

Some Closing Thoughts About Culture

The term “culture” is one that we apply to various phenomena. We speak of bee culture, which is the innate organizational social structure of the hive, with various bees assigned specialized tasks [queen, worker, guard, gatherer, et cetera]. These all work together for the survival of the colony and the species.

We also apply the term culture to the active bacterium in yogurt. Years ago when we lived in a rural community in Ontario a neighbour taught me an interesting thing about yogurt culture. In order to make our own fresh live yogurt we were instructed to fill a large roasting pan half full of milk, add a tablespoon of live yogurt culture, cover it and place it in the oven overnight at a very low temperature. Then we were to go to bed.

In the morning we removed the pan from the oven, removed the cover, and “Voila!” It was all yogurt. For a robust, living and thriving culture has the capacity to change the environment into which it is introduced. This is also true of Human Culture. A single person can calmly and peacefully [and politely] affect many others: individuals, communities, societies, nations, empires, civilizations, and even the natural environment. This is the story of Humanity through all of the ages.

Canada has a stable, robust and transformative culture that has proven capable of altering the world in ways that give rise to components of The Canadian Dream: peace, hope, cooperation, tolerance, respect. It spreads by us carrying our culture to others on the one hand. On the other hand it alters those who live in our midst. These, our brothers and sisters of all nations, can share our rich culture with their own communities when they return home.

All we have to do in order to transform the world into a happier, healthier, smarter, kinder place is to be ourselves...to the utmost. Canada means Village in the Huron language. We are the center of The Global Village where there is a place for all.

Peace.

“Don’t keep the peace...pass it on.”