

Spur of the Momo

Vol. 8 Number 1

Canadian Cooperation Office, Thimphu December, 2001

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KUZUZANGPOLA, from the Desk of the Field Coordinator:

Since the last edition of the SPUR, the Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO) has had a busy 18 months. Many thanks go to Dort and Grant Bruce for compiling the Kuensel Highlights for this year's SPUR and for starting the process, before they left in October, 2001. We would also like to thank Kuensel staff for their technical assistance with formatting and printing this edition.

Signed,
Nancy Strickland and the Momo Editorial Staff

Mark this date:

Losar is on February 13 - 14, 2002 bringing in the Male Water Horse Year.

Just for fun ...

Q: What does a Buddhist vacuum cleaner look like?

A: It is the one with no attachments....



A historic photo of Nancy taken at the old Paro airport terminal - Ronald Lafond.

In this Issue:

- Some very Useful Facts & Figures
 - Kuensel Highlights
- 2002 Calendar and Address Book
 - Guessing Game
- Red Rice: High altitude to high society
- Comings and Goings of eminent & not so eminent Canadians
- Where are they now? Some of our Readers WRITE!

AND MORE...



Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup at UNB.

Bhutanese visit Canada:

Lyonpo Om Pradhan visited Ottawa in May 2001 on a goodwill visit with Maurice Strong. While in Canada Lyonpo gave a lecture on Bhutan and strengthened ties with DFAIT. The visit was graciously hosted by the South Asian Partnership office.

Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup, Minister for Health and Education visited Ottawa this past October 2001, for a GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations) meeting. He also was in The Maritimes, at UNB, for four days to sign MOU with the President.

Dasho Leki Dorji also visited Montreal in September, 2001.

Kate Reed's home has become the Bhutanese hub for Montreal. After several private visits to Bhutan, they have graciously hosted many Bhutanese. We are particularly grateful that they rescued several Zhemgang teachers from a snow blizzard.

Media

Filmmaker Ugyen Wangdi's film: *The Price of Knowledge* was selected for two Canadian film festivals in 2001. The film was selected to be screened during the Toronto Film Festival 2001 it could not be done so due to scheduling constraints. So they will include it in year 2002 instead. It was however shown at the International Children's Film Festival in Winnipeg. For some information please click on to <http://www.geocities.com/masagang/YGK.html> For more details Ugyen can be reached at: masagang@druknet.net.bt

Tshewang Dhendup (aka Mr. Jamie Zeppa) produced a film entitled: *Switch On Bhutan*, which is about the onslaught of television in the kingdom. The film was selected for the Amsterdam Documentary Film Festival. When we went to press with this edition of the SPUR, Tshewang was still on his way back from "The Netherlands". For more details, he can be contacted at: newsden@yahoo.com

Now available on TV, in Bhutan: The Flintstones, Scooby Doo and The Simpsons - all dubbed in Hindi; Canadian Air Farce (circa. 1970); Hindu Prayers (24-hours a day); three sports channels...Korean, The Fashion Channel, BBC World, CNN, HBO and MORE...

Asian/Pacific Publishing Scenes

Mobile Bookshops: The Mobile Bookshop seen in Bhutan for the first time was organised from 8 December, 2000 to 10 January, 2001 by the Canadian Cooperation Office in Thimphu. The main objectives of this venture were to make books accessible to people living in small towns who did not have access to bookstores, create awareness of reading and provide gainful employment to students during their vacation. Two bookshops in the capital supplied books that could be sold and three students were hired for the job. The Mobile Bookstore covered towns and villages spanning nine districts. The majority of the customers were students, followed by school librarians. Many of the villagers bought prayer books and books on religion. Judging by the enthusiastic response from the people, this maiden venture was a big success. (ABD Quarterly 2001. Vol. 32 No. 1, p. 10).

Kuensel declares (3 - 9 February, 2001):
CCO "Mobile bookshop: a success"

The month long Mobile Bookshop organized by the Canadian Cooperation Office was, according to the Project Coordinator Dorji, a Class XII student from YHS, "a grand success" selling books worth Nu. 0.18 million on various subjects ranging from children's books to holy scriptures. The project covered sixteen towns and villages in Paro, Wangdue, Trongsa, Bumthang, Monggar, Trashigang, Tashi Yangtse, Pema Gatshel and Lhutshe ... An educated Brokpa in Kanglung finally found the exact scripture he had been searching for a long time. "For the last ten years, I was in need of a 'Chochey' but I never got it. Now my wish is fulfilled and from today onwards, I will start to pray and say the exact words in the scriptures," he said. One of the students from Trongsa high School said that since there were no bookstores in Trongsa, they had to travel all the way to Thimphu to buy books. "This is very difficult for us. But we are very lucky today that we have the books delivered to our doorsteps," the student said. "I must take advantage of it and buy many books for my self as well as for my younger brothers and sisters." By Kinley Y. Dorji.



Kuensel Highlights:

July 2000:

78th session of the National Assembly, chaired by Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji concluded. The assembly placed an emphasis on the preservation of Bhutan's religious and cultural heritage. The National Assembly also passed the Kingdom's first piece of comprehensive environmental legislation, the Environment Assessment Act 2000. > > > July 27th was Bhutan Day in Hanover, Germany at the World EXPO. Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck presided over the ceremonies. > > > Construction began on a new major housing estate in Chang Jiji (just below Mothithang), designed to relieve the pressure on the severe housing shortages that Thimphu now faces.

August 2000:

Chairmanship of the Lhengye Zhungtsho (Council of Ministers) was handed over from Lyonpo Sangay Nedup, Minister of Health and Education to Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Minister of Finance. > > > Major floods devastated southern Bhutan - Phuntsholing and Pasakha were particularly affected. > > > RICB was subject to a record number of claims in excess of Nu 2000 million for flood related damages. Many roads were blocked by landslides, some of which took weeks to repair. A 90 km stretch of road between Thimphu and P'ling was blocked by more than 30 landslides. Many bridges were also wiped out in Assam and West Bengal and it will take years to replace them.

September 2000:

Kuensel introduced a TV guide supplement (which has since been discontinued), listing programmes for 14 different channels. Cable costs Nu 150 per month (approx. \$4.). > > > Two Bhutanese: Tshering Choeden and Junzang represented Bhutan in Archery at the Sydney Olympics, unfortunately neither qualified for the medal round. > > > Microsoft agreed to include Dzongkha in it's next release of MS Windows.

October 2000:

Bhutan was ranked the fourth best tourist destination in the world, after Canada, New Zealand and Malaysia, by Conde Nast publishers. > > > Helvetas (Swiss Development Agency) celebrated 25 years of cooperation in Bhutan.

