

# PROLIFE SOCIETY



## Prince George ProLife Society

This newsletter is a publication of the ProLife Society of Prince George.

Office hours: 9 am to 9 pm

**President:** Laura Fowlie  
**Secretary:** Patricia O'Neill  
**Treasurer:** Tracy Pfannmuller

### Board of Directors:

Lorraine Lawrence  
Rolande Matte  
Jacquie Ollenberger  
Suzanne Fowlie

### Contact us:

PO Box 2333  
Prince George BC V2N 2J8

Phone: 250-561-1148  
Fax: 250-561-1148  
E-mail: [info@pgprolife.com](mailto:info@pgprolife.com)

We're on the Web!  
[www.pgprolife.com](http://www.pgprolife.com)

## Coming Events

### August 2008

7-10 PGX ProLife Booth

### October 2008

5 Life Chain  
AGM Date TBA

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to summer! It certainly has been a long time in coming but, hopefully, this warmer weather will stay around for at least a couple more months. I hope you are enjoying your summer and that you are finding it to be both relaxing and rejuvenating.

As you sit back, put your feet up and read this newsletter, there are a couple of recent events that I wish to address. The first, as you may already know, is the awarding of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civic award, to the abortionist and abortion activist, Henry Morgentaler. The Order of Canada, according to its website, "recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation." It is awarded to those individuals who "have enriched the lives of others." More specifically, Dr. Morgentaler was given this award "for his commitment to increased health care options for women, his determined efforts to influence Canadian public policy and his leadership in humanist and civil liberties organizations." How is it that this man who was personally responsible for the overturning of Canada's abortion law, which has led directly to the death of more than 2,000,000 unborn babies and

to the emotional and physical harm of untold numbers of women, would receive the accolades of a hero?

Let me take you back to February of this year, when LifeSiteNews originally reported that a group of abortion supporters were trying to force an Order of Canada nomination for Henry Morgentaler. When the word got out, there was a public outcry against his nomination for this prestigious honour. The Globe and Mail then conducted an online poll that asked if Dr. Morgentaler should or should not receive this award. Out of 300,000 responses, 8% of the respondents were for his nomination while 92% were against.

On February 20, the Office of the Governor General, who is responsible for granting this award, sent out a media release with the listing of the award's recipients for 2008. Dr. Morgentaler's name was not included on this list. Many felt, at that time, that the voice of the Canadian people had been heard, listened to and respected.

Unfortunately, that was not the case as, behind the scenes, this nomination was covertly addressed and brought to a

vote. Traditionally, in the voting process for the Order of Canada, the Advisory Committee comes to a consensus for each recipient. This decision, throughout the award's history, has not been known to have been anything less than a unanimous agreement. In this instance, however, there was dissension amongst the committee members and it is reported that the chair of the committee, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Beverley McLachlin, made the decision to forego the unanimous vote and to go instead with a majority vote, allowing the appointment of Morgentaler.

This process has been a total travesty and it has debased and devalued all that the Order of Canada represents. I urge you to express your outrage by contacting the Prime Minister's Office (email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca) or phone: 613-992-4211) and asking him to denounce the decision to award this honour to Morgentaler. Also, contact the offices overseeing the Order of Canada (email: [info@gg.ca](mailto:info@gg.ca) or phone: 1-800-465-6890) to formally register your complaint with the members of the Advisory Council and with the Governor General, who also endorsed this appoint

. . .cont Page 2

COME SEE US AT  
**THE PGX**  
August 7-10

The ProLife Society will need volunteers to be in the booth. Shifts are 4 hours each:

10 AM TO 2 PM      2 PM TO 6 PM      6 PM TO 9 PM

Two people are needed for each shift. If you can help by taking a shift, please call Laura at 250-563-3874.

---

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

ment. Stress that you want to see this matter redressed and the Order of Canada revoked. Another option available is to visit [www.ipetitions.com/petition/morgantaler/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/morgantaler/), Campaign Life Coalition's site to register your name on an online petition (you do not need to make the requested donation). Letters to your Member of Parliament and to the editors of local newspapers are also encouraged as a visible sign to our government and to society that this is not an issue we will take lying down.

