

ROSALIE BERTELL

1929-2012

Nun, scientist, biometrician, protector of future generations. Born April 4, 1929, in Buffalo, N.Y., died June 14, 2012, in Langhorne, Pa., of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, aged 83.

In 1973, Rosalie shared her expert understanding of the risks of radiation associated with nuclear facilities at a meeting in Niagara County, U.S., on a proposed nuclear power plant near farms growing produce for Gerber's baby foods. Shortly afterward, Niagara County legislated a moratorium on nuclear power.

Thus began her life's work of bringing to public attention the effects of ionizing radiation on present and future generations. It was also the beginning of efforts to silence her.

Rosalie had dual citizenship, so when censorship and denigration in the United States turned to violence against her, she came to Canada to continue her work. In Toronto, she became the energy and public health specialist at the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice. In 1984, she co-founded the International Institute of Concern for Public Health.

She was particularly concerned about the vulnerability of children to environmental toxins. Armed with a Geiger counter and a health survey of children, she put pressure on authorities to take corrective action in a Scarborough suburb with radioactive contamination.

Appalled by the suffering of the Marshall Islands' people, whose babies were being born boneless after extensive nuclear testing there, Rosalie took their case to the U.S. Congress.

She worked on behalf of marginalized people in many



Rosalie Bertell in 2005.

countries who were struggling with industrial pollution, radioactive contamination and destructive militarism. She conducted research, convened tribunals and served as an expert witness.

As a newborn, Rosalie suffered from pneumonia, and illnesses kept her frail throughout her life. However, her mental strengths and optimistic spirit more than made up for limitations in physical robustness. A stiff breeze could push her off balance, but the raging winds of opposition could not fell her.

People and giraffes made her laugh; nature was a source of joy; and she held to her belief in the essential goodness of humanity.

She achieved a BA magna cum laude, a masters degree in mathematics and

philosophy, and a doctorate in biometrics.

Rosalie began her 54 years with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1958. She became known as the "anti-nuclear nun," and the "angel on our shoulder," earning honorary degrees and numerous environmental and peace awards.

A voice of truth in a wilderness of propaganda, Rosalie challenged decisions that cause harm to the health of the planet. Her hard-hitting and hope-filled writings integrated careful research with discernment and courageous public witness.

She was never afraid to confront the establishment, whether medical, political or military. Her message continues to be heard and respected.

— Shirley Farlinger.

First published in the Globe and Mail under "Lives Lived".

The "Remembering Rosalie Bertell" event was held at Bloor Street United Church, Toronto on September 29, 2012. In addition to the testimonials and videos reflecting on Rosalie's life and work, the event was also an occasion to honour this year's Rosalie Bertell Award winners. On the next four pages, we present some of the speakers' reflections; more can be seen at concernforhealth.org.

REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF SISTER ROSALIE BERTELL, GNSH

SISTER JULIA C. LANIGAN, GNSH

Good evening! I was asked to speak for a few minutes about Sister Rosalie in terms of her personal life among her religious Sisters, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, during her years of "retirement" at our Motherhouse in Yardley, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia and

*Sr. Julia
Lanigan
GNSH,
President of
the Grey Nuns
of the Sacred
Heart, speaks
at the
Remembering
Rosalie Bertell
event, Toronto,
29 September
2012.*



how she conducted her ministry from that setting. To us, she was "our Sister" and our friend. Like each Grey Nun, she was to us simply one among many who lived among us through her many years of religious life while also carrying out in various ways our corporate mission of compassionate concern for all, especially the poor and marginalized among us. From the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, most of our Sisters knew Rosalie mainly through brief encounters when she was among us in various locations for community meetings or celebrations in between her world travels and intensive occupation with concern for the health effects of low-dose radiation and pollution. All knew her reputation as a brilliant scientist, an environmental epidemiologist, a biometrician, a cancer researcher, and advocate for the poor, especially indigenous peoples. To many, the very complexity of these words was intimidating! Over time, she won many converts within our community who, through her efforts

and those of others came to understand the detrimental impact of modern life, weapons of war, and political manoeuvring on our planet and all its inhabitants. When health needs finally dictated her move to our retirement centre at the Motherhouse, her tenure began with most Sisters being a little in awe of her and unsure how to converse with someone like her on an "ordinary" plane. All soon learned that they need not fear—Rosalie came and lived quite an "ordinary" life among us as one of our Grey Nun Sisters. She was as interested in conversing with each Sister on the topics of daily living and the concerns of their lives and ministry as she was in continuing her world-wide work, mainly via email and telephone. Only her occasional trips "to speak at the United Nations" or "to receive the Right Livelihood Award associated with the Nobel Peace prize," or "to be part of the ceremonies in Japan that surrounded the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" reminded everyone of how very actively she remained involved in concern for environmental health. In these later years she had many health issues, including COPD, nodules in her throat, and failing eyesight. She didn't complain about these. She simply set about doing everything possible to obtain whatever treatment she thought might be helpful with a goal to being able to continue her work. At the same time, Rosalie was careful to be sure that every day included prayer, exercise, participation in all community meetings and activities, and recreation in some form. Maintaining balance was, for her as for us all, a crucial necessity if one is to become and remain a whole and holy person capable of bringing renewed life and positive energy to a needy world.

