR OF CANADA

I have been looking forward to coming in to one of these Area Development meetings, but this one happened to occur during the last two days of Montreal's Operation Peregrine when we were supposed to have a fantastic celebration and evaluation. I guess having some of us here symbolized more than if we were there what we were out to do with that maneuver: we were out to say that Canada was not for itself but was for the world. We want to give you a picture of what has been going on. Somebody said last night, "Just what is the year of Canada?" I think that question has been raised more times, especially by Canadians, than any other question this year. It was a surprise, especially for those who were coming back from overseas, that they were coming back to the year of Canada. What was it anyway? There have been some fantastic witnesses on what the address was in returning to Canada.

We began the year with a symbolic launching in which all of the Houses had a round of calling each other and going through a ritual. Then we went into area councils and worked through our images and stories of the year of Canada and the acceleration Community Forum and what it meant to be commissioned to begin Global Social Demonstrations this year. We came out of those councils with some resolves.

When we got together in Area Edmonton we were surprised that we had brought back two different couples from overseas to work as Canadians again. They are very excited people to be back in Canada. As we got together we decided that we were going to bring off the year of Canada, and one of our struggles in the area of the symbolic was to work on grids. We worked on grids for ages. We had to ask, "How do you symbolize Canada? Do you include Alaska?" It is part of the area. We went through this kind of struggle but never did really come up with a grid that we all agreed on. Then we looked at songs to sing. The only song we had was "Something to Sing About," but we all were commissioned to look for more songs. Saskatoon has come up with the best song so far "Moosejaw Woman." We sing it all the time. We decided that we would bring off 50 Forums as an area, not including Alaska. Alaska has finished off its 3% of the population and is still going great guns. Bruce Bauknight was just up there and gave a fantastic report about Alaska when he came through Edmonton. We will be out to get authorization this year in Canada. For the whole year, that is going to be a big step for Canada.

I sense that the way we came at Operation Peregrine and the maneuver for Canada was something like getting ready to do a Social Demonstration. We decided that the operation needed the efforts of the whole area not just because it needs to come off but because we had to turn around the images of just plodding along and adding one more thing at a time, and begin to go fast. We are going to make a radical shift in this year. We designed a maneuver. We started to go with Operation Peregrine and saw that to get something like that launched meant a tremendous amount of energy beforehand. In order to work as an area, assignments to prepare for things went across the area. We moved people to other Houses to work on the planning of it. We assigned some of the people to prepare all of the printing and some of them all of the symbolic life. They had to check back and forth between Houses and it detached people from the ongoing day by day routine so that once they came out of the Operation they would be in another orbit.

The Operation Peregrine name--it took us about 3 weeks to name it. You remember times when we prepared for the summer program, and that is what it felt like. You did not have the symbolic life, and you kept saying you had to have it done, and it was the last night and you did not have a symbol or a name. We had been collecting names for 4 weeks. We had all kinds of great names and Operation Peregrine seemed to come in out of left field. In Montreal there is a colleague named Adrian Groveau, who is a Capucian father who practically lives at the House. He came by and was looking at the list, and he said "What does that say? Peregrine? What is that?" We said, "It is a bird." We really did not know much else about it. We do not even know who suggested it. He said in French it means "pilgrim." Everybody's eyes began to light up, and we began to find out what a peregrine was. It is the fastest bird in the world. Shōgun has some reflections about the difference between a falcon and a peregrine, and how you use them. A peregrine is the one that you send out when you want to strike. Falcons sort of break up the flock. The peregrine swoops at 180 miles an hour and always hits its prey, practically disintegrating it. We had a symbol, but we could not find a picture of a peregrine in flight. Robbins found a bird book, and there was a peregrine sitting on a branch so you could not really see what he looked like in full glory, but next to him was another bird in flight and so I drew a combination of the two. The other bird was an osprey. There are a lot of people who did not know the significance of that.

We took forty days. We began with a CFC which was already scheduled in the Frontenac parish where the Montreal House is. We decided that there would be that kind of celebration at both ends of the operation, and that for ten days we would be in one of the four Houses (including Halifax as a projected House). We did not necessarily cross the geography in sequence, but for

We plan to have a five-week maneuver, which this week the area troika will be talking about and deciding what the tactics will be. Weeks 6 and 7 will be the first maneuver, and probably in the regions of Vancouver and Saskatoon which are very active regions right now. Then we will go to Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary for the next two weeks. We hope in that period of time to work on development, CFC's and this committee of 1,000.

