

# Letters to the Editor

## SITE 41 VICTORY

Congratulations on winning the moratorium (and probably closure) of Dump Site 41 in Tiny Township, Simcoe County, Ontario. Everyone did a superb job – it was such a great effort by so many.

**Gloria Drummond** (a proud member)  
Port Dover, Ontario

## TIME TO GET RID OF NAFTA

There is often talk of renegotiating NAFTA in your magazine. NAFTA needs to be scrapped. NAFTA is an oxymoron – any agreement that allows another country to flood our markets with their products, dismantle and take over our businesses, industries and jobs, pollute our environment and deplete our resources does not promote freedom.

The Mulroney Government brought in Free Trade, then ran a deficit every year they were in office. Where is the benefit? We have been struggling to maintain the status quo ever since. Obviously it has not been good for Canada. I hope we can educate Canadians into electing a government that works for Canadians, and puts our interests first.

**Edward Pitt**  
Dawson Creek, B.C.

## IS IT CLASS WARFARE?

I am not an economist, and write from the perspective of a small business owner. I find the statement that the Thatcher government created unemployment in the 1980s and brought us to the present financial crisis untenable (The Economic Crisis as Class Warfare, *Canadian Perspectives*, Summer 2009). I have seen how computers in my business have enabled us to perform more tasks with fewer people over the last 30 years. Perhaps Thatcher could foresee a future where people in developing countries would take over the manufacturing of the world.



Meera Karunanathan

People fill up with public tap water at the Ottawa Folk Festival this summer. The Council of Canadians hosted a water station to talk about the importance of public water after the festival banned all bottled water from the event.

The question, “How can you maintain family spending when incomes are falling?” I find laughable. The smart thing to do when your income falls is to spend less, not go to the bank to borrow money or ask the government for a bigger handout. And I find the argument that we should encourage class struggle, rather than personal responsibility, a dangerous prospect.

**Bernice Davidson**  
West Vancouver, B.C.

## PROTECTIONISM ISN'T BAD

I want to comment on Jim Stanford's article “The P-Word Isn't Killing World Trade” in the Summer issue of *Canadian Perspectives*. It was refreshing to read his article, and Jim is entirely right. A lot has been said from the free trade camp about the ills and evils of protectionism. Sadly, most of their argument and proclamations are unfounded and inaccurate. The idea that protectionism caused the Great Depression is a perfect example of this. The Smoot Hawley Tariff, which is often pointed to as the cause, wasn't even passed until June 17, 1930, which was a full six months after the stock market crash of October 1929. The argument

doesn't hold water. Also despite decades of free trade, there seems to be an utter lack of evidence that any nation has prospered as a result. The fact is there is little evidence of free trade being successful and ample proof to show it to be a failure. The suggestion that protectionism is somehow at fault is not only unsubstantiated but it is false and misleading. Very much like the promises we were given about the benefits of NAFTA – all false and misleading.

**Shane Mussche**  
Hamilton, Ontario

## Send us your letters!

If you have something to say about an article you have read in *Canadian Perspectives*, or an issue you think would interest our readers, please write to us. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and length. Letters must include your full name, address and phone number.

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