Many who lived with her in our retirement house were surprised after her death by the revelation of the far-reaching dimensions of her work and mission. Those of you who knew her through her work will not be at all surprised to hear of the outpouring of love and concern that came to us from people around the world. The legacy she leaves, I think, is mainly in the astounding number of others whom she has inspired to join in and expand this worldwide movement for justice and peace for the entire global village we call planet earth.

Remembering Rosalie Bertell



Claudia von Werlhof, speaking at the Remembering Rosalie Bertell event, Toronto, 29 November 2012.

REMEMBERING ROSALIE BERTELL

CLAUDIA VON WERLHOF

PLANETARY MOVEMENT FOR MOTHER EARTH

Rosalie was an angel on this Earth—her mind was equipped with the sharpness of a sword and the passionate flame of love for our mother earth and the truth about her burned in her heart! Without Rosalie, the “Planetary Movement for Mother Earth”—www.pbme-online.org—founded in Germany in 2010, would not exist! We are called upon to live up to her inheritance! We thank her for all she has done: fearlessly, decisively, tirelessly, and in all clarity!

We are very happy that we could assist in making her desire to see the book, *Planet Earth: The Latest Weapon of War* published in the German language—*Kriegswaffne Planet Erde* (Geinhausen 2011)—come true and above all, that she was still able to experience this! The first amplified edition of 5,000 copies is nearly sold out and a second is envisaged for the end of 2012. We have now begun with a Spanish translation to be published in Mexico in 2013.

Rosalie was also preparing a second English edition as well, and we have asked the two eventual publishers to contact us as we, together with the GNSH, could not find out yet who they are! After Fukushima, Rosalie's research on the dangers of radioactivity—*No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth* (1985), for which she got the Right Livelihood Award in 1986, is more important than ever before. Her following research on the development of post-nuclear experiments and weapons of mass destruction based on new technologies with pulsed electromagnetic waves—leading to weather wars, plasma weapons and geo-engineering—shows us what is already occurring worldwide—for decades! And she did not hesitate to blame the military in East and West of being responsible for transforming Mother Earth into a perverse weapon of war against us and herself including global warming! Most of the scientists politicians, social movements and individuals of the world, nevertheless are still maintaining their belief in the “1%,” and/or are hiding the truth about the new realities under which the peoples of the world are now

living, and dying. Rosalie's book is the proof that these are not conspiracy theories at all, if we like it or not. Together with interested individuals and organizations we will try to figure out how we can best document Rosalie Bertell's complete works. All those who may be interested are requested to contact claudia.von-werlhof@uibk.ac.at or info@iicph.org.

Professor Claudia von Werlhof is with the Institute of Political Sciences at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Read her speech at the Remembering Rosalie Bertell event at <http://concernforhealth.org>

ROSALIE BERTELL AWARDS

In early July, when we had fairly well overcome our original shock and grief at the death of our beloved Sr./Dr. Rosalie Bertell, the members of IICPH decided that they wanted to do something to celebrate her life and work. It was then we started planning the event ultimately called “Remembering Rosalie Bertell.” As part of that program, we felt it would be very fitting to give three Rosalie Bertell Awards to three people she had known and admired for many years. After much discussion by the board members, the decision was made to give the awards to Ursula Franklin, Janette Sherman-Nevinger and Lorraine Rekmans. Citations were prepared to acquaint the audience about each of the recipients while our Immediate Past President, Jean Rajotte would present the Award Certificates. The following are brief notes and quotes from the Citations for each one of the recipients. Previous Awards have been given to the late David Martin, Gordon Edwards, Shirley Farlinger, Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg and Jean Rajotte.

Rosalie Bertell Award winner Ursula Franklin speaks from the floor at the Remembering Rosalie Bertell event, Toronto, 29 November 2012.