One of the conversations, as we began looking at the year of Canada, was related to getting on top of what the Canadian contradiction was. We spent a lot of time on that. But it is interesting that since we decided to do the maneuver everybody has forgotten that whole question, and I think we are getting clear what it is. We are addressing it whether or not we have gotten it articulated clearly. One of the things that was most helpful about getting out and "moving it" was that we did not have to worry about being all that clear why we could not move. We did begin to see that Canada is a land of great, great resources. It has great people. In its relationship to the United States it has been operating as a victim and this has affected its relationship to a lot of the world. Yet there is a kind of globality that has grown out of its being a part of the whole British system that needs to be released once again. Our resolves were "We are going to turn this nation around." Our slogan became "Canada built by the world, now to serve the world." We just remember that last line, "Now to serve the world." That has been keeping us moving.

When we first got out of that area council, we were not sure. We had a lot of concrete images of what we needed to do for the quarter like we had to get people out on the road selling CFC, and we had to be claiming the yesses. There was a fantastic readiness out there but we had been afraid to claim the yesses. In other words we were not getting CFC dates, or we just theoretically thought things were ready but were not picking it up. Other things we had to do to symbolize that we were turning Canada inside out for the sake of the world was we had to get people out of there. That meant things like getting them to Guardians meetings. There had not been anybody at the last couple of Guardian meetings. We had made a big fuss down here a whole year ago about changing the date so Canadians could come, and we started looking around and we were not going to have any one present. We thought we had better get busy on that, and we were trying to be intentional about it. Then we needed to be getting people to Social Demonstration consults, getting people to go and live in a Social Demonstration and getting people moving into the Houses to intern somewhere else in the world. Then we decided that in order to do that the action was going to have to be radical.

the first ten days we went to Ottawa, after checking to see who would be most ready. Then we went back over to Toronto. In doing Toronto you are also doing the London region. Then there is the Montreal and the Quebec regions. Actually, the city is Quebec City and then Halifax in the Maritimes. We began all of these with a contact day in each place. At this point after 6 days of visiting we did a "files and letters day" so as not to wait 40 days to write thank-yous for people we had stayed overnight with. Then we did an evaluation and follow up plan so that when we left one of those Houses they had something concrete to move on. Then it was a travel day to get to the next one. In some places that required 15 hours of travel.

In order to get the excitement across the area, there were a number of things to do like the preparation. This forum as a launching for the operation had to be a fantastic forum. That really got pulled together in the last couple of weeks. There were something like 222 people. It was a fantastic event. We are just riding off that in a great way. When we got to Montreal, people who did not know anything about us at all, that speak only French and a couple that are just barely bilingual decided that this forum was great and they have been telling the story all over the place. We are the "Forum People," sort of like the "ITI People" overseas. That is all they know and they are introducing us.

One of the things you try to do is to get other people to go calling. Brian Robbins told this story the other day: There is a nun that works for a convent rehabilitation center almost across the street from the House. She went to the forum and does not speak any English. She has been going out on calls, and she engages people in arguments if they do not want a forum. She was out on calls with Brian and on some of these calls, there were three people so we were able to get reflection on what she was saying. She was embarrassed by being with Brian who can only say "Hello" in French, so she decided to tell them some story about why he could not speak French. She told the people that this man can really speak French but he decided he did not want to today. It worked well, and he did not know why people were looking at him so funny. She works with the jail, and she is determined that we are going to have a forum with the jail. She set up an appointment, and they said "Why don't we try it in minimum security first?" The jails in Quebec are a little bit more volatile--everything is more volatile in Quebec--and we said, we have done CIF so it seems like we could do that. She went back to the jail representative, and he said that if we were going to do it in one, then we have to do it in all of them. I do not know what will happen, but she is really saying that forum is what needs to happen.

I think everybody knows that community forums need to happen everywhere and it needs to happen for the sake of turning around the isolated mindset, the parochialism that is in Quebec especially. It is almost as though there is a very short timeline for doing something to cause that turn-around. Quebec is headed toward separatism, which would be a crime. They are having an election in the next few weeks that was called in order to save it, to give it 5 more years before that question comes up again. The premier called an election this year, because he is afraid if he waits until the end of his term in 2 years, the issue of separatism will be close enough that it might win. So he called it now which means he does not have to call an election for 5 years, but they do not know what they need to create the shift. I think maybe Community Forum could do that. The people in the rural areas are not really interested in separatism, but since that is the only story they are hearing, they are apt to go along. There is a cruciality to forums in that part of the world that is very, very objective.

