

Early history of Green Party of Ontario and RCMP interference

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Hippies, Witches and Freaks¹ A short history of the early green party of Ontario

Hippies, Witches and Freaks is a term used to describe the Green Party in the late 1980's by a nameless individual that was sitting beside me in a plenary at a weekend conference.

After about half an hour of listening to the squabble he whispered to me "This place is nuts, it's filled with a bunch of hippies, witches and freaks, we'll never get anything done" He left, he was right, I was a wannabe hippie, I am married to self proclaimed witch and I have met a few freaks at the green party. In any event, I liked the observation.

This article is a short history of the early green party from my perspective. It outlines the events leading up to my computer being hacked by the RCMP, and how after the death of Petra Kelly²³ and the destruction of the file allocation table of my computer I decided to stop being an activist and just focus on my family and literally mind my own business.



Petra Karin Kelly (1947-1992) was a German Green politician and founder of the German Green Party, she was killed October 1992. Controversy surrounds her death.

Why start with dead activists?

John Lennon wrote Anti-war music like "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance." This didn't exactly endear him to the Nixon administration.

In 1971, shortly after John Lennon arrived in New York on a visa, he began associating with anti-war activists; the FBI put Lennon under surveillance. The Immigration and Naturalization Service tried to deport him. The '72 election was going to be the first in which 18-year olds had the right to vote. Before that you had to be 21. Everybody knew

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that young people were the strongest anti-war constituency and Lennon was their spokesperson.

Under threat of deportation John Lennon dropped out of the anti war movement and declassified FBI files report that they have accomplished their job. In their own words they succeeded in neutralizing – as they like to put it - in neutralizing John Lennon. Some people think this refers to assassination plans however in context it may have meant silencing him, getting him out of the picture through a deportation threat. There is no question that Lennon was silenced as a spokesman of the anti-war movement.

Celebrities today have political causes, but they're the approved sort of activism; gender issues, diversity, save the rain forest, fight breast cancer, hating whitey, me too or some other hash tag issue. These are safe issues that nobody is going to try to deport you or kill you for advocating. It's okay to fight for things that really don't affect the rich and how they manipulate minds, consolidate wealth or control elections.

Lennon took risks of a kind that you hardly see celebrities take today; he was shot on the streets of New York. Petra Kelly leader of the German Greens also took risks; she was placed 45th in the UK Environment Agency's all-time list of scientists and campaigners who have done the most to save the planet. She was also shot and killed.

When I ran municipally I was thanked by an El Salvador refugee for running in a minor election. He told me how in El Salvador people are killed for doing what I did, simply running and talking about change. I did not really understand the risks, and then the RCMP came to my door, walked in and trashed my computer in front of me.

If you speak up, if you are truly effective you will be silenced. I decided to back down, spend more time with my family. I am no John Lennon or Petra Kelly to be sure, but maybe we should all try to be and acknowledging dead activists is a good place to start. John Lennon was murdered in 1980.⁴



John Winston Lennon 9 October 1940 - 8 December 1980

John Lennon spoke the unspeakable “All he was saying is give peace a chance”.

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Joining the Greens (1987)

One of the pillars of the Green Party was non-violence. This is what attracted me to the Party. At the time of my joining I worked for an Ottawa Area Defence contractor; Computing Devices,⁵ later acquired by General Dynamics. During the day I worked on the retooling of the Fire Control system for the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank⁶ at night I was working for non violent change with the Green Party⁷

Computing Devices Tool Design

When I was hired at Computing Devices in 1986 I was herded into a board room with about 30 other engineers and technologist. We were told we were hired for the retooling of the M1A1 program. The United States was planning a desert war, it was possible there would be heavy tank losses and we were part of a program that would allow the remanufacture of 1,000 tanks in 30 days. This was 4 years before Bush started the first Gulf war, a desert war in Iraq.⁸



Operation Desert Shield August 1990

With the start of the Gulf war it was pretty obvious to me that the war had been organized years in advance. Once the bombs started dropping I put up a poster in my office of a fighter jet. On my white board I made a chart. Every day the news said there were 50 or 100 bombing sorties and a few dozen people were killed. The Coalition flew over

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100,000 sorties and dropped 88,500 tons of bombs. ⁹ I simply estimated that each sortie killed 100 people, seemed reasonable for a jet carrying “bunker busters”, incendiary devices or cluster bombs. As days went by, the numbers grew, the official estimate 50,000 dead, my estimate 600,000 dead. One morning my director told me to remove my poster or leave. I left before lunch. For the next few years I stayed at home and cared for my young son and worked more or less full time for the Green Party as policy coordinator, atoning for my sins.

Coaching moment

If you want to get Unemployment Insurance from the Canadian Government after leaving a job that at that point had killed over half a million people do not answer the forms with “I got tired of making things that killed people”. It seems they really prefer you to make things that kill people over caring for your children. Funny eh!



The M1A1 Abrams Main Battle tank of the US Military

“I made that”

Putting the Gulf war in Perspective

During the Vietnam War the press was not as controlled as it is today. Pictures of street executions and children being napalmed turned public opinion against the Vietnam War.

The pentagon will not make that mistake again. Today their are “access policies” where the Pentagon controls the media by sending small teams on orchestrated press junkets, supervised by Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) who keep a close watch on their charges.

Today you will see images from laser-guided bombs showing video footage of the roofs of targeted buildings, moments before impact, makes us think that “smart bombs” and “surgical strike” are just blowing up buildings, maybe a bad guy was hurt but you never really know. The images erase the human presence on the ground.

Sadly the human presence on the ground is what war is all about. The following photo is an extra judicial street execution in Vietnam by United States supported South Vietnamese troops. This type of photo would not be released in today’s sanitized wars.

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When the Military is unaccountable

Highway 80 is a six lane highway leading across the desert from Basra, Iraq to Kuwait City. On February 26th, 1991, all available Coalition aerial attack assets were vectored towards a huge convoy of armor, trucks, buses and stolen civilian vehicles retreating from war on Highway 80.