Professor Emerita Ursula M. Franklin

Not long after Rosalie Bertell moved to Toronto, Canada, she met Ursula Franklin, Professor of Metallurgy and Materials Science at the University of Toronto. A mutually beneficial friendship developed between the two scientists. In 1984, together with Dr. Diarmuid

McLoughlin, they founded the IICPH. Long known for her feminist and pacifist views, Ursula Franklin has spoken and written extensively about the futility of war and the connection between peace and social justice. She has received many prestigious awards for her work on equality, justice and human rights issues. Perhaps Dr. Franklin is best known for her opinions on the political and social effects of technology. She distinguishes between holistic technologies used by craft workers or artisans and prescriptive ones that organize the work as a sequence of steps requiring supervision by bosses or managers. She believes that the dominance of prescriptive technologies in modern society discourages critical thinking and promotes a culture of compliance that tends to suppress freedom and endangers civilization. In the early 1990s, Prof. Franklin along with others, investigated the levels of strontium in children's teeth. This research contributed to the cessation of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing.



*Janette Sherman-Nevinger,
Rosalie Bertell Award winner*

Dr. Janette D. Sherman-Nevinger M.D.

Dr. Sherman is a specialist in internal medicine and toxicology. Rosalie Bertell and Janette Sherman have known each other since childhood, growing up in Buffalo, NY and have been both friends and colleagues. She has published

more than 70 articles in scientific literature and also writes for the popular press to provide information to the concerned public. Her resume is astounding! Amongst numerous other research and academic positions, she has worked in radiation and biologic research at the University of California nuclear facility, and at the US Naval Research Laboratory at Hunter's Point in San Francisco. She is a tremendous resource person, and adviser for universities and health advocacy groups concerning cancer, birth defects, pesticides, toxic dump sites and nuclear radiation and has served as a medical-legal expert witness for thousands of individuals harmed by exposure to toxic agents throughout her career.

As Dr. Sherman was not able to travel to Toronto, her friend Rheba Adolph received the Award on her behalf (see article, next page).



L to R: IICPH board member Willi Nolan, Rosalie Bertell Award winner Lorraine Rekmans, and IICPH President Marion Odell.

Lorraine Rekmans

Lorraine Rekmans, former Executive Director of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, studied journalism at Canador College and has practiced that profession for many years. Her roots are with the people of the Serpent River Nation. She is well known for the part she played in bringing attention to the terrible disaster that befell this Ojibwe community following the discovery of uranium in the vicinity of Elliot Lake in the early 1950s.

Lorraine Rekmans helped to edit the stories of the Serpent River People into a book called *This Is My Homeland*. This book tells the recollections of the Serpent River People affected by the devastation to their health and environment from the mining of uranium and the tailings ponds left behind. The book tells of the dreadful consequences to the Serpent River Nation and to their health, lands, water and air and way of life as a result. It is a testament to the heartless indifference experienced by many aboriginal communities around the world. Lorraine is well known internationally for her knowledge and experience in uranium mining and forestry issues.

In the Citation written by Director Willi Nolan she says about her friend, "Lorraine is a community, national and international advocate for environmental health and justice, the impacts of air and water pollution and land degradation on the lives of all people and the natural environment. Lorraine successfully directs her time and attention to educating and empowering women and their communities to assert their rights to intervene in community and federal environmental decision-making

Remembering Rosalie Bertell

processes... Lorraine is an important contributor to environmental policy for government, industry, the public and Aboriginal communities.”

To read the full citations, go to concernforhealth.org. You will also find links to the video of the event, from which the pictures in this section of the newsletter were taken.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH: JANETTE SHERMAN

Rheba Adolph, a good friend of Janette Sherman, accepted the Rosalie Bertell Award on Janette's behalf as Janette was unable to attend the event. Here are a few of the words composed by Janette upon learning about receiving the award:



Rheba Adolph, accepting the Rosalie Bertell Award on behalf of Dr. Janette Sherman.

How we miss Sister Rosalie! How will we fill her dainty shoes, with which she left such a big footprint? How will we amplify her messages—spoken with her delicate, but persistent, strong voice? I was stunned when I received the call from Anna Tilman making sure I could be in Toronto on September 29 to accept a Rosalie Bertell Award. It is truly my honour and privilege to be in the company of fellow Rosalie Bertell Award recipients Ursula Franklin and Lorraine Rekmans. I thank the International Institute for Concern for Public Health and Marion Odell and Anna Tilman who have done so much to keep the organization active.

Here are the words spoken by Rheba about Janette and her relationship with Rosalie:

Who is Dr. Janette Sherman (also known as Sally)? Why is it fitting that she be granted the Rosalie Bertell Award? Other than the same gender and Buffalo birthplace, what do these two seemingly disparate scientists, the one dedicated to her husband, the other to her God, bring to this award?

