

CALEDONIA: NO MORE NIGHTMARES

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Sponsored by: Free Thinking Film Society & International Free Press Society

Opening Comments

Mary Lou Ambrogio/Fred Litwin/Merlyn Kinrade

[PPT begins - SLIDE: 'CALEDONIA: NO MORE NIGHTMARES']

1. Mary Lou Ambrogio (2:15)

IFPS-Canada

Good evening. My name is Mary Lou Ambrogio, Vice President of the International Free Press Society in Canada, and I have the privilege of starting the evening.

IFPS-Canada is dedicated to preserving freedom of speech. Some of you may know us as a result of our aborted attempt to have Ann Coulter speak at the University of Ottawa. Point made, we think!

In the Coulter affair, we weren't just dealing with faculty fascists, pompous professors and robotic chants of "no hate speech on our campus". No. We also had security personnel who, it seemed, didn't want to do their jobs to ensure that the show could go on.

The experience of witnessing firsthand how the authorities "observed neutrality between lawful and lawless", as George Jonas put it, prompted us to take a closer look at Caledonia. We then saw clearly that when rule of law is allowed to break down, freedom of speech doesn't stand a chance. In exploring Caledonia, we also found a small group of extremely dedicated and highly principled people who had been working since the beginning of the illegal occupation to try to bring awareness of these shocking events to all Canadians.

What we experienced was nothing compared to what the people of Caledonia suffered; a protracted and conscious effort to appease lawbreakers to the detriment of law abiding citizens.

With the release of Christie Blatchford's book -- Helpless: Caledonia's Nightmare of Fear and Anarchy, And How The Law Failed All of Us -- came the chance to bring this story to a wider audience and we can all thank Fred Litwin for recognizing the importance of Caledonia and taking the initiative to invite the experts to come and speak.

Recently, Fred had his own brush with bullies who unsuccessfully attempted to shut down his screening of the movie Iranium, but censorship attempts when practiced on true defenders of freedom, only serve to make people like Fred even more determined to stand up for liberty.

IFPS-Canada recognizes Fred and the Free Thinking Film Society as important allies in our fight to preserve freedom of speech and we thank them for making this event happen and for inviting us to be a part of it. Now, I'd like to introduce your host and MC for the evening -- Fred Litwin.

2. Fred Litwin (6:40)

Free Thinking Film Society

Thank you very much. I want to thank everybody for attending what I believe is a very important evening. We're always delighted to work with the International Free Press Society, and I want to thank both Mary Lou Ambrogio and Bjorn Larsen for their support.

As you might know, the Free Thinking Film Society was started in 2007 to counter the onslaught of Boorish documentaries like Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11. To that end, we've now shown about 17 films, brought in several speakers, and we put on a terrific film festival last November. Let me tell you a bit about what's coming up.

In June, we are bringing back Bruce Bawer. Bruce is a gay American who has written two books about the problems of Radical Islam and he spoke in Ottawa in 2009. One of Bruce's colleagues is Hege Storhaug who runs Norway's Human Rights Service and is an expert on immigration. Bruce has translated her book on the problems of Islamic immigration into English and I thought it was a good time to bring them both in to talk about a topic - Islamic immigration - that seems to be off the radar screen. So, mark down June 8th as a date not to be missed.

In September, we will have a night dedicated to human rights in China, and in October, we will be bringing Terry Glavin to Ottawa to launch his new book which examines the problems of the left. There's nothing like a committed socialist to shine some light into the darker corners of the left.

Here is the schedule for tonight. We'll be featuring a number of speakers and residents of Caledonia, and presenting several films. All of the films that we are showing are on the free DVD that you can receive on your way out. At the end of the presentations, we will have time for a limited number of questions, and then we will go out for a private reception.

One last thing. The Free Thinking Film Society is a non-profit corporation. So, please buy some of our merchandise – we have really nice baseball caps, coffee mugs, t-shirts, books, and DVDs. The money we make on our merchandise goes to fund our upcoming film festival - scheduled for November 11-13th.

In 2006, Gary McHale created CaledoniaWakeUpCall.com in response to the failure of media to accurately report the facts of Caledonia. The site now has more than 14,000 news stories and documents read by over one million visitors, and Gary has been interviewed more than 700 times by journalists across Canada.

In 2007 Gary formed Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality to oppose race-based policing in Ontario. His quest has resulted in numerous death threats, and denial of legal counsel and rental accommodations out of fear of reprisals by aboriginal protesters.

Gary spent a night in jail without charge for wanting to raise a Canadian flag, and was later forced to defend himself against what Christie Blatchford called a ‘bizarre’ charge of ‘counselling mischief not committed’ which was withdrawn after two senior OPP officers were charged with Obstructing Justice.

