

## The BritClub Gazette Helps World Peace

When the articles "John Lennon Project Initiated By Chanterel Resident" and "The Warrington Male Voice Choir tour Montreal" (April issue) were published, who could have known that we would be helping to promote World peace?

The BritClub Gazette and [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca) was helping promote the concert tour and, on reading the articles, a representative of the Choir asked the BritClub Gazette for an introduction to Robert Harrison of Amnesty International, the worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. Thus the Amnesty team was approached by the Warrington Male Voice Choir about cooperating on their Canadian "Peace Concert" tour. Of course, Amnesty were only too happy to oblige and three members of the team were present at the "Peace One Day": Concert for International

Peace" at Cathédrale Christ Church, downtown Montreal, to promote Amnesty's cause and to hear a short address by Britain's world famous ambassador of peace, Terry Waite. The concert took place on 26 May 2007.

The Warrington Male Voice Choir is one of the oldest choirs in the United Kingdom, tracing its formation back to 1898. During its long history the choir has performed in many famous concert halls and cathedrals throughout Great Britain, Ireland, Europe and Canada. The choir has taken premier honours at all the principal music festivals in the North of England and, during the past decade, has demonstrated its choral quality and consistency by outstanding success in national and international competition.

In 1996, Terry Waite CBE, a Briton whose name became known worldwide while he was being held hostage for four years in Lebanon, became Patron of the choir in recognition of the humanitarian role adopted by the choir and, in turn, has encouraged performances in prisons, in England and in Ireland, to assist rehabilitation programmes. Prison concerts have become a regular feature of the choir's Christmas activities. (<http://www.warringtonchoir.org.uk>)

**Article by: Mick McCafferty**



Amnesty volunteers outside Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Montreal on May 26th, 2007 with Terry Waite CBE, (l to r) Robert Harrison, Alexandra Haedrich, Terry Waite, Catherine Dench

### Timeline: Canada A chronology of key events:

**1982** - The UK transfers final legal powers over Canada. Canada is now completely free. The country adopts its new constitution, which includes a charter of rights.

**1984** - Trudeau retires. Elections are won by the Progressive Conservatives under Brian Mulroney. Mulroney realigns foreign policy towards Europe and the US.

**1989** - Canada and the US agree to establish free trade.

**1991** - Canadian forces participate in the Gulf War following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

**1992** - Canada, US and Mexico finalise the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).

## *Tony Blair Resigns*

On the evening of May 31, 1994, two young men had dinner together at Granita, a fashionable restaurant in Islington, and decided that they would stop competing for the country's top position. Those two young men were Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. Two years later, Tony Blair stood for prime minister and proceeded to dominate British politics for ten years.



On 10 May 2007 after a full decade in office Tony Blair announced his resignation, which will be effective on 27 June 2007, and he will hand the reins over to Gordon Brown.

Tony Blair, the most successful leader in Labour history, announced his resignation among the people who first sent him to Westminster almost a quarter of a century ago. He mounted a passionate, personal defence of his record during a decade in Downing Street in an emotional speech to activists at the Trimdon Labour Club in his Sedgefield constituency. It was here he launched his own Labour leadership campaign 13 years ago and celebrated his three general election victories.

In his speech he said that whereas ten years ago, Britain had been a "strangely old-fashioned country", it was now one that was "comfortable in the 21st century, at home in its own skin". "Britain is not a follower today. It is a leader,"

But, while admitting that other aspects of his premiership - such as the decision to join the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 - remained "bitterly controversial", Mr Blair said: "Hand on heart, I did what I thought was right."

"But the blowback since, with global terrorism and those elements that support it, has been fierce and unrelenting and costly and for many it simply isn't and can't be worth it. For me, I think we must see it through."

He added: "I may have been wrong. That's your call. But believe one thing if nothing else, I did what I thought was right for my country."

The resignation speech set in motion a six-week contest for the Labour leadership. Although this will merely be going through the motions as Gordon Brown, Blair's long-time partner in the 'new Labour project' and his Chancellor since 1997 is the only runner.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, also resigned as deputy leader of the party, setting off a rather more real battle to be Mr Brown's second-in-command.

Many of the tributes to Mr Blair after his resignation came from abroad, too. Mr Bush described the Prime Minister as "a political figure who is capable of thinking over the horizon", adding: "When Tony Blair tells you something as we say in Texas, you can take it to the bank."

## ***Tax - DIY or not to DIY***

One of the most striking differences between Canada and the UK is the tax system. In general our taxes are worked out for us in the UK and many people never complete a tax return. Not so in Canada. I'm sure many of us, when faced with completing tax returns, look at the cost of DIY software compared to a tax professional. The software is a fraction of the cost of a professional but are we really saving money? We approached the eminent Montreal Chartered Accountants Richler & Tabac regarding the virtues of employing an accountant rather than trying to do your taxes yourself. Here's what they have to say:

"Now that tax season is over a lot of people are wondering whether they have obtained the best result. As a practicing chartered accountant who has encountered many individuals who have tried to do returns themselves, I can assure you that in most cases a chartered accountant or a professional tax preparer can generally do a better job. The reasons for this are numerous.

