

# **CREEPING BARRAGE**

(words & music Mike Ford 2006)

**Chalk catacombs and trenches  
The flower of the dominion  
Awaits the very second  
When the guns throw up a wall of fire  
On to Vimy Ridge  
Beneath a burning camouflage  
A final tot of rum then up and over  
Under this creeping barrage**

**Bagpipes announce the moment  
Of synchronized precision  
From each mud-caked rehearsal  
Through the cold and rats and lice and blood  
Taking Vimy Ridge  
Beneath a burning camouflage  
The begging of the wounded and the moans  
Lost under this creeping barrage**

**Here I am  
Here I am  
Here I am**

**A nation consecrated  
In blood across the ocean  
You took what could not be taken  
In the cold and rats and lice and mud  
Look down from Vimy Ridge  
Beneath spent shells and camouflage  
See the German boy your age your rank  
Your face his face his eyes your eyes  
His dreams crushed under  
This creeping barrage**

## **IN WINNIPEG**

(words & music Mike Ford 2006)

Are you tired - of your slaving  
And getting older - and getting nothing  
We've been working - in the factories  
Inside the big machines - with fire and grease  
But we won't move a muscle - 'til they negotiate  
And give us something - And answer our pleas

**WE DON'T WANNA FIGHT OR CAUSE A FRIGHT  
OR BREAK THE SYSTEM OVER NIGHT  
WE WON'T STAY ON OUR KNEES AND BEG  
WE'RE STANDING TALL IN WINNIPEG**

They've given the sack to - the regular police force  
They're bringing in the specials - special police  
Who are marching - with the mounties 500 strong  
With sawed-off yokes and baseball bats - to sweep us from the streets

**WE DON'T WANNA FIGHT OR CAUSE A FRIGHT  
OR BREAK THE SYSTEM OVER NIGHT  
WE WON'T STAY ON OUR KNEES AND BEG  
WE'RE STANDING TALL IN WINNIPEG**

We work six-day weeks for pennies 2 holy days off, if any  
Being slaves for banks and profiteers but it's our hands that work the gears

So thank you - Committee of A Thousand  
For thinking there's a Bolshevik - under every pillow  
And thank you - for rounding up the aliens  
The undesirables – like my friend and me

**WHO DON'T WANNA FIGHT OR CAUSE A FRIGHT  
OR BREAK THE SYSTEM OVER NIGHT  
WE WON'T STAY ON OUR KNEES AND BEG  
WE'RE STANDING TALL IN WINNIPEG**

**STANDING TALL IN WINNIPEG**

## **TEA PARTY**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

**There comes a time when it's time to make choices  
Steppin' out together and raising our voices  
Expected just to toil in nursery and kitchen  
So the women of the nation set out on a mission**

**We got a right to teach our sisters what the facts is  
Dignity, democracy and proper health practice  
This world revolves on a feminine axis  
Let's have a cheer as the Famous Five relaxes at the**

**TEA PARTY - We Have Been Fighting for Equality at the  
TEA PARTY – Give it up for sisters fighting for you and me**

**Stuck in their ways, stuck in the mud, stuck in tradition  
Men thought they could laugh at this female exhibition  
Stuck on their rules, stuck in their over-starched collars  
While the women went a- marchin' for respect and for dollars**

**You think their future is combustion in your pistons  
But we aren't jestin' we are Suffragistin'  
Huddle in your boys club and you look down your noses  
We're walkin' and the rain and singin' Bread & Roses at the**

**TEA PARTY – We Have Been Fighting for Equality at the  
TEA PARTY – Give it up for sisters fighting for you and me**

**Sisters if we waited then still we'd be waiting  
Grumbling and bowing and fumbling and hating  
Instead we did our part with our hearts participating  
Sorry little man - is that your pride I'm deflating at the**

**TEA PARTY – We Have Been Fighting for Equality at the  
TEA PARTY – Give it up for sisters fighting for you and me  
TEA PARTY - We Have Been Fighting for Equality at the  
TEA PARTY - Tell the Parson I'm a Person and I'm Proud to be  
Preparin' at the  
TEA PARTY**

