

Mankind must become caretaker of the planet

Out on the runway it was a warm, almost tropical morning. The plane rose steeply into a very blue sky and proceeded to climb to more than 30,000 feet. A monitor not far from where I was sitting reported the changing outside temperature. The higher the plane went, the more the temperature outside our comfortable cocoon dropped. Eventually the monitor reported a bone-chilling temperature of 50°C below zero!

Nothing else could have demonstrated as starkly how frail the foundation is on which all life on this planet is based. Take away the thin layer of atmosphere that surrounds the globe, take away the mantle of comfort that the inventions of mankind have created for us, and life will end so quickly that not even a short prayer might be finished in those last remaining moments.

Pre-historic mankind did not know that. Our early ancestors were convinced that the creator had blessed them with abundance, surrounded as they were by the plentiful beasts that populated this earth at the dawn of history. That later our ancestors had to settle down and till the soil for their sustenance was already a sign of want, of impoverishment.

The wilderness did not provide enough anymore for the large and ever-increasing bands that roamed the continents. Now men and women and children had to work for a living.

Much later came, what we call, the great civilizations with their endless wars and not much more but hunger and starvation for the majority of the poor slaves that filled the proud cities of the ancient rulers. Religions gave some comfort to these wretches by promising them an after-life of beauty and bliss.

Not much changed in the human condition between the reign of Caesar at Rome and the reign of the Sun King at Versailles. The few who were rich and powerful erected fabulous monuments to themselves and the poor were told that their poverty was Gods will.

But then around the year 1500 true research started to look into the ways nature works, and the findings of men like Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton, in time, defeated the old notions of cause and effect. With the knowledge gained through scientific investigation it became possible to invent machines that had the power to exploit the planet like it had never been done before.

The result was an industrial revolution that started its triumphant march around the world in 1760. As at the time when our

ancestors had to become farmers, this revolution was born of need. The world's population had grown so alarmingly, in spite of war and pestilence, that people looked to the future with apprehension and despair.

At first only a very few people benefitted from the material wealth created by industrialization but soon the working masses demanded their share and they continue to demand it through strikes and negotiations. Today there are countries in Europe and North America and Asia, that are so wealthy that it staggers the imagination.

On the other hand, great portions of the world are in a permanent



John Sommer
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

crisis because of over-population and want. And we, who have the privilege to live in one of the rich countries, have so many goods that

we throw them away.

The garbage dumps we fight so much about, are, in reality, burial sites for treasures we have become tired of. Many of us have forgotten that food has to be grown and that the sprawling subdivision we live in has been snatched from the diminishing arsenal of good farmland, or from wilderness areas, both needed to feed us and to ensure the balance of nature, without which life will come to an end.

We have brains that enable us to reason. After the agricultural revolution that has turned us into farmers, and the industrial revolution that has turned us into con-

sumers, it is now the time for a cerebral revolution that should turn us into the caretakers of this planet for our own good.

At this stage in our history it is paramount to anything else that we preserve the purity of the air, the water, and the soil. We can only find out how to do that if we honestly talk to each other, and listen to each other, and pool our ideas. If we want to survive and not walk into extinction blindly, we have to tackle a problem that has bedevilled us since we had to switch to farming. This problem is how to feed a growing population on a plant of limited size and an eco-system that can stand only so much abuse.

Saturday, September 22, 1990

FREE

OPEN HOUSE & TASTING PARTY

Come Celebrate With Us At Our
OPEN HOUSE & TASTING PARTY

September 22nd
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bring a friend or relative
and join the party:

- Sample our delicious foods and beverages
- Free draw for a 20 lb. program (food not included)
- Free individual consultation
- Free Weight Analysis
- Meet successful clients
- See our Centre

Our client,
Cathy Lyle,
lost 42 lbs.

OVER 1,700 CENTRES WORLDWIDE

nutri/system®
weight loss centres

OVER
19 YEARS
OF WEIGHT
LOSS
SUCCESS

Save 75%* ONE DAY ONLY!

Call Today For A **FREE** No-Obligation Consultation

GEORGETOWN ORANGEVILLE

GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE
290 GUELPH STREET

47 BROADWAY

873-1900

942-3500

Special offer does not include cost of exclusive Nutri/System Food. Offer valid at participating centres. New clients only. Offer expires September 22nd, 1990.

September meeting spiced with humor

The September meeting of the Terra Cotta Women's Institute was held at the home of June Frazer, with the president, Linda Dowds, opening the meeting with an autumn poem.

The roll call - Bring a product and compose a commercial to sell it, provided much humour for the 13 members present.

Plans for hosting the Peel North District annual meeting on May 13, 1991 were discussed.

There will be training schools on Landscaping and Bread Baking for those interested. Program material is available from the department. Members were asked for input regarding the phasing out of the Home and Country magazine.

Dorothy Cook was honored for her two years of faithful service and appreciation which was expressed by Mary MacDonald as she presented her with a Life Membership.

Current events were read by Catherine Leslie and June Frazer provided much appreciated organ music.

Margaret McKane gave a talk on Nutrition, Canada's Food Guide, and sensible eating for good health. A Food Festival match-up contest, conducted by Eleanor MacDonald was won by Barbara McKane and Linda Dowds.