1. They have more extensive experience in terms of annual volume as well as the number of year that they have done it.
2. They are more familiar with limits and what both tax departments are looking for or may question.
3. They are more familiar with tax changes that occur on an annual basis that need updating. Example, this year we had the new bus and train passes to consider.
4. They have more knowledge of what are potential deductions and even though you think you may know everything you may find that, as we find from our discussions that individuals when questioned generally answer, "I didn't know that that was deductible". It is for this reason that we believe that most professional accountants have the experience.
5. They have the latest technology in terms of e-filing returns.
6. They deal with tax departments, follow ups and queries.
7. They are in a position to be able to advise you on tax planning for the subsequent year.
8. In some cases depending on when you can consult with an accountant they are in a position to be able to offer or suggest some changes that still might give your return a better result.

These are just some of the aspects to consider in deciding in whether you should seek some professional guidance. Our experience is, anyone who has income in excess of \$50,000 or has business income from rentals, professions, businesses, etc. should seek the guidance of a professional who may be able to guide them on the extent of potential deductions or limits on individual expenses. It is also possible that your professional accountant may be in a position to suggest incorporation if your business income is too high.

Another important aspect of a chartered accountant will be advice on payment of dividends from private companies and income splitting between family members.

In the case of our firm our policy is to provide a free initial consultation to better acquaint a potential tax client with the services and to give the potential client an idea of what the costs would be."

**Steven T. Tabac, CA has been practicing his profession for almost 33 years. He has also lectured at various universities and CEGEP's here in Montreal.**

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## ***Brits in Montreal***

July will be a monumental month to see famous Brits performing in Montreal.

### **Billy Connolly - Too Old To Die Young**

Théâtre Maisonneuve, Saturday 21.07.2007, 8:00 p.m.

On the heels of his sold-out, critically acclaimed New York run, Billy Connolly returns to Canada for the first time in six years! Universally considered "Britain's greatest living comedian," Billy has been described as "a genius," his concerts "otherworldly," and his honesty "terrifyingly insightful." Revered across the globe, he has broken box office records from the UK to New Zealand. Now, Billy continues his North American domination, bringing his hilarious take on all things taboo across Canada. This is Billy at his best - uncensored, uncut and as unpredictable as ever. Don't miss your chance to see why this legend is the most popular comedian in the world! Tickets cost \$59.50 - \$75.50.

Reservation / Information: Phone: 514-842-2112, Email: [info@pda.qc.ca](mailto:info@pda.qc.ca), online at <https://billetterie.pda.qc.ca/>

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### **The Police**

Bell Centre, Thursday 26.07.2007

Sting, guitarist Andy Summers and Stewart Copeland will play The Bell Centre, **Montreal on July 26** in a tour that kicks off in Vancouver on May 28.

The new wave trio was biggest in the 1980s, when it climbed the charts with songs Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic, Don't Stand So Close To Me and Every Breath You Take. Personal clashes among the band members, notably between Sting and Copeland, tore the band apart in 1984 but they reunited on recently with the show-opening performance.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are the Police and we're back!" Sting shouted at the start of the telecast.

The 2007 tour marks the first real reunion for the group. They performed three songs together in 2003 when they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame but otherwise hadn't done any public shows in more than 20 years.

For tickets try <http://www.ticketsnow.com>

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### **Just for Laughs Festival**

Incomparable British wit **Eddie Izzard** tells all and acts out at the Imperial Theatre, July 21 at 9:30 p.m

Britcom July 16<sup>th</sup> - July 18<sup>th</sup> 2007, Club Soda, 1225 St. Laurent Blvd: Host Stephen K. Amos and fellow Brits **Frank Skinner**, Wes Packer, Jon Moloney, Richard Herring, and Michael McIntyre blend their dry wit, off-the-wall absurdity and indefinable Brit-ness, forcing even the stiffest crowds to concede: "We are amused."

Tickets: <http://www.hahaha.com>

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## Other News & Events

### UN Chiefs Hail G8 Climate Deal

Leaders of the Group of Eight nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Russia and the United States — pledged to take "strong and early action" to tackle climate change to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions to curb global warming, according to a joint communiqué.

"The secretary general wholeheartedly welcomes that G8 leaders have agreed on a strong and early action to combat climate change," his press office said in a statement.

The Group of Eight (G8) is an international forum for the governments of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Together, these countries represent about 65% of the world economy. [1] The group's activities include year-round conferences and policy research, culminating with an annual summit meeting attended by the heads of government of the member states. The European Commission is also represented at the meetings.