USMC A-6E Intruders were first on the scene carrying Cluster munitions which targeted the front and rear of the convoy. The tactic trapped the remaining ¹⁰ convoy between cratered highways turning roughly four mile stretch of road into a bombing range. Wave after wave of A-10 Warthogs expended cannons for 10 straight hours. The A-10's seven-barrel Gatling-style auto cannon is designed specifically for anti-tank warfare and it delivers almost 4000 rounds per minute of alternating armor piercing and incendiary weaponry.¹¹

Vehicles that attempted to flee by driving off the highway were hunted down and destroyed. The official death count of this 4 mile long corridor of thousands of vehicles as well as another less populated stretch of 80km is 100 to 200 dead.



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Ernest Hemingway wrote “They wrote in the old days that it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country. But in modern war, there is nothing neither sweet nor fitting in your dying. You will die like a dog for no good reason.”



200 reported killed by a 10 hour bombardment by A10 Warthogs

Putting the Party in Perspective

For years “Environmental politics” was a Canadian based approach to environmental concerns that included protests, lobbying, and working with established parties to promote environmental law reform.

As the list below shows there was an 80 year history of progress where Environmentalists realized many successes. Once the Green party was formed they ironically claimed to be neither left nor right yet they made the environment a left right issue

- 1911 Canada parks commission to protect wilderness for its own sake
- 1916 Canada’s treaty with the United States protection of migratory birds.
- 1945 Canada focused on establishing national and provincial parks
- 1960 concern about pollution, waste, pesticides became a major public issue.
- 1962 Rachel Carson Silent Spring
- 1963 CPAWS founded Canadian Parks and wilderness Society,
- 1965 Society for the Promotion of Environmental Conservation
- 1967/8 Pollution Probe and Ecology action centre formed
- 1960’s obvious environmental issues are about human survival
- 1967 World Wildlife Fund founded in Canada
- 1970-71 Canadian arm of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society and Greenpeace
- 1971-72 Sea Sheppard Society and Endangered species acts passed in Ontario
- 1972 Opposition to James Bay Project in Québec
- 1972 United Nations Conference on Environment convened in Stockholm
- 1973 Canada signs Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
- 1973 Mackenzie Valley Pipeline in the Northwest Territories cancelled.
- 1974 My Grade 10 Geography teacher Mr. Hunt read us a Canadian Geographic article stating a 1 degree change in temp would reduce food production by 50%
- 1974 Environmental impact on Cree and Dene brought to the fore.
- 1975 Innu and Métis formed as separate people

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- 1975 Canadian Wildlife Federation formed
- 1975 to 1976 Every federal and provincial governments established ministries of the environment and environmental assessment legislation
- 1978, the intergovernmental Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) began to define a national list of species at risk.
- 1983 First meeting of Green Party of Canada, BC Greens Formed
- 1980 to 91 Coalition on Acid Rain helped obtain Canada / US agreement
- 1985, Ducks Unlimited launches North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- 1988 Toronto Conference on Changing Atmosphere, earliest global meet on topic.
- 1989, World Wildlife Fund launched 10-year Endangered Spaces Campaign, over 1,000 new nature reserves, doubled protected areas in Canada
- 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 1993 to 2009 Frank de Jong first leader of Green Party of Ontario¹²
- 1997 to 2012 Kyoto Protocol
- 1994 to 2006 work to protect Great Bear Rainforest Agreement
- 1994, Home Depot and IKEA put pressure on logging companies to change
- 2004, Green Party in every federal riding for the first time
- 2011 Elizabeth May first Green Party member in House of Commons,
- 2015 PEI elected Peter Bevan-Baker
- 2018 Schreiner elected Green Party Ontario representative for Guelph

The Ontario Greens

The Ontario Greens existed for many years under the rubric of a chapter; the Chapter was to be the basis of challenging the “consumerist consciousness with the critical consciousness essential for an authentic and empowered citizenship”.¹³ Sadly the nameless framers of the Early Greens chose a model from the aristocratic salon culture of Early Modern Revolutionary France where social gatherings were used for the dissemination of intellectual ideas rather than an organization model of some practical application to Ontario Political realities.

Gatherings of Green Chapters

We were an odd mix of worn out old Marxists, pseudo intellectual hippies and purged NDP waffles. Usually vegetarian meals were served spiced with a lack of organization. The main difficulty in the early days; individual chapters retain all control. At a conference each chapter had one vote and sometimes those chapters had only one member.

Because the focus was a nebulous goal to “develop a critical consciousness essential for an authentic and empowered citizenship” there were no metrics of success or failure. If an election resulted in a 2% vote, so be it, “abstract thought, historical knowledge and theoretical diversity were absent within the majority of the population”¹⁴ Policies were supposed to be shaped at regular chapter meetings (Salons) but their really is **not** allot of interest in policy formation, anyway we needed a spiritual revolution first according to the “thinkers” in the party.

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Confusion was constant

As new members joined what was a registered political party but was actually a navel gazing search for authentic and empowered citizenry there was a constant state of confusion. People came to work for a candidate and got lectures on Ideological purity.

This nonsense articulated in the Ontario Green news articles like “Forget the Media and its clever cousin electoralism Ontario Green News Summer 1990.

Sadly diversity was seen as strength, as opposed to strength from competence or a clear plan to change society thru electoral politics. Yes every political struggle has failed, yes the ruling class still rule, yes the greens can not move fast enough to “save the planet” or even save ourselves, but at least we didn’t advocate, water boarding or the guillotine for the modern day Marie Antoinette’s or the likes of Conrad Black, perhaps if we have learned anything from history a non violent struggle is the point.



The Green Party of Ontario

It was a struggle but finally the Greens shed the mantle of the ideologues on April 1993 with the adoption of a new constitution with a vote where 88% approved. I can proudly state that I wrote the constitution, and I worked with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to expedite it’s acceptance by the party. (Redacted by request of one participant)

The new constitution featured;

- One member one vote (Effectively ending the terror of one member chapters)
- A proactive leader (who could speak for and direct policy of the party)
- An executive council (to ensure we are prepared to run in elections)
- Focus on running in elections (as opposed to consciousness raising)
- Two one day conferences a year, and AGM and a policy conference
- Minimum membership requirements for Constituency associations

This may seem like pretty normal stuff but before that date the Ontario Greens were wallowing trying for a “*green transformation.... the required policy changes would be impossible without...changes in consciousness and culture leading the way.*”¹⁵ If there was any value in a green political party there now was no longer any debate.

In hindsight

Looking back it was not even idealism that threatened the early Greens. It was simply that the party faithful was unable to craft a message that the electorate could relate to.