Blatchford’s *Helpless*, which lays out irrefutable evidence proving the OPP did, indeed, follow racially-based orders not to uphold the rule of law in Caledonia, acknowledges the assistance Gary and wife Christine provided to the author.

Despite having a reading and writing disability and *no* formal legal training, Gary is respected in legal circles for his court victories in the area of private prosecutions under the Criminal Code, which include a win at the Court of Appeal. His most notable case resulted in a charge of ‘Influencing Municipal Official’ against the former OPP commissioner.

Gary attended a Baptist seminary, has been a deacon of the church, and taught in various churches in Ontario. His activism in Caledonia – inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was himself a Baptist minister – arises out of his deeply-held religious belief that Christians have a duty to speak out when they witness injustices that shock the conscience.

Mark Vandermaas is a former Canadian soldier and U.N. peacekeeper. After his arrest on Dec 16, 2006 with Gary McHale while attempting to raise a Canadian flag, Mark put his career as a real estate broker on hold to work as a full time ‘rule of law’ activist.

He was the leader of the 2007 Ipperwash Papers project, and has written more than 400 Caledonia-related articles for his blog VoiceofCanada.ca.

In 2010 Mark started the Caledonia Victims Project to begin organizing the key evidence and background information which will be needed by post-Helpless policy researchers. He and Gary are also co-founders of the HelplessByBlatchford project – created to educate Canadians about the many important issues raised by the Caledonia crisis.

Mark has consistently spoken out on behalf of the unintended aboriginal victims of OPP racial policing practices as well as for non-aboriginal residents as he did at the 2010 New Directions in Aboriginal Policy forum at Mount Royal University where he presented, *Listening to Victims: A Fresh Approach to Healing and Reconciliation* upon which his presentation tonight is based.

In addition to our featured speakers we have several Caledonia residents here to talk about what happened to their community. They are Doug Fleming; Marie Trainer -- the former Mayor of Haldimand County -- and Merlyn Kinrade, who would like to share a few words with you.

Merlyn has lived more than 60 years of his life in Caledonia. He is a former member of the Royal Canadian Navy whose service included a tour of duty on a U.N. peacekeeping mission during the 1956 Suez crisis.

He has a long history of contributions to the children of Caledonia and Six Nations through sports sponsorship and coaching. For the last four years he has – as a co-founder of Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality – worked to end race-based policing in Ontario.

In 2009 Merlyn’s work was recognized by the Caledonia Chamber of Commerce with a nomination for the honour of ‘Citizen of the Year’ which said, in part: “Merlyn’s crusade against the injustices has been relentless. He has been a fervent defender of Caledonia. [...] Merlyn’s compassion and tenacity have stood during his lifetime. In the last four years, those characteristics have been at the forefront during his fight for justice.”

Ladies and gentlemen...Merlyn Kinrade.

3. Merlyn Kinrade (2:00)

Caledonia Resident, Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality

On behalf of those in Caledonia who chose to fight back against the evil that tried to destroy our town, and on behalf of all Canadians who have supported our work, I would like to thank those who made it possible for us to share Caledonia's story here in our nation's capital for the first time.

Thank you -- to Fred Litwin and The Free Thinking Film Society. Thank you -- to Mary Lou Ambrogio and the International Free Press Society. Thank *you*, too -- for coming tonight to learn about Caledonia.

I am very thankful that Gary McHale, Mark Vandermaas and Jeffrey Parkinson – who produced all the videos for this evening -- chose to risk everything they had to come to Caledonia to take up our fight against injustice. If it were not for them my town would have been forgotten long ago, and our children left with a terrible legacy of racialized policing and officially-sanctioned violence against innocents while our country slowly sunk even deeper into anarchy.

Their work has helped put Caledonia on the national and even international stage, and I now know – beyond all doubt -- that one day our nightmare will be over, and there will be no more Caledonias.

I also *must* thank Christie Blatchford; Caledonia's Regional News; and John Findlay, the lawyer for the Caledonia Class Action, and, of course, everyone in and outside Caledonia who has stood with us on the side of justice.

Before we hear from Mark Vandermaas, our first video will give you a small glimpse into the two rules of law that we live with in Haldimand County at the hands of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Thank you.

VIDEO #1: Justice in Ontario (4:11)

<http://www.caledoniawakeupcall.com/Ottawa/v1-justiceinontario.wmv>

SLIDE: 'NO MORE NIGHTMARES, PT 1: CALEDONIA'S VICTIMS'

Mark Vandermaas begins Part 1: 'Caledonia's Victims' (PPT #1 cont.)