



THE **MSE** **NEWSLETTER**

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Who we are

We would like to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to the people at the MSE. There have been many new faces at the MSE since the first newsletter and new appointments are expected in the near future. We are taking this opportunity to introduce all of our staff with short bios and photos.

Student contributions

Second year student Mary Catherine Graziano writes a tribute to the Tisza River, Aaron Chang reports on his summer work experience, and Meaghan Obee, one of our graduating students, gives us her thoughts on McGill and the MSE.

Sincere thanks to everyone for their contributions to this issue of the MSE Newsletter.



In an effort to cut down on the use of paper in the production of this newsletter, we'd like to know if you're interested in receiving the next issue electronically. Please let us know at: outreach@mse.mcgill.ca. Telephone (514) 398-5826. The newsletter will also be available on our website.

In the month of September



Rowles House



3534 University

- ❖ The Macdonald Campus offices of the MSE moved into the beautifully renovated Rowles House and the downtown offices have expanded to all four floors, including the MESS office and lounge in the basement, of the 3534 University building.

Current enrolment figures for the MSE

As of October 2000 a total of 235 students were enrolled at the MSE, as compared with 168 in October 1999. Of the 235 students registered, 173 are in the Majors program (109 in Oct.'99), 53 are in the Minor program (49 in Oct.'99) and nine are in the Diploma program (10 in Oct.'99). The B.Sc. option is being followed by 104 students and 69 are taking the B.A. option. Fifty students are expected to graduate in 2001.

Recent Events

Environmental Career Workshops

On November 1st, the first in this series of MSE workshops was led by *Dr. Brian and Ms. Mary Natrass*, consultants with *The Natural Step*, a non-profit environmental education organization that offers a framework for businesses, communities, academia, government entities and individuals to redesign their activities to become more sustainable. To date, more than 70 municipalities and 60 corporations, including **IKEA, Electrolux, and McDonalds** have adopted their model.

Election Debate

On November 16th members from five national parties presented their respective environmental platforms on issues related to the **Kyoto protocol, GMOs and the trading of bulk water** to an audience of **300 people** at a pre-election debate held at **Moyse Hall**.

The debate was moderated by *Peter Howlett* of *Les Amis de la Montagne*. Debate participants included **Clifford Lincoln**, Liberal member of Parliament for Lac-Saint-Louis, **Marilyn Churley**, from the New Democratic Party and Ontario MPP, **Bernard Côté**, a Conservative candidate from Verdun, **Dean Drysdale**, Canadian Alliance candidate for Vaudreuil and **Joan Russow**, Green Party candidate from

Victoria, B.C. and leader of the Green Party of Canada.

Special Presentations at the MSE

Mr. Robert Falkner, Lecturer at the London Centre of International Relations, spoke at the MSE on November 1st about the dimensions of the transatlantic trade conflict regarding **GMOs** and highlighted the major elements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Dr. Lesli Bisgould, Barrister and Solicitor in Animal Rights Law, spoke at the MSE on November 7th about bioengineering from the animal's perspective.

Dr. David Magnus, Professor at the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke at the MSE on November 10th about the impact on medical care, family and the social order arising from recent developments in genetic and reproductive technologies.

Dr. Marten Scheffer, Head of the Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management Department at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, and specialist in organizational dynamics, spoke at the MSE on November 23rd on the development of strategies to promote resilient society-nature interactions.

Coming Soon

United Nations

The MSE will sponsor a series of panel discussions at the March 2001 meeting of the UN Biodiversity Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

Next Newsletter

Professor Tom Naylor will report on Indonesia.

CANSEE

The MSE will be hosting the Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics in August 2001.

New Faculty Appointments

Searches are currently underway for eight new faculty members in conjunction with the Faculty of Religious Studies, the Redpath Museum, the School of Urban Planning, and the Departments of Geography, Philosophy, Plant Science, and Sociology.

New Courses

The Economy of Nature with Professors Tom Naylor and F.G. Müller
170-680B

This course adopts an interdisciplinary perspective to explore interrelationships between ecosystems and human economic activity. It asks how ecosystem integrity can be reconciled with human economic activity now and in the future.

