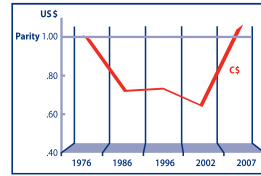


IN THIS ISSUE
Canadian North is
Reddin Topic
Canadian Dollar
Sets Record
Chiasson Featured in
Pallister Series



Changing Landscapes: Climate, Culture, and Sovereignty in the Canadian North

Global climate change is believed by many to be most intensely felt in the Arctic. New international shipping lanes resulting from rapidly melting ice are stirring controversy among circumpolar nations as to who owns the rights to those lanes. Canada, the U.S., Russia, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland,

Norway, and Sweden are working together with indigenous populations to sustainably manage this vast region. The 21st annual Reddin Symposium will explore the cooperation and controversy stemming from a changing Arctic.

The first of three experts featured at the symposium is **Dr. Rob Huebert**, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He is also the Associate Director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. His research interests include international relations, strategic studies, the Law of the Sea, maritime affairs, Canadian foreign and defense policy, and circumpolar relations. He publishes on Canadian Arctic security, maritime security, and Canadian defense. Huebert is sought for comments on Canadian security and Arctic issues in both the Canadian and international media.

Ms. Mary Simon is President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canada's national Inuit organization. Previous posts include Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs at Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Canadian Ambassador to Denmark, and Chancellor of Trent University. A leader in Aboriginal and Northern affairs, Simon is highly respected by many heads of government and international organizations. An international advisor and author, she works to gain further recognition of Aboriginal rights and promote the study of Northern affairs.

Dr. Terry Fenge is Principal of Terry Fenge Consulting Inc., specializing in international public policy in the circumpolar Arctic. Formerly, Fenge was Executive Director of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee and Senior Negotiator for the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut known for the 1993 Nunavut Land



HMCS CORNER BROOK on arctic patrol, sails past an Iceberg. Operation NANOOK 07 is a Canada Command sovereignty operation which took place in the Baffin Island Coastal and the Hudson Strait areas in August 2007. The training exercise involved the joint deployment of Canadian navy, army, and air force. Close cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Coast Guard was also a feature of the exercise.

PHOTO CREDIT: MCpl Blake Rodgers, Formation Imaging Services Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Claims Agreement. Currently, he is Senior Policy Advisor to the Arctic Athabaskan Council. Blending research and advocacy in order to translate science into public policy, he publishes on persistent contaminants, climate change, and biodiversity conservation.

**Saturday, January 19, 2008
11:30 a.m. ~ 4 p.m. 101B Olscamp Hall
By reservation only.**

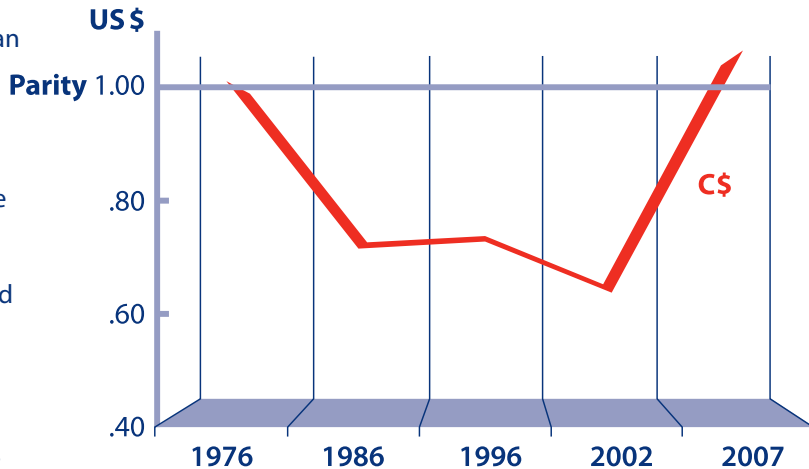
The Reddin Symposium is financed by an endowment and generous annual contributions of the Reddin family of Bowling Green. Co-sponsored by BGSU's College of Arts and Sciences, the event is also possible thanks to numerous private donations and assistance from the Government of Canada. 🍁



Parity, Eh?

The last time the Canadian dollar was equal to the U.S. dollar, Ford was president and Trudeau was prime minister, Alex Haley had just published *Roots*, the Apple Computer Company was newly formed, and the Montréal Canadiens defeated the Philadelphia Flyers to claim the 1976 Stanley Cup championship. It has been a long time but the loonie is soaring again. Just five years ago, the Canadian dollar hit an all time low of 62 cents (priced in U.S. dollars). During 2007, the Canadian dollar has risen a full 20% against the U.S. greenback, racing past parity in September, and, by early November, trading at record highs.

Why has the Canadian dollar strengthened while the U.S. dollar weakened? What does this mean for Canadians and Americans? Worldwide developments, as well as those on both sides of the border, influence these trends.




Just five years ago, the Canadian dollar hit an all time low of 62 cents (priced in U.S. dollars). Today the Canadian dollar is trading at record highs.

