

NEWSLETTER Amistad



CCFA Kingston Fundraising Campaign for Hurricane Dennis Relief

The day after the Terry Fox run [see page 7], Mayor Rosen hosted a luncheon for our Cuban guests and the CCFA executive. Before the luncheon, the CCFA presented Patria and Valia with \$10,000, which we had raised for hurricane reconstruction in their city, hard hit by Hurricane Dennis in July. The local media covered the event widely giving us an opportunity to thank Kingstonians publicly for their generosity. As well, Cuban Ambassador Sentí took advantage of his presence in Kingston to pay his first official visit to Queen's University with which Cuba has many ties.

Another interesting aspect of the Kingston Terry Fox Run was the presence of Guy Martel, Canadian prosthesisist, who was invited to come by Hugh Barclay, CCFA member and former colleague of Guy. Mr. Martel knew Terry Fox and, in fact, has Terry's original prosthetic leg, the one on which he ran his Marathon of Hope. People were fascinated and asked countless questions. Guy has been to Cuba in relation to his field; he also took Susan Babbitt's Jose Marti course at the University of Havana last May. He and Hugh are working on providing Cuba's Terry Fox with an artificial foot.

Kingston businesses and individuals contributed very generously to make the visit of our Cuban guests enjoyable. CCFA members took Valia and Patria into their homes, took them sight-seeing and shopping, provided transportation to and from the Toronto airport. We are exceedingly grateful to and proud of this community.

Exceptional in its efforts to help was the Sol Latino restaurant owned by Mark Kennedy and blessed with chef



CCFA Kingston Pres. Evelyn Gervan(center) presenting the cheque of \$10,000.00 to Cienfuegos representatives Valia and Patria.

par excellence, Jack Francis. Sol Latino hosted a fundraising dinner on September 4th which raised over \$800 for Hurricane Relief for Cienfuegos. That night, we also held an auction which raised enough money to pay for Patria and Valia's fares and expenses. Plans are already underway for Kingston's participation in the Terry Fox Run in Cienfuegos in March of 2006.

Cuba Evacuated Massively in Preparation for Hurricane Wilma

Havana, Oct. 19 (Prensa Latina) — Over 9,000 people were evacuated from eastern Cuba, in a warning phase for category 5 Hurricane Wilma, and more will be evacuated if the civil protection program warning extends to other provinces. Guantanamo Province tops the list, followed by Santiago de Cuba and Granma.

The alert phase was activated for Pinar del Rio, Havana Province, Havana, Matanzas and the Isle of Youth. Central provinces of Cienfuegos, Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus were on the informative phase, as Amistad went to Press.

The Cuban population was advised to pay close attention to the weather forecasts and be ready to evacuate as the Civil Defense program was in readiness.

TRAVELLING TO CUBA?

Don't forget, if you are going to Cuba, you can legally take up to 10kg of medical supplies to a specific doctor, medical/family clinic or hospital in the area where you are going. Here are two contacts to obtain the supplies.

Not Just Tourists - Toronto: 416-234-9658 or 1-888-898-8246 messages NJT_Toronto@hotmail.com

Not Just Tourists - St. Catharines: 905-646-5110
Dr. Ken & Denise Taylor kendentaylor@yahoo.ca
www.geocities.com/notjusttourists

You can also take the CCFA Toronto mini pamphlet to Cuba and pass out to interested Canadian tourists to let them know about friendship groups in Canada. Call to obtain some. 416-410-8254 or Doug 416-531-5246

MARK THE DATE!

28 January, 2006 Saturday evening

José Martí Event Cuban Dinner & Dance

Limited seating – \$25 tickets available in Nov.

We sold out last year! Call to reserve your tickets!

CCFA Toronto/ Sharon 905-951-8499

A Country in Disguise: The Real Cuba is Easy to Love *by Dave Thomas*

Next time you hear someone say, “Cuba is a poor, Third World country,” think of the irony: In Cuba, everyone can afford to go to university, but not all can afford to drink Coca Cola. In Canada and many other western countries, the opposite is true. My love affair with Cuba is much more than one night of blinding passion. Rather, it is one of respect and admiration earned over a long period of time.