Courses in Environmental Law with Professor Jaye Ellis

International Environmental Law
389-546B

This course is designed to introduce students to this continuously expanding and evolving branch of international law. It will focus on the particularities of the international legal system and their implications for environmental protection; economic and ethical dimensions of international environmental policy; selected environmental problems that will permit more detailed study and critical analysis of sources and mechanisms of international environmental law; a discussion of new approaches to the solution of existing and emerging environmental problems.

Environment and the Law
389-580B

The course attempts to give an overview of environmental law and policy at the provincial and national levels. It will focus on constitutional aspects (division of powers), provincial and federal legislative and regulatory regimes, as well as on civil and common law remedies. The course will also deal with selected issues such as enforcement (including liability of officers and directors), environmental impact assessment, contaminated lands, waste management, access to information and the environmental aspects of NAFTA and NAAEC.

Congratulations !

To **Dr. Amanda Vincent**, Biology Professor and the first scientist to study **seahorses** in their natural habitats, for receiving the **Pew Fellowship**, the world's preeminent award in marine conservation. Dr. Vincent has been awarded \$150,000 US from the American Pew Charitable Trusts to further her research, management and conservation work on marine life. She is the first McGill professor and only the second Canadian to be honoured with this award. In addition, Dr. Vincent was named a **William Dawson scholar**.



To **Drs. Graham Bell** (Biology), **Chandra Madramootoo** (Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering) and **Frances Westley** (Management) for having been named **James McGill Professors**.

To **Dr. Parisa Aryia** (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Chemistry) who has been named a **William Dawson Scholar**.

To **Dr. Peter Brown** on the publication of his second book entitled, *Ethics, Economics and International Relations: Transparent Sovereignty in the Commonwealth of Life*, Edinburgh University Press. This book proposes a global ethic that seeks to chart a new future for international relations, and shows why humans have a moral obligation to respect basic human rights and to respect all life on the planet.

Outside the MSE

Université de Montréal: A course entitled *Conservation du patrimoine naturel mondial: enjeux et défis* will be offered by Professor Robert Kasisi in January 2001. This course is open to U3 students and you may register by filling out a McGill Inter-University Transfer (IUT) form.

Université du Québec à Montréal: Two interesting lectures on Friday, Jan. 18th at the Institut des Sciences de l'environnement: *Ecotoxicology of energetic substances: Lab and Field Approaches* (Sherbrooke St. Pavillon; Room S-6045 at 12:15) and *Les indicateurs environnementaux: avantages et limites* (President-Kennedy Av. Pavillon: Room PK-3150 at 12:30).

For more information contact the MSE office.

And now, a word about the MESS!

McGill Environmental Students Society (MESS) 2000-01

(We wonder why they chose this name !?)

The school year begins, and with it the second year of the McGill Environmental Students Society, affectionately known as MESS. The MESS executive council for the 2000-01 session is comprised of Klara Vodicka and Michael Simkin, Co-Presidents, Raissa Marks, U3 Representative, Anne-Laure Bouvier, U2 Representative, Owen Watson, U1 Representative, and Murielle Vrins, Treasurer. This year, we have added a new position to our council, that of the Environmental Liaison, filled by Jean-Martin Fortier. Jean-Martin will facilitate networking among various environmental groups and organizations in Montreal. A few of the events that we are organizing this year include our annual Winter Holiday Party, a weekend at Mont Saint Hilaire, and a visit to a "Cabane à sucre".

MSE FACULTY

Peter G. Brown, Director, Professor and Theme Leader, Ethics of Civilization in Nature

Peter's teaching, research, and service are concerned with ethics, governance, and the protection of the environment.

Before coming to McGill in 1998, Peter was Professor of Public Policy at the University of Maryland's graduate School of Public Affairs. While there, he founded the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, as well as the School of Public Affairs itself. He established the School's Environmental Policy Programs, which operated not only at the University's College Park campus, but also at Maryland's Department of the Environment, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Peter is the first full-time Director of the McGill School of Environment. In the Fall 2000 term he taught *Environmental Thought* at the MSE. He likes to tree farm and to kayak in lakes, rivers and the ocean.

Colin A.M. Duncan, Professor



Professor Duncan teaches Political Economy, Agricultural History, and Modern British History. He has also taught Environmental History, in conjunction with the Faculty of History and the School of Environment. Colin received his Master's in 1982 and his PhD in 1989 from York University. He has been teaching at McGill since 1997. His research interests include legal regulation of locally varied agricultural practice in England from 1500 onwards and his book, entitled *The Centrality of Agriculture: Between Humankind and the Rest of Nature*, was published in 1996. He is jointly appointed with the Department of History.