I would like to offer you a sketch of Janette by holding up mirror images of her and Rosalie. Looking into the mirror, we see these two glittering intellects and personalities sharing:

- Razor-sharp intellects
- Steely determination to pursue what they know to be moral and just
- Passionate dedication to their ideals
- Fearless in the face of possible harm to themselves rendered by those who are threatened by the evidence and conclusions of their research
- The saving grace of words not chosen out of malice but for puncturing resistance, evidence and ensuing conclusions
- Scientific education put to the service of helping, not injuring
- The mental endurance to discuss an issue for hours, indeed maybe forever
- The shared mantra: Peace, Peace! Peace!
- And especially, the courage to prevail!

Janette has asked: How can we best honour Rosalie. What can we do? And this is the answer: We must act and speak out and have the courage, as Rosalie has had, to prevail.

Visit our new website concernforhealth.org for current news, or explore our archives (including past newsletters) at iicph.org



L: Rosalie with peace banner, British Columbia, 1999

R: International Medical Commission on Bhopal, 1994. In picture are Drs. Gianni Tognoni, Ingrid Eckerman, Rosalie Bertell, Sushma Acquilla, Birger Heinzow and Ramana Dhara.





Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

IICPH AGAINST DARLINGTON REFURBISHMENT

The Ontario government through the Ontario Power Generation (OPG), a Crown corporation, plans a “mid-life” refurbishment of the four reactors at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (DNGS) extending their lives by approximately forty years to about 2055. A submission prepared and presented by our Vice President, Anna Tilman, outlines our concerns. This is a massive piece of work and required Anna to review a huge number of documents obtained through requests to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The submission provides comments on the proposed project as a whole and on specific topics in the proposed OPG's Environmental Assessment Screening Report (EA Report). In her introductory remarks to the submission, Anna stated that it provides comments on the proposed Project as a whole, and on specific topics, and that our primary focus is on the potential effects of the activities of the Project on human health, and especially the health of the nuclear energy workers and contract workers. A major component of the submission includes a review of the experience with refurbishment activities that have occurred at other CANDU facilities in Canada.

This submission also comments on numerous issues related to the refurbishment and continued operation of the Darlington station, including accident and malfunction scenarios, probabilistic risk assessment methodology, cumulative impacts, costs, and the environmental assessment process itself. Anna stated that, “The project as proposed by Ontario Power Generation is massive, both in the level of activity and the timespan. It will impact many people at various

levels from local and regional and well beyond, especially in the event of a nuclear accident. The merits of a project of this dimension are highly questionable, especially considering its proposed timelines (which approach the next century), and the very high costs, which will certainly exceed whatever estimates are finally given.” The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Screening Report came to the conclusion that the work and activities of the Project are not likely to cause significant adverse effects on the environment. This submission states clearly that the Project is seriously flawed, and the conclusion of CNSC staff cannot be supported.

Anna Tilman concluded that, “Among many other things, a precautionary or protective approach has not been taken with regard to the effects of this Project on human health, especially for frontline workers, who risk harmful exposure to radiological and non-radiological substances during all stages of the Project. The consideration of potential accidents or malfunctions is completely inadequate and unscientific. This is especially disturbing in light of the Fukushima disaster, and the lessons that should have been learned from it. The full range of cumulative impacts on the environment and human health has not been addressed. the position that any and all problems can be adequately mitigated is completely unsound, which is clearly demonstrated by past experiences, logic, and fundamental scientific principles. It is our view that allowing this Project to be carried out will do great and totally unnecessary harm to the environment, health and economic well-being now and in the future.”

To access the full submission, go to <http://concernforhealth.org>.

Nuclear Developments

JAMES BAY CREE NATION DECLARES PERMANENT URANIUM MORATORIUM

The James Bay Cree Nation has declared a permanent moratorium on uranium, exploration, mining and waste emplacement in Eeyou Istchee, the James Bay Cree Territory. The moratorium was enacted and adopted unanimously by the Annual Cree Nation's General Assembly in August at Wakaganish.

"The risks inherent in uranium mining, refining and transport, and in radioactive uranium mining waste are incompatible with our stewardship responsibilities in Eeyou Istchee," the resolution declares. "The Cree Nation is determined to protect our way of life and our economy against the grave threat posed by uranium mining and waste," said Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come. "We are not opposed to sustainable and equitable mining and other industrial resource development, but will not accept the toxic and radiation risks of uranium mining." (CCPA Monitor October 2012)

-- Shirley Farlinger

REVIEW OF NUCLEAR WASTE LAW REQUIRED

IICPH is a member of the Nuclear Waste Watch coalition, which calls for major changes to the decades-old Ontario Nuclear Fuel Waste Act.

