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Spring 2018 — VOL. 16 NO. 01

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**FOOD
SPECIALS!**

SEE PAGE 6

Above, a late spring arrives in a rush, with the Athabasca backing up due to ice jams. 10 residents were evacuated before the flood started receding.

Alberta Bound

- **Alberta Bound** - resource rich province tied up by Feds - p. 5
- **Syria** — Reality vs. Illusion from mainstream media reports - p. 2
- **The real reason behind interest rate increases** - p. 19

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Ex-Pink Floyd singer denounces White Helmets as propaganda tool

Ed - More and more, truth is leaking out, with several retired high ranking military people pointing out that evidence, and logic, suggests the charges against Assad about this chemical use are false. And for now people can read the other side of the story on the official Internet (Other Internets are in development, to keep free speech flowing).

English singer Roger Waters, a member of Pink Floyd and now a solo performer, denounced the controversial Syrian group White Helmets during a concert, saying they "exist only to create propaganda for jihadists and terrorists."

The announcement came from Waters on Friday during a gig in Barcelona, which took place just as the US, the UK and France were preparing the attack against Syria based on reports provided by the White

Helmets. A week before that, the group produced photos and footage of what they claimed to be aftermath of a chemical-weapons attack by the Syrian government on the town of Douma near Damascus, which was held by an armed group called Army of Islam.

Addressing the audience, Waters said someone had asked him for the stage to speak about Douma and the alleged chemical attack. The singer said that person and he had very different opinions about the situation in Syria.

Waters explained why he didn't support the cause furthered by the White Helmets. "If we were to listen to the propaganda of the White Helmets and others, we would be encouraged to encourage our governments to start dropping bombs on people in Syria. This would be a mistake of monumental proportions for us as human beings," he said.

"The White Helmets is a fake organization that exists only to create propaganda for jihadists and terrorists.

(Continued on page 4)

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From Sagitiwa to Whitecourt A Salute to the Pioneers - Part 8

By Jerry Graham. Thank you to John Dahl and the late Vic Young for their help in obtaining original manuscript.

Names like Stubbs, Pete Knutson, Harold Torgerson come to mind as we continue our journey near House Mountain and a bit closer to the Hamlet we find Hayden Pritchard, Larry Shaw, Geo. Ritchie, father and son, in that area which used to be served by what was known as "The Allendale Ferry". The ferry was under the supervision of Paul Linehan, a deep sea sailor from the east coast, who would prognosti-

(Continued on page 10)



The Allendale Ferry was launched in June of 1916 to bridge the McLeod River between Whitecourt, the residents on the other side of the river, and towns further west.

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Above, an alternate way of getting across the McLeod when ice prevented the Ferry from running.

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(Continued from page 4)

"What we should do is go and persuade our governments not to go and drop bombs on people. And certainly not until we have done all the research that is necessary so that we would have a clear idea of what is really going on," he added. "Because we live in the world where propaganda seems to be more important than the reality of what is really going on." (Since then, there has been definitive evidence, including from the supposed victims, that there was no chemical attack).

Waters called on people to "reach across boundaries and religions and nationalities" and together make Earth a better place.

The White Helmets purports to be a civil defense organization operating in parts of Syria under the control of various armed groups, including hardcore Islamists, opposing the central government in Damascus. It receives funding from several Western nations, including the US and the UK. The group has received widespread praise from Western media, and a documentary about it even won an Academy Award.

On several occasions, White Helmets employees have been caught doing questionable things, like assisting in public executions or staging fake rescue operations. Critics say its rescue operations are just a cover for their true purpose: producing photos and footage favorable to opponents of Damascus and providing justification for military action against the Syrian government forces. People in areas, which were taken by the government from the jihadists, support such claims.

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Alberta Bound (by ties of Feds)

by Dan Parker

By basic logic, the protests against Canadian pipelines are worse than futile. They do not stop any oil production that the market is demanding. Instead they shift the oil production to countries with worse human rights and environmental records than Canada. They also cause significant damage to the Canadian economy such that social spending is at risk. The fight to get oil to market in Canada without adequate pipelines has also increased the oil that travels by the more dangerous rail route. This has the additional disadvantage of making it harder for our farmers to get their product to markets, due to a shortage of railway capacity. An additional, telling, concern is the huge amount of trash that these environmental protestors leave behind at their events.

If they were both aware and honest, the oil
(Continued on page 14)



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Photo Submitted. Pictured from left to right starting at the back row: Bob Anstey, Linda-Mae Anstey, Sherry Cartwright, Jesse Cartwright, Donna Bougiridis, Elpeda Palmer, Edwell Jr. Cartwright, Lee Palmer. Middle row: Sheila Cartwright, Leonard Cartwright, Norman Golden, Kevin Cartwright, Lois Cartwright, Ray Cartwright, Edwell Cartwright. Front row: Leo Cartwright, June Cartwright.

Remembering the past

Excerpted from article by Donna Charlene (Cartwright) Bougiridis


The descendants of George Samuel & Louisa Jane Cartwright, and their five sons Wesley, Nelson, Cassius, Jock and Edward, dedicated a sign in the memory of these men and their wives.

George Samuel and his wife and sons settled this area in 1911, which was then known as the Fairchild Flats. It was referred to by many as The Athabasca Valley Flats.