I want to talk about just what the operation was. There are 4 CFC teams and the original model called this the GSD/DEVEL team. The original was to have one team to do nothing but work through social demonstration sites and then another one on development. At first there was not going to be one on development, but as we moved through the operation we saw that development was one of the key teams in this whole thing, because it was the most positive symbol that you could have. Having a thermometer that just kept rising every day was one of the most concrete symbols of winning that we had. We had the concretion of things like CFC dates and steering committees, but finally the most concrete symbol of winning was the fact that the thermometer was rising. Every night when a team came in and looked at that thermometer, it affirmed the fact that we were winning all the way through. Initially we said that we would raise \$10,000. One of the things that would get people to understand that we were going to win on this operation was to raise the first \$2,000 the week before the operation started. So two of us went out and did get the \$2,000 the week before Peregrine began and then we were going to get \$2,000 during each of the following four weeks. You need to see that a development win was key, because in all of last year any circuit going to Canada brought back at most about \$3,000 the whole year. Then Bruce came by and laid out our financial situation, and we decided that we were going to double that \$10,000 goal. We had already raised the \$2,000 so we doubled each week

and made our goal \$18,000, and it was not until the end that we got greedy and raised it another \$3,000 and finally raised \$21,000. We decided that we would still call it the GSD and Development team, and we were really calling it the troubadours. Then we put 2 teams on so that all the way through, this was really primarily development. What we found out right away was that the CFC teams were also looking for a GSD site. We were covering the geography that had never been covered before, and we did not know our geography. We were talking only theoretically about what kind of village or city would be appropriate until we got out into the geography. As people went out they got a whole different feel about what was really there. The first week we were out we saw Blind River, and nobody expected to find it, but people ended up telling the GSD story somewhere, and it was a nun in one of the towns they were in that said she wanted to show them Blind River.

Let me give you some of the results of the discussion of yesterday's evaluation, and I will come back to that business of finding the site. There were in the total operation 144 towns visited, 1,200 people contacted in CFC calls, development calls and impact events. We took the slide show and asked people to set up as many showings as they could. Sometimes there were only 3 or 4 during the week, but Halifax set up 10; so we had them all day. We sent an advance team of 2 people over there, and they set up the whole thing. During the operation there were CFC's held, the one at the beginning and one later in Hastings, out of the Toronto House, which is a town of 900 where they had around 150 people which is a fair percentage of the adult population.

Now I want to come back to the GSD site search. We found seven places for GSD possibilities. They are all rural. They are a number of different kinds of situations. Blind River is French-English-Indian, about a third of each one. There are some Indian communities, and there are several communities where the French-English issue is paramount. Five of the seven are in the Maritimes, which was a shock to people. One is a fishing village, one a mining town. If you read about the history of Canada you will find that the term "ghost town" keeps appearing. It would be like going to the west of the United States, where people came, and started a one-resource town. Something boomed and the population grew. Then that resource was gone or something happened with the onslaught of the urban and people just left. You have towns dotted all over the countryside that could be referred to as "ghost towns," for that is what has happened with many, many one-resource towns. The hope is gone and yet there are a few people who still live there.

There were some reflections yesterday relative to what has happened to the area. I do not know if you recall that in 1969 there were a group of Canadians and, I think Don [unclear] and some Cramer, who trekked all the way across Canada, and Bev Parker who is now on Montreal was in that group. She said, "In 1969 we dreamed that we would be able to cover all the geography. But we could not at that time." Another shift since 1969 is the openness of the Roman Catholic Church. On every one of these treks our housing was cared for by convents or by staying with priests all along the way. In Halifax that was especially true. In development we also found that kind of receptivity. The money we had in hand when I left was \$6,500 from Roman Catholic orders by getting a \$1,000 at a time. Starting today we have 9 appointments set up with other provincials, and it is like the sky is the limit. We are riding that kind of authorization. Other key networks that have opened up include the Chamber of Commerce and some of the service clubs, especially Rotary and Lions. They also have a great time in Halifax with the Cody Institute. They did the slide show there and ended up having a 2-hour conversation with international citizens from around the world. We had a LENS course there earlier, and as we looked at the LENS list there were grads from everywhere we are, including Zambia and South America. Our speech for the Rotary Convention was another kind of key authorization. This invitation to speak came through a man who has given us money and may have had a course. He said, "I think you ought to be the vehicle for what needs to happen in Canada." He started doing the kind of reflection where we thought we were hearing our own council. He said, "Canada is a sick nation. I am out to turn it around. I think there are only two vehicles in the world that are in Canada that it can happen with. One is the church and one is the service clubs. I am a churchman but right now I am putting my energy in the service clubs." He is a businessman. In a year and a half he has turned, not just Canadian Rotary, but International Rotary around. He said, "You are a key part of that. I have learned from you how to do that. You are the receptacle, the vehicle for my doing that."