



**1 VETERANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS
VÉTÉRANS CONTRE LES ARMES
NUCLÉAIRES**

Ontario Québec Region

May 2013

ATTEND THE VANA AGM MAY 21 AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

“What Will Be VANA’s Legacy?” will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting of VANA May 21, 2013 at St. Andrew’s United Church, 117 Bloor Street East, a short distance east of the Yonge and Bloor subway stop. The meeting starts at 10:30 am with coffee and tea available at 10am. Lunch will be served at noon.

At the November 2011 VANA meeting at St. Andrew’s, those attending voted unanimously that VANA should continue. A new co-ordinating committee consisting of Bruce Mutch, Phyllis Creighton, Anton Wagner and Audrey Tobias was elected. At that meeting, Anton Wagner suggested that a VANA memorial website could be created on the internet composed of interviews with VANA members talking about the founding of the organization and what VANA has meant to them. Anton will be screening a 25-minute video of short selections of such interviews with 18 VANA members, half of whom have passed on since the interviews were filmed in 2005 and 2006, at the May 21 meeting. Several of those interviewed in the video recall the great impression made by Giff Gifford who founded VANA in Halifax in 1982.

The AGM meeting will discuss and decide whether VANA should continue or whether the VANA co-ordinating committee should be authorized to wind down the organization, forward its documents to an appropriate archive, and disperse any remaining funds.

Please email or telephone Anton Wagner (awagner@yorku.ca 416-863 1209) to let the organizing committee know whether you are able to attend on May 21 so that we know for how many people the usual lunch can be ordered. (A \$5 donation is suggested for lunch).

Audrey Tobias in the Toronto Star

Audrey Tobias was featured in a full-page article in the January 24, 2013 *Toronto Star*, "Toronto Peace Activist, 88, Could Go to Jail for Refusing to Fill Out Census." The article by Catherine Porter stated that Audrey is one of 54 Canadians being prosecuted for violating the Statistics Act by refusing the return the 2011 Census. Audrey refused to fill out the census because it is processed by Lockheed Martin which produces cluster bombs, Trident missiles and the notorious F-35 fighter jets. Porter quoted Audrey, "It is shameful. Lockheed Martin is the largest manufacturer of military weapons in the world, whereas I am committed to peaceful positions." The *Star* article described Audrey's long-time activism with VANA. An accompanying photograph showed Audrey in front of the Old City Hall where the court could impose a three-month sentence and \$500 fine. Audrey's case comes up in court on October 3 in old City Hall at 10 a.m. She will report on her prosecution at the May 21 AGM. Friends of Audrey's have initiated a Census Fund to help her cover legal costs. Anyone wishing to contribute may send a cheque made payable to "Census Fund" to Anton Wagner, 201 Sherbourne St. Apt. 2306, Toronto, ON M5A 3X2.

The Passing of VANA Members

Robert Bruce Mutch, a Veteran of World War II with the rank of Visual Signalman, served in the RCNVR July 1944 - August 1945, stationed in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. He died on April 5, 2013, at age 87, from stomach cancer. Bruce joined Veterans Against Nuclear Arms early on, supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons even as VANA tried to keep Canada out of the orbit of Washington and its warlike policies. Bruce became Treasurer of VANA and continued in this post as long as physically able. He would tell you that our work is not done yet. In peace as in war, Bruce affirmed life over death, peace and justice over hating and killing enemies. Audrey Tobias is the new VANA Treasurer.

VANA member Shirley Farlinger, a prolific writer and peace and environmental activist, died December 19, 2012 at the age of 82. Daughter of a World War I veteran, she was an editor of *Peace Magazine* for many years and published many

articles in it and in the *Science for Peace Bulletin* (both online). Shirley's address on the military's heavy greenhouse gas emissions and environmental destructiveness engaged VANA's 2010 spring meeting. A full celebration of the life of this dedicated, thoughtful, peace woman was published in the April issue of *Peace Magazine*, "Shirley Farlinger: Friend of Peace, Earth, Justice, and People," written by Phyllis Creighton.

Jim Buller died November 18, 2012 at the age of 86. Following in his mother Annie Buller's footsteps, one of Canada's great trade unionists, Jim was an active trade unionist his entire life - a worker's leader. President of the Toronto Typographical Union, and delegate to the Toronto and York District Labour Council, Jim was our liaison with labour unions for many years. In his retirement he kept them in touch with our activities and let us know of their support for VANA. This labour connection was a great encouragement. Jim never forgot the real values, seeing support for international commitments to peaceful solutions as the way forward for labour unions. Jim is survived by his daughter Carol. We are grateful for his long-term commitment to VANA and to a world at peace. Farewell Jim.

Robert Hansen, born in 1922, died on August 19, 2012. A member of the Canadian Merchant Navy in World War II, he traversed three oceans during 1939-45. Fortunately he survived, for this Service was dangerous and difficult, with so many of the ships carrying food and supplies never reaching Britain. It took many years for our government to recognize and reward their contribution. A long time VANA member, he contributed as well as his health would permit. He observed, "If we deliberately set out to destroy the planet, we could not do a better job than we are now." He is survived by his wife, our faithful member Helen. Farewell, Robert.

Rev'd Douglas H. Brown also passed away in August 2012 at the age of 87. He was in the army, the 38th Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit. He enlisted September 1943 and was discharged in June 1946. He was a soldier in the Artillery Survey Reserves, trained in Flash Spotting. His unit was on draft to go to Belgium in January 1945 but closer reserves were found. He was stationed in Bramshot, Larkhill and Birmingham, England, and then in Holland and Germany after VE Day in May 1945. Rev'd Brown was ordained in 1961.

George Rosamond was born on February 17, 1917 and died on May 9, 2012 at the

age of 95. Air Bomber Pilot Officer George Rosamond joined the RCAF in September 1943, trained as an Air Bomber and graduated at the top of his class. He trained others at Sainte-Hyacinth until released in February 1945. A long-time VANA Member, amongst other duties he served as a superb Membership Secretary and kept us all in order. A modest man, George was greatly loved and deeply revered in VANA. He will long be remembered and honoured.

Eileen Swinton died on May 1, 2012, in her 90s. Eileen joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service in 1943 and after basic training was appointed to a very significant post requiring considerable discretion, intellectual strength and ability to keep silent. Clearly the Navy recognized these gifts, which was why she was posted to HMCS Carleton - the land ship in Ottawa - as Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff of the RCNVR, which required a Top Security Clearance. In peace time, Eileen was a valued member of VANA, contributing not only as Treasurer but, for example, in our vigil in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest the Iran war. Surrounding us were armed military personnel. Finally, Eileen always contributed her great intellectual strength to our vigorous discussions about VANA's direction, emphasis and plans. Farewell, Eileen. Peace.

VANA Ontario/Quebec Region Newsletter:

To communicate with VANA, please write, phone or email Anton Wagner, 201 Sherbourne St. Apt. 2306, Toronto, ON M5A 3X2; 416-863 1209; email awagner@yorku.ca Newsletter Advisors – Audrey Tobias, Phyllis Creighton.