Today it is on the map as Moose Wallow.

The descendants represented each member of the family tree, although many were unable to attend.

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 8)

Representing Wesley Cartwright was Susane Davidson, Louise McKeever and Gwen & Floyd McKeever all of Barrhead, who unfortunately were unable to find the location in time for the photo. They were greatly missed and being Wesley was the eldest son in the family they were very important to the dedicating of the sign.

Representing Nelson was Leo and Leo's wife June, Leo's son Leonard and his wife Sheila, as well as Leo's late brother Ray Cartwright and his wife Lois and Ray's brother Kevin, all who reside in Whitecourt.

Representing Jock (John Logan) and his wife Owena was their daughter Donna Bougiridis along with her daughter Elpeda (Hope) and Elpedas husband Lee Palmerj, all of Grande Prairie. Also representing Jock Cartwright was his youngest son Edwel Hal Cartwright and wife Sherrie and two of their sons Edwel Jr and Jesse all of Westlock. Also attending on behalf of Jock was his granddaughter Linda Mae and her husband Bob Anesty of Calgary.

Representing Edward was his grandson Norman Golden of Whitecourt. Norman is a son of Joy, Edwards second child.

There was a picnic at the old Moose Wallow Schoolhouse which turned into a great feast and a wonderful day was shared by all.

George Samuel and Louisa also had a daughter Jane who remained in North Dakota USA, near Cartwright N.D. This place was also named after our Samuel George.

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- 1) Detestable; "ab hohr ant"
- 2) Shrewish bullying woman; "tur me gent"
- 3) Front part of body; "mid rif"

VOCABULARY

- 1) Scrapple is usually made with: wheat flour, couscous, corn meal, barley
- 2) Screed: wire mesh strainer, prayer, fortune teller, long document
- 3) A Scrimshaw artists works with: paints, shells, marble, bronze

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See page 23 for answers

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(Continued from page 3)

cate the weather for almost any given day or period. Not having kept track of his long range forecasts the author is unable to supply figures as to his batting average, but right or wrong he was not dismayed. After all, in an area such as this, one should be allowed a fair margin for error. Even now, with such scientific equipment at their disposal, the men holding forth on T.V. are by no means infallible.

Of the Linehan family only one, Ida, now Mrs. Fred Reed, is still in the district. But let us continue down the road from the swimming hole towards Whitecourt. We pass the Mohl place, then comes the homestead of one, Fred Hassan, a man of short stature who did not appreciate being called "Shorty", as almost everyone is wont to do under such circumstances. He subsequently moved to Whitecourt and cheerfully accepted the honorary title of "Mayor", in the full realization that being addressed

as "Your Lordship" precluded any possibility of being referred to as "Shorty". Axel Olson adjoined Fred Hassan but Axel for the most part resided in town.

*“Now moose
hide pants may do
something for a
moose, but they do
little for a human.
Firstly, they bag at
the knees and in the
seat, so much so
that anyone wearing
them is visible quite
some time before
he has rounded a
corner by his ‘nobby’
knees.”*

Opposite the Olson holdings on the farm of Art Weir, a man by the name of Jim Miller (not the Western Construction & Lumber Co. Ltd. founder, who came later), had set up a lumber sawing unit, and at this same time the Stewart Family, also moved in to assist with the lumbering operations.

Tom Stewart and his wife were true 'Old-timers' who had spent all their lives in the west, and on coming here they brought a large family, including one married son Bob, who also had a large family. Of the family of Tom Stewart the author remembers Tom, Howard, Norman, Lyle and Doll who had each been, at some time or other, associated with Jim Miller's operations. Norman still resides here. Moving north again, we pass the homestead of Oscar Torgerson and that of Frank Selleck, both of which had recently been purchased by the Townsite Company.

On the left bank of the McLeod River, (although the only method of direct approach was to ford the river), we find Fred Smith and Jim Harrop farming.

Now proceeding south on the west bank of the McLeod River, and down what is now known as the Edson Road or Peers Road, although this road did not exist at the time of which we write, we first of all come to the farm of Syd Skogman, almost directly opposite the Allendale Ferry crossing. Thereafter the homestead of Cyril Reay and the Methune place. Directly opposite, or nearly so, the farm of one, Dave Allen. And here let the author pay tribute to one of the all-time greats in the story telling line.

Dave was from Missouri, and the tall tales he told were a never ending source of delight to most of his friends and neighbors. Quite in keeping with the pioneer spirit he exemplified so well, Dave wore a pair of moose hide pants, something not too uncommon at

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)

that time. Now moose hide pants may do something for a moose, but they do little for a human. Firstly, they bag at the knees and in the seat, so much so that anyone wearing them is visible quite some time before he has rounded a corner by his 'nobby' knees. The same situation is obtained after he has negotiated the corner, only this time his seat is still visible! Unfortunately all the modern methods of counteracting all this bagging tendency such as 'Never-press', permanent crease, sanfordising and 'drip-dry' were still a long way off. Also the pants developed a shine from constant wear, and while it could be said that one might be able to shine in a pair of moose hide pants, the figure of speech must be taken in its strictly literal sense. Dave's pants were of ample girth and bagginess, and as one looked at him it might be concluded that all that was required was a coonskin cap to complete the picture.