I admire Cuba’s struggle to survive, to protect its sovereignty, and indeed, how it continues to advance in front of seemingly insurmountable odds. In my years of touring and exploring Cuba, using my motorcycle to access almost any area I desired, I witnessed much of the people’s struggle during what they called the Special Period — the economic collapse following the disappearance of the Soviet Union.

There is no denying life in Cuba is still very difficult. But it is slowly improving. And, it is better than life in most Latin American countries.

The 45-year-old U.S. embargo (imposed shortly after Fidel Castro took power) limits Cuba’s markets, effectively depressing prices for its exports and inflating the price of imports.

Beyond the basic monthly rations, which meet about two-thirds of a family’s needs, food purchased in Cuba’s open private markets is prohibitively expensive.

[Promoted by the government,] community owned “urban gardens” that have sprung up on vacant land in and around towns and cities have gone a long way to resolve this problem in most areas.

However, tourists who visit Cuba know that simple Aspirin can be hard to get there. But that makes me think of two Cuban friends: One, a diabetic injecting insulin, the other a leukemia patient who receives the latest U.S. patented drug, obtained through Switzerland at a cost of \$1,800 US per month.

Both get their medication free, plus a special food ration to ensure a proper diet for their condition. How would they fare in Canada, or in the U.S.? Not nearly as well, I’m afraid.

In August 1997, no sooner had I got my motorcycle out of the shipping crate and licensed for the Cuban road than I was stopped by a unilingual cop in Havana’s formerly affluent Miramar suburb. I think I made an improper turn.

He told me in Spanish what I did wrong, to which I answered: “No comprendo” and handed him the English/Spanish dictionary from my tank bag. He thumbed through the dictionary for a few seconds, then in frustration repeated my infraction in Span-

ish and let me go. Less than an hour later, I was stopped again — I didn’t know two-wheeled vehicles were banned from the tunnel under Havana Harbor! Moments like those became routine in a strange country with strange or missing signage - but good enforcement.



Through my motorcycle, I got to meet many Cuban police officers under various circumstances — speeding, driving the wrong way on a one-way street, improper turns or them just wanting to look at the bike. Not once did I get ticketed, or have a cop indicate he wanted a bribe. They would try to tell me what I was doing wrong and let me be on my way.

I have learned Cuban cities at night are wonderfully alive places. Typically, I would make my way to the main square, then try to find a “casa particular” (a bed and breakfast) close by.

Santa Clara — where a key battle in the revolution took place — was no exception. For \$25 per night, I had an air conditioned room. Unable to find secure parking for my motorcycle, the owner let me park in his living room, right next to his new furniture.

The square was full of people: Little kids dressed to the nines, riding in little carts pulled by a goat or a peddle car, for a peso while the proud parents looked on; teenagers talking; gays and lesbians congregating in their area; the old folks dancing to a live band. People of all ages enjoying a social evening.

Oh yes, and even a couple of hustlers with dubious cigars to sell to foreigners. One should never buy from these types - they are stolen or fake, perhaps containing one tobacco leaf wrapped around a tightly rolled page of the communist party newspaper.

Cuba is a relatively safe country for a tourist. There is little chance of being mugged, though in the tourist areas many an unwary tourist has lost valuables by not keeping them close at hand.

I never felt threatened at any time. Often, I would stop to ask directions of a group of men only to see they are all carrying machetes (in Cuba, they are tools, not weapons). Cuban women safely walk the streets at night. Out of the tourist areas, police presence is almost non-existent.

On one ride high up in the Sierra Escambre on dirt roads, in central Cuba, I stopped at the main square of a little town. It was a Saturday afternoon. The people were so shy - there was nothing they wanted from me and they had nothing to sell. They were so remote from tourists, they had no idea how to hustle. Finally, curiosity about the motorcycle brought the men for the

usual questions: How fast will it go? How many cylinders? How big is the engine?

