



Kawartha World Issues Centre

Spring Newsletter 2005

A Spring Address from Our Chair

by Jim Abel, KWIC Chair

KWIC has been very active since the Annual General Meeting last November, organizing activities and events, such as International Development Week and the April Fool's Art Auction, collaborating with Trent departments to provide workshops for the Food and Rural Development Conference, and recruiting and engaging our many volunteers.

In addition to strengthening our links with Trent where we reside, we have endeavoured to solidify established partnerships with like-minded agencies such as OPIRG, the New Canadians Centre, and local schools, among others. We have also been working to create new valuable and interesting affiliations with Sadleir House, Trent Women's Centre, and the Peterborough AIDS Research Network (PARN). As KWIC becomes better known in the community, we become more able to reach a wider audience when promoting local events.

I am grateful to KWIC's dedicated Board members who take on tasks with energy and good humour. Our roster of enthusiastic volunteers adds greatly to our capabilities as well. Thanks to both longtime and recent supporters for your financial and vocal backing. A huge thank you goes to Program Director Julie Cosgrove. Efficiency, creativity, generosity, approachability all held together with a smile make Julie an excellent catalyst.

After a brief summer hiatus, we are looking forward to gearing up again in the fall.

Sincerely,
Jim Abel

Come on out to this year's KWIC AGM!

At the
Peterborough Public Library
Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Be sure to watch for more details!

KWIC's Mandate:

KWIC is a community-based, non-profit, charitable global education and resource centre, serving the Peterborough and surrounding communities.

KWIC promotes dialogue and understanding of world issues to enable people to engage in positive social and environmental change.

Board of Directors (2004-2005):

Jim Abel, Chair
Kate Eales
Hassan Gardezi
Rick Lambert, Treasurer
Joan Smith
Debbie Morales, Secretary
Sheila Nabigon-Howlett
Daniel Bastien
Hermioni Rivison

KWIC Office will be
closed June 20th, 2005 to
August 22nd, 2005.

*Sensational Summer to
Everyone!*

Check out the Community Calendar at www.trentu.ca/kwic and click on the revolving globe. Submit your community events to kwic@trentu.ca.

Food and Rural Development

by Hermione Rivison

On March 11, 2005 a conference was held at Trent University sponsored by the Canadian Association for Studies in International Development and Trent IPE Centre, entitled *Food and Rural Development: Global and Local Perspectives*. KWIC provided trained volunteers to lead breakout groups at the end of the day to facilitate discussion and feedback. Participants were invited to reflect upon new learnings and to explore opportunities for action on the Environment, Global Trade, Local Food Systems and World Debt. The conference examined issues concerning the globalization of our planet's food system and subsequent implications locally and also within the context of developing countries.

Report from the Traveling World

by Sheila Nabigon-Howlett

It was a first for Peterborough – and hopefully the beginning of an annual film festival to gladden the mind, heart and spirit in the dead of winter. KWIC was a proud sponsor of the first *Traveling World Community Film Festival (Peterborough)* this year. The two-day festival, January 28/29, 2005 kicked off International Development Week. The 33 documentaries and feature films were brought to Peterborough by a broad coalition of local and global concerns. Three venues were used: Cinema 379, Gordon Best Theatre, and Cossars Art Studio. The festival, with \$20 passes (\$10 students/unwaged) was hugely successful, with sell-out screenings. Check the **Community Calendar** for passes on sale for next year's festival, in the pre-Christmas Season, so we can all imagine a better world!

Notes from the US Fair Trade Convergence

by Pat Clark

This past February I had the privilege of being chosen as the KWIC-sponsored attendee at the annual *United Students for Fair Trade (USFT) Convergence* in Chicago, IL. The USFT is a US-wide campus and high school based activist organization working to further the availability of Fair Trade products in schools and build links between Fair Trade producers in the South to students, community groups and businesses in the North. More broadly, the USFT works to educate consumers on what Fair Trade is and why it is important while pressuring businesses to retail more Fair Trade products. The work USFT is doing is connected strongly to the organization with which I am involved through the OPIRG working group: Fair Trade Trent. By attending the USFT Convergence I was able to network and share ideas about how to improve our own outreach and campaigning.

I was both impressed and encouraged by the outstanding job the USFT organizers did structuring the Convergence. A thoughtful balance of workshops included workshops conducted by producers of Fair Trade products from the Global South, workshops on the nuts and bolts of the economics and certification process behind Fair Trade and workshops on strategy and organizing. Significant time was also allotted for regional organizing and action planning which led to an effective model. The Convergence was an open and honest space to ask the tough questions about the Fair Trade movement and how it fits into a larger vision of social justice. The Convergence generated an atmosphere of learning to action, which in my opinion will generate change, sustainable activism and a more just world.



"Pick battles big enough to matter; small enough to win."

Jonathan Kozol

**Beautiful Hemptown
KWIC/TIP t-shirts
are still available at
SPEAK VOLUMES
at 446 George St. N**

**All proceeds directly
support the Kawartha
World Issues Centre!**

**Spring Community
Potluck Meeting &
'Consulta' for
Peterborough
Activists and the
not-so-usual
suspects! with
special guest, Chris
Cavanagh (Catalyst
Centre) ~ May 17th
at Trinity United
Church Hall. Call
KWIC for more info.**

**A very special thank
you and farewell from
Julie to KWIC's Trent
student volunteers and
part-time staff ~ Zahra
Murad & Karen
Godkin. Happy travels
everyone...and don't
forget to send a
postcard!**