Dave's place was however, a real gathering place and no wonder. The entertainment was good, the hospitality perfect, the atmosphere redolent with the odor of natural leaf tobacco which was used for both smoking and chewing. Also Dave was a specialist in the art of serving and concocting baking powder biscuits, which somehow had more appeal than bannock, (a similar product baked in one slab using much the same ingredients). The utmost in bannock, the author was informed on many occasions, was "blue streak bannock", although what the blue streak actually did for bannock was never explained. But to get back to Dave and his biscuits. He would mix the ingredients in a wash basin and then proceed to do the stirring with his finger. If perchance a stem from the leaf tobacco he was chewing should get lodged in his molars or underneath his tongue, he interrupted the stirring meanwhile, while he fished out the offending stem with his stirring finger. When the stem had been removed Dave would continue stirring, after having wiped his finger on his moose hide pants!

Everyone spoke highly of Dave's baking powder biscuits, and no one, as far as we know, even had, what to-day is referred to as "upset stomach" and for which they constantly bombard us with cures.

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A chicken walks up to the desk at the Whitecourt Library and say, "Buk Buk BUK." Dave decides that the chicken desires three books, and passes out three three that are ready for discard...and the chicken leaves shortly thereafter.

Around midday, the chicken returns to the circulation desk appearing vexed and says, "Buk Buk BuKKOOK!" The librarian passes out three more of the old books.

In the early afternoon, the chicken approaches the librarian once again, looking very annoyed and say, "Buk Buk Buk Buk Bukkooook!" Dave is now a little suspicious of this chicken. He processes the request a he is still under the limit, and decides to follow him to see what's going on.

The chicken goes down the street and enters Rotary Park. Dave slips behind the Pavilion to see what happens. The chicken then starts throwing the books in Rotary Pond, where where a frog was calling, "Rrredit Rrredit Rrredit...!"



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The Power of One



The power of one member, one vote

What if Rural Electrification Association (REA) co-op members “owned” their power?




One of the advantages we gain through our work as a Federation, is a bird's eye view of the whole electricity landscape and how it is changing in Alberta right now. We get to evaluate what's going on and advocate strongly for member REAs. We could not do this without our board, and our members, who step up regularly together to help steer REA co-ops in the right direction.

Imagine the kind of momentum we might achieve if a broad swath of REA members also stepped up and truly owned their power to speak, to act, and to vote for what they think is best for rural electricity? Fewer people today seem to be convinced their ownership in their co-op can change the course of events. And so, to start off 2018, we are revisiting the basic idea of democratic ownership. How do we live up to that key cooperative principle, *Democratic Member Control*? At the most basic level, a co-op is a democratic business. Yes, a business – but a democratic one that operates for the collective good of its members. Co-ops around the world are based on the principle of democratic ownership.

Alberta has a rich history of setting up co-ops so that rural Albertans could work together democratically to meet their own needs, with their own customized services, with the benefit of having their own capital flow back into their co-op and community. Co-ops *start* when people see that a need is not being met, or a problem solved through private interest or public service alone. That vacuum causes people to join forces and pool resources (talent, time, money) to deliver their own services. We are familiar with the historic co-op story of people joining together to get the power on in rural Alberta. (check out [*Country Power – The Electrical Revolution in Rural Alberta*](#))

Cooperation needs to be *ongoing*, however. Like an old building that slowly crumbles from no maintenance, a co-op will suffer if bylaws grow irrelevant, finances go unmanaged, laws pass unnoticed, competitors move in, and members lose interest. A valuable community asset will be sold off and closed, its value permanently lost. A co-op does not thrive indefinitely without more members stepping up to participate as rightful owners of their business.

At the heart of it, it's a matter of member-owners believing they each have the personal power to make a difference. When people *act together* on this belief, history has shown the effect can be... well, dynamite. What if more members believed, more often, what well-known author, Dr. Seuss, advises even our children? "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." As hard as we are working right now together as a Federation, what would happen if every REA co-op member decided to own their power?



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There are many ways to answer the question, ***why do co-ops matter?***
But the most basic is this:
~ **Democratic Ownership** ~
You are a member AND an owner.

(Continued from page 5)

protesters' manifesto would list their goals as: increase world carbon output; degrade human rights; increase the danger of moving oil within Canada, make it harder for our farmers to compete and cause significant overall damage to the Canadian economy while churning and burning resources needlessly fueling protest events. This is a very well thought out strategy, if you are aligned with a group that seeks to destroy Canadian influence and values on the world stage. Less economic power naturally translates to lessened international prestige.

It's not just decreased production that is hurting Canada's oil economy. The shipping bottle neck has led to an increasing gap between Canadian and world oil prices. Western Canadian heavy crude's price discount to WTI widened to the most in three years, at US\$23, after Enbridge announced a new rationing of space in parts of its Mainline network, which is used to carry most of the crude Canada exports to the United States. Economists estimate the roughly US\$24 per barrel discount between Western Canada Select and West Texas Intermediate oil prices will erase \$15.6 billion from the Canadian economy this year.