Cuba has one of the best educated, healthy populations in the world. Every university graduate is guaranteed a job in the profession for which they trained. But that doesn't guarantee them wealth. In Canada, jobs that are generally considered undesirable and low paying are desirable in Cuba because they offer access to hard currency - tips increase the pay of these humble workers far beyond the salary of any highly skilled professional. This is why in Cuba, tourists often meet the taxi driver who is an engineer, or the chamber maid profesora.

Cuba's professional workforce all know they could be living a materially comfortable lifestyle in any western country. Remember, no one in Cuba has a student loan. For some people, life becomes a drive to leave Cuba by all means possible. But not for most.

Please remember, much of what you read and hear about Cuba comes through an American media filter.

The country, obviously, isn't as wealthy as the U.S. or Canada. Yet in some ways - health care, education - they have it better than we do here.

Cuba isn't the hellish place some reports would have you believe.

It's a beautiful, friendly country struggling to get by in the shadow of an unfriendly giant - something we Canadians might be able to understand.

Dave Thomas, of Ridgeway and a CCFA Niagara member, has traveled to Cuba 18 times, twice with his motorcycle for 1 1/2 years extended stays, traveling all across the island. He is available to community groups to give Power Point presentations on his Cuba experiences.

Contact him at: dthomas1@becon.org

A Portrait in Tributes on Lee Lorch's 90th Birthday

The messages came from a round the world. Organizations, individuals, poets, fellow mathematicians, artists, trade unionists lawyers, politicians, the Governor General, the P.M. all sent greetings to Lee, CCFA Toronto's Chair, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

At the celebration — a benefit, at Lee's request, for People's Voice — Keith and Zilpha Ellis were MCs, while Faith Nolan on guitar had everyone up on their feet singing solidarity songs.



Faith Nolan singing solidarity songs with the Consul General of Cuba in Toronto and others at Lee's party.

In keeping with the "Portrait" theme, Mel Zimmerman spoke of **Lee and CCNY**; Chandler Davis talked about **Lee and Science for Peace**; Miguel Figueroa told of **Lee and the Party (CPC and CPUSA)**. Martin Muldoon presented **Lee, the Scholar, the Teacher, the Colleague**. Shona Bracken described Lee's support for **the YCL**. Selwyn McLean praised Lee's contribution to the **Paul Robeson Memorial project**. Zanana Akande spoke of **Lee with the Black Community** and Doris Anderson talked about **Lee, the Feminist**. Finally, CCFA Pres. Elizabeth Hill and Cuban Consul General, Laureano Cardoso spoke of **Lee, for Cuba**.

Below, are a sprinkling of many tributes sent to Lee:

From Liisa North:

I expect to see you on your 100th birthday, persistently demanding my support for the good causes that will be benefiting from your energetic and principled attention in 2015!

From Susan Babbitt, CCFA Kingston (excerpt):

As the Cubans say, "Que seremos como el Che," some of here in Kingston say, "Let us be like Lee," with his optimism, energy and, most important, his great love for people and of life.

Letter to my Big Brother (excerpt)

Dear and admired Lee Lorch: Right now I remember something written by the unforgettable and beloved Bertold Brecht:

**There are men, who fight for a day,
And they are good.**

**There are others, who fight for a year,
And they are better.**

**There are those who fight for many years,
And they are very good.**

**But there are those who fight throughout their whole lives,
THOSE ARE THE INDISPENSABLE ONES.**

For all of us, you are and will always be one of the INDISPENSABLE ones. A warm, revolutionary embrace.

Laureano Cardoso, Consul General of Cuba, Toronto

Sex, Hurricanes, New Orleans and Cuba

by Jim Stanford, *Globe and Mail* 12 Sep/05

Any sex therapist will tell you: It's not what you've got; it's what you do with what you've got. Exactly the same principle applies in economics.