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Your survival should be a compelling message, but the greens analysis was so incomprehensible to the electorate it was just not relevant and the voting results reflected that reality. At the heart of that lack of relevance were 7 underlying causes.

1. **The Canadian Green Movement** wanted nothing to do with politics, from 1962 to 1972 they were organizing as CPAWS, Pollution Probe, World Wildlife Fund, Audubon Society, Greenpeace and the Sea Sheppard Society and they were having successes working on single issues passing legislation and making progress. In the 60's it was obvious something had to change and the change was happening. Canadian environmentalist saw Green Political activism as polarizing and counterproductive.
2. **The West German Greens:** Canadian Greens in the 80's were an opportunistic, response to the successes of the West German. The German Greens in the 70's only received five percent of the popular vote and held 7 of the 476 Bundestag¹⁶ seats. The Ontario Greens frequently got the same percentage of the popular vote. The difference; proportional representation in Germany. We took all of *out of context* cues, we appropriated another cultures solution and it did not work.
3. **Capra and Spretnak:** *Green Politics: The Global Promise*, imported German Green debates to the Canadian Greens. Maybe Canadians would have come up with something other than the four pillars.¹⁷ Maybe Canadian Greens could have spoken in terms relevant to a third of the electorate from an ecological perspective. In the Late 80's the concerns were nuclear war, cruise missiles, acid rain and the great lakes. These were ground swell issues, not Eco Feminism or Deep Ecology.
4. **Realos vs. Fundis** An idiotic debate for a political party. **Fundis** or fundamentalist focused on values, while **Realos** or Realistic wanted to participate in politics. That split wasted 20 years of Green Politics in Canada in New Zealand time was wasted on the Values Party and the British the Ecology Party.
5. **A one issue party** Most parties are one issue parties to the people who fall under the party tent, but Canadian Greens managed to turn that idea against them selves. As Trevor Hancock, the founding leader of the Canadian Greens stated "Sure we are a one-issue party. The issue is the survival of the planet" Had he left it there it would have worked, but he had to go on and say "If you're looking at the transformation of social values; (Most are not) that has implications in all dimensions of public policy." Hancock also talked about the failure of the Canadian Public to understand complex political policies unless made into slogans. Sadly, creating slogans was his job.
6. **Consensus** Democracy at any level is a radical idea and a hard thing to accomplish. Politics is naturally competitive and consensus is always strived for, but if decision-making is a tortured process you lose. In the process of winning you often ignore dissenting voices that have a contribution to make. That of course is true. What was lost on the Greens is that by including dissenting voices you will almost always lose and your agenda flounders.
7. **People want a strong leader:** While the German greens were abandoning the no leader experiment because spokespersons like Rudolf Bahro¹⁸ and Petra Kelly were making such progress, the Ontario Greens were failing as the "antiparty". Greens were trying to figure out how to publicizing Green activities without a leader. It never worked and it was not for lack of trying.

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Policy Coordinator

In 1990 I volunteered for the position of Policy coordinator after a year of being a member of the Ottawa West Greens. In a Chapter based organization trying to develop a consensus between “no compromises” Earth First types, “Fundamentalist” Deep Ecologists, “paranoid” Anarchists, “enlightened” Monetary Reformists, and “disgruntled” NDP waffle socialists was a challenge at best. Overlay that with the ideas adopted from the German Greens and you had a recipe for gridlock. No Compromise baby!



Green party - weekend retreats

Green Party retreats were held quarterly, announcements were sent out in the Ontario Green News published by Frank de Jong¹⁹ and a request went out for policy ideas and proposals. Usually these retreats were held at a place like the Ecology Retreat Center in Hockley valley north of Toronto²⁰ or at Hart House at the University of Toronto²¹ if organized by the Canadian Green Leader Chris lea.²² Occasionally there would be speakers, on one occasions I had the good fortune to sit down for 15 minutes and was introduced one on one to Social Ecology and Municipal Libertarian politics with Murray Bookchin.²³ Murray Bookchin’s trip to Toronto was co sponsored by the Ontario Greens.

Policy Process

Translation of broad principles imposed on the Ontario Greens by the German Greens into the Canadian experience with a radically diverse group of individuals was a complex task. In Ontario, Greens divided into study groups which examine specific problems such as disarmament or women’s issues and so on. The wide range of ideological views almost always resulted in polarizations.

When consensus was reached it usually was on ideas that were extremely “politically correct” but usually lacked any relevance to the responsibilities of the Ontario Greens. For example we would come out on with a very strong statement on aboriginal issues, very emotional claims for blame, but nothing substantive to help aboriginals. As well an issue with complex federal – provincial implications and not relevant solely to the Ontario Legislature as aboriginal issues is a joint Federal-Provincial Jurisdiction.²⁴

If the issue was in our wheelhouse, like Education, we would take a policy that met the needs of the education activists, usually home schooling enthusiasts who took the time and found a sympathetic ear in the Green Party, but may not have been relevant to the electorate or the real pedagogical challenges facing Ontario schools.

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Values Confusion Syndrome

Like an alcoholic insisting his drinking made him social, Greens claim that their values bind them together, it was apparent to me that the values were just a mismatched laundry list of new left inclusivity. For example, economic policy ranged from a LETS barter system²⁵ to support for small-scale capitalism to a resurrection of Social Credit ideas of the creditary nature of money. This sort of contradiction was embraced as diversity and Chapters exerting local control. In fact it was a contradictory farce and lead to a lack of any coherent policies.

Lack of Leadership

In parties with leaders a prospective leader writes a book²⁶ building confidence in the group and allowing those interested to get a feel for what the person is made of. It's also a preamble to the leader advocating a platform around which relevant policy is formulated. An astute group then crafts a relevant document hoping to capture the imagination of the electorate. Lacking a leader, lacking a focus, but awash in diversity of ideas the corporate media picks and chooses the most damaging narrative to squash any chance of success.

To this day I am convinced that people who claim strength in diversity and who try for consensus are really talking about collaboration. Collaboration is always good, that spark of creativity when a small group of motivated people work together. The sum is really greater than the individual parts. That spark does not happen because of diversity or an attempt at a consensus, it's more of an improvisational process. Having a checklist of participants, compromising until you achieve consensus is a recipe for bad decisions.