November 2000:

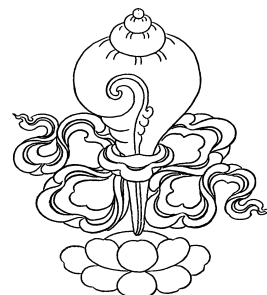
Bhutan hosted a "Round Table" donor coordination meeting (the RTM), which was one of the largest international gatherings ever in Thimphu. More than 80 delegates from Bhutan's bi-lateral development partners and international agencies met for two days. > > > The Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) began morning radio broadcasts for one and a half hours.

December 2000:

One of Bhutan's most sacred treasures, the Rangjung Kharsapani, a self-created image of Chenrezing, was stolen from the Dzong in Punakha and later returned, amid wide-spread publicity. The treasure depicts Chenrezing between two vertebrae on a section of human spine. > > > A wealthy American business man and his family visited Bhutan in a privately rented helicopter, touring eastern and northern Dzongkhags and landing in the Black Neck Crane roosting area at high Crane season. > > > Discovery Channel became available to cable subscribers. > > > At least thirteen Bhutanese were killed in an ambush while transiting through Assam. > > > Rates for hiring ponies and horses rose from Nu 100/day to Nu 200/ day and Nu150/day to Nu 300/day, respectively.

January 2001:

Preparatory meetings for the 9th Five Year Plan (FYP) began; initial projections indicate that the 9th FYP budget will be approx. Nu 50 billion, up from Nu 30 billion in the 8th FYP. > > > Pabitra Chhetri of Paro was profiled as a successful entrepreneur for having built a profitable "fly" (as in fly-fishing) manufacturing business. Ms. Chhetri exports primarily to the U.S. > > > Bhutan's EXPO 2000 lhakhang pavilion was sold to a Buddhist institute in southern France for 400,000 Deutsche Mark, on the grounds that it be used as a functioning lhakhang. The RGOB agreed to send Bhutanese crafts people to assist with its reconstruction. > > > A total of 13 private schools (mostly in Thimphu) took in a record number of students.



February 2001:

The Council of Ministers ratified the establishment of an office within the education division responsible for planning and coordinating the development of a national university. > > > Vehicle emission testing began in earnest, to establish national emission guidelines, which are to be implemented over the next several years. > > > The Iron Dragon year formally ended and the Iron Snake year was ushered in, lasting until February 12, 2002.

March 2001:

Bhutanese members of the Joint Verification Team left from the refugee camps in Nepal. The team will establish the credentials of refugees who wish to return to Bhutan. > > > A taxi traveling between Sarpang and Gelphug was shot at 22 times by unidentified gunmen, fortunately nobody was killed. > > > The old Bailey suspension bridge below Trashigang Dzong was replaced by a new bridge of the Dangmechu. > > > The Bhutan exhibition website [www.bhutan.at] won a best overall museum website award.

April 2001:

The Council of Ministers agreed to introduce domestic helicopter services in Bhutan. The feasibility study identified 30 heliports across the Kingdom. > > > The current two - three day, 550 km road journey from Thimphu to Trashigang will be shortened to approximately one hour, once the service is inaugurated. > > > The Board of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation was fully Bhutanised. > > > DrukAir chartered flights from Buddha Air, a Nepalese airline, to assist during the peak tourist season. > > > The first turbine of the Kuri-chu hydroelectric project was commissioned. The final capacity if this project will be 60 MW. Aeros-AG Ltd., International, a Swiss based non-profit organization presented RGOB with a fully equipped medical helicopter for use by MOHE.

May 2001:

The only DrukAir plane was grounded, due to damage incurred while driving it into the hanger one night. All flights were subsequently cancelled for several days while Buddha Air maintained flights to Kathmandu only. Two engineers were fired, as a result. > > > Construction of a new Dzong for Chuka Dzongkhag was approved.

June 2001:

UNDP opened an Internet Café in Bumthang. > > > BBS increased its TV coverage from one to two hours, every evening. > > > The Kuensel launched its daily on-line edition. > > > Bhutan Telecom announced that it intends to launch a mobile phone service. > > > The Textile Museum was opened.

Summary of CCO and resident Canadians Activities:

June 2000:

> > > The outgoing Canadian High Commissioner in New Delhi, Peter Walker, paid a "farewell" visit to Bhutan. He was accompanied by Bill Gunn, Head of Aid and his wife Jeanine, as well as Linda Brazeau, Commercial Counselor and Johanne Forest, Second Secretary. The team visited Canadian funded projects in Bumthang and Zhemgang. Peter is now at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS and was replaced in Delhi by Peter Sutherland. > > > Mark LaPrairie (formerly with WUSC and UNICEF/Bhutan) also paid a visit in June in his capacity as Education Officer with the World Bank.

July 2000:

Food and gas shortages were widespread, as the flooding and landslides to the south prevented anything from India coming up. > > > Anne and Tobgay were evicted from their bungalow in Taba, in order for Nima High School begin business.

August - September 2000:

During her annual summer pilgrimage to Canada, Nancy hosted a van load of Bhutanese dignitaries from the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) and Education. The delegation visited UNB's Fredericton campus, St. Xavier University, Dalhousie University, Ottawa, Toronto, and Calgary. Sam Blyth had them all for dinner one night, after returning from Maurice Strong's cottage at Lost Lake.

October 2000:

Grant Bruce's parents Helen and Tony Bruce came for a two-month visit, during which they visited Grant and Dorothy's old haunts in eastern Bhutan. Both claimed that they would never complain again of Stewart Road near their home on Saltspring Island, BC.



November 2000:

The Round Table donor meetings including Canada's representation, for the first time, Bill Gunn, Head of AID came from the Canadian High Commission in Delhi to attend with Nancy. Other Canadians attending included Nigel Fisher, head of the Regional UNICEF office in Nepal. > > > Lorne Jacques from the University of Calgary visited for a few days to follow up on the visit of the RCSC secretary's visit to Canada. This collaboration involves the training of project managers. > > > Bob Hamilton, Chief of Operations for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives came from CIDA Headquarters. Nancy took Bob all the way to the east to visit Canadian assisted projects.

December 2000:

As part of his Masters in Communication degree, Tshewang Dendup (Berkeley, '01) came home to make a short documentary on the impact of TV in Bhutan. > > > The CCO hosted, as part of the Millennium Celebrations, an extravagant dinner. Pema Thinley, Education Director was thanked for the on-going cooperation and hard work. > > > Bhutan National Day - December 17th - CCO launched a mobile book van, which toured throughout Bhutan offering basic "library" services (see separate blurb on this innovative initiative). > > > Sue and Jim Irvine visited Bhutan for Christmas and New Years, reviving memories of their year long stay here from 1993 - 1995.

January 2001:



The New Year Started off with the arrival of Jessie Choden Namgyal, to Anne & Tobgay. Jessie was born in Bangkok, weighing 3.1kg and was

taken care of by Bangkok Grandma Sue Irvine for several weeks. > > > Nancy went to the CIDA representatives meeting in Kathmandu and met Len Good, President of CIDA. The CCO-Nepal office hosted the event and did a great job.