It gets worse. The lack of pipeline capacity has led to declines in high paying oil jobs and the related service industries. The U.S. rig count continues to rise while Canadian rig counts continue their decline. The number of oil rigs in the United States increased by 4 in the week of this publication, for a total of 804 active oil wells in the US—a figure that is 152 more rigs than this time last year. The oil and gas rig count in the United States has increased by 71 in 2018. Meanwhile, Canada continued its severe losing streak, with a decrease of 58 oil and gas rigs, after losing 54 rigs on top of last week, and a 29-rig loss the week before. At 161 total rigs, Canada now has 84 fewer rigs than it did a year ago.

It is worth pointing out here that much of the opposition to pipelines in Canada is funded by organizations based south of the border. An American organization, 350.org, has boasted in its annual report that "1,000 people were trained in civil disobedience practices, and 99 youths were arrested in Ottawa protesting the pipeline." The U.S. based Tides Foun-

dation has granted \$40 million to 100 Canadian anti-pipeline organizations who, in return, have done a fine job of constraining the Canadian economy and saving money for American buyers of Canadian oil.

This is not an attack on the Yankee traders. In a competitive business, you take advantage of a competitor's weakness, or foolhardiness, or your business suffers. It's not their fault the current regime in Ottawa is so clueless regarding dismissive of standing up for the true economic interests of Canadians, and especially Albertans. While the Feds have given the Kinder Morgan pipeline the go ahead, they are noticeably silent regarding the challenges to the project. Although the law is being broken, and most Canadians want more pipeline capacity, our constitutional democracy is given second billing to special interest groups.

Even the Kinder Morgan permission was given due to the uproar caused by the Feds sabotaging the TransCanada Energy East pipeline. This was done by imposing both upstream and downstream costs on the project, making it unfeasible. Upstream emissions are the greenhouse gases created in generating the product. Downstream emissions are the greenhouse gases created when the product is used. Tracking every barrel of oil transported to its final end use is of course impossible. As silly as it sounds, TransCanada would theoretically be responsible for being aware of and calibrating the year and make of a vehicle that used a pint of their oil in Wuhu China. Bureaucrats might not demand such answers, but they would hold the business hostage to this idiocy.

Meanwhile for the proposed air fuel terminal in Montreal East and a liquid natural gas port facility in the Saguenay region, the Quebec ministry of the environment has decided that these two projects, with the potential for thousands of jobs between them, won't have to meet both "upstream" and "downstream" emissions tests before being approved. The Feds gave the excuse that the downstream emissions requirement was only for projects which were initiated after 2016, and the Energie Saguenay project was proposed in 2014. They did not mention the fact that the TransCanada Energy East project was first proposed in 2013. It is as if the federal govern-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from p 14)

ment has grown shameless in its discrimination against some provinces.

Not surprisingly, the inhabitants of this province are in the process of reconsidering the conditions of confederation. A survey of 1,200 Albertans suggests the majority of people are upset about Canada's "un-fair" system of equalization. They also feel that nothing will change regardless of who is running the country.

The poll shows that 60 per cent of Albertans feel that no matter who's in charge in Ottawa, other parts of Canada will always be looked after first. In fact, 70 per cent of survey participants said that Canada's system of equalization payments is unfair to Albertans. Only seven per cent of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. This calls for a review of the Canadian constitution and provincial rights.

Some of those commenting on the matter accused Trudeau of hating Alberta. The reasons were varied, with one saying "they hate Alberta because Peter Lougheed stood up to Trudeau Sr. in the NEP in the 70's. Another respondent echoes with "The root cause for the Alberta hate by the Trudeaus' began with Pierre, whose hate was very personal because he felt personally humiliated. He was bested and out-maneuvered by Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed during the NEP and other on-going constitutional federal/provincial issues." Perhaps the closest to the truth was the reader who stated Trudeau "hates Alberta and Albertans in general. A strong, Alberta controlled oil industry also doesn't sit well with the grand scheme of the New World Order. One of the first people to come meet with prime minister Trudeau was George Soros, this man who holds a permanent seat in the secretive Bilderberg Group."

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I had previously never considered the idea that a deep hatred of Alberta on the part of the Eastern elite was a significant part of the problem. However, on reading the above, and reflecting on other world events, hatred does indeed seem to be a motivation of those and their often indoctrinated proxies who favour involuntary collectivism over individual rights. The antics of antifa is one illustration of this, while at therebel.ca there is a video of a meeting of eastern financiers that contains a telling comment from the chair. He was informed most of the Canadian economy was doing well, in 2015 except for Alberta. He commented: "Who cares about Alberta".

I would also say the root cause of the Eastern elite hatred for Alberta goes back much further than Lougheed. Alberta became a last stand and refuge for some from the great American populist movement of the late 1800's. These reformers, such as Henry Wise Wood and Whitecourt's own J.W. Leedy, played pivotal roles in forming the dissident UFA and Social Credit governments of Alberta. In summary, the majority of Albertans who feel this province will never get a fair shake from our current confederation would look to be correct.

Funding Infrastructure: Why China Is Running Circles Around America (& Canada)

by Ellen Brown

In essence, Canada is sacrificing its standard of living to a system of money creation that is extremely unjust; amongst other shortcomings. As our economy weakens, so does our standing on the world stage, and with it our Canadian values that tend towards global harmony and international peacekeeping.