Collaboration in an organization happens when two or more competent people, who have some expertise, who get along and communicate well, are tasked by a leader or someone skilled in management to work together for a common goal to achieve a specific task. Anyone who has worked in this manner knows there is an upper limit to how many people can collaborate at once. Attempts to collaborate across an entire organization almost always fail, the magic is lost. And most assuredly it does not happen when people are of diverse opinions compromising to achieve a consensus that no one really likes.

Building a Sustainable Future (BASF) V 3.1 November 1993

BASF V3.1 was the last version of multiple documents we created over a three year period of conferences, meeting and letter writing. I patiently documented what people were saying presented the ideas as resolutions, translated that into policy, had it voted upon and collated a document that was approved as policy of the Ontario Greens. What was apparent from that process was that the process did not work and that the ideology was incoherent.

The Ontario Greens was a registered political party. My experience with the NDP and Liberal party showed that every candidate who was elected was elected because over the years they had been very active in their community. They usually worked municipally,

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then provincially. There are many examples of high profile individuals being parachuted in with little experience at the grass roots, but they are the exception. An exception to be addressed for sure, but not a reason to throw the baby out with the bath water and forego all electoral organization. In any event the Machiavellian reality of big government was not contrasted by a rational alternative in the greens. It was endlessly discussed by the likes of Mike McConkey along the following lines:

Our goal is “a green transformation....of a society free from domination of human by human and nature by humans, the changes required must be primarily at the level of culture and consciousness. This does not relieve the need for change in legislative policy. But the fundamental and radical character of the required transformation means that policy changes would be impossible without the changes in consciousness and culture leading the way. If there was any value in a Green electoralist party-a debatable point...such a party must be rooting in a broader Green movement of critical culture and consciousness”²⁷

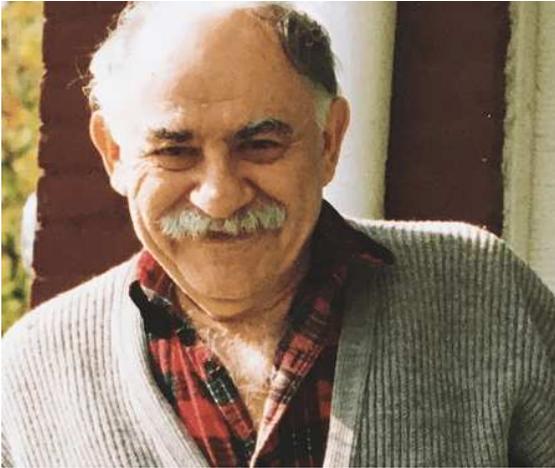
What was lost on the “Deep Greens” or “self defined former leftists” was that the owners of capital did not seek permission to dominate human by human or nature by human. They did not wait for a culture and consciousness change to implement the agenda they desired. They owned the media, owned the messaging, own the leader and win elections.

That’s what we are up against and the ground work was not consciousness raising, it was organizing, owning a media, owning the message, putting forth issues that mattered to people and developing strong leaders who could articulate that vision. It was hard work and work that most would do if there was a clear vision. Not Eco Feminism but wage stagnation perhaps, Not Deep Ecology but peace perhaps.

One has only to look at the ease with which so many “leftists” have accommodated the Right and collapsed the basic principles that once defined them as leftists by accepting notions of a “free market”. The “crisis” of self-defined former leftists is even more pitiful today than it was when we responded to McConkey’s first letter, more than a year ago.
Janet Biehl and Murray Bookchin in a written exchange with Mike McConkey

Text box footnote²⁸

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Social ecology and the writings of Bookchin should be kept alive. Bookchin demanded that greens in whatever form recognized environmental problems link with class struggles.

Many environmentalists have an “any means necessary” approach. This attitude can easily slip into the politics of xenophobia and ultimately fascistic policies.

One reason to read Bookchin is he attempted to be a counterweight to this tendency in the 20th Century. In losing his voice we have lost a voice for justice

1991 Municipal Election Bookchin’s Inspiration

Murray Bookchin spoke at a Toronto International Youth Conference in August of 1991. The Green Party was involved in the sale of tickets and his talk was timed to be aligning with one of our quarterly meetings. I had read *remaking society* and was fortunate to have a few words with him after the talk. This encounter encouraged me to run in the next municipal election that November.

Murray Bookchin, an environmental activist and author of numerous books on the social ecology noted “people are not citizens. They have been reduced to constituencies who merely vote and taxpayers who merely pay. They play no role in the political process that exists today.

This point was highlighted to me at the time by the amalgamation of the city of Ottawa. Individual cities, Cumberland, Gloucester, Goulbourn, Kanata, Nepean, Osgoode, **Ottawa**, Rideau, Rockcliffe Park, Vanier, and West Carleton were all jointed together to create the unified city of Ottawa. The idea was their would be efficiencies in policing, fire and reduction in councilors. In actuality developer



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bribery of city hall was now more efficient and a bureaucratic wall was created. Volunteer councilors became professionals making 100K a year as “politicians”. But most importantly the ability of a citizen to participate in his or her politics was reduced, if not by physical distance but by the creation of an alienating bureaucracy.

Bookchin identified the need for a new politics as the old politics was being reinforced and people disenfranchised. In Ottawa taxes did not go down and police services suffered.

So deeply rooted is the market economy in our minds that its grubby language has replaced our most hallowed moral and spiritual expressions. We now invest in our children, marriages and personal relationships, a term that is equated with words like love and care. We live in a world of trade offs and we ask for the bottom line of any emotional transaction. We use the terminology of contracts rather than that of loyalties and spiritual affinities

Murray Bookchin

Rather than attempting to look elsewhere for problems to solve, like protesting a pipeline in Alberta we should start with fights over zoning in our communities, take on the builders so shopping and work was within walking distance of homes thereby reducing the need for fossil fuels. A goal made more difficult with actions like the Amalgamation of Ottawa.

When loosing is winning

For a number of personal reasons running municipally was one of the most rewarding things I ever did.