February 2001:

Jessie Choden's grandparent's, Neil and Margaret Currie visited Bhutan for 6 weeks and inducted Jessie's parents into many things, including several new ways of using frozen yak.

March 2001:

Peter Steele re-visited Bhutan after more than 30 years. Peter first came to Bhutan in 1969, at the invitation of his late Majesty. He came with his wife and two young children. They walked from Thimphu to Trashigang over several months, as the road was not yet built. Peter wrote a book about their adventures called Two and Two Halves, which is unfortunately very hard to locate. On his return visit Peter connected with his old guide and visited with Lyonpo Jigmi Thinley. His old guide, Chimmi Dorji (now a senior driver with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), accompanied him and Nancy to Bumthang. Peter delighted both his Bhutanese hosts and the Canadian contingent with stories of his adventurous career, and his time here passed far too quickly. Dr. Peter now lives in Whitehorse and just south in Atlin, Yukon and has written several books about life in the North.

April 2001:

Robert Bateman, the internationally reknown wild-life painter led a tour group which included his wife Birgit. In addition to sightseeing, Bob held workshops and gave a well-attended slide show on conservation. Bob's views on conservation and education can be found at [www.batemanideas.com]. > > > Anne Currie's brother Tom came to visit the new addition to the Currie Clan. His 10-day holiday started with two days of waiting for clear weather in Calcutta. During his relatively short stay we managed to get past Bumthang to Ura and Tom earned the distinction of having spent more time in a vehicle than in Thimphu.

May 2001:

Goodbyes were said to Janette, Patrick and their two kids (Theo and Kye), as they set off for Ethiopia. > > > A new Canadian arrived, named Christine Stark, who is a VSO, working as a Forester in the Forest Resource Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture (christinestark@hotmail.com). She hails (originally) from BC.

June 2001:

Toronto Star journalist Martin Regg Cohn and his wife Karen Mazurkewich, with the Asian Wall Street Journal, came to Bhutan to research the impact of TV on Bhutanese culture (see July 8th edition of the Star, for his article). Karen's articles on Bhutanese cuisine can be found in this edition of the SPUR.

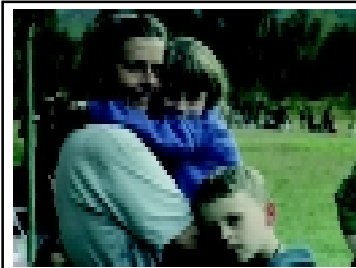


July 2001:

A large delegation from the University of New Brunswick, including Vice President John Mc Laughlin visited Bhutan to discuss opportunities for further collaboration with RGOB. Despite a lightening visit, the delegation was able to visit Bumthang, Punakha, Wangdue, Paro and Trongsa. The tour wound up with a large Canada Day celebration co-hosted by UNB and CCO. > > > Nancy departed for her annual Canadian pilgrimage, leaving Anne Currie in charge (for a second year) of the SPUR Newsletter and the new CCO website - coming SOON.....

August - October 2001:

Nancy returned from Canada in time for Thimphu Tsetchu and to welcome former VSA Field Director, Ann Hodson, from NZ and her friend Annette Goldsmith. > > > George Haley arrived from UNB to work with Powdyel Singh at the recently re-named TTC, now the NIE (National Institute of Education) in Paro. > > > Canadian Thanksgiving was held at Anne and Tobgay's this year. > > > Farewells were held for Grant, Dort, Nick and Maegan who have re-located to Canada's West Coast (namely Victoria & Salt Spring Island) until further notice.



Dort Bruce, Maegan and Nick... Archery Grounds, October 2001

November 2001:

Gayle and Dan Turner came for a brief 5-day holiday. We thanked Gayle for being the first to negotiate with the RGOB in establishing a WUSC programme here. > > > Mark La Prairie came again, on a Mission with his colleagues from the World Bank.

December 2001:

Roger Finan, IDRC Regional Director for South Asia and Anne Whyte, former Director General for Environment and Natural Resources, IDRC and a member of the ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) Board, came to Thimphu for the ICIMOD Board meeting and managed to camp in Phobjicca and see the black-necked cranes before the meetings began. Dr. Gretchen Roedde from Haileybury Ontario, via Toronto's Ward Island, came on her fifth short-term consultancy for DANIDA. Nancy set off to France for Christmas vacation.

BOOKS of INTEREST:

Beyond the Sky and the Earth, Jamie Zeppa. Still the number one best-seller on Bhutan according to the Barnes and Noble website.

Bhutan, Françoise Pommerat. This guidebook is still the most informative and best-written guidebook on Druk-Yul.

Lonely Planet - Bhutan Watch out for the second edition of this guide book (due mid 2002)



Going Home in the Rain, Nancy Strickland. An excellent children's book with lovely illustrations by Jigme Lodey. Available from the CCO and in finer bookstores in Thimphu. Also available in German.

A Painter's Year in the Forests of Bhutan, A.K. Hellum. Profiled in MacLean's.

Birds of Bhutan: A Field Guide, Carol and Tim Inskipp, Richard Grimmet. Funded by Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) this book offers the first comprehensive book on birds of Bhutan.



Wild Rhododendrons of Bhutan, Rebecca Pradhan. A colourful picture book explaining the innumerable wild rhodo's in Bhutan.

Bhutan: Two and Two Halves, Peter Steele. Hard to find, but well worth the read.

The Jesuit and the Dragon, Howard Solverson (former WUSC field director). The life and times of Father Mackey, a Canadian who helped establish a modern education system in Bhutan.

So Close to Heaven, Barbara Crosette. A great book, but anyone reading this for too long will feel like they were at the museum all day (according to the Washington Post Book Review).



WEEKEND JOURNAL :

Food — The Red Rice Route: High Altitude to High Society — Bhutan's Staple Is Turning Up in Some Posh Places

By Karen Mazurkewich, Staff Reporter, 07/06/2001

The Asian Wall Street Journal, W6 Copyright (c) 2001, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.)