PRESS RELEASE: November 14, 2012, Toronto Ontario

On the 10th anniversary of a controversial law coming into force that could permit the burial of highly radioactive nuclear waste, a broad alliance of health, environmental, community and faith groups has issued an open letter to communities being studied as possible burial sites and is calling on the federal Minister of Natural Resources to review the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act and to order the nuclear industry to conduct its business in a more open and accountable fashion. Nuclear Waste Watch, a network of 31 organizations from across the province, released a letter to Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver today outlining their concerns about the way the Nuclear waste Management Organization is conducting itself as it carries out a search for a community willing to become the burial site for more than 50,000 tonnes of highly radioactive waste generated by nuclear power plants in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Over 90% of the waste comes from reactors in Ontario. In an open letter to communities being studied as possible burial sites, the signatories to Nuclear Waste Watch's eleven point position statement said they "share concerns about the long term safety of placing the nuclear waste in caverns deep underground" as well as concerns about the risks and hazards that would come with transporting radioactive waste long distances and

through communities along the way.

"Communities being studied as burial sites should now that they are not alone," said Brennain Lloyd, Project Coordinator with Northwatch, a regional coalition in northern Ontario, where 12 communities are being studied as possible burial sites.

"There are organizations and experts across Canada who have been tracking this issue for decades and can provide support in evaluating what the nuclear industry is telling them."

"The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is engaged in a massive public relations program to convey the impression that the nuclear waste problem is solved when it is not," commented Dr. Gordon Edwards, president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility.

Canada is one of several countries who have been studying the concept of burying nuclear waste for several decades. No country has yet constructed and begun operating an underground repository for the high level waste generated through the use of nuclear power. Nuclear Waste Watch has launched a new website at www.NuclearWasteWatch.net where they have posted the the list of endorsing organizations and their letter to the Minister of Natural Resources. and an open letter to communities being studied as possible burial sites.

RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT GE-HITACHI URANIUM PELLET PLAN

Community information meetings were held in Toronto, Ontario on November 14 and 15, 2012 about the General Electric-Hitachi uranium pellet plant in the city. IICPH was represented at the meeting by Director Gordon Albright who presented the following report. This meeting was held on Wednesday, November 14th. The Panel consisted of Zach Ruiter, raising concerns about the plant; Andrew Cash, the local MP; Jonah Schein, the local MPP; Mike Makagiorgis representing Cesar Palacio, the local city councillor; Kim Warburton, communications representative for GE; and the Safety Manager for the plant.

The Panel was chaired by Donna Cowan, the chair of the local community organization Digin which sponsored the meeting. About a hundred people attended.



Zach Ruiter expressed concern about the process by which the Canadian Nuclear safety Commission had relicensed the plant for ten more years in 2010, because the community had too little say in it. Not only were most people unaware of this process, they didn't even know what the plant was doing.

When asked, only five people attending said that they knew the plant was processing uranium before a recent article in *NOW Magazine*. All the elected representatives expressed shock and dismay that the local community had not been better informed. Andrew Cash pointed out that a public information program was a condition of their relicensing. Kim Warburton said that GE had followed all the guidelines, but would be happy to go beyond them. She suggested that the lack of public awareness of the plant's operations might be due to the fact that it had operated safely for fifty years. She said that a 1-800 number had been established to answer questions, and asked that GE be invited to local community meetings to give all the facts. The Safety Manager for the plant said that it was a very safe operation that posed no danger to the local community. It was highly regulated, and monitored by independent third parties.

There was a strong consensus among the elected representatives, and members of the local community, that much better public information was needed about the operations of the plant, and that much greater transparency and public involvement were needed in monitoring and regulating those operations.

In a November 17 *NOW Magazine* article, it was stated that well over a hundred people attended at each of these neighbourhood meetings. "It was standing-room-only as residents concerned about everything from their personal health and safety to to the area's community 'vibe' peppered politicians." *NOW* said that the Wednesday event was "decidedly balanced, with two GE-Hitachi reps, all three levels of government, and Zach Ruiter, who opposed GE-Hitachi's sister operation in Peterborough, has since moved to Toronto." According to *NOW*, "Thursday was clearly geared to organizing opposition to the plant and to nuclear issues in general. Simon Paul Dene of northern Saskatchewan described the dozen or so uranium mines there and told how he lost a sister and brother to cancer, and how his Dene community is facing a nuclear waste dump, despite risks to underground springs."

