

KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP PEACE COUNCIL REPORT

1985

KSPC is open to any individual or organization, regardless of philosophical, religious, or political outlook, which subscribes to the need for a secure and lasting global peace through disarmament.

The Council is a member of the B.C. Peace Council, Canadian Peace Congress, and through them the World Peace Council.

KSPC has a nominal dues structure of \$10 per member per year; a sustaining membership and organizational membership of \$25 per year. We waive dues if a member is unable to pay and sincerely wishes to be an active member.

We have had several fund raising efforts, e.g.; "Coffee House for Peace", tables at flea markets and bazaars, yard sales, etc. However, our most recent project, the "Peace Bear" has been very popular and we have received several requests for them. They sell as fast as we can make them. The bear is a teddy bear, which we make for under \$7, and market at \$15. He wears a big red ribbon, a peace button, and a card which reads, "A Peace Bear", inside the card says "Teach peace. Boycott war toys" and the back has the address of the Peace Council on it.

We are constantly in need of money as we produce a bi-monthly news letter, a weekly TV show on Channel 10, the community cable, and buy or rent films or cassettes for educational purposes, news ads, etc.

We have been invited to speak and show films, etc. at union meetings, high school classes, and other groups, who are trying to organize peace groups in the area.

Our Council has four main events throughout the year. In January, we hold a Seminar for Peace, which has become very popular as many people are unable to attend seminars at the coast due to travel costs, etc. We have had two successful seminars to date, and we are currently planning our third.

The second event takes place in the spring, our annual Peace Walk, which corresponds with the big "Walk" in Vancouver. We began five years ago with thirty people, and have grown to over 500 last year, with Project Ploughshares, Labour Council and the Unions co-sponsoring the event. We have speakers and music at the rally after the "Walk" and KSPC sets up an information booth.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil takes place in August, as near to the 6th as possible at the Cenotaph. It is a candlelight ceremony, which we like to be very quiet. Speakers speak briefly on the need for peace and we play a few peace songs. Ploughshares and Ba'Hai co-sponsor this event.

The fourth item is U.N. Disarmament Week. We try to plan an event in the last week of October to publicize this week, usually showing a public film with a social after.

KSPC also participates in any ongoing campaigns organized by other groups, such as the recent nation wide petitions.

This year we tried PAND's Shadow Project". It was well received generally. We even had a favourable editorial in the Kamloops News regarding the project. We felt that we made a few mistakes, such as the paint was a little more permanent than intended. It was suggested that if we do the project next year, we would use straight white wash.

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The "Coffee House for Peace" was fun. We brought Tom Hawken in from Vancouver, and also invited local musicians to play. We didn't raise as much money as we should have because the event wasn't publicized far enough in advance and we probably charged too small an entrance fee.

We started a "Boycott War Toys campaign" last winter. We printed leaflets and distributed them at shopping malls, and spoke to the managers of the department stores about our concerns. We also wrote letters to the editors of the local papers asking people not to buy war toys. This was well received and we had a lot of support from people, who don't normally get involved in peace groups activities, as well as our regular people. The Peace Bear fit right into the campaign.

We participated in the Star Wars Campaign, handing out leaflets and asking people to write to their M.P., the P.M., etc. We put an ad in the paper also, co-sponsored by the Labour Council and the Unions.

We held rallies after each Cruise test this spring. In spite of the miserable weather, we were able to get at least thirty people out to each demo as well as the press. Messages of protest were sent to the government.

Tools for Peace is another project that we helped with by gathering clothes and money. We will assist in this project again this fall.

Next spring, we will be holding a Song Festival, with a prize offered for the best new peace song. This is still in the planning stages, so we will forward information as things are finalized.

Ploughshares holds an annual Christmas Eve Walk from the United Church to City Hall. KSPC encourages all our members to join in. They have speakers and sing carols. KSPC is usually invited to have a speaker. It is surprising how many people turn out on this busy day. We're hoping that they will continue the Walk as it is very popular and moving event.

WE feel that it is important to attend any peace event sponsored by other groups such as Ploughshares, or Ten Days for World Development to form an alliance with them.

All in all- we find that we keep very busy, and the Council is starting to grow because of our diversified activities.

C. Ferguson
Secretary, KSPC