Economic headlines focus on the growth of gross domestic product (GDP). The underlying assumption — rarely stated — is that if the economy is growing, we will be better off. In reality, however, the link between economic growth (what you've got) and human well-being (what you do with it) is fuzzier than that.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not some kind of nostalgic, anti-growth hippie. We clearly need more of the goods and services that make it possible to live full, secure lives — including child care, public housing, and environmental rehabilitation (all of which add to GDP as surely as Hummers and iPods). Indeed, most social problems — such as poverty and inequality — get worse when the economy is not growing.

So economic growth produces resources that, hopefully, can be used to improve the quality of life.



But growth, in and of itself, does not do the trick. It all depends on how growth is managed, directed, and distributed.

A striking indication of this truth can be found in the UN ranking of countries according to "human development." Canada came fifth in the 2005 report (down one place from last year). The ranking is an amalgam of three different measures: life expectancy, education, and material prosperity (proxied by GDP per person). So it's a more concrete indicator of well-being than GDP, although there are still problems with the methodology (for example, it only considers average GDP, not income distribution).

There's one especially fascinating segment in the UN report, which shows the difference between a country's human-development ranking, and its ranking according to GDP per capita alone. This measures how effectively a country translates what it's "got" (in GDP terms) into actual well-being.

A positive measurement shows a country does better than average at translating economic progress into human progress; a negative number indicates the reverse. Canada's score on this measure is +2: that is, we rank slightly higher on human development grounds (fifth) than according to GDP (seventh).

The U.S. is -6: It is relatively ineffective at translating its vast material wealth into human well-being (a fact sickeningly obvious to anyone who watched TV (following the New Orleans disaster). Compassionate Sweden scores +14: Sweden tied Canada in human development, with per capita GDP that is 15 per-cent lower.

Here's the real shocker: A Caribbean island was best at converting economic output into social well-being.

Cuba ranks 52nd in the world by social progress — a full 40 places above its position in the GDP ranks. In the human development sweepstakes, therefore, little Cuba hits further above its economic weight than any other country in the world.

There are many visible indicators of Cuba's success in turning mere output into genuine progress. Its health-care and education record is comparable to developed countries, not to the Third World (Its life expectancy, for example, matches that of the U.S., and its infant mortality rate is even lower).

Cuba's response to natural disasters provides another, timely contrast. Like the U.S. Gulf Coast, Cuba experiences many hurricanes. It suffered a direct hit from the Category 5 Ivan last year. Two million people were removed (to schools, public buildings, and private homes — not lawless sports stadiums); not one person died.

Of course, free-market-lovers are spitting up their cappuccino as they read this. How could a country with central planning and Communist rule be effective at anything? And what about the virtues of "economic freedom," that is, the right to be free from taxes and government intervention. Their argument, never convincing, is suddenly downright surreal.



The residents of New Orleans were free, all right: free to be left to drown in a nursing home, or free to be robbed and murdered once the storm had passed. Fidel Castro's cheeky [*but real*] offer to send 1,100 doctors to help the U.S. with its current humanitarian crisis was predictably rejected by the Bush government.

But the island nation does us all a potentially greater service.

Even when times are tough and material wealth is scarce (as it is in Cuba), a society that pulls together and identifies the right priorities, is a society that can still do an awful lot of good for its people.