People who attended the meeting expressed their concerns about things they had noticed over the years such as a brief evacuation after fire was seen on top of a

stack in 1999. Another resident mentioned the buckling of a storage wall a few years ago. "Palpable anger in the air soon became evident...It was if a bubble had burst. As the meeting wound down, the organizers and a few of the hardest souls walked to the plant a few blocks away. As a dozen or so of police officers watched, backed up by a mobile command vehicle, the small group held a brief vigil and posed with signs and a large yellow banner bearing their message: 'Nuclear Power? No Thanks'."

You might want to watch these videos.

- Dr. James Deutsch, M.D., Ph.D. discusses correct information on uranium
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZotGdcV1Kik>>
- Cheri Di Novo MPP High Park/Parkdale: and GE-Hitachi's Uranium Secret
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Y2cHBitt6M>>
- Toronto Environment Alliance
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypt-iYZDbn4>>

NUCLEAR FREE JAPAN?

In a major shift from Japan's decades-long support for nuclear power, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said in a recent speech that the government will soon announce a gradual abandonment of this controversial form of energy in favour of a nuclear free country.

He said that most people in Japan are in favour of a nuclear-free country.

The new policy will include putting a 40-year cap on reactor lifespans, stopping construction of new nuclear reactors and imposing strict safety checks before sidelined reactors are restarted. The target is to make Japan completely nuclear-free by 2030 largely by expanding its use of renewable forms of energy and undertaking greater conservation efforts, such as using smart grids.

The decision stems from intense discussion and debate about the country's energy policy in the wake of last year's disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant set off by the massive earthquake and tsunami. (*CCPA Monitor* October 2012). Never have we had so many allies!

Nuclear radiation is still spewing out of the damaged Japanese reactors. The detritus from the catastrophe has reached and also continues on its way to the western shores of North America.)

Even in Canada, one reactor is closing. The only one in Quebec, the aged Gentilly-2, is scheduled for shut-down. Now just two provinces to go!

by Shirley Farlinger

Nuclear Developments

LETTER FROM ROSALIE BERTELL AFTER FUKUSHIMA

Dear Friends and Residents of this interdependent global home, I cannot give magical answers to everyone's needs at this time of crisis with the Japanese nuclear disaster. However, I can give you a few tips on how to listen to the official "expert" statements given on CNN or NHK or other networks, plus some tips on what to eat or not eat.

First, there is a great difference between medical use of radiation, with direct risk and benefit to a patient and the random distribution of a comparable dose to a large population. In the latter case the risk is magnified and the benefit goes to filling some general society benefit. Hence the individual harm may be sacrificed for the military or economic good of a country. How or why we must make this trade off has never been well understood by the public or well explained and agreed to by reasonable civil society.

There is also a significant difference between internal contamination with radioactive debris from a nuclear disaster and direct irradiation from an external medical device under the control of a professional who can ask for your consent, limit the exposure and take care of any problems which might unwittingly occur. When internal radioactive tracers are used in medicine they have short half lives (both biologically and physically) and are not similar to plutonium, uranium or thorium or other debris found in nuclear disasters. Nevertheless, both exposures can be significant, and require some consent by those at risk. Unfortunately, this prior consent is absent in a disaster!

- Persons with good general health and good basic nutritional health will fare better when the food, air or water is contaminated since the body normally chooses uncontaminated food when it is available to it.
- Avoid eating salads if you are suspicious of it being contaminated by fallout or contaminated water, and always wash carefully fruits and vegetables to remove any surface contamination.
- Do not take Potassium Iodide without medical supervision. The iodine 131 has a short half life, and probably will not travel very far from the source unless the release from the reactor is explosive.
- If there is radioactive iodine in milk then there probably also is cobalt-60, a very dangerous gamma radiation emitter. The inorganic cobalt is incorporated into organic vitamin B12 in the udder of the cow and becomes much more dangerous to the liver when ingested in milk.
- Be careful to get sufficient rest so that the body can undertake efficient repair of any damage. Keep hydrated with the best water available to you!
- Although it is true that alpha radiation, the primary radiation in early fallout, can be stopped by paper, when this same radioactivity is released inside the body it does about 20 times the cellular damage as the equivalent dose of X-ray.
- I like to hold the food in my hands and thank it for its goodness. Then I ask that it protect me from any harmful contaminants it holds. I think this a sort of modern Prayer before Meals, and not irrelevant under the circumstances.

I wish you well, and especially hold in prayer the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and all the other radiation victims/survivors of our world, for they are terrified by this massive threat which they hoped no one would ever have to suffer again!