At the Hong Kong restaurant Aqua, chef Gregory Bunt has been experimenting with a new dish to appeal to his well-heeled customers: a coconut-rice pudding laced with fresh raspberries and garnished with a sprig of mint — a bolt of color in a martini glass. But the Australian chef, who has a penchant for using Asian spices in his European-inspired cuisine, isn't using garden-variety short-grain white rice. Instead, he's using red rice, the staple carbohydrate of the people of Bhutan, and a rising star on the gourmet food-market circuit. The adventurous Mr. Bunt had never heard of the rice until a distributor showed it to him. "That in itself made me want to try it," he says. For centuries in Bhutan, a tiny Himalayan kingdom neighboring Nepal, the round, short-grained red rice has nourished a largely poor and rural community — in dishes such as emadatsi, a dish of rice, chilli and a sharp cows' milk cheese. But these days, the backbone of Bhutanese cuisine is turning up in its rustic red homemade paper packaging in smart U.S. health- and specialty-food stores

such as Dean & DeLuca, Balducci's, Whole Foods and Draegers. Famed U.S. chefs such as San Francisco's Gary Danko and Chicago's Charlie Trotter have put the nutty, richly colored rice through its paces, and Hong Kong chefs like Mr. Bunt and Shannon Bates, the American chef of the trendy new lounge cafe Ivory, are following suit. More than 52 metric tons of the rice have been shipped out of Bhutan already this year, compared to the first shipment in 1994 of only one metric ton. But red rice is never likely to move beyond the specialty-food realm. Bhutan is often called the "Hermit Kingdom" because for decades it was cutoff from the Western world. Even now, a single airplane services the entire country, and it's frequently delayed because of unpredictable weather. These are not ideal shipping conditions. There are other reasons as well. Not only is

local demand high, the Bhutanese eat it as often as three times a day, the mountainous country simply doesn't have enough land suitable for rice production. Jigme Zangpo, the district governor of Paro, Bhutan's major rice-producing region, is pleased to see red rice doing so well in overseas markets. He has high hopes for the export potential of other Bhutanese products, like herbal tea, but he says his country's products will always be confined to specialty markets. The reason is obvious, he says, pointing to the view from his office in the Paro dzong, the 17th-century monastery and administrative center. Perched in the pine-scented hills, the fortress-like building overlooks postage-stamp sized farms in the valley below.

The Bhutanese may be delighted by the overseas success of their staple but, at the same time, many are mystified by the West's interest in it, particularly as the export market demands red rice with its bran layer intact. "It's like eating rice in the old times, when I was a child," says 49-year-old Sangay Lham. "It's funny," she says. Before rice processing was mechanized in the 1970s, Bhutan's rice farmers removed only the inedible husk, leaving the bran layer. But with the arrival of milling machines, much of the bran layer, which holds 90% of nutrients and gives the rice its dark color, was sloughed off. Bhutan's switch was for aesthetic reasons. Rather than



serve the russet-colored rice with their red-hot chilies, the locals now enjoyed a visual palate of crimson peppers on a bed of softer, light salmon-pink grains. For health-conscious Westerners looking for whole foods, the red rice was bound to be appealing. As well as its nutritional value, the packaging boasts that the rice contains no preservatives, pesticides or herbicides, and proclaims: "Grown at 8,000 feet, irrigated with pure glacier water." The first Westerner to attempt to export the heirloom grain was intrepid Californian traveler Krishen Laetsch who tasted it in Bhutan in the late 1980s. He wanted to send it to San Francisco, but only if the rice could retain its bran layer. However, the manager of the state-owned farm that processed the rice in the Paro region would not accommodate Mr. Laetsch's wishes, so his exporting dream languished.



It wasn't until 1992 that teenager Sonam Tashi, who had been hired to clean out old correspondence left behind when the government-run agricultural unit was dismantled, stumbled upon a letter from Mr. Laetsch. He showed it to his father, a former rice farmer and civil servant looking to retire. His father then contacted Mr. Laetsch to see if he was still interested. He was. So Mr. Penjor re-calibrated some old milling machines. Meanwhile, Mr. Laetsch signed a sole distribution contract with San Francisco-based Lotus Foods, which only sells exotic rice.

But packaging and delivery logistics in Bhutan still had to be overcome. The expensive and irregular Druk Air flights were ruled out, so Lotus Foods pioneered its own rice road, which runs from the southern Bhutanese city of Phuentsholing to Calcutta. Once in India, the rice is loaded on a slow boat to California via Singapore. This spring, Mr. Penjor sent his first rice shipment to Unique Fine Foods, a U.K. company that supplies supermarkets such as Sainsbury's. But supply will continue to be a problem. In the beginning, Mr. Penjor hit up his immediate family for supplies. His sisters, who, according to Bhutanese tradition, inherited the family's fertile Paro Valley farm, use oxen and hired hands to plant and harvest their 10-odd hectares of rice. But he has also had to turn to other neighbors and, as the market is strong, he has had to sweeten his offers. The locals don't give discounts for bulk buys and in fact, Mr. Penjor pays about 20% more per dre (the Bhutanese standard measurement) than local buyers to secure the best stock. Such a commitment to quality has made it easier for Lotus Foods to court top chefs and food stores. In Asia, Mark Brownstein, director of California and Asia Food and Wine Consultancy, has begun to shop the rice around to some of the region's top chefs. When he drops off samples he describes in mouthwatering detail how the grain might hold savory spices if cooked as a pilaf, or keep its firm texture when used as stuffing for a guinea hen.

Shannon Bates, the American chef at Ivory, is another who has tried the rice, turning it into paella and biriyani. She and her staff have discovered that it takes a long time to cook but carries the flavors of spices such as cloves and star anise well. "I would use it again," says Ms. Bates, who is mulling over ways to incorporate it into the Ivory menu. Mr. Penjor's sister, Ms. Lham, might be even more amused if she knew that, in faraway countries, chefs in fancy restaurants are making paella and sweet coconut-rice pudding out of the rice she eats every day with chilli and cheese. In Bhutan, dessert is almost never served. Except to foreigners.

-Send comments to karen.mazurkewich.com

Buying Bhutan

Besides rice, the only other profitable export from Bhutan's Paro Valley is the matsutake mushroom. Every year, the villagers of Genekha, one and a half hours from Paro, cease all other activities and head to the hills to pick the wild mushroom. Tshering Dorji is one of five exporters who ship six metric tons of the fungus every year to food connoisseurs in Japan. He receives \$50-\$80 a kilogram. But the market is limited. Only Japanese like the mushroom, the season is short (roughly two months during the monsoon season), and the Bhutanese government strictly controls harvests. "It's always a gamble," says Mr. Dorji. The government is trying to pioneer other niche products for export. The Institute of Traditional Medicine Services and the Health Department have developed an herbal tea called Tsheringma and are seeking foreign distributors. Meanwhile, in central Bhutan, a less healthy alternative is in the works. The Bumthang Brewery is pumping out modest quantities of "Red Panda" beer. The brew is currently for local consumption only because "it still needs some work," says Bumthang manager Sonam Dorti. The company's goal is to one day export Red Panda as well as another Bhutanese drink, Magpie Apple Brandy.