Bush Held Up Cuban Help Over Politics

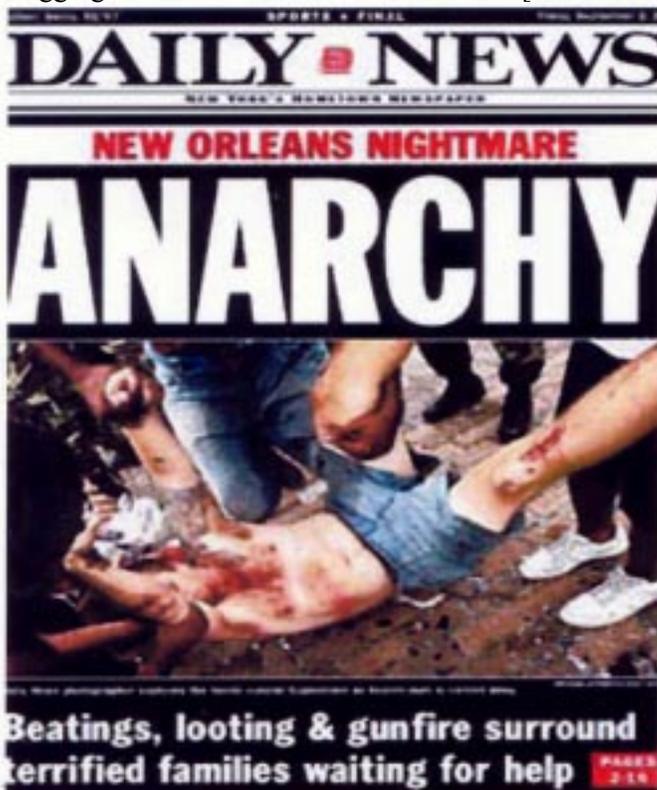
by Wayne S. Smith/ Sun-Sentinel.com 16 Sep/05 (excerpt)

What a shame. Not even in the face of the massive human suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina could the Bush administration put aside its knee-jerk rejection of anything coming out of Cuba. Only two days after the storm hit the Gulf Coast, the Cubans quietly offered humanitarian assistance. No response.

On Sept. 1, the Cuban National Assembly expressed solidarity with the American people and Sept. 2, Fidel Castro publicly offered to send some 1,100 doctors, with 25 tons of medicines and medical equipment, to the devastated areas. They could be dispatched on Cuban aircraft immediately, he said, and to emphasize that they were ready to travel, the next day had them gather at the School of Public Health with their backpacks on. He also increased the number to 1,586 doctors and the medicines to 37 tons. Castro stressed that there was no political motive behind his offer. The U.S. and Cuba had disagreements, yes, but they should now call “a time out” to address this catastrophe.

Had there been any difficulty in sending the doctors on Cuban aircraft, Fort Lauderdale-based Gulfstream Airways had immediately offered to fly them all up free of charge. “I couldn’t think of a better way to help our brothers and sisters on the Gulf Coast than to get these excellent Cuban doctors to them as quickly as possible,” said CEO Tom Cooper.

Given the desperate situation, one might have expected a rapid response from Washington. Local TV Channels in New Orleans were reporting people to be begging for doctors and medical assistance [and water/food].



But even in these dire circumstances, the Bush administration could not put aside its antipathy for anything emanating from Cuba — even if its own stricken citizens suffer for it.

Bush’s stumbling response to the hurricane has been derided by governments and media all over the world. And in its response to the Cuban offer of doctors, the Bush administration looks uncaring, inflexible and dogmatic. Cuba comes out looking responsive to the needs of the afflicted on the Gulf Coast and with a real empathy for them. In terms of P.R., Cuba wins hands down.

Wayne Smith, a former chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, is a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C.

Excerpts: According to a pair of California Paramedics (in New Orleans for a conference), the much-promised federal, state and local aid never materialized and the windows at Walgreen’s gave way to the looters – most were ordinary citizens and tourists desperate for help the Bush government said was there for them. There was an alternative. The cops could have broken one small window and distributed the nuts, fruit juices, and bottle water in an organized and systematic manner. But they did not. Instead they spent hours playing cat and mouse, temporarily chasing away the “looters.” We are willing to guess that there were no video images or front-page pictures of the European or affluent white tourists ‘looting’ in the French Quarter.

If the relief organizations had saturated the City with food and water in the first 2 or 3 days, the desperation, the frustration and the ugliness would not have set in. When individuals had to fight to find food or water, you had to do whatever it took to find water for your kids or food for your parents. When these basic needs were met, most people began to look out for each other, working together and constructing a community and sharing what they had.