Each year, member states of the G8 take turns assuming the presidency of the group. The holder of the presidency sets the group's annual agenda and hosts the summit for that year. The presidency for 2007 belongs to Germany, which hosts the 33rd G8 summit in Heiligendamm from June 6 to June 8.

### Canada denies Winnie Mandela visa

Canada has denied a visa to the South African anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

The ex-wife of Nelson Mandela

was to attend the premiere of an opera about her life - called The Passion of Winnie- in the city of Toronto.

In 1991 she was convicted of kidnapping and being an accessory to murder.

Canadian authorities can refuse entry into the country on the grounds of a criminal record, although it is not clear that has happened in this case.

Her application was turned down a day before she was to arrive in Toronto, for a gala fundraising dinner.

The organisers, the arts group MusicaNoir, said they were devastated and do not know why her visa was withheld.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

### TV show of dying Diana to go ahead

Princes lose bid to stop broadcast of documentary showing images of their mother's fatal car crash.

Britain's royal watchers say the last vestiges of media deference to the memory of the Princess of Wales was shattered with the television broadcast of graphic photos of her dying minutes.

The images, embedded in a documentary titled Diana: The Witness In The Tunnel, are to air on England's Channel 4 despite the objections of Princes William and Harry, who in a statement yesterday pleaded for the broadcaster to avert "gross disrespect to their mother's memory."

"If it were your or my mother dying in that tunnel would we want the scene broadcast to the nation? Indeed, would the nation so want it?" the princes' private secretary, Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, asked in a letter to Channel 4 that was released to the media.

<http://www.thestar.com>

### Montreal man fined \$1 million for telemarketing scam

A Montreal man was fined \$1 million Tuesday for his role in a telemarketing scam that generated more than \$136 million in fraudulent sales.

Michael Mouyal, 53, also received two years' probation and 240 hours of community service when he appeared in Quebec court.

Mouyal operated the scam under a number of names — Commercial Business Supplies, Merchant Transaction Supplies, Merchant Supply Services and International Business Directories. The case went to court following an investigation by the Competition Bureau of Canada under the deceptive telemarketing provisions of the Competition Act.

The scam operated from boiler rooms in Toronto, Montreal, and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

As part of the scam, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and government agencies in Canada, the United States and Britain were contacted by telemarketers who claimed to be their regular supplier of office supplies or business directories.

<http://www.thestar.com>

### Parents of missing U.K. girl meet Pope

Pope Benedict XVI held the hands of the parents of 4-year-old Madeleine McCann, blessing them and a photo of the girl as they asked for prayers Wednesday for their daughter who disappeared while vacationing with her family in Portugal.

"He was very kind, very sincere," Kate McCann told a news conference. She said Benedict assured that he would "continue to pray for Madeleine's safe return."

## *Learning to Speak French*

### *Tenses*

*Here's our handy guide to French tenses.*

Tense refers to one of eight verb forms which express the time and completion (or lack thereof) of the verb's action or condition.

Présent	Present	The present indicative (indicatif présent) is the most common French verb tense, used to talk about actions that are occurring right now or occur habitually.
Imparfait	Imperfect	A simple French verb tense which indicates an ongoing state of being or a repeated or incomplete action, with no indication of beginning or end.
Passé simple	Simple Past	A simple literary verb tense which indicates completed actions. It is the literary equivalent of the passé composé.
Passé composé	Present Perfect	The most common French past tense, used to talk about a completed action.
Plus-que-parfait	Pluperfect	A compound tense used to describe a completed action that took place before a reference point in the past.
Passé antérieur	Past Anterior	A compound literary tense; the literary equivalent of the pluperfect.
Futur	Future	A simple French verb tense which indicates an action that has not yet occurred.
Futur antérieur	Future Perfect	A compound tense used to describe an action that will have been completed before a reference point in the future.

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### *Does anyone know where to get Cider?*

Our 20 year old son is over in England at the moment and has taken a liking for Cider, instead of beer. I was just wondering if you know of anywhere to buy Cider (the alcohol version of it) in Montreal, or is it strictly a British drink. It would be nice to know that he can get it here so that he doesn't have to bothered bringing some back when he comes home.

Thanks, Sandra Crosby

## ***And Finally!***

### **The master of British comedy, John Cleese, attempts to sort out the USA:**

"To the citizens of the United States of America: In light of your failure to elect a competent President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

Her Sovereign Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths and other territories (except Kansas, which she does not fancy).

