

RANDOM REFLECTIONS: Enough is Enough!

By Kathryn Wishlow

Once upon a time when I was small (so long ago it sounds like a fairy tale) I remember learning the words to “Oh Canada” and loved singing it in school. I remember when it replaced “God Save the Queen”. And I particularly loved the words “...the true north strong and free” and felt pride in the words “We stand on guard for thee!”

Lately it seems that every time I see the news, the incoming president south of us is making rude remarks about “Governor Trudeau” and that “Canada should become the 51st state”. Although I do not follow the news really closely, I do tend to watch three different perspectives regularly: the CNN (American) the BBC (British) and of course several different Canadian stations. The words were similar on all channels. Was I the only one getting annoyed at the insinuations that this country's only claim to fame was hockey and that Wayne Gretzky should be our next “Governor”?

It takes a lot to make my blood boil, but I seemed to be taking these preposterous notions to heart. I certainly had had enough! My indignation caused me to reach out

to friends and family to see if it was just me taking offence, or if they were taking it the same way? Their responses were not that different from mine. However most of them said things like “surely he must be kidding” or “his sense of humour is so annoying”. One of my cousins just said, “He sure as h—I *better be kidding!*” He was actually happy his boiling blood was keeping him warm during this frigid cold snap.

It was only days before the horrendous Los Angeles fires that the quote was, “We don't need Canadian lumber, steel, oil or anything.” However, after every hurricane, it sure seems like our sales in those areas do increase. I wouldn't be surprised if, given the huge devastation in California, the Americans will quickly need all the supplies they can get from us as their closest neighbour.

Surely it is in their best interests to be our “friendly neighbours to the south”? Haven't they appreciated help from our firefighters in their times of need? When Buffalo was under tons of snow one year, we sent down plows to help them out. We have sent our Hydro workers

their way to help them restore electricity when the eastern seaboard was devastated by ice storms. There have been a few frosty times in our relationship over the years, but on the whole we have always tried to be good neighbours.

Maybe the short term implications of tariffs and extra charges will cause us some grief, but many of my friends and family are already prepared. We actually had already switched from many American brands to Canadian ones during the COVID years when supplies were so dubious. Yes, we are small ... kind of like the mouse bothering the elephant ... but if we can stick together when threatened as Canadians with a purpose, I believe we can still make a difference. We all need to remember, “Oh Canada, we stand on guard for thee!”

(Kathryn Wishlow belongs to White Pine Writers Inc., local group of like-minded authors whose first book “The Art of ... RePurposing Yourself!” is available locally & at Indigo/Chapters, with more items being published soon. Follow them on Facebook or www.whitepinewriters.ca)