Karen Mazurkewich

Staff Reporter

Asian Wall Street Journal

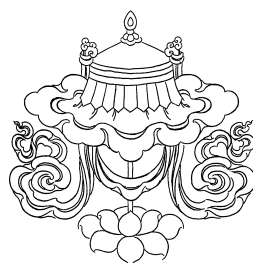
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Calender 2002

JANUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
2 = Winter Solstice		1	②	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	⑭	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	14 = Traditional Day of Offering	

MARCH

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
2 = Birth Anniversary of Third King 26 = Lord Buddha's Parinirvana		1	②	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
②⑥	27	28	29	30	31	

JULY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
⑭	15	16	17	18	⑰	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	14 = The First Sermon of Lord Buddha 19 = Death Anniversary of Third King		

SEPTEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	⑫	13	14
15	⑯	⑰	⑱	19	20	21
②②	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	12 = Thimphu Drubchen 22 = Blessed Rainy Day		16,17,18 = Thimphu Tshechu		

NOVEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
11, 12, 13 = Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the King					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	⑪	⑫	⑬	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
13,14 = Water Horse New Year 23 = Birth Anniversary of Shabdrung					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	⑬	⑭	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	⑳
24	25	26	27	28		

APRIL

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	②②	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	22 = Shabdrung Kuchoe			

JUNE

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
30	2 = Coronation Day of His Majesty the King 20 = Birth Anniversary of Guru Rimpoche					1
②	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	⑳	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	⑳	29	30	31	28 = Descending Day of Lord Buddha	

DECEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	⑪	12	13	14
15	16	⑰	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	11 = Meeting of Nine Evils 17 = National Day			

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Special thanks goes to : Mr. Ian Aitken, a financial consultant from Toronto, on his visit to Bhutan presented US \$ 10,000 to the Education Department for Sherubtse College. The college used the money to buy the computers.



This, from Sherubtse College, Kanglung:

Dear Mr. Aitken,

Greetings from Sherubtse College, Bhutan.

We would like to inform you that we have been able to get eight high-end computers with your gift to us. These computers are installed in the library and are being put to full use by our students and faculty. Attached are two photographs showing students working on them.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to you for your generous gift. If you visit Bhutan again, we hope you get the time to visit Sherubtse.

Best regards and Trashi Delek.

Yours sincerely,

Nidup Dorji
Department of Mathematics & Computer
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BHUTAN

BHUTAN SPINdex:

800 - Approximate number of registered TAXIS in Thimphu

22- Number of confirmed HIV positive patients in the country

41 - Number of disabled students studying at the National Institute for the Disabled (formerly the Khaling Blind School)

10, 620 - Number of people below 24 years of age considered disabled or having special needs, according to the MOHE.

2 - Number of (alcohol) breath analyzers in Bhutan

12 - Percentage of Bhutanese diesel vehicles that passed the minimum Indian vehicle emission standards

6 - Number of Cdn. Nationals currently living in Bhutan

33 - Number of Bhutanese currently living in Canada(that CCO knows of)

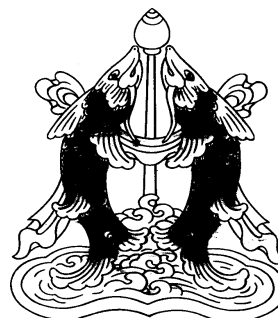
60,000 - Total number of expatriates living in Bhutan, 59,000 who are Indian and 1,000 Westerners.

7, 559 - Number of tourists who visited Bhutan in 2000 (record)

80 - Number of tour operators in Bhutan

73 - Total number of Canadian funded projects in Bhutan, since 1989.

44 - number of pen tops found in Nancy's desk drawers !



BHUTAN'S FUEL-WOOD INDEX

National forest coverage as a percentage of total land mass : 70%

Year 2000 total population : 667,500

Ratio of urban to rural population : 1: 5.7

Ratio of male to female population in rural Bhutan : 1: 1.07

Annual per capita fuel-wood consumption by rural Bhutan : 2.795 m³

Rural daily per capita consumption of fuel-wood : 3.95 kg

Year 2000 total rural fuel-wood demand : 1.5 million m³

Standing trees (per capita volume of 4m³) cut as fuel-wood in rural Bhutan in 2000 : 375,000

Total litres of kerosene burnt in a single night for lighting in rural Bhutan: 16,240

Percentage of rural population using kerosene to cook with: 6.8%

Estimated amount of pine resin torches used for lighting in 2000 in rural Bhutan: 1,680 m³

Number of rural households connected to electricity grid in 2000: 17,900

Average monthly revenue collected from electrified rural households : Nu. 0.85 million

Estimated rural household populations with solar sets for lighting: 5,700

Estimated percentage of solar sets probably not working : 80%

Percentage of rural Bhutanese possessing LPG cylinders : 23%

Percentage rural households using traditional mud and stone stoves : 68.5%

Percentage rural households with improved smokeless stoves: 21.5%

Percentage rural population that returned to traditional stoves : 12%

Amount of fuel-wood required to distil a litre of "ära" : 4.2 kg

Percentage of rural Bhutanese whose wood collection distances increased since 1995 :78.8%

Average one-way wood collection distance in hours for rural Bhutan : 1.75

Percentage of rural Bhutanese whose fuel-wood consumption doubles in winter : 39%

Percentage of rural Bhutanese blaming their own fuel-wood demand as a cause of deforestation: 26%

Percentage of institutions using traditional open hearth stoves : 31%

Mean daily per capita fuel-wood consumption by traditional open hearth stoves: 3.6 kg

Mean daily per capita fuel-wood consumption by water-jacketed Althaus stoves: 1.1kg

Percentage increase in fuel-wood demand by 2010 at present population growth rate: 20%

(Compiled by Pema Norbu, from: *Fuel-wood Consumption in Bhutan and Alternative Energy Sources 2000*)

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Report from Saskatchewan: News news news....Chappels Are A Fashion Statement in Outlook Barb (Rutten) Swanson celebrated her 40th birthday this summer in Outlook, Saskatchewan, with a surprise party arranged by husband Darren and their many friends. Jamie Zeppa made the trip out from Toronto to present Barb with a khada on the solemn occasion. The party took place in the back of a plumbing shop, decorated with dozens of pink bras, and an assortment of hideous knick-knack centrepieces which later became door prizes for reluctant guests (Resistance was futile! If you were given a pink and blue Easter rabbit plant holder, you took the pink and blue Easter rabbit plant holder). Having been instructed to "dress like Barb," guests showed up in lunghis and chappels (it's a classic ensemble, suitable for either sex, you can dress it up or down — ladies and gentlemen, this look will never go out of style). A local band played until late in the night — they even learned Barb's favourite song, Mr. Bojangles, for the occasion. Jamie had forgotten that she also attended Barb's 30th surprise party (also a baby shower) in Tashigang and has therefore promised to go to the 50th as well. So, keep it in mind, the rest of you — that's ten years advance notice, enough time to find your chappels and clear some space on your shelves for the ceramic cow-and-bull salt-and-pepper shaker set that you're going to have to take home...a firsthand account, by Jamie Zeppa



UPDATES:

From: Janette Moritz. The Gordon-Moritz clan are alive and well and enjoying the change of lifestyle in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Patrick is working with UNDP-Mine Action programme as IT Advisor. Janette is taking some long overdue time-off professional obligations to explore the rich culture of Ethiopia and indulge their kids. Their two children Theo 4 and Kye 2 yrs have taken the transition excellently and are beginning to speak Amharic. Anyone passing through Addis? Pls feel free to contact us. gordon2@un.org & janettemoritz@yahoo.com.