Your new prime minister, Tony Blair, will appoint a governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then look up "aluminium," and check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it.
2. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour', 'favour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix "ize" will be replaced by the suffix "ise."
4. You will learn that the suffix 'burgh' is pronounced 'burra'; you may elect to respell Pittsburgh as 'Pittsberg' if you find you simply can't cope with correct pronunciation.
5. You should learn to distinguish English and Australian accents. It really isn't that hard. English accents are not limited to cockney, upper-class twit or Mancunian (Daphne in Frasier). Scottish dramas such as 'Taggart' will no longer be broadcast with subtitles. You must learn that there is no such place as Devonshire in England. The name of the county is "Devon." If you persist in calling it Devonshire, all American States will become "shires" e.g. Texasshire Floridashire, Louisianashire.
6. Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels (look up "vocabulary"). Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is unacceptable and inefficient form of communication.
7. There is no such thing as "US English." We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take account of the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of "-ize."
8. You will relearn your original national anthem, "God Save The Queen", but only after fully carrying out Task #1 (see above).
8. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday. November 2nd will be a new national holiday, but to be celebrated only in England. It will be called "Come-Uppance Day."
10. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not adult enough to be independent. Guns should only be handled by adults. If you're not adult enough to sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist then you're not grown up enough to handle a gun. "

.....**to be continued.**

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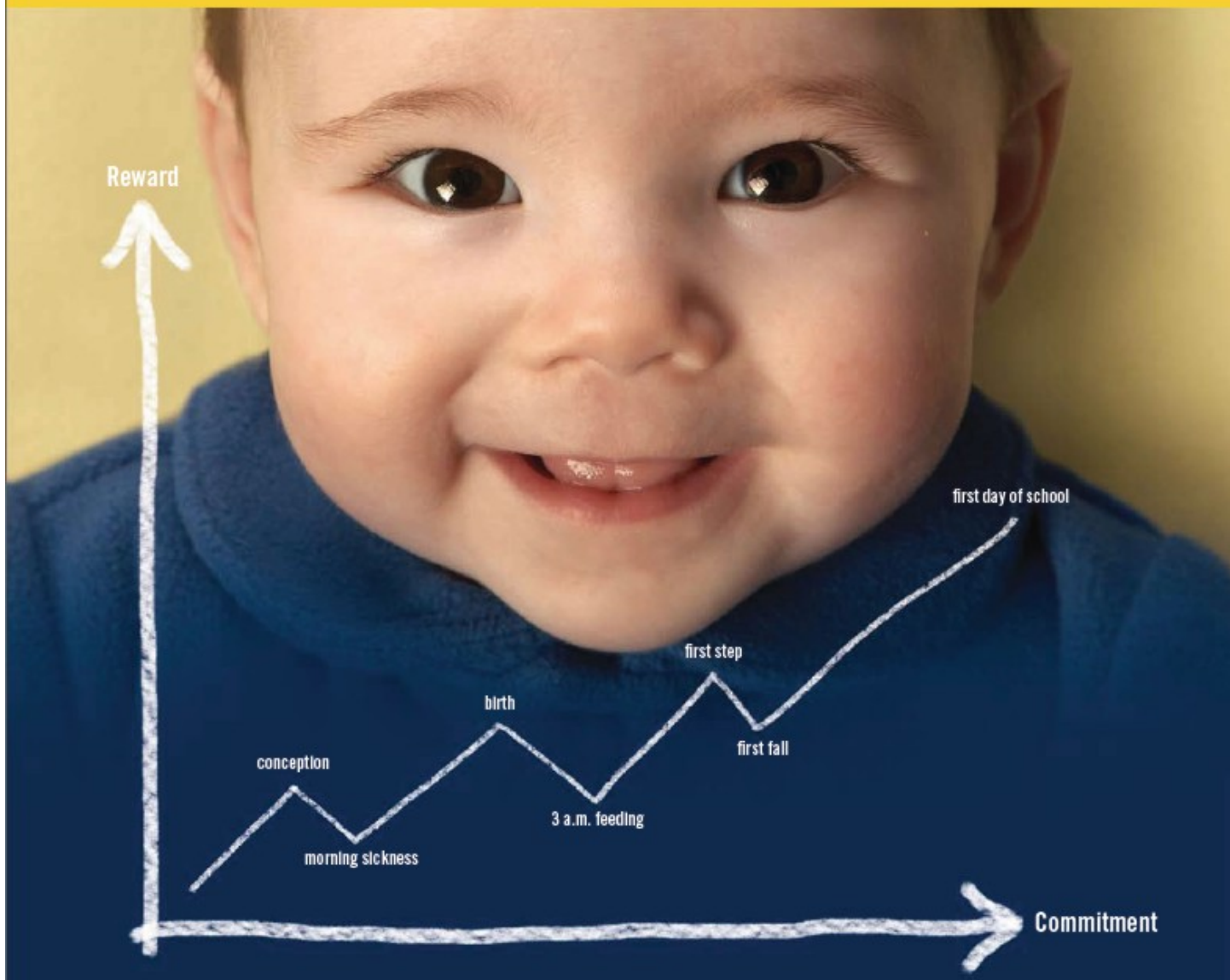
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