The second recent event that I want to share with you comes from an announcement just released by Pro Life BC. On June 14, its Board of Directors unveiled, at a group gathering, Pro Life BC's new image and branding initiative. The name of this organization has now been changed to Signal Hill. I will quote much of the rest of the announcement, as sent by Executive Director Yvonne Douma, to be sure that the intent of the message is intact and is as intended. "Signal Hill was the reception point of the first transatlantic wireless sig-

nal by Guglielmo Marconi in 1901. The idea of the location of the first successful message in Canada being delivered into the unknown is a wonderful analogy for the organization. Its work will involve reaching out to inform, to communicate and to advise from a position of hope and promise. Sending out a signal is a commonly understood notion. A hill is commonly understood as higher ground. Therefore, the notion of taking the higher ground or seeking the high road is implicit. Sending out a signal allows one to establish their own message."

"This name is non-specific and has no direct association with any pro-life-related agenda. It represents an idea of clarity, poise, singular intent and mission while at the same time drawing inquiry and promoting open dialogue with the population at large."

"Though the main mission of Signal has not changed, the organization hopes that the re-branding will open doors that have formerly been closed. It hopes to eliminate the barriers that arise from pre-conceived

misconceptions so that the message of life can be heard and understood across all levels of society."

Yvonne Douma invites you to visit their website at [www.thesignalhill.com](http://www.thesignalhill.com) to look over their first few pages of information and to share your comments. I encourage you to take them up on their offer and to let your views be known.

As for myself, I fully understand their desire to get the message out in a way that will be better received by all. I'm just not yet convinced that changing the organization's name is the best way for this to be accomplished. I sincerely hope to be proven wrong.

I have given you much food for thought and have asked for your generous assistance with numerous tasks. I certainly appreciate whatever you are able to do and, as always, you have my heartfelt gratitude!

Laura Fowlie, President

---

**WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMME IN UGANDA "SABOTAGED" BY WESTERN "EXPERTS"**

**Western advisors used their control of international funding to force a change in direction to condoms and casual sex**

By Hilary White

KAMPALA, Uganda, July 11, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - While the US Senate considers a proposal to allocate US\$50 million more for AIDS prevention programmes, one Ugandan expert says it will be wasted money if the attitudes of the Western AIDS prevention community towards AIDS transmission do not change. In a column appearing in the Washington Post on June 30, one of Uganda's leading AIDS prevention experts called on the Western "experts" to "Let my people go."

"We understand that casual sex is dear to you, but staying alive is dear to us. Listen to African wisdom, and we will show you how to prevent AIDS."

Sam L. Ruteikara wrote in the Washington Post that efforts to maintain the world's most successful AIDS prevention programme was "sabotaged" by precisely those Western "experts" who insisted that only condoms would work.

Ruteikara is the co-chair of Uganda's National AIDS-Prevention Committee. He wrote in a column in the Washington Post

on June 30, "AIDS epidemics in Africa are driven by people having sex regularly with more than one person." The Western experts, dedicated to the exclusive promotion of condoms, were incensed when Ugandan AIDS rates plummeted with this "ABC" method that left condoms as a "last resort".

The success of the Ugandan programme, Ruteikara said, did not sit well with those international experts and advisors, sent to Uganda to oversee the spending of international relief funds, who are devoted to the condom as the first and last answer to the AIDS epidemic.

Despite the official line that Western "advisors" were to work within local programmes, these experts, Ruteikara asserted, actively stonewalled the Ugandan committee's recommendations. The Western advisors objected that the programme was an attempt "to limit people's sexual freedom" and they used their control of the international funding to force a change in direction.

"Repeatedly, our 25-member prevention committee put faithfulness and abstinence

into the National Strategic Plan that guides how PEPFAR [President's Emergency Plan for HIV-AIDS Relief] money for our country will be spent. Repeatedly, foreign advisers erased our recommendations. When the document draft was published, fidelity and abstinence were missing."

More insidiously, Ruteikara says that a "suspicious" statistic appeared in reports that claimed a significant increase in rates of AIDS among married couples. The claim was that 42 per cent of married couples were infected, a rate twice that of prostitutes. Repeated requests for the origin of this statistic were ignored. Domestic surveys done by Ugandan health officials found that only 6.3 per cent of married couples are infected, lower even than rates among widowed and divorced Ugandans.

Since the Ugandans were forced to change their programmes, surveys have shown that the percentage of sexually active men with multiple partners has more than doubled, undoing earlier declines, and the AIDS rate has begun to climb again.