# TALKIN' TEN LOST YEARS

(words & music Mike Ford 2004)

Let me tell ya little story 'bout hobos and dust, kind-hearted people and hearts fulla rust  
A time when heartache made a big impression, talkin' 'bout Canada's great depression(*lasted ten years...seemed like a hundred and ten...well I guess years where longer back in those days*)

Started when the wealthy were feelin' fine, dancin' the Charleston, drinkin' up the wine,  
buyin' up stocks, buyin' things on credit, sayin' we're gonna be rich 'cuz our broker said it  
- All of the sudden

everybody started cryin' when the stock market crashed in 1929(*wiped people out...they didn't see it comin'...ye can't blame 'em, the didn't have text messaging back then.*)

Factories closed, folks got fired and a lot of bank accounts just plain expired  
Mother Nature dealt us some real big whoppers, 3 years of drought and swarms of grasshoppers(*it was a plague...right across the prairies...*)

Folks lost their home and lost their farm and hung on to their decency and charm,  
Men took to hoppin' on movin' trains ridin' out to Vancouver and right back again(*lookin' for work...anything to do...somebody'd hollar "hey, how'd ya like ta shovel slop for 50 cents a day in Winnepeg and you'd say mmmmmmmmm...*)

Ridin' the rods, a popular form of travel, in a boxcar watchin' things unravel, Huddlin'  
with friends in a similar bind, sharin' any scraps of food you might find  
Gatherin' in hobo jungles at night, a fire, a song, and you could feel all right 'Til three in the morning  
feel the police whip crack sayin' get outta town and don't ye come back

Now if you'd had a car before the Depression struck, chances are my friend you'd be in  
luck, Weren't no gasoline you could afford to buy, but you could give automobile  
conversion a try, Tear off the engine, don't need no fuel, just hook that thing up to a skinny  
old mule

A vehicle for days sunny or muggy, a contraption known as the Bennett Buggy(*Named for the Prime Minister of the day...R.B. Bennett...they don't name cars after Prime Ministers anymore, do they?...*)

The Depression lasted pretty darn, longer even than me singin' this Depression song  
At the end of the Thirties, relief came to the poor in the shape and form of the Second World  
War(Yehooo....celebration, we had a war...there's nothin' like a bit of bullets and bloodshed  
to keep your mind off your financial woes...)

So from coast to coast we gathered in session sayin' sure hope we never have another  
depression It affected this country more than a bit, and it's been said the Prairies were the  
hardest hit Maybe that's why in later years it was Prairie folks who gave us some good ideas  
About givin' each Canadian their fair share and healin' us for free with Medicare  
So if hard times hit, and they're likely to, and some stranger's holdin' up a hand to you  
Ye don't have to puzzle this ole Depression song through, just stop and help them out  
Who knows, maybe one day it'll be known as the 'Canadian thing to do'.

## **LET'S MOBILIZE !**

(words & music Mike Ford 2008)

There's a big kerfuffle overseas and it's spreading just like a disease  
Blitzkrieg boys are on attack, so lets rally 'round the Union Jack  
Get the Airfield's hummin' - and the drums a drummin' - the Canucks are comin'

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

To the bugle call we're havin' a ball

To the reveille we jitterbug and that Hitler's grave is already dug  
Got ration cards, scrap metal drives, these are the best years of our lives  
Napanee to Nanaimo, Okotoks to Esquimalt, Chilliwack to Richibucto

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

Those Wrens and Wacs are cuttin' the slack

**LET'S MOBILIZE !** Let's walk the walk  
**LET'S MOBILIZE !** No careless talk  
**LET'S MOBILIZE !** And punch the clock  
Pass the puck to Chuck and Janey Canuck

*Ils veulent encore nous mettre à genou  
 Regardez bien autours de vous  
 Ou sont vos fils o vous chères mères  
 Parti en guerre en Angleterre  
 C'est fou ! C'est fou ! C'est complètement fou !*

**Halifax to Haileybury**  
**We're in a great big hurray**  
**To fight the Führer's fury**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**LET'S MOBILIZE !**

