

VIEWPOINT

My Valentine's Day love affair with life

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Valentine's Day and love just naturally seem to go together, so in honor of Valentine's Day - it seems like a good time to take a look at "love" and all the magical things it brings us.

Love comes in all kinds of shapes and sizes, with as much variety as the people who do the loving.

We don't all love the same things for the same reasons, but the magic that happens from "love and loving" is the same for all of us.

Love is without equal in our emotions as a positive force, and from that point of view it is the greatest force in the world. It has the power to change anything and everything.

The main benefit of loving or being loved is "happiness" and when we find what makes us happy, we usually find what we love.

I find it surprising that what makes us smile is a symptom of happiness a by-product of love and usually so simple uncomplicated and free.

Here's some things that I definitely love - things that bring me happiness and I hope you share some of them or similar things with me...

I love the first signs of spring - the feel of the first warm day without a winter coat. The first sign of a green onion or a radish top pushing out of the garden to meet the warmth of the spring sun.

I love the expressions on the faces of small children as they discover the world around them - a kid and a ice-cream cone - a kid and a mud puddle - a kid and a puppy dog.

SPECIAL LOOK
I love that special look on a child's face at the first bicycle - the first puppy - the first hand drawn picture from school. All very special things.

I love the smell after the rain - the first white snowfall - the sound of a train whistle late at night. There are so many wonderful sounds and smells to love - the smell of flowers, something in the oven, the sound of the beach - we would run out of space if we tried to list them all - for the sounds and sights we love are very many.

Things strangers do for one another represent a special kind of love. Recently in Toronto, sculptor James Marsden was so outraged at the bureaucratic red tape that was destroying what was left of life for Harjit Kaur, an Indian woman who had suffered a nervous breakdown and whom the Canadian government was going to deport, that he offered a "marriage of convenience" to allow her to remain in Canada and not be sent back to almost certain tragedy in India. That kind of act, one of compassion, is such a special kind of love, and it makes me feel very touched and warm with a true love of the compassion of one human being for another. A very special kind of love of our fellow man.

I love the ability of handicapped children to laugh with delight no matter how twisted their limbs or broken their bodies, the spirit of childhood - the giggles - always come through. The youngsters never blow out of portion the nonsense of living as we adults seem to.

DOG ASLEEP
I love watching a dog trying to get ready for a sleep. Round and round they go trying to find the perfect spot on a hard floor, then quickly asleep and the twitching of nose and the motion of running legs as they try to catch a rabbit in their dreams.

I love writing by myself - alone - quiet. To put words on paper from somewhere deep inside of my soul, beautiful rhyming words of poetic soul

searching just for me. I love the look of green grass - rolling hills, lush meadows - in my mind I always go back to my childhood and he in the cool lush grass as I watch the river wind slowly by.

I love faces - the look of character in an old sea captain's face. The wisdom of the ages found in the face of a Tibetan monk. The warmth in the eyes of lovers. The look of pride in ones family, country, accomplishments. So many faces, so much living etched in well-earned lines. I love such faces.

I love babies - people babies and animal babies. The innocence of the newborn. Such wonder of life, I can't imagine clubbing a new-born seal pup to death or the dropping of a human baby into an abortion can at the end of a sterile operating table. Babies and small helpless animals are things to love.

I love happy endings. I prefer the old-style movies where boy gets girl, the good guys get the bad guys, and John Wayne or Randolph Scott ride triumphantly into the sunset, with God in His heaven and all right with the world. Negative movies of today ending unhappily are a by-product of negative thinking and there's absolutely "nothing" I love about that.

All of the above and millions of other things can make me smile, can give me happiness, can cause me to love.

In the end, what would life be without love, for as the old saw goes, love truly conquers all.

Letters to the Editor

Readers challenge editorial: PM made embassy decisions

To the editor of The Herald:
It is not very often that our American cousins show us their appreciation by sincerely thanking P.M. Clark, the Canadian Government and the Canadian people for the "cloak and dagger escapade" in the helping of six American diplomats in a "life and death" situation in Ayatollah's Iran.

Canadians can take pride in the show of courage, genius, foresight, neighbourly support and integrity for the manner in which External Affairs Department under Ms. Flora MacDonald executed a complex plan in a most volatile and explosive situation.

What is wrong with us not glowing with pride for our humanitarian deed in the face of the ayatollahs of the world. We should not be too modest in giving credit to Ambassador Ken Taylor and his associates who like the Clark Government put their necks on the block.

We should never forget that it was Prime Minister Clark and his brave team who made the important decisions in harbouring and giving sanctuary to the six Americans, issuing Canadian passports to our American cousins and putting up a front to deceive the Ayatollah and his gang in giving six human beings safe

transfer who like the fifty hostages had no control over their future. Emotions of pride, contentment and accomplishment can only serve to bolster our sagging patriot-

ism over the past few years. This was a humane act of rescue that reminds us of the "Scarlet Pimpernel".

It is most refreshing to see President Carter, the U.S. Sen-

ate, the House of Representatives and the American people shower so much praise on our Prime Minister and Canadians by saying thanks for "friendship, support, and personal

and political courage". President Carter phoned Prime Minister Clark - "it's a wonderful example of friendship and

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of our Canadian people in the embassy, numbering as many as twenty. Do you approve of this shoddy behavior?