Jaye Ellis, Professor

Professor Ellis holds an honours degree in political science from the University of Calgary, civil and common law degrees from McGill University, and a master's degree in law from the University of British Columbia. She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation at McGill's Faculty of Law on the influence of principles of soft law on the development of international environmental law. She recently returned from a year at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. Professor Ellis teaches Canadian and international environmental law and conducts research on law and policy governing global commons resources, international legal theory, and international relations theory. At the MSE, Professor Ellis has taught a course on environmental research, has directed a project on the design and implementation of a policy on genetically modified food products to be recommended for adoption at the municipal level. The courses she teaches in law are open to MSE students as well.



Frédéric Fabry, Professor

A McGillian since his student days, Frédéric Fabry studied physics and atmospheric sciences. His involvement in the MSE predates his hiring. He has been co-teaching the Global Environment course since its inception in 1998 and the Environmental Project course since the fall. He adds to the MSE his expertise in atmospheric processes as well as remote sensing.



Steve Maguire, MSE Theme Leader, Stewardship of Global Systems

Steve Maguire is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Management at McGill University. Dr. Maguire became a member of McGill's Faculty of Management in 1998, and teaches *Organizational Strategy* and *Strategies for Sustainable Development* at both the MBA and BCom levels. Previously he taught at École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal. One of Dr. Maguire's main research interests is business-science relations. Dr. Maguire has been invited to present or discuss his work in diverse forums, including conferences or workshops on "Understanding Resilience in Ecology, Economics and Institutions" (in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe).



Tom Naylor, MSE Theme Leader, Culture, Commerce and the Environment

Professor Naylor's research concerns include: international black markets, smuggling, money laundering and enterprise crime. He consults for and lectures to government agencies involved in tax and criminal justice enforcement issues and to forensic accounting firms involved in investigating financial fraud. His work appears regularly in, among other journals, *Crime, Law and Social Change*, of which he is also a senior editor.

He has recently been appointed senior fellow of the University of Toronto Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and visiting research associate at the York University Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption. His work with the MSE is involved with developing a macro-economics consistent with the maintenance of the biosphere.



Joe Rasmussen, MSE Theme Leader, Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and the Conservation of Community

Professor Rasmussen obtained his Ph.D at the University of Calgary. His areas of interest include: Modelling trophic transfer of contaminants using stable isotopes, food chain length and contaminant biomagnification, use of contaminants as ecological tracers, impact of zebra mussel (an exotic invader) on native biota and ecology of zoobenthos in lakes and their trophic relationship to fish.



Marilyn Scott, Professor and Associate Director

Marilyn Scott received her formal training in parasite ecology at McGill University and at Imperial College, London. Her field research experience extends from community health education in Guatemala, to epidemiology and control of livestock parasites in Kenya, to environmental determinants of parasitic infection in humans in the former Zaire, to the ecology of pathogenic parasites in ducks in Quebec. In the lab, Marilyn's current research focuses on the interface between malnutrition, infection and immunity, and on the evolution of drug resistance. Marilyn has just completed a 10-year term as Director of the Institute of Parasitology.



Marilyn has been involved in the formation of the MSE since 1996. She is actually involved in the design of the undergraduate curriculum and in discussions about a future graduate program. She has also assisted in the development of the health thematic area and organized an MSE-sponsored symposium on the James Bay Cree, Health and the Environment. Her major outside interest is music.

Renée Sieber, Professor



Assistant Professor in the Geography Department and the MSE, she received her PhD from Rutgers University in 1997 in Urban Planning. Renée joined the MSE in September of 1999. She teaches a course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and her research, teaching and service agenda cover innovations in geographic information systems and related information technologies as they apply to public policy.

Robert Hunt Sprinkle, MSE Theme Leader, Health in a Changing Environment

Dr. Sprinkle studied history at Dartmouth College and medicine at the University of Cincinnati and trained clinically at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He was a Social Science Research Council MacArthur Foundation Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, where in 1990 he earned his second doctorate. His history of political thought in the life sciences, *Profession of Conscience*, was published in 1994 by Princeton University Press. He is the author or coauthor of papers in clinical medicine, bioengineering, international relations, and environmental dynamics. He joined the School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, in 1995. At the present time he serves as an advisor to the MSE.