From PemDem: Kuzuzangpo, I like Toronto. It is a fun place. <xpemx@hotmail.com> HI, I am graduating in December, 2001 with a Software Engineering Degree. I am still in Toronto at 29 Hawthorn Ave., Toronto, ON M4W 2Z1 . Phone number is 416-921-6133. Currently, I am in Bhutan for my summer break. I was in England for 2 months taking some elective courses in English literature. I hope this is all that youBy the way, I don't know if you know a German-Canadian woman named Brita (and her Assamese husband - Bikul). They lived in Mongar for 1 and 3 years respectively.

From: Ann F Hodson in New Zealand <Annh@cancersoc.org.nz> Kia ora! My big news is that, thanks to the generosity of Nancy, I shall shortly be winging my way to Bhutan - Sunday 23 September to be exact. For

one whole month I shall be able to catch with friends, revisit places and visit others spots anew. Then it will be onto India - for a spell with a friend in Jaipur whom I first met in 1982 when I spent a year at Raphael, the Ryder Cheshire Foundation in Dehra Dun. Before leaving the sub-continent on or about 10 November I'll attend the VIII Asia/Pacific Regional IAVE (International Association of Voluntary Effort) Conference. The timing is perfect in so many ways - especially as it is International Year of Volunteers.

From: The Kilgour Family, To the Momo Editorial Staff, Kuzuzangpola! We are now living at 80 Garnet Avenue in Toronto, across from a school and a play ground. I now teach at Riverdale C.I., an old high school which has been recently renovated. It has an eclectic student body, most of whom are academically inclined. Despite the wretched policies of the provincial government and the negative impact on our schools, I enjoy the rewards of teaching. I also enjoy cycling to and from work in a city where smog has become an unwelcome reality. In the summer, I teach English at York U's English Language Institute. Michelle is in second year of Art College at OCAD. She loves it and lives with her boyfriend on Toronto Island. She will be twenty in November. Josh is 7 and he is entering Grade 2 at the Institute of Child Study on Walmer (U of T Lab



School). Cathy has been working there as a research assistant-cum-teacher. This fall she wants to find work in mediation after she completed a course in dispute resolution. We keep in touch with Jamie; Cathy attends the Kama reading series with her. Other than that, we bump into the WUSC crew if they are passing through town. Lilly stopped by en route to Guyana. Tarun Banerji is still living here in the city, in exile from his native Calcutta. We hope to go to New Zealand on exchange in 2003. We'll keep you abreast of developments. Tashi Delek. Cheers, Cam (p.s. Tim Burns's brother Paul lives on our street) Nancy would know Tim from Jigme Sherubling HS).

From: Steve Perry. We (Marcy, Maya and Daniel) have moved to Addis Ababa. Our Nepal email address <marsteve@mos.com.np> will work for sometime yet. Our address is, PO Box 4710, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, Take care!, Steve Perry

From: Susan Roe <yalamasue@yahoo.com> Please make sure I'm on the mailing list to receive the newsletter too ... have never gotten one yet although I know that may be because nobody's been writing it of late! Thanks. Ms. Susan D. Roe Tibet Program Manager Save the Children, UK Lhasa, Tibet - PRC Office Telephone: 86-0891-633-4854 Office E-mail: scuktpm@public.ls.xz.cn

From: Catherine McAdam: I don't have much news. Things are much the same. I have about a year more to do on my master's of applied linguistics. Patrick (my son) and I are moving into the nearby town of Sutton but will still be spending most weekends on the farm with my parents.

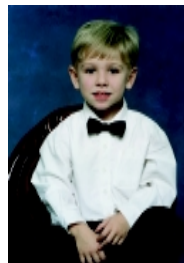


Anybody wishing to visit us would be most welcome. Sutton has great skiing and we're only an hour from Montreal. Our permanent address remains 62 Cleveland Road, Cowansville, Quebec, Canada, J2K 3G8 phone: 450-263-2404, New e-mail : Catherine.McAdam@sympatico.ca

From: Ken Haigh <leonard@georgian.net> Our new e-mail address is: "nancsher@enoreo.on.ca". My wife (Nancy) and I bought a house last year, so our mailing address may also be new to the SPUR: Ken Haigh and Nancy Sherwin P.O. Box 371 Clarksburg, Ontario NOH 1J0 - Our daughter, Rachel is now three years old, but the big news is that we have twin sons, Brendan and Joshua, who were born on

July 20, 2001. As you can imagine, everyone is very sleep-deprived, but they are both healthy and doing well. Anyway, take care.

From: Rob Roy: "On the Spur of the Momo - as I remember, Barry Waterman won the fabulous prize for naming our famous organ. Incidentally, no Barry Waterman sightings since he turned up a year ago to borrow \$20. Son Graham is five. We still don't have a Bhutanese log cabin home in the Shield but are happy in a bungalow in Swansea hillstation. Cheers, Rob Roy." Can anyone GUESS whose kid this is??



From: Françoise Pommaret - Favourite activities: spending time in Bhutan and in France and getting old. Others: A lot of writings, mostly academic heavy tibetological stuff. Teaching at university. In Bhutan working with the National Commission for Cultural affairs and the Education Department. Running the friendship association "les Amis du bhoutan". Keeping track of Bhutan old-hands settled in France.

From: Cindy Fair. Cindy is now director of the VSO program in Kiribati and Tuvalu. Cindy completed an orientation session in London, visiting Jacqui Shearman and her son Sonam, before heading off to the South Pacific in the spring of 2001.



From: Jamie and Pema Dorji. Jamie Zeppa is still teaching part-time and writing in Toronto. She and Pema Dorji travelled to Moose Factory this summer in an attempt to get to know Canada better.

From: Brtitta and bikul Das. Britta has completed a very rewarding term at a Therapeutic Horseback Riding Centre, working with disabled kids - physiotherapy on the horse for kids with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy etc. Bikul is starting the second year of his Masters in Medical Science at the University of Toronto, and also continuing his cancer research at the Hospital for Sick Children. We have moved - again! This time into our own house and it is absolutely lovely! Anyone is more than welcome to visit - anytime! We even have a real guestroom :) And to fill all the space



and make it feel like a real family, we have adopted a very cute puppy called Pepper - who is keeping us busy and laughing all the time. I think I'll keep the other grand news for next year's Spur of the Momo - or maybe not... I am pregnant! So if all goes well, by next April, we will start the adventure of parenthood. On that note, I'll sign off. I hope all is well in Thimphu! All our love to all our Friends there! -Britta

From: Mark LaPrairie - I am about to complete 2 years as an Education Specialist with the World Bank. I have been travelling a lot for my work, mostly in South Asia, but also have made several trips this year to Bosnia. I am looking forward to my next work trip to Bhutan in Nov 2001. I am enjoying living in Washington.



