

Group probes for evidence of extra-terrestrial presence

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The truth is out there. Extraterrestrials, unexplained phenomena, alleged government cover-ups: Milton resident Jennifer Jarvis is looking for answers and is willing to travel the world to satisfy her curiosity.

The Laurier Avenue mother admits the quest for extraterrestrial intelligence can seem a little outlandish to those who have never experienced anything unexplained. However, she is amazed at the outpouring of interest in her activities, usually from people who don't know where else to turn. By word of mouth she is becoming something of a local touchstone on these issues.

There was a significant sighting near Georgetown last year which she investigated, and several people have approached her with their stories when it became evident she was interested and did not consider them crazy.

Originally from England, she emigrated to Canada in 1975 and became fascinated with crop circles in the early 1990s. Found around the world, crop circles are large symmetrical areas of pressed-down vegetation. Ms Jarvis has many pictures of this phenomenon, which occurs in startling patterns. The designs are often quite elaborate and appear on a large scale. One design looked like a strand of DNA and was more than two football fields in length.

Pranksters in England have admitted to creat-

ing some crop circles but Ms Jarvis' research suggests not all are created in the methods described by the pranksters.

"In any event there are records of these things from as far back as the early 1600s," she said, adding in recent times most appear near military installations. "Many others pre-date the obvious hoaxes."

Trip to England

Ms Jarvis' research, which included an 11-week trip to England in 1994 to study the phenomenon, led her in the direction of the Centre for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), an American organization headed by medical doctor Steven Greer.

"Dr. Greer stands to lose a lot by standing up for this," said Ms Jarvis. According to a CSETI biography Dr. Greer graduated from medical school at East Tennessee State University and has worked in emergency medicine in North Carolina, his home state. He now practices medicine part-time in order to devote more energy to the pursuit of CSETI research.

CSETI has two objectives. First, the group seeks government information on extraterrestrial contact and high-level acknowledgement of various projects. Second, they are attempting to establish two-way contact with extraterrestrial intelligence.

Ms Jarvis said she attended a recent seminar in Crestone, Colorado and had a significant UFO

experience. The group believes such UFO sightings can be predicted based on certain patterns its members have researched.

"The group does not evangelize, we don't go around knocking on doors, we are very quiet and have no personal agendas," she said. "While our ideas are based on research it's impossible to say our ideas are the truth, anything could be right."

Based on their assessment, CSETI believes events in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence will soon overtake government policy, and that more than one extraterrestrial civilization is represented in activities on Earth.

Sudden and open contact has been avoided because it is believed a massive disruption of human civilization would occur, she said. In addition, risks to the extraterrestrials themselves are feared due to human prejudices and a tendency toward violent reactions.

Ms Jarvis contends that much of what we see and hear on the topic in the mass media is an attempt, promoted by government, to get people more comfortable with the idea that mankind is not alone in the universe.

Much of the training CSETI provides at its seminars consists of methods to overcome the overwhelming fear which often wells up in people having a UFO experience.

Ms Jarvis said on the fourth night of her five-day excursion to Colorado some strangely moving lights were spotted in the distance. The group shone strong lights in that direction. As

time passed the lights changed colour, began to rotate and moved significantly closer, becoming a huge orange ball of light. As the light came nearer fear gripped up to half a dozen people in the group and the lights moved away. Three minutes of the experience was captured on videotape, Ms Jarvis said.

Fearful governments

Ms Jarvis said governments are fearful about a panicky public reaction if the presence of extraterrestrials was acknowledged. Military, political, cultural, technological and religious upheavals could ensue.

"The group in Colorado consisted of people from all walks of life, people who were not given to ill-considered reactions and beliefs," said Ms Jarvis. "The more people who come forward and say what they've seen, the more people will be encouraged to share their experiences."

The CSETI project has 25 working groups world-wide and a 10-member rapid mobilization investigative team which responds quickly to areas of apparent extraterrestrial contact. The groups look into government activities and secret installations, they correlate sightings and try to uncover evidence.

Ms Jarvis acknowledges such a subject can encourage zealots. However, she said the research is quite respectable and in some cases tedious.

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