But all the law enforcement agencies appeared threatened when we congregated or congealed into groups of 20 or more. In every congregation of “victims” they saw “mob” or “riot”. We felt safety in numbers and shared what we had. Our “we must stay together” was impossible because the agencies would force us into small atomized groups.

We were hiding from possible criminal elements but equally and definitely, we were hiding from the police and sheriffs with their martial law, curfew and shoot-to-kill policies. Neither would they share their water or food.

Throughout, the official government relief effort was callous, inept, and racist. There was more suffering than need be. Lives were lost that did not need to be lost.

Empathy for the Five Cuban Heroes and their Relatives in their Struggle for Justice

by Rafael Contreras, George Brown Student speaking at the Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day at Toronto City Hall

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share with you one of the most impacting experiences I had during this trip to Cuba as a member of the Canada-Cuba Volunteer Work Brigade.

We met representatives of ICAP and some relatives of the Cuban Five, during a press conference at the House of Friendship in Havana City. The names of the Cuban Five are: Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and René González. Their relatives said the Five are professionals and well-educated members of their communities — two of them, Rene and Antonio are American citizens by birth. They were captured by the FBI on September 12, 1998 in the U.S. [*and charged for espionage and finally charged with*] charges of conspiracy to commit espionage, being agents of a foreign power without disclosure and false identity. Gerardo Hernandez was even charged with conspiracy to commit murder without any substantial evidence or witness statement. [*A U.S. general testified that they were not spying on the US government so the charge was changed to “conspiracy to commit espionage”!*]

Since the first day of their arrest, they were held in solitary confinement, in punishment cells for 17 months — contrary to the standards of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of the Human Rights Declaration of the UN to which the U.S.A. is a party.

The Five were subjected to trial in Miami in a climate of bias and prejudice in the middle of a media campaign that portrayed them as enemies of society and a threat to American security. The trial was characterized by many irregularities and violations of their rights and ended in harsh conviction sentences based on speculations more than on probes, evidence and/or witnesses' statements.

The Cuban Five admitted infiltrating some Cuban-American organizations in Miami with the objective of collecting and sharing information with the FBI and Cuban Government. According to their defense statements they were working to prevent terrorist attacks such as those carried out during the 1990s by extremist Cuban-American organizations against hotels and tourist facilities in Cuba in an attempt to destroy the Cuban economy.

During this press conference in Havana, the relatives of the Five told of the recent declaration of the UN Group — a body of the Human Rights Commission which concluded that the detention of the Cuban Five is arbitrary and not correct. The relatives also told us about the decision taken by the court of Atlanta to reverse the sentencing and order a new trial. The relatives consider this decision to be a triumph of common sense.

Personally, I want to express my empathy to the Five and their relatives in their struggle for justice and freedom. As a Canadian, I feel compelled to bring this matter to the attention of those Canadians committed to the principles of social justice and respect for self-determination and for those who believe that a better world is possible and necessary.

LATEST UPDATE: The District Attorney is appealing and asking that the whole Atlanta Court reconsider the unanimous decision of the three judges. Normally if the decision is unanimous, it does not get appealed. Leading lawyers state that the decision was correct according to US laws and this is just dragging out the legal process and not admitting that it was a kangaroo court and travesty of justice. In the meantime the five prisoners are still in prison suffering inhumane treatment which contravenes US and international law on treatment of prisoners.

The protest against the imprisonment of the five Cubans who were only reporting on terrorist activities originating in the US needs to continue. The public needs to be informed of this travesty of justice.

Email, fax, letters to the editor of newspapers and other media, and to both Canadian and US government officials to keep up the pressure to do the honourable thing and have the new trial immediately. They have been imprisoned long enough for fighting against terrorism while the terrorists are walking free in the U.S. A.

The same thing is happening to the case of proven terrorist Posada. The US government is stonewalling even though CIA and FBI files support the case against Posada for terrorist activities and Venezuela's claims for extradition. The US's latest excuse for not extraditing him to Venezuela is that Posada will be tortured in Venezuela. According to news reports, persons are likely to be tortured in US custody rather than in Venezuelan.