“One Belt, One Road,” China’s \$1 trillion infrastructure initiative, is a massive undertaking of highways, pipelines, transmission lines, ports, power stations, fiber optics, and railroads connecting China to Central Asia, Europe and Africa. According to Dan Slane, a former advisor in President Trump’s transition team, “It is the largest infrastructure project initiated by one nation in the history of the world and is designed to enable China to become the dominant economic power in the world.” In a January 29th article titled “Trump’s Plan a Recipe for Failure, Former Infrastructure Advisor Says,” he added, “If we don’t get our act together very soon, we should all be brushing up on our Mandarin.”

On Monday, February 12th, President Trump’s own infrastructure initiative was finally unveiled. Perhaps to trump China’s \$1 trillion mega-project, the Administration has now upped the ante from \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, or at least so the initiative is billed. But as Donald Cohen observes in *The American Prospect*, it’s really only \$200 billion, the sole sum that is to come from federal funding; and it’s not even that after factoring in the billions in tax cuts in infrastructure-related projects. The rest of the \$1.5 trillion is to come from cities, states, and private investors; and since city and state coffers are depleted, that chiefly means private investors. The focus of the Administration’s plan is on public-

“Public-private partnerships also drive up costs compared to financing with municipal bonds.”

private partnerships, which as Slane notes are not suitable for many of the most critical infrastructure projects, since they lack the sort of ongoing funding stream such as a toll or fee that would attract private investors. Public-private partnerships also drive up costs compared to financing with municipal bonds.

In any case, as Yves Smith observes, private equity firms are not much interested in public assets; and to the extent that they are, they are more interested in privatizing existing infrastructure than in funding the new development that is at the heart of the president’s plan. Moreover, local officials and local businessmen are now leery of privatization deals. They know the price of quick cash is to be bled dry with user charges and profit guarantees.

The White House says its initiative is not a take-it-or-leave-it proposal but is the start of a negotia-

(Continued on page 17)

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(Continued from page 16)

tion, and that the president is “open to new sources of funding.” But no one in Congress seems to have a viable proposal. Perhaps it is time to look more closely at how China does it . . .

China's Secret Funding Source: The Deep Pocket of Its State-owned Banks

While American politicians argue endlessly about where to find the money, China has been forging full steam ahead with its mega-projects. A case in point is its 12,000 miles of high-speed rail, built in a mere decade while American politicians were still trying to fund much more modest rail projects. The money largely came from loans from China's state-owned banks. The country's five largest banks are majority-owned by the central government, and they lend principally to large, state-owned enterprises.

Where do the banks get the money? Basically, they print it. Not directly. Not obviously. But as the Bank of England has acknowledged, banks do not merely recycle existing deposits but actually create the money they lend by writing it into their borrowers' deposit accounts. Incoming deposits are needed to balance the books, but at some point these deposits originated in the deposit accounts of other banks; and since the Chinese government owns most of the country's banks, it can aim this funding fire hose at its most pressing national needs.

China's central bank, the People's Bank of China, issues money for infrastructure in an even more direct way. It has turned to an innovative form of quantitative easing in which liquidity is directed not at propping up the biggest banks but at “surgical strikes” into the most productive sectors of the economy. Citigroup chief economist Willem Buiter calls this “qualitative easing” to distinguish it from the quantitative easing engaged in by Western central banks. According to a 2014 Wall Street Journal article:

In China's context, such so-called qualitative

easing happens when the People's Bank of China adds riskier assets to its balance sheet – such as by relending to the agriculture sector and small businesses and offering cheap loans for low-return infrastructure projects – while maintaining a normal pace of balance-sheet expansion [loan creation]. . . .

“Where do the banks get the money? Basically, they print it.”

The purpose of China's qualitative easing is to provide affordable financing to select sectors, and it reflects Beijing's intention to dictate interest rates for some sectors, Citigroup's economists said. They added that while such a policy would also put inflationary pressure on the economy, the impact is less pronounced than the U.S.-style quantitative easing.

Among the targets of these surgical strikes with central bank financing is the One Belt, One Road initiative. According to a May 2015 article in

(Continued on page 21)

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UCP nominations roll in

With an provincial election expected in spring of 2019, the nomination process for the new United Conservative Party is picking up speed around the province.

In our West Yellowhead constituency, Whitecourt mayor Maryann Chickak has declared for the UCP nomination. In other ridings, such as Spruce Grove-Stony Plain and Peace River, multiple candidates have already thrown their hat into the

ring. It would be surprising if West Yellowhead does not also attract more contestants.

The results of the last provincial election, and the new UCP political party, has created a bit of an open playing field, compared to the nomination process in a political dynasty, which had many incumbents as shoe-ins for a constituency nomination. A further incentive of course is that the UCP nominee will likely be the favourite to win election, should current public sentiment against the NDP continue.

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New offensive on Canada

In her article "Fox in the Hen House: Why Interest Rates Are Rising", monetary expert Ellen Brown points out that the reasons given for why the U.S. Fed raises rates (and thus help push up rates in Canada), do not hold water. Ostensibly, rising interest rates are meant to stem inflation, but since interest is built into the costs of almost everything in the economy, higher interest rates add to inflation; until a bankruptcy wipes the debt clean (and devastates individuals and countries). Meanwhile the privately owned banks, who dominate the board of the U.S. Fed, reap bonus profits from higher interest, before obtaining real assets at pennies on the dollar after a bankruptcy. In short, a kinder gentler pillaging than being physically invaded and dispossessed. The old way was force, the new way is the fraud, by banksters who create money from thin air, and lend it out at compound interest.