**Present!!!**

# **CANADA DOESN'T NEED YOU**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

**Race in the night to the dock to escape  
From the boots to the boat quietly to the sea**

**Look for a port for a shore to alight  
To arrive happy day but the eyes turn away**

**Crowd in the hold of the boat off the shore  
Turn away refugee while the wind blows to say**

**Canada doesn't need you  
Canada doesn't need you, no**

**Ice on the tarp of the stall public yard  
Doing time 'til the train all the eyes look away**

**Torn from the coast out of homes, fishing boats  
To the shack evacuate, isolate, lock away**

**Sour sugar beet, no strawberries today  
And tomorrow again will the wind blow to say**

**Canada doesn't need you  
Canada doesn't need you, no, doesn't need you  
No, doesn't need you**

**Footsteps ignore, step around on the ground  
City street not the snow where you hunted and played**

**Torn from the north shorn of hair and of home  
And of tongue not allowed in the land it was made**

**Oh what would it take not to hear 'go away'  
Would it help to be white, Cheerio as they say**

**Canada doesn't need you  
Canada doesn't need you no, won't receive you no, don't believe you no  
Doesn't need you**

## **JOEY SMALLWOOD**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

**When depression hit Newfoundland - Knocked it flat upon its back  
Folks lived on 6 cents a day - So walkin' down the track  
Came a little man from Gambo - Walked clear across all Newfoundland  
Sayin' Hello Friend - I'm Joey Smallwood**

**He called himself The Barrelman - Had Newspapers, Radio Shows  
And from high up on the mast - He spoke at length like one who knows  
He sought what was best for workers - Not just the 20 Millionaires  
He never slept - Joey Smallwood**

**He studied what would happen if they joined with Canada  
Came back and told the people of the island what he saw  
Flew a float-plane to each harbour with a microphone in hand  
He had eyes on the back of his head - Joey Smallwood**

**It's a good thing they invented radio  
So he'd have something to talk on  
A good thing they invented water  
So he'd have something to walk on**

**Well folks gathered in their kitchens - 'Round the wireless, no-one stirred  
And they followed the debating - Every single word  
And some called him a sell-out - And every name in the book  
He'd say it's my way or the highway - Joey Smallwood**

**And so to conclude and finish - Premier Joey made the calls  
For Pulp and Paper, Oil Refineries and of course big Churchill Falls  
And when deals fell through he'd just laugh and look for other bets  
And say "I rule over an empire on which the concrete never sets"  
Joey Smallwood**

**It's a good thing they invented radio  
So he'd have something to talk on  
A good thing they invented water  
So he'd have something to walk on**

**Joey Smallwood**

**MAURICE RICHARD**  
(words & music Mike Ford 2005)

**Maurice Richard**  
**They'll never drag you down**  
**We'll carry your torch high**  
**All through this town**

**On Ste-Catherine**  
**I lit a bonfire for you**  
**A sweet sidewalk sacrament**  
**In gold red and blue**

**For fifteen thousand at the Forum**  
**The centre of the storm**  
**Is the saviour in all of our prayers**

**Now in the big leagues I see**  
**So much celebrity**  
**And each one is a millionaire**

**But where is the one to die for**  
**Like our silent matador**

**Maurice Richard**  
**There's another game on tonight**  
**And if you could score just one more time**  
**We'd feel alright**  
**If you could score just one more time**  
**I'd feel alright**

## **EXPO 67 !**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

*While the U.S. has been rattling their nuclear sabres  
They wonder what's got into their good gray neighbours  
Who are throwing such a fun fantasmigorical bash  
And it's big and it's bold and bilingual and brash*

Allons Allons à Montreal (A global Be-In)  
Felicitons Montreal (Psychedelic on the St Lawrence!)  
Say goodbye to famine, strife and war  
And say hello to the groovy glow of a global cornacopia with goodies galore!  
**EXPO EXPO SIXTY SEVEN**  
**EXPO EXPO SIXTY SEVEN**