Bernadette Dwyer, co-director/producer (along with Roberto Ruiz), of “Mission Against Terror” at a press conference in Toronto. The impressive documentary is about the Cuban Five and US-based terrorism against Cuba. It was shown across Canada.

CCFA Kingston and Cienfuegos Collaborate in the Terry Fox Run *by Evelyn Gervan*

When the Kingston delegation visited Cuba last November to formalize the twinning of our city with Cienfuegos, the Canadian Ambassador to Cuba, Alexandra Bugailiskis, suggested that an exchange of participants in our respective Terry Fox Runs might be an effective and heart-warming way to solidify our new sisterhood. She was correct!

In March of this past year, several CCFA members and other Kingstonians went to Cienfuegos to take part in the run there (Cuba has the largest Terry Fox Run outside of Canada); and, on September 18, two members of the Cienfuegos Municipal Assembly participated in our event. Patria Quintero and Valia Stable were with us for nine informative, fun-filled days.



left to right: 1st row, Patria and Valia from Cienfuegos, Diamela Prado from ICAP in Havana, 2nd row, Ambassador Ernesto Sentí and his wife Margarita and daughter Patricia.

Also in town for the Terry Fox Run were the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Ernesto Sentí, his wife, Consul at the Embassy, Margarita Valle, his daughter, Patricia as well as two Cuban journalists from Havana who filmed the proceedings. Our Cuban guests were very warmly received by Kingstonians; they were introduced to the large gathering of participants during the opening ceremony and invited to say a few words to the citizens of their Canadian sister city. The Mayor of Kingston, Harvey Rosen, was also on hand for the welcoming

ceremony and the run.



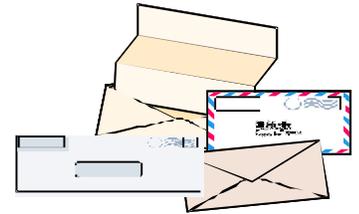
The Ambassador in discussion with our Mayor Harvey Rosen and his fiancée Sharon Monson

Brien Young, a member writes:

Every time I find out something new relating to Cuba, I usually figure everyone else knows about it, but here goes.

Most of the people I know in Cuba don't even have a phone let alone Internet service. To mail a letter to them can take months to get there and just as long to get back. Sometimes this can stretch into 6 months. By then I am no longer sure what I wrote them about.

Recently I tried out a service whereby I write an email that goes to Habana where it gets printed and dropped in the local post.



I had an answer back within 5 weeks! The unbelievable thing about this service is that it costs less than Canada Post. Canada Post is \$1.45+ gst = \$1.55 This service costs about \$1.40CAD (\$1 Cuban Convertible Peso)

The outfit is called MailtoCuba. Their instructions on how to get started are a bit wonky but they immediately stepped in and helped me when I started.

Basically it works as follows:

Register to get an account with them. Your email is your ID and you select a password. Buy a few 'Cyberstamps' (cost is \$1CUC each). They tell you the minimum purchase of the stamps. You send them a money order (in Thunder Bay, no less) or now use a credit card. They credit you with stamps upon receipt of the money. You can then set up some addresses and send letters at \$1 CUC per letter (up to about 500 words).

They of course hope that you will avail yourself of their other services such as replies (at \$3 CUC but if it is urgent, why not.) sending pictures (\$5CUC, ouch!)

Other things they do:

You can send or receive letters, telegrams, postcards, and even receive voice mail on your computer. There is now an express service to deliver letters, photos, postcards under 24 hours that you send them (in certain areas only).

They say they also can translate the letters. From English to Spanish - cost per 100 words \$1 CUC.

From Spanish to English. - cost per 50 words \$1 CUC.

There are links to: [Cash2Cuba/](#) [Medicines2Cuba/](#) [ifts2Cuba](#)

Their website is: www.mailtocuba.com

or: www.escriba.com/eng/hompages.asp

Check out their rates. Let the CCFA Toronto know how it works for you.