U.S. Revolutionary and later president Thomas Jefferson said the truth on this a long ago. "I sincerely believe that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale."

This quote has been verified and comes from a letter that Jefferson wrote to a man named John Taylor in 1816.

From the Internet – A new poll suggests a growing proportion of Canadians say they are feeling the affects of higher interest rates.

The quarterly MNP Ltd. consumer debt index survey finds 43 per cent of Canadians say they're feeling the effects of higher interest rates, up five percentage points from three months ago.

MNP Ltd. has more than 50 Licensed Insolvency Trustees serving more than 200 resident and satellite offices across the country.

The poll also said 51 per cent of respondents fear rising interest rates could impact their ability to repay their debts, while 33 per cent agreed that rising interest rates could possibly push them towards bankruptcy.

Forty-seven per cent said they do not believe they'll be able to cover all living and family expenses in the next 12 months without going into further debt.

The survey finds just under half of respondents are \$200 or less away from insolvency at the end of the month.

The poll comes ahead of the Bank of Canada's interest rate announcement, where it was decided not to raise interest rates again. Apparently, the debt merchants are not yet ready for another economic meltdown.

The central bank has raised its key interest rate target three times since last summer, moves that have prompted the big banks to raise their prime lending rates.

The latest MNP poll was done between March 12 and March 16, 2018 and included a sample of 2,001 Canadians that were interviewed online.

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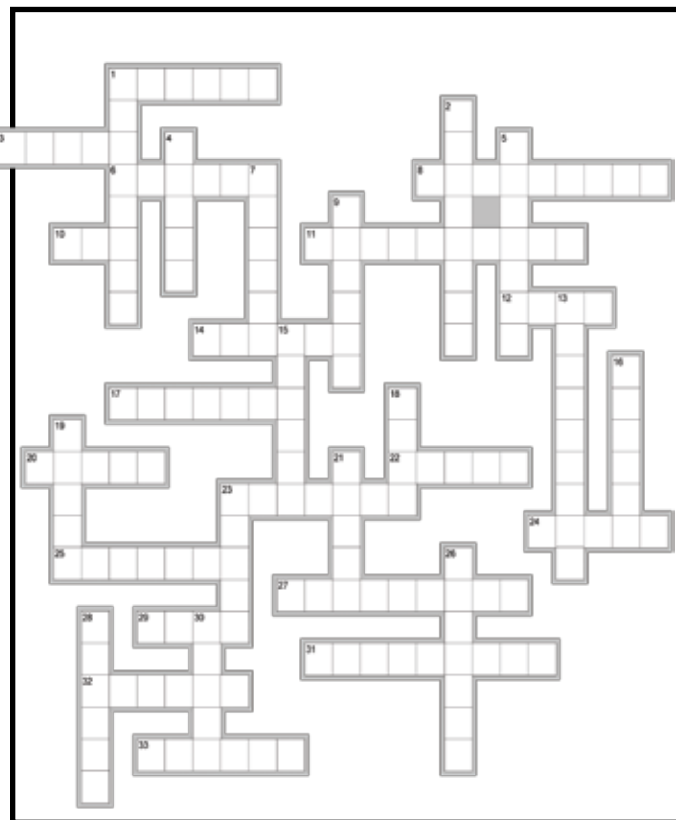
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 F I Y X O T Z T P F H O N R A T X
 H R M C R C R Q U D N I S N S P J
 W P H E N E G T N L T E T A T M J
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 G G R O W T H C I E I D O L F V F
 Q J P R A I N L F N T F I I F R P
 U C C M S N I B O R L D I L O S U
 K E B S Y E M X Y M P D Z G S V L
 F N A H S B Y O R D A Y S P E B W

APRIL	GOLF	RAIN
BASEBALL	GREEN	ROBINS
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EARTHWORMS	INSECTS	SNOWMELT
EASTER	LILIES	TULIPS
EQUINOX	MARCH	WARMER
FLOWERS	MAY	
FROGS	PLANTING	

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1. Provided below is either the capital city or the country/state/province of that capital. What is EITHER the missing capital OR missing country/state/province: India

2. What is the closest body of water (river, bay, sea, or ocean) to the below city/country/island?
Gdansk Poland

3. The Kalahari desert takes up a large part of:
Kenya, Botswana, Somalia, South Africa

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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2		3		6		7

Across

- Macaroni & _____
- Chips & _____
- Table & _____
- Anthony & _____
- Adam & _____
- Rocky & _____
- Bacon & _____
- Ken & _____
- Ozzie & _____
- Batman & _____
- Bert & _____
- Peas & _____
- Peanut butter & _____
- Laverne & _____
- Snoopy & _____
- Beans & _____
- Chicken & _____
- Paper & _____
- Hugs & _____

Down

- Cheese & _____
- Gilbert & _____
- Laurel & _____
- Milk & _____
- Cup & _____
- Romeo & _____
- Simon & _____
- Bread & _____
- Hansel & _____
- Currier & _____
- Shoes & _____
- Lone Ranger & _____
- Bonnie & _____
- David & _____
- Salt & _____
- Fish & _____

(Continued from page 17)

Bloomberg:

Instead of turning the liquidity sprinkler on full-throttle for the whole garden, the PBOC is aiming its hose at specific parts. The latest innovations include plans to bolster the market for local government bonds and the recapitalisation of policy banks so they can boost lending to government-favoured projects. . . .