- I became acquainted with other politicians such as David Pratt and Sinclair Stevens, they gave me substantial insights into the liberal and conservative parties
- The gratitude of a refugee one November evening as I was winding up the Sunday afternoon door knocking made me rethink what it meant to live in Canada.
- The help I received from my mother and Cousin Wendy was an inspiration to me.
- I learned that the only relevant “activist” activity that politicians pay any attention to is to be challenged in an election. For a number of years I lobbied for city council to start an environmental review committee, no action, nothing. Within 24 hours of me announcing my candidacy the environmental committee I had wanted was announced. Demonstrations are a self indulgent waste of time that pale in comparison in terms of effectiveness to running. Voting is a shallow consumerist activity; running in an election is an act of citizenship.
- Running in an election makes you part of the debate, you quickly learn that the distinction is not between liberal, conservative and NDP, but rather between voters and candidates.

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Results of the Municipal Election

I came 4th in a field of 4. I remember talking to my father after my defeat, he had drowned his sorrows in a bit of Canadian Club and he told me frankly that “The Lord Jesus Christ could not have won on the platform I was advocating” I suppose in my fathers eyes I was a complete idealist, a fundamentalist of sorts, and he was a realist. Perhaps he would have been happy to know that in the Green party crowd I was the realist, or more likely he would have preferred I not hang with that crowd.

Bell-Barrhaven Ward		
Doug Collins	4,146	43.89
Patricia Pepper	2,618	27.71
Tom O'Neill	2,163	22.90
Ken Toews	520	5.50

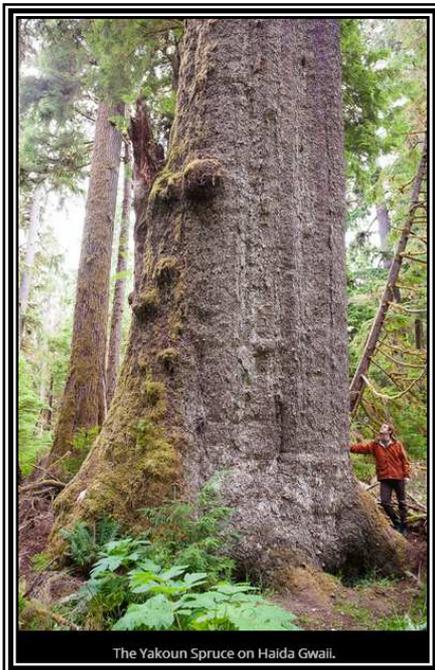
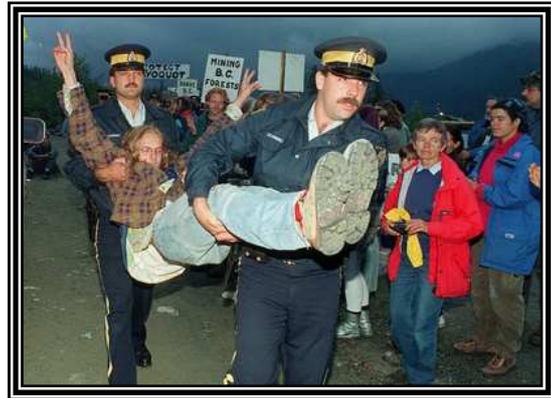
I cannot emphasize enough how grateful I was to the electorate of Nepean for not selecting me as their local leader. While the experience was empowering, interesting, educational and I think it is something that everyone should try at least once, as well as my duty as a citizen I learned I do not want to be a servant of the people.

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Clayoquot sound protests

By 1993 11,000 people came to Clayoquot Sound to protest the destruction of old growth forests in Clayoquot sound. For three months, protesters blockaded a remote logging road, preventing workers from destroying thousand year old forests. Those arrested were charged with criminal contempt of court for defying an injunction banning demonstrations on Macmillan Bloedel Ltd.'s logging operations. 860 were prosecuted and found guilty. Penalties included probation, jail sentences and fines that ranged from \$250 to \$3,000. The Green Party paid fines for anyone arrested.

A group from the Nepean Green, Ottawa West and Ottawa Center Greens decided to pay the fines for the protesters. While it is illegal to solicit funds for any activity other than election activity it is not illegal to spend funds on any particular activity. If the party wants to pay for the leaders children private education they can.²⁹ It may not be the most politically astute thing to do but it is not illegal. In the case of Andrew Scheer internal procedures allegedly were not followed, they would have been ignored had he been elected Prime Minister I am sure.



The caveat is that you can not solicit money for any non electoral purpose. The Green Party paid over 1,500,000 million dollars in fines, issuing tax receipts to anyone who donated to the green party to help with our elections. In the eyes of the law we made the decision after we got the money and decided to pay fines for people we considered moral, protecting something we thought was sacred.

In the end we all ended up in the Election Finance office with the director of Election finance, a Mr. Kingsley, his head beet red as he balled us out and threatened to de certify the party.



Our efforts made the front page of the Globe and Mail. We did not break, or bend the law. We just used the law the way we saw fit.

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1993 Constitutional Change

It was obvious to most that the Greens in the mid 1990's were dysfunctional. Unfortunately there were a half dozen one person chapters that held sway over the party and voted down any attempts at change towards leadership or any form of organization. It was apparent that one person chapters were stalling progress. Ironically the solution was more one person chapters.

Four individuals

A small group in the Green Party decided to use the chapter based constitution to change the nature of the party. The leader [REDACTED], the policy coordinator [REDACTED] and the president of the Ottawa West Greens [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the future CFO of the Nepean Greens decided to open new chapters to tip the voting in favour of making the necessary changes to the party. (Redaction by request of one individual)

The Nepean Greens

One of the new chapters was one part of that change. Over a period of a year we opened half a dozen chapters in the Ottawa and Hamilton area with the objective of adopting a constitution with a leader and province wide organization with the objective of running candidates in provincial elections and abandon the idea of fermenting a political movement. Realism was finally embraced by the hippies, witches and freaks.

Nepean Greens was a constituency association³⁰ that encompassed the city of Nepean³¹ Ontario, since amalgamated into Ottawa. It was one of the Chapters created to vote in a new constitution that I wrote. The new constitution allowed for one vote to one member, the establishment of Constituency Associations in every riding, the roles and responsibilities of the leader and an executive council that had the responsibility of running candidates in every riding with a common platform.

Ending Realos vs. Fundis Codswollop³²

Those changes once and for all ended the discussion. The fundamentalist were not that hard a group to route when faced with pragmatic realism. After a 20 year experiment in alternative decentralized grassroots organization the Greens finally ended and the Green Party of Ontario as opposed to the "greens" had a centralized system of governance.