NOTICE OF CHANGE for any Bookmarks of pages of the CCFA Toronto website: If you have bookmarked any of the www.ccfatoronto.ca website pages, there will be a change.

When you enter the website address www.ccfatoronto.ca, your computer automatically goes to our website host's URL homepage for the CCFA Toronto which is: www.web.net/~ccfatoronto/index.htm

As of Sunday, Nov 13, 10pm, the CCFA Toronto webpage address structure will be changed and simplified. The homepage URL address is still the same: www.web.net/~ccfatoronto/index.htm

But all previously bookmarked webpage URL's will become invalid because we have removed the "english", "french", & "spanish" folder levels above root.

After Sunday, Nov 13th at 10pm, please enter the CCFA Toronto homepage URL and navigate to the pages that you like and bookmark them again. This way you will have the new webpages properly bookmarked.

**John Samuel Kerr
(April 5, 1945-October 15, 2005)**

CCFA Toronto extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of John Kerr, a good friend of Cuba, who served on the CCFA Toronto executive for several years. John, a former teacher at Stephen Leacock C.I. for over 25-years, active in his union and much loved by his students.

John leaves behind his daughters Jenny and Katie, son-in-law Mike, granddaughter Paris, former wife Alana, as well as siblings Jana and Gordon in Montreal. In Cuba, he leaves behind his wife Yoilsa, her daughter Ilse, and their ten-month-old son John Fidel Kerr.

**The 60th Anniversary
Celebration of Canada-
Cuba Diplomatic Relations**

was well-attended. Everyone enjoyed the evening, especially the Cuban guitarist Elvira Maria Skourtis and the Wally Brooker Jazz Quartet. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the evening a success!

Donations to the Cuban Hurricane Relief fund were generous and gave a chance for the air tickets donated by Cubana Airlines. It was won by M. Ueberschar of Toronto.



Six-year-old Patricia Senti Valle, daughter of Cuban Ambassador Ernesto Senti and his wife Consul Margarita Valle, danced the night away at the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and Cuba.

CCFA TORONTO STATEMENT The Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto is active in promoting friendship, respect and co-operation between Canadian and Cuban peoples. Our activities are directed to providing info/events about Cuba to the public in areas such as culture, health, education, sports, etc., to defend both Cuban and Canadian sovereignty from U.S. interference and to end the illegal U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Amistad Editorial Committee

Editor: Ann Nicholson
Assoc. Editor: Ardis Harriman Prod: Sharon Skup
Distribution: Doug Oyler, Diane Bell
Amistad is a bi-monthly newsletter of the CCFA Toronto produced with volunteer labour. The Editorial Cmte reserves the right to edit submitted material. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial staff. We encourage everyone interested to submit media articles, editorial ideas or letters. *Produced with volunteer labour/Photocopied by union employees.* Deadlines the 10th of every even month.



**CCFA TORONTO
APPLICATION**

? Time to Renew ? If you think it's time to renew your membership but you are not sure if it has expired, check your mailing label. The month and year when your membership expires will be indicated. Help us keep the CCFA Toronto going by keeping your membership dues up to date.

MEMBERSHIP (Membership includes subscription to the bi-monthly Amistad Newsletter)

◆ Please Print

- I wish to join the CCFA Toronto
 I wish to renew my membership
 I only want the Amistad Newsletter (Annual fee, \$15 or \$5 below)

ANNUAL FEES

- Individual \$15
 Couple \$25
 Unwaged Ind. \$ 5

DONATIONS

- I wish to donate \$ _____ to help the CCFA Toronto
 I wish to donate \$ _____ for medical/educational projects or supplies to Cuba & receive a Charitable Tax Receipt (Under both Mackenzie-Papineau & CCFA Toronto names)

Name _____
(Provide complete name for tax receipt for donations)

Address _____

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Province _____ Postal code _____

Telephone _____
(area code)

Fax _____

E-mail _____