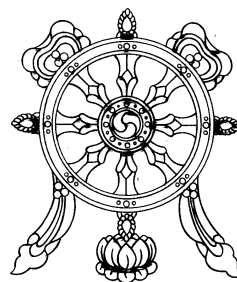
From: Pietie de Groot. News for "Momo". I hope I am not to late, but I've just come home from a holiday, checked my mail and yours was one them. I had a wonderful cycling holiday in Yorkshire and I attended the yearly festival in Edinburg, which was absolutely wonderful!! Have you ever been? If not, then its a real must, whenever you have time and money next August. Again what's new, sorry I got sidetracked there, well I still work in Sneek in a small regional hospital as a midwife and live in the small village of Oostwoud. The good news is that Sonam Peldon, visited me this Spring. She was one of Miss Nancy's students in Tashigang and introduced to Sylvia and me by Nancy in order to help us to learn Sharphokpa-lo. Which she did and she became a very good friend to us and although she was "a class eight fail" as the Bhutanese would say, she has done very well in her studies and personal development. She did a three month study in health management in Bradford UK with good results and stopped over in Holland on her way back to Bhutan, which was just wonderful and I am very proud of her!! Who would have thought, that ten years ago, that this would be possible, development seem to go very rapidly, especially regarding communications. My address is: Pietie de Groot Tsjerkbuoren 13 8735 HM Itens, The Netherlands T : 0515-332823 E: pieterke@hetnet.nl

From: Peter Kulich and Vera Kaiser. We've moved to Ucluelet, on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Vera is an Administrator and I play with computers, while I'm not minding our child, Johannes. Tashi Delek and cheers to all our Bhutanese friends.

From Marcia Kran: My husband, Luis and I are in Budapest. I am working for George Soros: To transform closed societies into open ones and to protect and expand the values of existing open societies is the common mission of the foundations created and supported by George Soros. These organizations seek to build free and open societies by supporting an array of activities dealing with the arts and culture; the strengthening of civil society; economic reform; education at all levels; human rights; legal reform and public administration; media and communications; and public health.

From: Jacqui Shearman and Sonam Dorji. Sonam is really well, and growing so quickly. He is in nursery almost a full day now and I am finally Bhutan is far away now I think of it every day and if I can get a contract I would like to return one day.

From: Sarah Gelpke. We're all well and loving the beautiful sea and green land that is Cornwall. I (Sarah Gelpke) have started work after a whole year off as the PRA consultant to the Children's Society - should be interesting, but is liable to take off to fast and I dread the sudden onset of too much too little time, and missing my precious jewels as they grow and grow and grow. It's been several hours and eleven years since I left Bhutan. I've seen some Drukpas in that time (often in numerical connotations - the Sakteng five, the Finsbury five, the Thimpu two), always a pleasure and often an excuse for too much booze. I've been to Africa (The Gambia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya), the fantastic Tajikistan and The Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. I met Dave and have been married and blessed, and further blessed with two extraordinary and rambunctious sons - Ebrima Jack and Tashi Samuel. Twins with gusto and gobblede-gook. We now live in Truro, Cornwall. I would love to hear from old cronies (and not so old) - at: 8 Union Place, Truro Cornwall, TR1 1EP. Tel no 01872 272792 email sgeldave@yahoo.com. > P.S. Lilly-Alan the Alexander man is our near neighbour and isn't it time you turned up?



For those who make us proud:

If sometimes you wonder why Canadians are liked and respected in the most unlikely countries and believe it must be due to our big name sport, media and political stars, think again. Those names mean nothing to a citizen of the third world struggling to survive and raise a family on a dollar a day. Scattered across the world in strange and lonely places you'll find them, Canadians paying dues for the rest of us. These are the men and women mostly unnoticed, certainly unsung, who put aside the comforts of our modern society to give of their expertise, years of their lives and often their health to a commitment to improving the lives and living standards of others. Counted among them are the Military Peacekeepers, teachers, aid workers and volunteers from a number of non-governmental organizations. Here in the high Himalayas of Bhutan, a country moving rapidly from the 10th Century into the 21st but trapped between the geopolitical strategies of two Asian superpowers, India and China, are a few of our fellow citizens you might like to hear about. Very few Canadians have heard of Father Mackey, a Jesuit priest and educator from Montreal who in 1965 was invited by the Bhutanese Government to assist in the setting up their first secondary schools. Father Mackey did not convert a single Bhutanese but, in his more than 30 years in Bhutan developed an educational system that is the pride of the country. He is one of a very small group granted Bhutanese citizenship by express permission of the King and when he died in 1995, after a long and productive life, a nation grieved for the man who is recognized as the father of the Bhutanese educational system. Then there is Nancy Strickland, from Toronto, running a tiny cost effective operation called the Canadian Cooperation Office out of a small house on the outskirts of Thimphu which is used by the University of New Brunswick to process Bhutanese educators being sent to Canada for advanced training. As Canada has no official diplomatic relations with Bhutan, Nancy also acts as the unofficial liaison with our High commission in Delhi. Arriving in 1986 as a volunteer teacher she spent 3 years in a remote village without running water or electricity and lived in a tiny rammed earth house roofed with corrugated metal that was a sweatbox in summer and refrigerator in winter. After returning home to upgrade her qualifications she taught in the Arctic community of Pond Inlet where she was contacted by UNB in 1992 and persuaded to set up

the CCO in the capital Thimphu. Nancy works long hours, for apart from her main program of sending graduate teachers for training to UNB, her quasi official status as our representative means she's on call to help Canadians working or travelling in Bhutan. Oh, and in her free time she's produced, with Bhutanese artist Jigme Lodey, a children's book, 'Going Home in the Rain' for the primary schools. I traveled over some of the most frightening roads anywhere on earth with an environmental scientist from Vancouver. Back in 1987 Grant also taught as a volunteer teacher in Bhutan. He was isolated, suffered from Typhoid, a myriad of unidentifiable diseases and loneliness. Completing his 2-year teaching contract he returned to work for a Vancouver company on a variety of environmental projects. Recently he was sent to Bhutan to set up the environmental standards program to be executed by a Danish organization. The Bhutanese insisted that Grant be in charge of the program implementation, so, 13 years after he first set foot in Bhutan he is back to leave a another Canadian imprint on a beautiful but fragile land. At the airport in Paro I met Don O'Dwyer a retired Calgarian who now travels as the Senior Director of Programs for Operation Eyesight Universal. OIU, a Calgary based organisation that establishes eye clinics in the small villages in India to treat free of charge the poorest of that continent. Don, not content with the success of IOU's operations in India was touring Bhutan with a view to opening similar operations in the mountain kingdom. Bear in mind this is a privately funded organisation that relies on donations and volunteers not Government tax funded handouts. Finally, let me mention Mark who after a two-year teaching contract in Bhutan with Grant and the others went on to Rwanda to help the starving survivors from the killing fields. You've probably seen, from the comfort of your living rooms, the terrible images on TV or the photographs of a time when pure evil walked the earth. Give a moment's thought to those holding the line that civilization demands from our best and know that somewhere in the world in strange, lonely and sometimes dangerous places you'll find them, the ones who give our flag its lustre. So, the next time you carefully stitch the Canadian flag on to your backpack or, fasten an enameled maple leaf pin to your jacket lapel give silent thanks to the quiet Canadians who've broken trail for you.