- Parity came after the U.S. Federal Reserve reduced interest rates to limit the spread of negative impacts associated with mortgage lending practices in the sub-prime housing market. If the Fed drops rates further while the Bank of Canada stays pat, the Canadian dollar will remain at or above parity.
- Domestically, Canada has gotten its fiscal house in order while the U.S. economy remains troubled. The Canadian government has recently recorded federal budget surpluses and reduced its external debt. In stark contrast, the U.S. has run a domestic federal deficit since 2001.
- On the foreign trade front, Canada sells more abroad than it buys while the U.S. runs large deficits. Rising world commodity prices, especially oil, which has been trading at record highs, have benefited Canada and hurt the United States. Canada exports oil while the U.S. imports 60% of domestic consumption. Indeed, the U.S. dollar is down against other major world currencies including the Euro, while the Canadian dollar has appreciated only slightly against the Euro.

Upside

Canadian tourists and snowbirds enjoy the benefits of their stronger currency, flocking to the U.S. on shopping sprees or taking advantage of lower prices on the internet. Likewise, Canadian firms can acquire U.S. assets at bargain basement prices such as the recent purchase of New Jersey's largest bank by Toronto Dominion.

The bright side for producers in Ohio and elsewhere is that they now have an easier time competing in the Canadian market. Ohio's exports to Canada are up nearly 6 percent over last year as producers find new opportunities to sell to Canada. But the good news for Canada and the boon to U.S. exporters is tempered by larger economic trends.

Downside

Despite the weak greenback, U.S. per capita income is nearly 20 percent higher than Canada. U.S. prices average about 25 percent lower. Canadian complaints that retailers are enjoying windfall profits rather than reducing prices on U.S. imports are growing louder as the loonie soars higher.



Exploring Acadia

Canadian hotels and resorts suffer from fewer American tourists. Canadian producers have a tougher time selling to the U.S. market which accounts for 80 percent of Canada's worldwide exports. With parity, Canadian firms no longer enjoy an exchange rate advantage and must boost productivity to remain competitive against U.S. producers.

Echo Chamber

The U.S. and Canadian economies are so integrated that positive and negative trends reverberate across the border. In the near term, U.S. inflation may accelerate since goods from Canada and elsewhere are more costly to import. Even if the U.S. economy escapes a recession, a slowdown of sales to the U.S. market will be felt north of the border. If the huge budget and trade imbalances continue, the U.S. runs the risk of a dollar free fall as foreigners become less willing to hold U.S. government securities. America would sink into a severe recession, with high unemployment and inflation rates last seen in the 1980's. Canada would be left with a stronger currency but much weaker economy. Fewer Canadian goods would be sold to the U.S. with even fewer American tourists going to Canada. Avoiding this doomsday scenario requires the United States to get its fiscal house in order and be more competitive in the world market place. The future living standards of both Canadians and Americans depend on it. 🍁

Special thanks to Mark Kasoff for collaboration on this article.

The 2008 Pallister Francophone-Canadian Lecture Series will feature an exploration of Acadian culture. The maritime region of eastern Canada is home to the largest Acadian population in North America. Descendants of the first permanent French settlement in North America, modern-day Acadians have a distinct culture which is neither Québécois nor French. The Acadian dialect figures prominently in the region.

The poem *Evangeline* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow captures some of the lore surrounding a tumultuous time in Acadian history. A growing Acadian population became caught between British and French competition for the territory. Preferring to stay neutral, Acadians refused to pledge an oath of allegiance to the British crown. As a result, in 1755, the Acadians suffered "le grand derangement," or "Deportation," as it is also known, at the direction of the British. Many thousands of Acadians were expelled, deported southward in North America, to France or elsewhere. Many never reached their destinations, others were imprisoned, and others settled in distant lands. Those arriving in Louisiana as early as 1765 blended their traditions and culture with that already in place and created what we now know as "Cajun" culture. Over time, a large contingent returned to resettle areas of their former homeland.

To celebrate Acadian society the Canadian Studies Center will host one of Canada's most accomplished cultural icons,

The Honorable **Herménégilde Chiasson**. Born and educated in New Brunswick, Acadian culture influences much of his work.

Dr. Chiasson is the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, where he also currently teaches at the University of Moncton. His rich and varied background includes a prolific career at Radio-Canada as director, playwright, journalist, and researcher. He is the author of many books, has produced fifteen films, and written twenty plays. He has also published numerous magazines, works, collectives and anthologies of poems. The multi-talented Dr. Chiasson has participated in over 100 exhibitions of his photography. Check the Center's webpage for more details. The program is possible through the Pallister Francophone Canadian Lecture Series Fund and assistance from the Government of Canada. 🍁



*The Honorable
Herménégilde Chiasson*



**The Pallister Lecture
will take place on
February 6, 2008.**

Contact the Center
for Details.



**Dr. Chiasson is the
author of many books,
has produced fifteen
films, and written
twenty plays. He
has also published
numerous magazines,
works, collectives and
anthologies of poems.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please contact **Barb Berta** at **419.372.2457**
or **cast@bgsu.edu** for more information.
Visit the Center webpage at **www.bgsu.edu/cast**.

-  **January 19, 2008** **21st Annual Reddin Symposium**, BGSU, Ohio
-  **February 6, 2008** **Pallister Francophone Canadian Lecture Series**,
BGSU, Ohio
-  **March 14, 2008** **The Tartan Terrors, Dressed to Kilt**,
Owens Community College, Toledo, Ohio
-  **April 4, 2008** **16th Annual Ohio Canadian Studies Roundtable**,
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio

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