The Ugandan success story is one of the

...cont.

cont...

most impressive in the fight against AIDS. Between 1989 and 1995, the number of men having three or more sexual partners in a year dropped from 15 to three per cent and HIV rates plunged from 21 percent in 1991 to 6 percent in 2002. At the same time, Western nations brought more than 2 billion condoms on Africa and the epidemic continued in nations that went along with the condoms-only approach.

The motive for opposing the Ugandan initiative, Ruteikara said, was financial as well

as ideological. "In the fight against AIDS, profiteering has trumped prevention," he said. "AIDS is no longer simply a disease; it has become a multibillion-dollar industry."

Ruteikara's assertions are supported by Dr. James Chin, a former top AIDS epidemiologist at the World Health Organization, who said, "Easily preventable diseases are still killing millions of children each year, while billions of dollars are being squandered annually by AIDS programs."

Robert England, head of the charity Health Systems Workshop said in the British Medi-

cal Journal, "Although HIV causes 3.7 per cent of [worldwide] mortality, it receives 25 per cent of international health care aid."

Ruteikara concluded, "Telling men and women to keep sex sacred – to save sex for marriage and then remain faithful – is telling them to love one another deeply with their whole hearts. Most HIV infections in Africa are spread by sex outside of marriage: casual sex and infidelity. The solution is faithful love."

"We, the poor of Africa, remain silenced in the global dialogue. Our wisdom about our own culture is ignored."

## FORMER EUTHANASIA PETITIONER NOW SAYS "DON'T GIVE UP ON LIFE", AS SURGERY BRINGS NEW HOPE

By Peter J. Smith

PALAMPUR, India, July 11, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - An brilliant Indian engineering graduate bedridden by crippling rheumatoid arthritis for the past 15 years now has new hope for life and says she regrets ever having petitioned for euthanasia.

India's press agencies report that Seema Sood, 37, is now walking again for the first time since 1993, when advanced rheumatoid arthritis left her completely debilitated and horribly deformed all her joints. Two years ago, she petitioned the President of India for "mercy killing," a plea she is now thankful went unanswered.

The India Times reports Seema, a gold medalist from the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani, underwent total knee replacement (TKR) surgery that lets her walk once more, after the state Himachal government and her alumni association came forward with funds to replace all her joints.

"I regret the letter to the President," a now hope-filled Seema told the Times. "Everything was so dark for me earlier, but I am excited about my mobility now and I am confident I will improve." Seema told Express India that before the surgery lifted her from despair, she had lived in a world "full of pain for the last 15 years."

"All I could do was sit or lie down on my bed and take a few faltering, painful steps to go to the toilet. It was a very depressing state of affairs for us and many a times, I would wonder what the point of existing like this is," she said.

Dr. Manuj Wadhwa, Senior Consultant, Orthopedic Surgeon, at Fortis Hospital, who performed the TKR surgery on Seema, told Express India that all Seema's joints - including small joints in her hands and feet - were "deformed, swollen and painful."

"When Seema first came to Fortis, she was bedridden, bound to the wheel-chair and severely depressed because of the state of her life at such a young age. She weighed only 40 kg," added Dr Wadhwa. "Her case was complex because she had multiple joint involvements, her bones were severely fragile and her muscles were atomic and weak because she had been immobile for many years. It was a very challenging and rare case."

However Seema's attitude has completely changed. "There is a ray of hope for everyone in life, no matter how big the problem he or she may be facing. A positive attitude can be of immense help," said Seema.

The Times reports that one of Seema's biggest regrets has been spending the years in dejection instead of finding fulfil-

ment by putting to use her twin masters degrees in engineering sciences and information technology.

Seema now teaches math and chemistry to children of her hometown and will undergo surgeries over the next six months to replace the rest of her joints, including the elbows, shoulders, and hips.

"Don't give up on life. That's what I say," Seema told the Times before returning to her hospital room.

Alison Davis, a coordinator within the British charity Society for the Protection of the Unborn (SPUC), who also suffers with spina bifida, commented that had Seema chosen euthanasia, she would have been robbed of the chance to "to benefit from the surgery which revolutionized her life, and no one would have known that life held something better for her in the future."

"She is not the only vulnerable person who has changed her mind about wanting to die," said Davis. "I've been through the same experience myself."