***GUESS** and match the columns*

One kg of Bumthang cheese	Nu 8,000
Fee for Druknet hookup/month	Nu 4,000
One brand new Maruti (small hatch-back) car	Nu 2,800
Kuensel	Nu 245
Small bottle of Bumthang Schnapps, now available in Medicinal Plant flavour	Nu 300
One pack of 555 cigarettes	2 lakh (= USD\$4115)
Average high school teachers' salary/month	9 lakh (= USD\$19,000)
One litre of petrol.	Nu 58
Druk-Air return fare, Paro-Bangkok	Nu 12
Will get you one case of Golden Eagle beer (12 large bottles)	Nu 25
One Berliner doughnut from the Swiss Bakery.	Nu 27
The price of a Toyota Hilux	Nu 75
One loaf of Swiss Bakery bread	Nu 10
Average rental fee for 2-bedroom apartment in Thimphu	Nu 35,000

Facts and Figures:

Bhutan: A landlocked Himalayan Kingdom,
300Km long and 150Km wide.

Total area 46,500 sq. km.

Elevation ranges from 100m in the south to
7554m on the Tibetan border:

20% of the country is under perpetual snow,
home of the snow leopard,

the golden langur and the black-necked crane.

The country is devoutly Buddhist with many religious festivals
during the year.

Climate varies widely from 15C / 30C in the Southern lowlands to
0C / 10C in the North.

Per capita income is US\$470. Only

7.8% of the land is suitable for agriculture.

Total population (1994) 600,000

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WEBSITES THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT, FOR YOUR BROWSING PLEASURE:

www.bhutan.at
www.kuenselonline.com/
www.druknet.net.bt
www.bhutantrustfund.org
www.pcs.gov.bt
www.bootan.com
[www.geocities.com/](http://www.geocities.com/bhutanstudies)
[bhutanstudies](http://www.undp.org.bt)
www.undp.org.bt

NOW AVAILABLE in THIMPHU:

Pampers and Huggies diapers
Tide detergent
Prego Spaghetti sauce
Danish feta cheese
Toblerone chocolate bars
Real coffee beans
Diet Coke
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OLD BHUTANESE SAYINGS AND PROVERBS:

Words coming from afar are always half true, half false.

A monkey with no work will crack his nuts.

The swim on the meadow will not work in the water.

If it is too fine, even flour will stick to the roof of the mouth.

The abode of the mind is the body; so if one has the ability to control the body, this is a good habit.



COST INDEX:(answers to the Guess)

Exchange Rates:

CDN \$1. = NU 32.10 (Nu 28 the last time we wrote)

USD \$1. = NU 48.65 (Nu 44 the last time we wrote)

Nu 8,000/month - average high school teachers' salary

Nu 4,000/month - average rental fee for a small two bedroom apartment in Thimphu

Nu 1,800/monthly - fee for Druknet hookup, excluding a monthly Nu 1,000 in local phone

charges for one hour a day use.

Nu 245 - will buy you 1kg of Bumthang cheese

Nu 300 - will get you one case of Golden Eagle beer (12- 750 ml bottles)

Nu 2 lakh (=USD\$4115) - the price of a brand new Maruti car

Nu 9 lakh (=USD\$19,000) - the price of a Toyota Hilux

Nu 58 - small bottle of Bumthang Schnapps, now available in Medicinal Plant, as well as the

traditional Khumbu Spirit (Pear) and Apple.

Nu 12 - one Berliner doughnut from the Swiss Bakery.

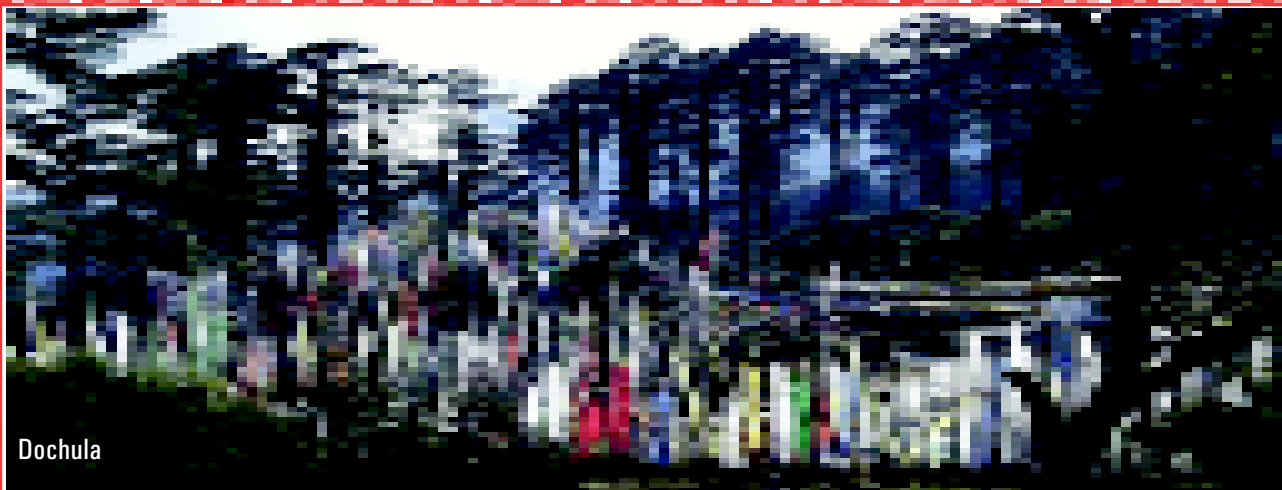
Nu 25 - one loaf of bread, from Swiss Bakery.

Nu 27 - one litre of petrol.

Nu 75- one pack of 555 cigarette

Nu 35,000- Druk-Air roundtrip fare to Bangkok

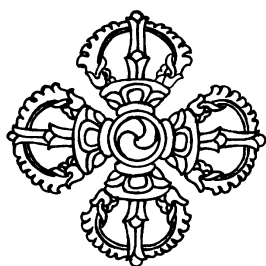




Dochula



Canada Day 2001, at Rabten apartment with UNB and RGOB visitors.



Handicraft Emporium on Nozin Lam, Thimphu



Mark and Nancy outside the old Punsum, Tashigang town