Peace! Rosalie Bertell

HYDROFRACKING 'NATURAL' GAS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT RISK

Fracking of natural gases from shale deposits not only uses toxic chemicals and sand in copious amounts of water, contaminating drinking and groundwater, it also releases substantial amounts of radioactive poison from the ground, according to a report released recently by Grassroots Environmental Education, an organization in New York State where extensive fracking is being proposed. The fracking process involves injecting toxic chemical laced water and sand under high pressure to fracture shale formations and release the gas from shale beds. According to this report, it also releases radioactive substances from the shale, a major one being Radium-226 that has a half-life of 1,600 years. This means that the Radium-226 will be around for 16,000 to 32,000 years!

According to E. Ivan White who was a staff scientist for the US National Council on Radiation Protection for 30 years, is quoted as saying, "Horizontal hydrofracking for natural gas ... has the potential to result in the production of large amounts of waste materials containing Radium-226 and radium-228 in both solid and liquid mediums." Through air, water and soil, it would get into food crops and animals. White also said that "radioactive materials and chemical wastes do not just go away, into the environment. They remain active and potentially lethal, and can show up years later in unexpected places." Hydrofracking produces an incredible amount of very toxic waste!

In 1999, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation produced an environmental impact statement that said that the 16 oil and gas companies that participated in their survey showed a "cavalier attitude to toward human exposure to radioactive material." Radium causes cancer because the body uses it as if it were calcium and deposits it in the bones. It also causes aplastic anemia, a disease where the bone marrow becomes unable to produce enough new blood cells to replenish the destroyed blood cells. Marie Curie, after discovering radium in 1893, unaware of the dangers posed, handled it without any protection and died of aplastic anemia. Left in the ground within the shale the radioactive elements, whichever ones they may be, will cause no harm, but unleashed into our biosphere they will endanger the health and well-being of living creatures for essentially all generations to come.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PROMOTING FRACKING

In spite of the fact that hydrofracking of shale gas has earned a well-deserved reputation in Canada and in other countries

as a serious polluter of water, soil and food crops, and a health and environment hazard and toxic waste producer, the Ontario government is quietly but actively promoting this industry. Through the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS), a branch of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ontario government is moving toward the promotion of hydrofracking for natural gas in Ordovician Shale formations in Southern Ontario. The 486-page OGS report, Summary of Field Work and Other Activities for 2012 released on November 6, 2012, has Section 29 devoted to the shale gas potential in this area.

In 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario released an aerial survey of shale formations in Ontario to assist gas companies in their explorations.

That same year, OGS began its first drilling program in the Kettle Point formation in Sarnia—Lambton and Chatham—Kent where some potential was seen. However, further drilling found more viable sources in the Rouge River—Blue Mountain Formation and the Collingwood area of the Coburg Formation which the report rated as having "the best potential for shale gas productive units." Ordovician shale formations are found in different areas including the following: Queenston, Georgian Bay, Blue Mountain and Coburg. They are located on Manitoulin Island and all of Southern Ontario including South Bruce Peninsula, Sarnia, Windsor and Toronto.

The second drilling program by OGS drilled in 11 locations including St. Joseph, Little Current, Wiarton, Bruce, Chatham, Port Stanley, Halton, Mount Forest, Imperial Lincoln, Pickering and Russell.

It probably has not escaped your notice that a lot of the places are near or on the Great Lakes. Developing these formations would undoubtedly have serious consequences to the waters of the Southern Great Lakes and many of their watersheds.

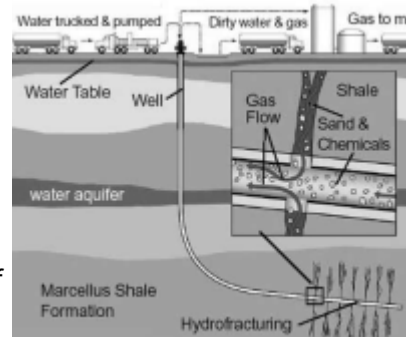


Diagram of fracking process, from Wikimedia Commons.

Environmental Toxins

FLUORIDATION POLICY LOSING ITS APPEAL

Since 1993, IICPH has been aiding communities that seek to end fluoridation by providing them with credible scientific evidence and ethics-based arguments against the deliberate addition of industrial waste fluoride in public drinking water. Through social networking pages and websites, thousands of citizens in hundreds of towns across Canada have accessed this information, organized themselves into local groups, and added their voices to advocacy groups such as Council of Canadians and Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. In the past two years fluoridation was ended in Waterloo ON, Quebec City QC, Moncton NB, Calgary AB and Churchill MB. Recently, an attempt to fluoridate Orillia ON was blocked, and towns near Windsor ON voted to stop.

Unfortunately fluoridation, like nuclear power, is aggressively promoted and supported by government agencies. It requires strong democratic action to change this.