Frances Westley, MSE Theme Leader, Stewardship of Global Systems



Frances Westley is a Full Professor in the Faculty of Management of McGill University. In research, Dr. Westley's current projects feature strategic vision and leadership, managing strategic change, interorganizational collaboration and strategies for sustainable development. She has authored or co-authored several book chapters, including *The Oxymoron of Organisational Learning* in *Handbook of Organizational Studies* (1996, Sage, Clegg, Hardy, Nord Rds) and has contributed to various professional publications in her field. Her published articles include such diverse titles as *Interorganizational Collaboration* and *the Preservation of Biodiversity* (in *Organization Science*).

Joann Whalen, Professor

Dr. Joann Whalen, an assistant professor with joint appointments in the Department of Natural Resource Science and the McGill School of Environment, earned a Ph.D in environmental science from Ohio State University in 1998. Prior to joining the faculty at McGill earlier this year, she was a postdoctoral associate at Oregon State University and a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Alberta. Dr. Whalen's research seeks to understand how management practices affect nutrient cycling, soil and crop quality and environmental sustainability in terrestrial ecosystems. Her basic and applied research in organic matter and nutrient cycling covers scales ranging from the rhizosphere to the ecosystem-level.



Dr. Whalen teaches in the team-taught Environmental Research course required by U3 students in the MSE program. A summary of the major research findings by the "Factory Farming of Hogs" group she supervised in the fall semester, 2000 can be viewed <http://www.nrs.mcgill.ca/whalen/page2.html>

MSE STAFF

Teresa Alper, Special Projects

Teresa Alper is a bilingual Montrealer with a BSc. in Biology from McGill and a graduate degree in urban planning from Université de Montréal. Her most recent full-time work assignment was as head researcher at the Comité sectoriel de main d'oeuvre de l'environnement. Teresa joined the MSE staff in late November 2000 to work in the Outreach Program. She is interested in Community Supported Agriculture and is a sharer in a local organic farm.



Pete Barry, Program Co-ordinator and Advisor



Pete Barry received his BSc in Geology from Concordia in 1989 and his MSc in Geography from McGill in 1993. As a research assistant for the Geography Department, he investigated greenhouse gases in high arctic permafrost. In 1994 Pete began work as the Coordinator for the Environmental Studies Program in the Faculty of Science. Pete became the MSE Program Coordinator in 1998. In addition to advising students, he has taught Remote Sensing and field courses at the Mont St. Hilaire Gault Nature Reserve. Pete's interests range from ice fishing, canoe camping, and website creation to blacksmithing. He is a confirmed space exploration fanatic and would move to Mars in a minute.

Maria Gabriel, Program Secretary

Maria Gabriel has been a part of McGill's staff since 1977, having worked in the Admissions Office, Centre for Continuing Education, Department of Anesthesia (Royal Victoria Hospital), and the Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering. Maria is now enjoying an expanding career with the McGill School of Environment. She is also an active mother of 2, who enjoys spending quality time with her family, managing her daughter's soccer team, fencing, renovating her home, reading, and renting videos.



Joanne Horan, Secretary to the Director



Joanne has been with the MSE since July 2000. In addition to her duties as Secretary to Director, Joanne is working on coordinating the CANSEE conference scheduled for August 2001. She has a B.Sc. in Biology from McGill University and has worked as a research assistant at UBC and Concordia University. She was a professional dancer, has traveled through Southeast Asia, Ireland and lived one year in Indonesia. She has an interest in desktop publishing. Now she spends most of her free time driving her 13-year old daughter to her figure-skating competitions.

Désirée Marielle McGraw, Communications and External Relations

Désirée was born in Montreal where she spent her first 23 years living and studying in both French and English. She is currently completing her PhD in International Relations as a Commonwealth Scholar at the London School of Economics. The case study for her research in global environmental governance is the UN Biodiversity Convention. For the past ten years, she has worked as a consultant, researcher, reporter and spokesperson in the field of sustainable development for organizations such as the Canadian International Development Agency, the UN Environment Program & the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the C.R. Bronfman Foundation. She is a personal fitness trainer and running coach who races distances ranging from 5 km to marathons.