Policymakers have sought to bolster credit for small and medium-sized enterprises, and borrowers supporting the goals of the communist leadership, such as the One Belt, One Road initiative developing infrastructure along China's old Silk Road trade routes.

**"Non-Performing Loans" or
"Helicopter Money for Infrastructure"?
Money that Need Not Be Repaid**

Critics say China has a dangerously high debt-

to-GDP ratio and a "bad debt" problem, meaning its banks have too many "non-performing" loans. But according to financial research strategist Chen Zhao in a Harvard review called "China: A Bullish Case," these factors are being misinterpreted and need not be cause for alarm. China has a high debt to GDP ratio because most Chinese businesses are funded through loans rather than through the stock market, as in the US; and China's banks are able to engage in massive lending because the Chinese chiefly save their money in banks rather than investing it in the stock market, providing the deposit base to back this extensive lending. As for China's public "debt," most of it is money created on bank balance sheets for economic stimulus. Zhao writes:

During the 2008-09 financial crisis, the U.S. government deficit shot up to about 10 percent of GDP due to bail-out programs like the TARP. In contrast, the Chinese government deficit during that period didn't change much. However, Chinese bank loan

(Continued on page 22)



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(Continued from page 21)

growth shot up to 40 percent while loan growth in the U.S. collapsed. These contrasting pictures suggest that most of China's four trillion RMB stimulus package was carried out by its state-owned banks. . . . The so-called "bad debt problem" is effectively a consequence of Beijing's fiscal projects and thus should be treated as such.

China calls this government bank financing "lending" rather than "money printing," but the effect is very similar to what European central bankers are calling "helicopter money" for infrastructure – central bank-generated money that does not need to be repaid. If the Chinese loans get repaid, great; but if they don't, it's not considered a problem. Like helicopter money, the non-performing loans merely leave extra money circulating in the marketplace, creating the extra "demand" needed to fill the gap between GDP and consumer purchasing power, something that is particularly necessary in an economy that is contracting due to shrinking global markets following the 2008-09 crisis.

In a December 2017 article in the Financial Times called "Stop Worrying about Chinese Debt, a Crisis Is Not Brewing", Zhao expanded on these concepts, writing:

[S]o-called credit risk in China is, in fact, sovereign risk. The Chinese government often relies on bank credit to finance government stimulus programmes. . . . China's

sovereign risk is extremely low. Importantly, the balance sheets of the Chinese state-owned banks, the government and the People's Bank of China are all interconnected. Under these circumstances, a debt crisis in China is almost impossible.

Chinese state-owned banks are not going to need a Wall Street-style bailout from the government. They are the government, and the Chinese government has a massive global account surplus. It is not going bankrupt any time soon.

“Chinese state-owned banks are not going to need a Wall Street-style bailout from the government.”

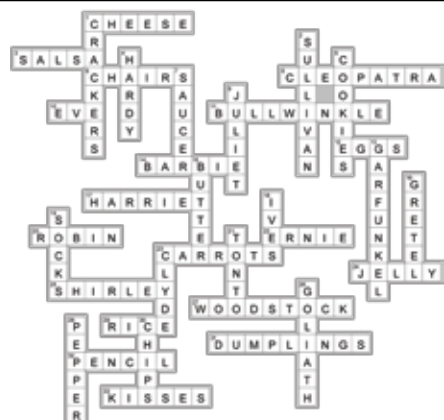
What about the risk of inflation? As noted by the Citigroup economists, Chinese-style "qualitative easing" is actually less inflationary than the bank-focused "quantitative easing" engaged in by Western central banks. And Western-style QE has barely succeeded in reaching the Fed's 2 percent inflation target. For 2017, the Chinese inflation rate was a modest 1.8 percent.

What to Do When Congress Won't Act

Rather than regarding China as a national security threat and putting our resources into rebuilding our military defenses, we might be further ahead studying its successful economic policies and adapting them to rebuilding our own crumbling roads and bridges before it is too late. The US government could set up a national infrastructure bank that lends just as China's big public banks do, or the Federal Reserve could do qualitative easing for infrastructure as the PBOC does. The main road-

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 22)

block to those solutions seems to be political. They would kill the privatization cash cow of the vested interests calling the shots behind the scenes.