One has only to look at the ease with which so many "leftists" have accommodated the Right and collapsed the basic principles that once defined them as leftists by accepting notions of a "free market. The "crisis" of self-defined former leftists is even more pitiful today than it was when we responded to McConkey's first letter, more than a year ago.

Janet Biehl and Murray Bookchin
in a written exchange with Mike McConkey

The RCMP and Me

Network Computers in 1990

In 87/88 I was using my XT computer with a \$600 math coprocessor and Auto Cad version 1 to make simple 2D drawings in a Tool and Die Shop. When I replaced the XT with a new AT³³ computer, the last of the pre Pentium IBM personal computers my old XT became a “Bulletin Board System”.

Bulletin Board Systems (BBS)

A BBS was a mostly text-based data system that was the online experience of the late 1980s and early '90s. Anyone with a modem and a home computer could dial-in and interact with other callers in their area code. By 1984 the first *Fido Net* protocols were developed and the network became a worldwide computer network. It was a store-and-forward system and it would exchange files, private (email) and public (forum) messages between the BBSes in the network.

In both capitalistic and totalitarian countries where economies are based on growth ultimately both devour the natural world, just like an untreated cancer must ultimately devour its host. Intentions have little to do with the unrelenting process. In either case, any opposition; liberal or radical will be silenced by the institution of a police state.

From Murray Bookchin Remaking Society

Green Party BBS 1990

I set up a BBS for the Green Party of Canada and the Green Party of Ontario. The computer was used to share policy documents. It was just starting to get to the point where we could share comments and participate in policy discussion and allowed the public to download policy documents. This was being done at a time when Telex and Faxes were the norm. None of the major political parties were using electronic data transfers. There was no world wide web (www).

One of my projects was pesticide awareness and I found myself on a stage discussing the cancer causing characteristics of pesticides, when I explained that you could get data and share data using your computer all of a sudden the room lit up, people were copying down everything I said and every question after that was about computer communication. This was very new at the time.

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Thinking about it

1. Worked for a defence contractor where I was fingerprinted and background checked.
2. Quit because "I got tired of making things that killed people"
3. Lobbying for anti pesticide laws getting media coverage on TV and newspapers
4. Wrote the constitution of the Green Party and routed the anarchists
5. Worked with Sinclair Stevens who was being investigated at the time.
6. Policy coordinator for a political party advocating replacing Capitalism.
7. Set up a state of the art computer communications system for the Green Party
8. Used that network for planning the routing of money from the Green Party to defend an ancient forest by paying fines for hundreds who were arrested and sentenced, making a mockery of the law.

So I wonder why the RCMP would target my little computer. I have spent many evenings laughing about how naive I was in not expecting them when they finally did come. Before you discuss the RCMP and their involvement in the crashing of my computer we need to put the RCMP's activities in context.

Other Adventures of the RCMP

This page may serve as a character witness for the accused. Search the following keywords or review the Wikipedia article on RCMP controversies..

- RCMP preoccupation with Communism and the labour movement.
- RCMP involvement in the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919
- RCMP clash with striking coal miners in 1933 Estefan Saskatchewan
- RCMP Political surveillance activities in 1950 Canada.
- RCMP stops the On-to-Ottawa Trek bloody clash 1935 Regina.
- RCMP surveillance targets, Member of Parliament J. S. Woodsworth
- RCMP 1971 break in of Richelieu Explosives and theft of dynamite
- RCMP 1972 plant of dynamite in Mont Saint-Grégoire, FLQ home
- RCMP 1972 Leslie James Bennett scandal, his life ruined.
- RCMP 1980 Sergeant Gilles Brunet, son of an RCMP commissioner soviet mole
- RCMP Barn-burning scandal May 6, 1972, destroy barn used by separatists
- RCMP 1973 theft of PQ member's list break-in to steal a computerized members list and their alleged misuse of money.
- RCMP committed more than 400 illegal break-ins reporter John Sawatsky
- RCMP break in 1972, Agence de Presse Libre du Québec Operation Bricole
- RCMP break in Mouvement pour la Défense des Prisonniers Politiques Québécois
- RMCP Corporal Robert Samson failed bombing at the house of Sam Steinberg, founder of Steinberg Foods in Montreal. At trial admitted to APLQ break-in.
- In 1977, Keable Inquiry into Illegal Police Activities, 17 members / 44 offences.
- Excessive use of force at the 1997 APEC Summit
- RCMP bombing in Alberta, scapegoat farmer October 14, 1999,
- Torture scandal of Maher Arar On September 26, 2002,
- 2004 Pension fund scandal misuse of millions of dollars
- 2005, Ian Bush gunshot to the back of the head while being interrogated

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- Taser abuse of Robert Dziekański at airport and Frank Lasser in his hospital bed.
- Insite disinformation 2008, RCMP negative, politically biased reports of safe injection sites, also stacking radio shows with callers against Insite.
- 2011 Mountie takes intoxicated woman home from jail
- High River weapons search June 21, 2013, High River,
- Sexual abuse of female RCMP officers³⁴

Nepean Green Party Constituency association meeting

In that year I ran municipally for the Green party, I was also the president of the Nepean Greens constituency association and was responsible for running money through our constituency association for the Clayoquot protesters fines.

Our monthly association meetings usually were attended by 4 or 5 people. This one meeting in particular was attended by 25. People were crowded in our living room. I did not know who most of the people were. In the midst of all the confusion 2 men appeared at my door, identified themselves as RCMP officers and asked to come in. It was a meeting, lots of people in my house and I was caught off guard.

After a few minutes the RCMP officers politely, with a tone of curiosity asked about my computer, and requested to see it. I was gullible and I showed them to my basement office, and while one officer asked me about books on my shelf the other officer pulled out a floppy disk, put the disk in my computer and rebooted the computer. This distraction took about 15 seconds. The screen turned orange, this was before colour monitors and then the officer took the disk out, said it was done and they both left the house. The computer was dead. I was left wondering what had just happened.

My brother was a computer technologist working at the Nation Research Council. He went on and became the Chief of Information Technology and he was my technical support at the time. Early AT and XT computers were not particularly user friendly and required a fair amount of custom configuration, cryptic DOS commands, and user written script files to operate effectively. When I took the computer to my brother he told me that the File allocation table had been scrambled. He said the data was still on the computer that should be fixable but it was not. He said he heard of a new thing called a virus in a computer and wondered if this was one. He was not sure as he never seen a virus before only heard about and read about them.