Katherine Scott, Administrative Officer



Katherine is the MSE's office manager and general jack-of-all-trades, she looks after budget and tries to keep things running smoothly. She moved to Montreal to study at McGill, graduating in Geography and Anthropology; she followed up with a degree in Fine Arts from Concordia. Katherine has worked at McGill and the Royal Victoria Hospital for the past 14 years. She shares her interests in music, drawing, hiking and gardening with her daughter and husband.

Student Articles

Eulogy for the Tisza River

By Mary Catherine Graziano, U2 Student

Last January, a gold mine in Romania was flooded, releasing deadly amounts of cyanide into nearby rivers. Since I am an environment major, I heard about this in one of my classes. I asked around, wondering what other people thought about it, and found that I was one of the lucky few to hear of the tragedy. The only person I talked to who knew about it was one Hungarian, who worried that his mother might hear about it, and grieve over the passing of a part of her childhood. The people who were truly mourning were the people who lived near the rivers, like the Hungarians, who mourned the passing of their river, which they called the Tisza, or the blonde river, so called because of its sandy bottom. Fittingly, they mourned it the way they would a drowning victim, with candles, and the dropping of flower petals in the water.

Whole ecosystems, endangered species, and a plan for a protected area died with that river. A fishing culture passed with the poisoning of the fish, which are 1,000 times more sensitive to cyanide than humans.

For my part, I decided to mourn the death of the Tisza, and indirectly, the deaths of the other rivers, with a eulogy. I would like to share it with you.

Eulogy for a River

She was an angel and a devil; she gave life and took it. She flowed by for thousands of years, sharing long moments of sweetness, raged in her power and sighed slowly against her shores, leaving her kisses on the pebbles. Her footsteps echoed timelessly through the hills, as she poured, vibrantly, eagerly across valleys and down hills. She gave birth to the big, gentle fish that swam, flashing, through her sand-gilded depths. The blonde river slid past us, singing of history, hers, ours, and those of her children. She breathed life. Sleek otters danced in her waves, overlooked by stiff-necked proud birds, cattails in her marshes waved at the dragonflies sparkling in the air. Small things crept and swam quietly, carefully, all over her swift body, clinging to stones and skipping along her surface, living out their lives in her enduring womb.

A delicate, dangerous woman, she watched lovers by her shores. She caught small children and grown men and women to her demanding bosom. She fed us. She carried us, and killed us. She watched our stories, of love, war, death and birth. She witnessed our best and our worst, and made no comment. She told many stories of her own, as she glided, sometimes roared, past her banks. She was terrible in her anger, and beautiful in her love. She gave freely of her children, and watched us grow. She was a thing of beauty, a wild and free movement of life that graced the land as she danced past in her glory. She was a river. A monument, a piece of life, a gift.

Now she sings no more; cyanide courses through her veins. Petals drift slowly down her stiff ripples, candles flicker sadly off of her sullen surface as mourners drop their grief into her glassy depths. Her waves splash in rigor mortis—her very cells dead. Her waters gleam white from the bellies of dead fish, and the last of Hungary's osprey cry with the pain of poisoning. Fisherman gasp hopelessly as they watch their livelihood stretch out dead along the shores, weeping bitter salt tears for the dead golden-haired maiden who can no longer share her stories with them.

Thoughts on the MSE

By Meaghan Obee, Graduating Student



As a student graduating from the MSE this year, I thought that I would take a few minutes to tell you a little about my experience in the school. I started at McGill in 1996 with a major in Physiology. However, I also found out that both Physiology and the appropriate complimentary biology that went along with it were really not my style. I then found Pete Barry hiding on the fourth floor of Burnside and realized that what he had to tell me about the MSE not only exceeded my expectations of what I would study, but also that if Pete were any indication, I would love my time there.

Accordingly, I moved over into the School in the Fall of 1998 and have never looked back! I have decided to make Water Environments and Ecosystems - Physical Stream - my Domain, which has proven quite a challenge. It gave me enough science to satisfy that desire, and presented me with the opportunity to challenge myself in arts classes, as well as to trek out to Mac every once in a while for a course.

When it was brought to my attention that the School needed a Students' Society, I was eager to help others get something up and running. As Co-President of MESS this year with the amazing Raissa Marks, I found myself thoroughly enjoying the company of all the other MESS-ers and to see what a terrific bunch of people there are in the MSE. Our trip to Mont St. Hilaire will stand out in my mind as one of the best experiences I had here at McGill. I wish next years' council all the luck and good will in the world to make 2000-2001 even better than this year!!