I find it refreshing to have a Prime Minister allying us with our real friends, the Americans.

You offer no criticism of Trudeau, who, having been briefed about the circumstances, continued to hound the government, showing a total disregard for the well-being and the very lives of not just the six Americans, but all

of our Canadian people in the embassy, numbering as many as twenty. Do you approve of this shoddy behavior?

I think the Iranian rescue tells us a great deal about Prime Minister Clark and Trudeau, and illustrates your own credibility problem.

John Ferguson

Clark shouldered responsibility for hostage's escape from Iran

To the editor of The Herald:
Your editorial "Won't get fooled again", Feb. 6 is significant because of what you have chosen to omit.

While our ambassador to Iran took the six Americans into our embassy, they were allowed to remain there for three months, only with the full knowledge and approval of Prime Minister Clark and Flora MacDonald.

You might advise your read-

ers, who, in your opinion, would have carried the burden of criticism if the Iranian students had discovered the Americans and seized our own people.

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Which way Canada

Prime Minister Clark has committed Canada to U.S. President Carter's foreign policy doctrine of which the centrepiece is: the United States will take all measures necessary including force wherever U.S. national interests dictate, with the stress on U.S. oil interests.

That policy, enunciated by President Carter in his recent State of the Union Address to the American people, is aimed at scrapping détente, return to cold war and confrontation tactics, and the resort to force in settling differences between states.

It includes the extension of both U.S. and NATO's political and military jurisdiction to the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East area.

Guns before butter
In backing fully this dangerous expansion of U.S. confrontation policy aimed at the Soviet Union and social progress, Prime Minister Clark stated that Canada's contribution to Carter's offensive against détente and peaceful relations between states with differing social systems will mean big additional expenditure of funds for armaments and armed personnel. This includes additional commitments to NATO.

Clark's latest military commitments (a 17% increase of the military budget according to President of the Treasury Board Stevens) will mean additional cuts in social expenditures all down the line. It will mean another sharp increase in inflation and a further tightening of the job market. In other words, guns before butter.

Afghanistan
The rationale of Carter and Clark in embarking on this war-creating course is their charge of a Soviet "invasion" of Afghanistan. They both deny that the Government of Afghanistan requested Soviet military assistance in combating counter-revolutionary activity by both internal and external forces against the new social order established in that country. Their stand flies in the face of both fact and law.

Facts:
● Afghanistan and the USSR are sovereign states. Both are members of the United Nations with the USSR a permanent member of that body's Security Council.

● These two states are allied in a Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance including military assistance in full accord with the

PEACE or WAR?

right of each state, as stipulated in the United Nation's charter, to individual or collective self-defence.

● Afghanistan in accordance with that Treaty called upon its ally for military assistance in putting down armed actions against it. The Soviet Union responded positively to that request.

These indisputable facts settle the question of the legality of Soviet intervention in the Afghan situation. They also reveal the false nature of the pretense of Soviet "invasion" used by the Carter Administration to scuttle détente and heat up the cold war.

In cold war camp
Unfortunately, New Democratic Party leader Broadbent fully endorses the cold war stance of Carter and Clark. He would be well advised to abandon this reckless and dangerous course.

Liberal leader Trudeau, while striving to maintain the pretense of straddling the fence in respect to the Carter doctrine of cold war and confrontation actually has both feet in the cold war camp.

It is a sad day for the Canadian people when, in the hope of electoral gain, the leaders of these three parties are prepared to play ducks and drakes with the very fate of Canada and her people.

Vote Communist
If you support such a foreign policy for Canada make your vote count on February 18 - vote Communist.

If there is no candidate of the Communist Party in your riding you can help Canada by actively campaigning for such an independent foreign policy.

A lost vote in this election would be for policies of cold war and confrontation. Don't waste your vote in the struggle for a sane foreign policy. Vote Communist!

Vote Communist
Jim Bridgewood

Published by authority of the Chief Agent of the Communist Party of Canada, January 23, 1980.

Give them a message Feb. 18

Vote Communist

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Obituary

Frank Beddoe had son here

Long-time furniture worker Frank Beddoe of Hanover, whose son Bernard is a Georgetown resident, died in Hanover and District Hospital Feb. 10. He was 69.

Mr. Beddoe came to Canada in 1930 from England, settling in Hanover, where he was employed at Knechtel Furniture Ltd until 1979, when he retired.

Mr. Beddoe was an active member in the Hanover Baptist Church choir and participated in various other church activities.

He was predeceased by his parents, William Beddoe and Sarah Whale and by five brothers, Joseph of Brampton, Harry, Bernard, Richard and George, all of Hanover.

Mr. Beddoe is survived by his wife Leita Juergens and by two sons, Bernard of Georgetown and Norman of London.

Mr. Beddoe is the father of the late Mary Beddoe.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Hanover Baptist Church after resting at the Richardson Allard Funeral home in Hanover. A spring interment at Hanover Cemetery will follow.

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