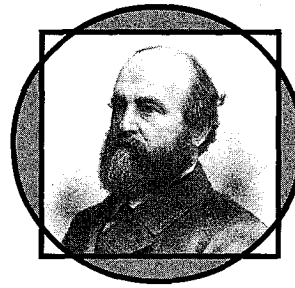


The Georgist Journal



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Economic Justice and the Green Movement

This year's Council of Georgist Organizations confab in London was the brainchild of John Fisher of Rodney, Ontario. Noting with pride that Canada's Green Party is both politically stronger than its US counterpart, and has a considerably clearer view of The Cat, John set to work designing a program on *Economic Justice and the Green Movement*. The conference surveyed a number of key Canadian issues, and Canadian viewpoints on global economic issues. I am pleased to report that it was a success on just about every single count. Georgist conferences have been accused in recent years of being short on substance, offering canned repetitions of the same basic message to one targeted outreach group after another — but that was not the case in London. Diverse groups and viewpoints were represented, and the level of dialogue was satisfyingly high.

The venue itself was a refreshing change of pace. I had never heard of London, Ontario's "Forest City" before, but I was delighted with what I saw of it. For another happy change, we stayed right in the middle of town, not out in some airport wasteland. Our hotel, a modern high-rise grafted artfully onto a massive old armory, was also quirkily pleasant. All the first impressions were good; the cab driver who brought me in explained the "Forest City" name. "Look at all these huge, old trees along the streets!" I exclaimed. The driver said that the city maintains row after row of old maples, oaks and beeches along the sidewalks. As a former tree surgeon, I started trying to calculate the expense: a lot! Is it worth that many municipal dollars to have a trademark? I don't know, but the streets are lovely.

The conference kicked off with the traditional day-long Common Ground-USA meeting, followed by an extensive and informative bus tour; both events, alas, were missed by this writer. CGO Festivities Proper commenced on the evening of Thursday, August 22nd, with annual reports from CGO member organizations.



Theme sessions began on Friday morning with fascinating talks by Michael Williams of Walpole Island Heritage Centre, and Chief Joe Miskokomon of the Chippewas of the Thames. The issues of indigenous peoples' land rights and sovereignty are similar around the world, but it seems that Canada has a somewhat more far-sighted policy toward its First Nations than the States. The five tribes that form the Band of Walpole Island receive annual Federal payments for their work in conserving endangered species on their land. Their status as a sovereign community is maintained, for what it's worth; they can (most of the time) cross the US-Canada border without a passport from either conquering nation. Both speakers were gently prodded by various questioners about how they might adopt an even *more* enlightened land-tenure system along Georgist lines; both clung to their dignified pragmatism. Because of his tribe's "traditional" land-tenure systems, Chief Joe Miskokomon noted, the Chippewas were unable, until very recently, to secure mortgages to buy homes. Both speakers exemplified the search for a way to participate in the modern, capitalist economy without doing irreparable violence to their traditional values.

The lunch speaker on Friday was Jim Stanford, of the Council of Canadians, an unabashed Marxist and gifted standup comic. His presentation, a narration of his day adrift in the horrendous evils of the free market, was ideologic anathema, but he did show us a thing or two about how to present an engaging talk.

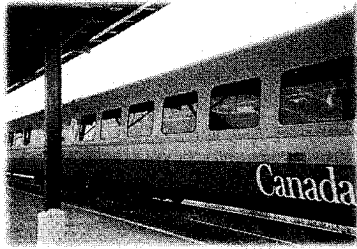
Then on Friday afternoon there were three very substantial panels. First came a collection of thoughtful papers on Peace, War and Land Rights, organized by Alanna Hartzok. Then Jeff Smith and Gerry Shaw shared a panel on the hows and whys of the "Citizens' Dividend". Finally, Mike Curtis and Lindy Davies offered a workshop on teaching *(continued on page 4)*

The CGO Joins Our Masthead!

We are pleased to report that at the 2002 conference, the Council of Georgist Organizations asked the *Georgist Journal* to be distributed to CGO members and affiliates, and the Henry George Institute (at a Board of Directors meeting conducted there) gladly agreed to do so. The *Journal* has reported extensively on CGO conferences ever since the first days of the Council, and we are very pleased to renew the association and make it formal. Apropos of this, this issue features a selection of the papers that were presented at the London conference. The *Georgist Journal* is honored to serve as the publication of three leading Georgist organizations — and we continue to invite Georgists everywhere to submit articles. — *Lindy Davies*

the effects of the Georgist remedy. We present many of these papers in this issue of the *Journal*. Friday evening, a tired but invigorated group of CGO members gathered for a strategy session, and annual business meeting.

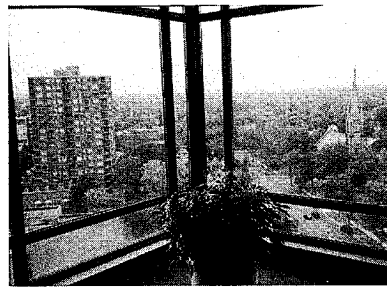
The sessions on Saturday focused on two prominent issues which link effectively with Georgist concerns: environmental sustainability, and the politics of money. First, Josh Vincent and Alanna Hartzok outlined the myriad ways in which the shift to rent-as-revenue can help communities to save energy, maximize infrastructure investment and grow sustainably.



Next up was Laurie Gallant, a consultant, entrepreneur and activist from Smithers, British Columbia. With infectious enthusiasm, she told how she had managed to raise her community's

consciousness of both the feasibility and the benefits of a zero-waste management program, something few had thought possible.

Later that evening in his keynote address, Frank de Jong, the leader of the Green Party of Ontario, offered a very heartening metaphor. He likened Canada's Green movement to a body without a head — a vital contingent of people eager to do good work, wanting an overall guiding principle. He said that the Georgist movement,



with its refined theoretical insights and tiny numbers, was like a brain without a body — and he called for a happy union of the two. If all that is true, then people like Laurie Gallant, who walk the walk locally, are certainly the movement's feet.



*At the Taste of London food festival:
another of Canada's many distinctions?*

The rest of Saturday was devoted to examination of the need for monetary reform. Former

Deputy Prime Minister Pall Hellyer forcefully narrated his conception of how the privileged cabal of international financiers run monetary policy



for concentrated gain. Bill Hulet of the Green Party outlined the limited success enjoyed by local currency movements. The talk by Steve Zarlenga on Georgist-oriented monetary reform policies is reproduced in this issue.



Frank de Jong

Along with Frank de Jong's inspiring address, the Banquet roster had other delights: suave MC-ing from Frank Peddle, and a delightful brief address by Mary Rawson. Finally, Sue Walton gave a moving affirmation of our community. Her mother had very recently passed away after a long illness; Sue's determination to be with us at such a time showed a deep regard for her "Georgist family" — and we feel the same: Sue got a standing ovation.



George Collins and John Fisher

On Sunday morning the excellent Don Hurford led Open Mike and Table Topics sessions with his usual panache. After appeals from Heather Remoff and Lindy Davies, many opened their pocketbooks to donate to the exciting, expensive Niger Delta Fund Initiative (also covered herein).



Alanna Hartzok, Mark Sullivan and Sue Walton

We offer our congratulations to John Fisher, Alanna Hartzok, and all who contributed to a conference that scored high on all counts, combining warmth and conviviality with intellectual substance and solid networking!

— *Lindy Davies*