Now, an important new study validates our efforts and substantiates our warning that fluoridation, like radiation, is most harmful to the vulnerable fetus and young child. Increased levels of radiation and their risks are unavoidable due to environmental contamination with radioactivity from production of weapons, fuel and nuclear power. For the fetus, the risks are irreversible. Likewise, increased daily fluoride intake and risks are unavoidable and irreversible when municipal water is artificially fluoridated.

Study published online in *Environmental Health Perspectives* on July 20, 2012: Impact of Fluoride on Neurological Development in Children

In a meta-analysis, researchers from Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and China Medical University in Shenyang combined 27 studies, most from China, and found strong indications that fluoride in drinking water even below the level advocated by Health Canada as beneficial for dental health (0.7 milligram per litre) may adversely affect cognitive development in children by reducing IQ. Based on the findings for high fluoride intake, the authors say that this risk from lower intake should not be ignored, and that more research on fluoride's impact on the developing brain is needed.

Lead author Anna Choi, research scientist in the Department of Environmental Health at HSPH, said, "We want to make sure that cognitive development is considered as a possible target for fluoride toxicity." Choi and senior author Philippe Grandjean, adjunct professor of environmental health at HSPH, and their colleagues collated the epidemiological studies of 8,000



Hydrofluorosilicic acid tank and pump at the William Street pumping station in Waterloo, ON, prior to the 2010 referendum which led to the end of municipal fluoridation in the city.

children, who suffered an average drop of 7 IQ points. "Fluoride seems to fit in with lead, mercury, and other brain poisons," Grandjean says. "The effect of each toxicant may seem small, but the combined damage on a population scale can be serious, especially because the brain power of the next generation is crucial to all of us."
--Aliss Terpstra, IICPH Director, Fluoride Campaigner

BHOPAL STUDY PROMISED

On December 3, 1984, an accident at Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, killed 15,000 to 30,000 people living near the plant. Today, the site continues to leak toxic chemicals into the water supply. An expert study is promised soon.



Ruins of the Union Carbide plant, Bhopal.

Dow Chemical, which bought the plant in 2001, claims no responsibility for the clean-up. It was sold to the state in 1998. Meanwhile people continue to suffer from damaged lungs. They were not told of the chemical involved nor told that they could have been saved by staying close to the ground as the toxic chemical soared above. It is thought that 4,000 to 12,000 metric tonnes of toxins are present still in the soil. Dow Chemical has refused to respond.

--Worldwatch



FULFILLING OUR MANDATE

Incorporated as a federal non-profit corporation in Canada on October 9, 1984, the International Institute of Concern for Public Health is committed to the fundamental human right to health for all. It is a Canadian-based charitable organization dedicated to helping communities and individuals assess and improve their environmental health.

We speak truth to Power! One example is IICPH Against Darlington Refurbishment. See article in this newsletter and the full submission on concernforhealth.org by Vice-Pres. Anna Tilman.

We work for victims or potential victims of industrial, technological, and military pollution with a particular emphasis on assisting the struggles of third world and indigenous people to preserve their human right to life and health.

See Mohawk Traditional Council and allies (mohawktraditionalcouncil.org) and anti shale gas movement, Maliseet Grand Council (ocean-resources.com/articles.asp?articleid=686) among a number of First Nations advised on health matters by Director Willi Nolan.

We aim to educate through our publications, presentations and website. We raise awareness of present and potential environmental health hazards arising from commercial, industrial and military processes or products.

We present the facts based on scientific studies and provide information to community groups, non-government organizations and in a non-partisan manner to legislators at all levels of government.

IICPH works in cooperation with Aboriginal peoples, professionals, grassroots and other social organizations and citizen groups in many countries. Through the work of founder Dr. Rosalie Bertell and other professionals we have been active in over 60 countries.

We need your help! We are desperately in need of funds in order to continue and (hopefully) expand our reach to work to accelerate the numbers of people needed to reach that critical mass of opposition to nuclear power, to expand our ability to carry out our mandate and overcome the false statements propagated to the general public. We wish only to provide people with the truth about the dangers to Planet Earth from the depredations of those who plunder for the sake of profit and inspire them to spread the word and to take action to stop the damage to our biosphere.

"IICPH brings the voice of science and common sense to bear for the public's interest."
--Rosalie Bertell



BOOK ORDERS

You can order books from Amazon via links on our new website, concernforhealth.org. Look for "Books" in the menu.

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Please make cheques payable to IICPH and we will send you a charitable receipt (Canadian taxpayers only) with our thanks. We also welcome donations by credit card via our PayPal account. See the "Donate" button on the right-hand menu of our website, concernforhealth.org.

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