"What sick and disabled people who want to die really need is the sort of help and support which Mrs. Sood received both from politicians and her friends. Note well, politicians. Your actions could save a life like Mrs. Sood's rather than condemning her and others to death."

## BOOK REVIEW OF MICHAEL O'BRIEN'S "ISLAND OF THE WORLD"

July 11, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - *Island of the World* is the saga of a young Croatian boy, raised in a tiny mountain village of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is the only son of deeply religious and patriotic parents. At age 12 he is sent on an emergency errand to the nearest village, 15 kilometers away. Upon his return home, days later, he finds only the smoldering ruins of the village and all its inhabitants, including his own father

and mother, who have been brutally murdered.

This horrid experience benumbs the boy. He enters into a spiritual and mental no-man's-land, rendered unable to pray or to communicate with anyone. He then sets off on an aimless foot pilgrimage.

This is the beginning of a series of events that bring about a gradual healing and return to normal life. The boy joins a clan-

destine group that aims at freeing Communist Yugoslavia from the brutal and oppressive yoke of godless tyranny, and he marries Ariadne, the daughter of the leader of this group.

But this is only the beginning of the saga of Josip Lasta, our hero. With uncanny historical and political insights, author Michael O'Brien has created another narrative told .

cont...

cont...

in wonderful, often gripping, and frequently surprising and moving detail.

The work contains of a great number of dramatic events, all in an historical setting beginning in the opening years of WWII, with various factions in former Yugoslavia at war with each other and with the German and Italian occupiers. We follow Josip's wanderings, his settled life, a disastrous imprisonment and subsequent events in distinct episodes, which lead to an ever increasing ripening and matur-

ing of his character and growth in faith. He is on a pilgrimage "passing through the arid valley, making a spring of it.... He goes from strength to strength and shall see the God of gods in Sion," to paraphrase Psalm 83.

Josip's greatest and most rewarding life experience comes in old age, when he comes to understand at last that throughout all his sufferings he has lived in a mysterious way with Christ. There is the sensible awareness of his union with the divine, all of which he humbly and wisely discusses with a priest, a director of souls.

This book comes highly recommended by eminent authors and scholars; you won't, however, find it on the New York Times best seller's list. But to me, this lack of approval by the popular media and literary gurus is its highest recommendation, for this magnificent, fascinating and life affirming story brings out facts and truths that are a challenge to our consciences and a spur to grow beyond our often shallow and individualistic lifestyles. It contains gems of wisdom and insight accessible to all.

Prince George  
ProLife Society  
  
Box 2333  
Prince George BC V2N 2J8  
  
Phone: 250-561-1148  
Fax: 250-561-1148  
E-mail: info@pgprolife.com



**Life Chain 2008**

**A peaceful, prayerful witness to the truth about abortion**

along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from PGRH to Central

Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:00 pm

for further information and church contact person phone Laura 250-563-3874

Please contact the ProLife Society if you wish to make an "In Honour" donation or to arrange for "In Memorium" donations for your loved one.

**In Honour Donations**

What better way to honour a special person or occasion (perhaps a birthday, wedding anniversary or holiday) than by helping others? An honour donation provides a significant way to bring recognition to a living friend or loved one by helping a cause that has an impact in your community. Once a donation is made, the ProLife Society will send a letter to the honouree acknowledging your contribution. You will also receive a letter confirming your donation.

**In Memorium Donations**

Nothing can ever replace the loss of a friend or loved one, but we can commemorate their life with a tribute reminding us that they are not forgotten. Memorial donations are typically made in memory of a deceased family member, friend or coworker. A memorial donation is a fitting way to remember a special person while at the same time helping others. The ProLife Society responds to memorial donations by sending a letter to the deceased's family acknowledging the donation, as well as sending notification to the donor acknowledging the gift has been received and notification has been sent to the deceased's family.

PRINCE GEORGE  
**PROLIFE**  
SOCIETY

www.pgprolife.com

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: New  Renewal  (Membership year starts from AGM in October)

Individual/Family \$24  Senior/Student \$12  Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please send cheque to: **Prince George ProLife Society, PO Box 2333, Prince George BC V2N 2J8**  
Note: Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations. If you wish to receive a tax receipt, please make your donation a separate cheque, payable to **BC Pro Life**, noting "Prince George" on the memo line, and send to the above address.