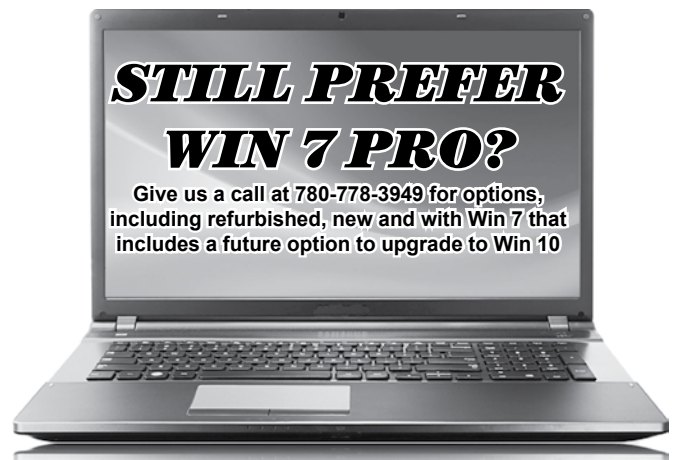
What alternatives are left for cash-strapped state and local governments? Unlike the Fed, they cannot issue money directly; but they can establish their own banks. Fifty percent of the cost of infrastructure is financing, so having their own banks would allow them to cut the cost of infrastructure nearly in half. The savings on infrastructure projects with an income stream could then be used to fund those critically necessary projects that lack an income stream.

For a model, they can look to the century-old Bank of North Dakota (BND), currently the nation's only publicly-owned depository bank. The BND makes 2 percent loans to local communities for infrastructure, far below the 12 percent average sought by private equity firms. Yet as noted in a November 2014 Wall Street Journal article, the BND is more profitable than Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase. Before submitting to exploita-

tion by public-private partnerships, state and local governments would do well to give the BND model further study.

Ellen Brown is an attorney, chairman of the Public Banking Institute, and author of twelve books including Web of Debt and The Public Bank Solution. Her 300+ blog articles are posted at EllenBrown.com.

"True terror is to wake up one morning and realize that your high school class is running the country." - Kurt Vonnegut on getting older.



SUDOKU ANSWER								
9	7	3	1	8	5	2	4	6
4	1	2	9	6	7	5	3	8
5	6	8	2	3	4	7	9	1
2	8	9	5	7	3	6	1	4
6	3	5	4	9	1	8	2	7
1	4	7	6	2	8	9	5	3
3	9	6	7	4	2	1	8	5
7	5	4	8	1	9	3	6	2
8	2	1	3	5	6	4	7	9

WORD SEARCH ANSWER														
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H	R	M	C	R	C	R	Q	U	D	N	I	S	N	S
W	P	H	E	N	E	G	T	N	L	T	E	T	A	T
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F	Z	R	R	G	N	T	A	A	R	A	P	Y	R	S
W	M	A	T	A	I	M	L	F	M	E	A	S	E	G
E	W	H	G	J	P	V	O	F	Q	W	Q	I	O	M
S	N	O	W	M	E	L	T	W	L	O	U	O	M	L
G	G	R	O	W	T	H	C	I	E	I	D	O	L	F
Q	J	P	R	A	I	N	L	F	N	T	F	I	I	P
U	C	C	M	S	N	I	B	O	R	L	D	I	L	O
K	E	B	S	Y	E	M	X	Y	M	P	D	Z	G	S
F	N	A	H	S	B	Y	O	R	D	A	Y	S	P	E

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SPELLING QUIZ

- 1) abhorrent
- 2) termagant
- 3) midriff

VOCABULARY

- 1) corn meal
- 2) long document
- 3) shells

WORD JUMBLE

- 1) HULA
- 2) SATYR
- 3) IMPACT
- 4) WEATHER

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

- 1) New Delhi
- 2) Baltic Sea
- 3) Botswana

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**NEW
LISTING**



\$259,000

3 Sakwatamau

Great price on a fixer upper in a nice area of town. There are 5 bedrooms and 3 baths. This would be perfect for the handy couple, who would like to see their home improve with their efforts. There is also a garage with a large workbench and fenced yard. The yard is complete with mature trees and shrubs. Back alley access is available for additional parking.

**PENDING
48 HR CLAUSE**



\$525,000

5 585027 RR112 (Robison Rd)

Minutes from town, yet a private setting! In addition to the comfortable indoor layout of this home, there is a some great outside space, with a firepit, natural gas bbq, fenced in garden and greenhouse, and a separate fenced in dog area. The 24x24 garage is heated and there are 3 sheds, one with the potential to turn into a mobile office. The house is in excellent condition with updates that include furnace, hot water tank, shingles, kitchen cupboards, countertops, flooring throughout the home, stainless steel appliances, trim, doors, and ceiling. A central VAC helps keep it all tidy. There is also a wood fireplace upstairs for those winter nights and a large rec space downstairs for other indoor activities. MLS#45597

SOLD



\$264,900

66 Gunderson Drive

Nice, newer, 1520 sq. ft. home on it's own land. Say goodbye and to lot rent. There is a nice open floor plan for the living/dining/kitchen area, great for entertaining. The gourmet kitchen has a two tier island and dark espresso cabinets. The Master bedroom comes with a walk-in closet and a 4pc ensuite with a Jacuzzi tub. The other 3 bedrooms can support a large family or be repurposed for an office, den & guest room, or there is even the possibility of a home based business, subject to approval. You also get a separate laundry room with space for storage. Outside there is a south facing 7' x 48' deck overlooking the landscaped lot. It's all there, in a great location close to the new St. Joes school and other amenities. MLS#45059

**NEW
PRICE**



\$189,900

#303, 4330 A - 55 Ave., Whitecourt

Two bedroom, one bath, condo is well situated on the top floor of the 12 unit complex. Features include a gas fireplace, air conditioning and elevator access. Each unit is self contained with laundry facilities and private balcony. MLS#44043



**Dan Parker
REALTOR®**

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