For me, a father with 2 small boys, having just written to and received a letter from Petra Kelly in Germany³⁵ who was just assassinated and with the RCMP coming into my home and destroying my computer, frankly I was frightened for my safety and the thought of leaving behind a small family did not appeal to me. With that I wound down my political activity, resigned as policy coordinator and lost interest in politics in general. I suppose in some dark file in the bowels of the RCMP there is..... enshrined in some little folder, is a study in black and white of my fingerprints with the note "succeeded in neutralizing".

"And the only reason I'm singing you this song now

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is cause you may know somebody in a similar situation, or you may be in a similar situation, and if your in a situation like that there's only one thing you can do and that's walk into the shrink wherever you are, just walk in say

"Shrink, you can get anything you want, at Alice's restaurant." And walk out. You know, if one person, just one person does it they may think he's really sick and they won't take him.

And if two people, two people do it, in harmony, they may think they're both faggots and they won't take either of them.

And three people do it, three, can you imagine, three people walking in singing' a bar of Alice's Restaurant and walking out.

They may think it's an organization. And can you, can you imagine fifty people a day, I said fifty people a day walking in singing' a bar of Alice's Restaurant and walking out. And friends they may thinks it's a movement

And that's what it is, the Alice's Restaurant Anti-Massacree Movement, and all you got to do to join is sing it the next time it come's around on the guitar With feeling. So we'll wait for it to come around on the guitar, here and sing it when it does. Here it comes

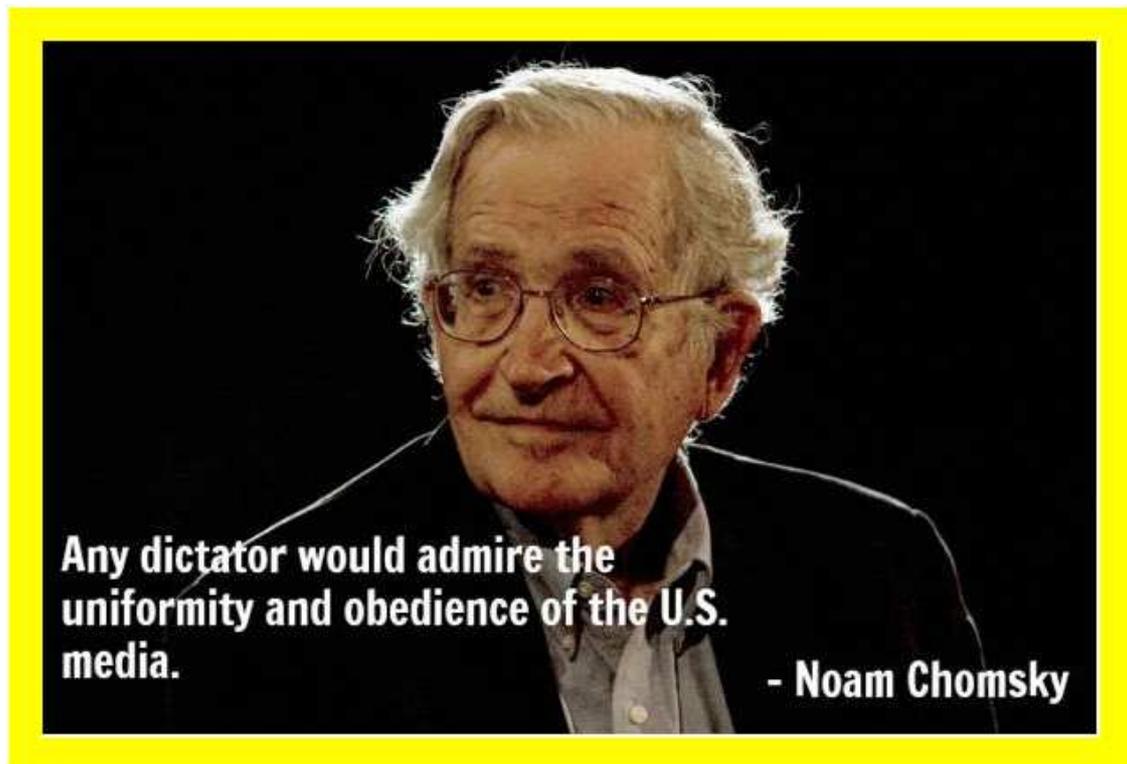
*You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant
You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant
Walk right in it's around the back, just a half a mile from the railroad track
You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant*

That was horrible. If you want to end war and stuff you got to sing loud. I've been singing this song now for twenty five minutes. I could sing it for another twenty five minutes. I'm not proud... or tired

*So we'll wait till it comes around again, and this time with four part harmony and feeling
We're just waitin' for it to come around is what we're doing
All right now*

*You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant (Excepting Alice)
You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant
(I said) Walk right in it's around the back, just a half a mile from the railroad track
You can get anything you want, at Alice's Restaurant*

*Da-da da-da da-da da-dum At
Alice's Restaurant³⁶*



“Whether one sees oneself as dedicated to reform or revolution, the first steps are education of oneself and others. There is little hope for further progress unless there is an enhanced network of local media who do not bend to state or private power. As activities undertaken in such domains including political action extend in scale, effectiveness and popular engagement it may well provoke state violence, one sign that it is becoming truly significant.

*Hacked from the last 3 pages of Noam Chomsky
Turning the Tide*

References and Notes:

¹ Hippies, Witches and Queers is a term used to describe the Green Party in the late 1980's by a nameless individual that was sitting beside me in a plenary. After about half an hour of listening to the squabble he whispered to me "This place is nuts, it's filled with a bunch of hippies, witches and queers, we'll never get anything done" He was right, I was a hippie, there were a few witches about and certainly a queer or two. In any event, I liked the observation. If you take offence, grow up, being offended does not change the fact that the Green Party in the late 80's was a home to allot of old hippies, a few hot witches and a queer or two.