Part of the joy of getting to be part of such a new, innovative and tiny group of people is the advantage that it brings you to be able to get to know the "big wigs". I can honestly say that I never expected to be able to leave knowing the Director of my program, let alone on a first-name basis. Peter Brown's "come talk to me" manner and easy-going attitude have both contributed greatly to my feeling of wholeness in the school.

Finally, I would like to say that when I came into the program, I felt virtually no affinity for either McGill or Montreal. Now, as a graduating anglophone headed back to Ontario, I leave McGill and Montreal proud of my time here. McGill and the MSE have shaped another part of me into who I am today, and I am happy to be that person.

Summer Internship - Report from the Field

By Aaron Chang

Overall I enjoyed my work experience at Canadian Pacific Railway in western Canada this summer. It was a rewarding learning experience, and at the same time it presented new challenges. I was assigned the task to prepare a draft integrated vegetation management plan for CPR, which will be reviewed and submitted to the provincial government of British Columbia for approval. While preparing the vegetation management plan, I had an opportunity to compare and evaluate the various vegetation control techniques currently being used. The most important point that one should keep in mind is that there is no single perfect solution to the weed problem. Although disturbance to the environment due to human activities is almost always unavoidable, a successful vegetation control program should minimize the impact of the disturbance while maintaining efficient railway service, which is vital to the nation's economy.

Aside from the potential effect on the environment, feasibility is conceivably the most determining factor in the selection of techniques to be used for vegetation control. In order for the railway operation to remain viable, weed control operation methods should be practical and relatively affordable while not interrupting regular train service. Worker safety is another important issue. Only techniques that are least likely to cause injuries to workers should be included in the program.

Among the options available, manual weeding is cost-prohibitive and will interfere with regular train service because this process must be repeated frequently to reduce the

growth of weed to an acceptable level. In addition, workers are more likely to suffer from injuries from long work hours.

I suggested a program in which mechanical cutting will be conducted at a regular interval to control the brush in the rights-of-way in order to maintain a clear sight line. However, the effectiveness of this approach is limited in areas of irregular terrain.

For safety reasons, the ballast section of the railway has a zero vegetation tolerance, and the most effective method currently available is herbicide application. However, the aim is to reduce its use for railway maintenance. Thus, to avoid unnecessary application, blanket spray should be replaced with more spot specific applications. This is now possible with the invention of the WeedSeeker, which is a hi-rail truck equipped with sensor that can detect and apply herbicide to weeds on the track.

On a personal note, working on the railway in summer means that one will have to be able to work with irregular eating and sleeping hours. Most of the time, work had to start at sunrise and watching the sunrise is an activity from which I take much pleasure. When the weather did not permit the work to be continued, one would have to interrupt the work on site and plan other things to do.

I really enjoyed the scenery of southern Alberta. In a way, it was quite special for me to have this opportunity to visit charming small towns that most people can only see on maps, and it was also a chance for me to experience Canadian history. One of my most memorable discoveries was the Nikka Yuko Japanese garden in Lethbridge, Alberta. (Nikka Yuko means "Japan-Canada friendship"). I was puzzled at first and did not know why there should be an oriental garden in the heart of the Wild Rose Country where people wear cowboy hats and jeans to celebrate their heritage. I found out later that during WWII the Japanese-Canadians on the West Coast were relocated to the other side of the Rockies and they settled there even after the war ended.

At another occasion, my supervisor told me that during the construction of the railway, four Chinese workers sacrificed their life for a mile of tracks. This certainly makes me think of the Irish railway workers mentioned in Walden by Thoreau. Nevertheless, I still have much respect for those who gave their life to link the country together.

Now that summer is over, and I've returned to Montreal, but railways will have a special place in my memory as I continue my journey.

Supporting Les Amis de la Montagne

May we suggest you consider purchasing as a gift the book of photographs of Mount Royal, by Canadian photographer Linda Rutenberg. Each signed and numbered book, sold for \$100, contains seventy-eight original black and white photos as well as prose, poetry and songs by A.M. Klein, Robyn Sarah, Yvon Deschamps and others. The book is being sold to raise funds for *Les Amis de la Montagne*, the non-profit organization whose mandate is to protect and conserve Mount Royal.

For further information contact: *Les Amis de la Montagne*,
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