² For a detailed account of Petra Kelly's death Find the January 1993 article of Vanity Fair by Mark Hertsgaard

³ Various stories outlining the death of Petra Kelly
<https://murderpedia.org/male.B/b/bastian-gert.htm>

⁵ Computing Devices
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Dynamics_Mission_Systems_-_Canada

⁶ M1A1 Abrams Battle Tank <http://www.rhsmods.org/w/m1a1>

⁷ Green Party of Ontario <https://gpo.ca/>

⁸ Lies about first Iraq war <https://billmoyers.com/2014/06/27/the-first-iraq-war-was-also-sold-to-the-public-based-on-a-pack-of-lies/>

⁹ <https://www.airforcemag.com/article/0101chrono/>

Feb. 28 Coalition air forces fly a total of 110,000 sorties. DOD says coalition forces destroyed or rendered ineffective 42 Iraqi divisions, captured more than 50,000 Iraqi prisoners, destroyed or captured 3,000 of 4,030 tanks, destroyed or captured 962 of 2,870 armored vehicles, 1,005 of 3,110 artillery pieces, 103 of 639 aircraft (with another 100 or so in quarantine in Iran). Coalition forces continue to destroy captured and abandoned Iraqi armor and artillery. Coalition airplanes flew 110,000 sorties over Iraq and Kuwait, one-half of which were combat and one-half support (reconnaissance, air refueling, search and rescue, etc.) US casualties are reported as 79 killed in action, 212 wounded in action, 45 missing in action, nine POWs. (Casualties later revised to 613.)

¹⁰ The Atlantic Photo of burned soldier, "He was fighting to save his life to the very end, till he was completely burned up," Jarecke says of the man he photographed. "He was trying to get out of that truck." Copyright Jarecke 1992
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/the-war-photo-no-one-would-publish/375762/>

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- ¹¹ A10 warthog munitions https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GAU-8_Avenger
- ¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_de_Jong
- ¹³ Farewell address of a dissident voice: Reflections on the Normalization of the Ontario Greens by Mike McConkey Greenhouse April 1992 page 3
- ¹⁴ More from McConkey
- ¹⁵ That's all folks, Farewell McConkey. Here is your hat what is your hurry. I mean Ibid
- ¹⁶ The German Parliament <https://www.bundestag.de/en/> operates under a system of proportional representation
- ¹⁷ The German Greens called for the following pillars ecology, social responsibility, grassroots democracy and nonviolence. Other principals like radical decentralization and an emphasis on individual spirituality may have applied to the German Greens but were a Green noose around the Canadian Greens. German Greens had proportional privilege and had the luxury of indulging in esoteric nonsense. For the Canadian greens this self indulgence was fatal.
- ¹⁸ (author of the book *Socialism and Survival*)
- ¹⁹ Frank de Jong leader of green party of Ontario
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_de_Jong
- ²⁰ Green Party conference location in Hockley Hills outside Toronto
<http://www.ecologyretreatcentre.com/>
- ²¹ Green Party conference site late 80's early 90's <https://harthouse.ca/>
- ²² Chris lea Leader Green Party of Canada https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Lea
- ²³ Murray Bookchin speaks on Green Municipal Politics <http://social-ecology.org/wp/audio-video/>
- ²⁴ Joint federal –provincial relationships <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/corporate/organizational-structure/branches/federal-provincial-relations-social-policy-branch.html>
- ²⁵ Lets system <http://www.lets-linkup.com/>
- ²⁶ Book by Elizabeth May Leader Greens
<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM265966&R=265966>

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²⁷ Farewell address of a dissident voice: Reflections on the Normalization of the Ontario Greens by Mike McConkey Greenhouse April 1992 page 3

²⁸ Exchange between Mike McConkey and Murray Bookchin left green perspectives #28 where Bookchin trounces McConkey calling out his racism and poorly thought out ideas <http://social-ecology.org/wp/1993/12/left-green-perspectives-28/>

²⁹ Conservatives pay for Schemers children's private education <https://www.macleans.ca/news/andrew-scheer-is-stepping-down-as-conservative-party-leader/>

³⁰ Provincial riding of Nepean <https://www.elections.ca/res/cir/maps2/mapprov.asp?map=35064&lang=e>

³¹ City of Nepean https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepean,_Ontario

³² Codswollop you say <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/codswallop>

³³ IBM AT Clone https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_Personal_Computer/AT

³⁴ List of RCMP controversies Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_controversies_involving_the_Royal_Canadian_Mounted_Police

³⁵ Petra Kelly was the leader of the German Green Party. She was murdered in her apartment. A number of unusual circumstances surrounded her death. Officially her death was a murder/suicide by her partner. JFK was shot by a lone assassin, Lennon shot by a fan, MLK shot by a disgruntled southerner. Yes I believe it all. <https://apnews.com/3ac61593f34ea5a5ee3be3b2a910b5d9>

³⁶ Alice's Restaurant was an anthem song of the late 60's to protest the destruction of the peoples of Vietnam. Its worth listening to, you get a feel for the time. Download on anything but Amazon; it just seems like such a contradiction to use Amazon a CIA front corporation to get a 60's draft dodging song. <https://genius.com/Arlo-guthrie-alices-restaurant-lyrics>

Okay so you don't know about the Amazon CIA connection, where have you been under a digital rock or just paying attention to some idiot twitter feed, good grief open your eyes, ask questions. <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/07/the-details-about-the-cias-deal-with-amazon/374632/>

Bonus Rant

The point is, Alice's Restaurant Anti-Massacree Movement was about the war in Vietnam; the US was bombing peasant towns.

Vietnam; 3 million dead; Cambodia destabilized resulting in the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot with 2 million dead, a quarter of the Cambodian population killed; it was a big deal. They stopped telling you about the details of war because it turned people into peaceniks, no one really wants to kill; you have to be taught to hate.

The Green Party started out as an anti war party. Stop cruise missiles, you should at least look at the person your killing, not do it remotely. That used to bother people.

But sadly the Green Party changed into a party of the environment ignoring the biggest environmental threats we face; war and overpopulation. It was a self righteous platform for the “enlightened” Compromise on anything so not to offend anyone, accept the “free market”; try for the middle ground that the corporate media would find appealing

Fight the war effort, you will be identified as a traitor, and if you are in any way effective your friends and confidants will either be RCMP or CSIS agents, actually threaten to accomplish anything and you will be killed. It will be a clue! It really is that simple.

You're only feeling free because you never pulled on the leash around your neck, you goggled but never lived. The smart thing to do is to smile and nod.

Now go and buy something it will make you happy.