Terre des Hommes à Montreal (it's for you too, ladies!)  
A la Maximum à Montreal (a now-a-go-go celebration!)  
Au revoir to square and boring and uncool  
And say bonjour avec amour to the wonders of the Polymer Molecule  
**EXPO EXPO SIXTY SEVEN**  
**EXPO EXPO SIXTY SEVEN**

Choose a movie's ending at the Kino-Automat  
Or say hello to Moshe Safdie and his cat at Habitat  
Or have a Gander on what Gutenberg recorded his gazzette  
Or ride a hovercraft or gondola or supersonic jet  
Or see an engine whizzing winningly on Wankel Roteries  
Or see a Dead Sea Scroll the only time it's overseas  
Or a Kaliedoscopic trip upon the trippy Gyrotron  
To a spool of what was spun by Mr Ghandi though he's gone  
Or we can frolic and play footsie in a fountain of youth  
Or bow before the Spare Part Man or holy Sacred Tooth  
**AND SEE HOW WE'LL ERACE ALL TOIL AND TROUBLE**  
**AS YOU RIDE A MONO-RAIL INTO A GEODESIC SKYBREAK BUBBLE**

Where every nation, creed and colour is your friend  
But once we've seen tomorrow's dream, how can we ever go back to the real world  
again

**EXPO EXPO SIXTY SEVEN**  
(a transistorized utopia! The medium is the massage! The world of tomorrow  
today! Put down that mop Mrs. Canada! A computer smaller than a car! Those  
groovy peace-keepers! A hundred years young! Yeah! I'm There! See You in  
Montreal!)

## **OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

**Open up the border for the new harmonizin'  
New World Order is on the horizon  
Trickle-down, trickle-down throw yer wooden nickel down  
Free market tore the mighty hammer and the sickle down**

**Fake left swing right economic satellite  
Everything is on the table if yer able have a bite**

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

**On the dotted line yer signin' to the new reality  
Build-a build-a better branch plant mentality  
War Chest missile test, privatize all the rest  
Integrate, deregulate, the destiny is manifest**

**Open up the mineshaft, lower the denominator  
Get it for ya cheap if you sell it back an hour later**

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

**Everybody wave goodbye  
Everybody wave goodbye  
Everybody wave goodbye  
Goodbye**

**Survival of the first to bend and grovel to the captor  
Outsource no remorse be the best adaptor  
Genuflect genuflect to the holy NAFTA  
Oil in the hills'a comin' gushin' once ye tapped 'er  
Download offload tearin' up the railroad  
Give us twenty years ye won't recognize yer Postal Code  
Slash the public purse for reversin' the Niagara  
Parliament is impotent, banks a' got Viagra**

**Pass the legislation but the halls are fulla laughter  
'Cuz now you owe the corporation, or did you not read that chapter..?**

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

**Everybody wave goodbye...**

**THE GIANTS (Clayoquot Trials)**  
**(words & music Mike Ford 2008)**

**Rainforest grove ten thousand years old  
Drips with creation and anticipation  
Of the harvest machine but there in between  
With a brother and a sister, stubborn resister**

**The Nuu-chah-nulth elder holds her hand**

**SHE'S STANDING UP FOR THE GIANTS  
THAT TETHER THE EARTH AND THE SKY  
SHE WON'T BE DETERRED IN THE WILL TO BE HEARD  
NO, NOT AGAIN**

**Outside all laws, mechanical claws  
Plan their next maneuver from a desk in Vancouver  
But this confident crowd under gray Clayoquot cloud  
Holds fast to the process of Martin and The Mahatma**

**SHE'S STANDING UP FOR THE GIANTS  
THAT TETHER THE EARTH AND THE SKY  
SHE WON'T BE DETERRED IN THE WILL TO BE HEARD  
NO, NOT AGAIN**

**Could you believe the majesty  
There on the side of eternity ?**

**Dragged of with hooks for telephone books  
By kings of extraction – they never counted on this reaction**

**HE'S PAINTING HIS FACE FOR THE RALLY  
SHE'S PAINTING A SIGN FOR THE TRIAL  
SITKA AND FIR WHERE THE MILLIONS ONCE WERE  
AND ONCE MORE AGAIN**

**SHE'S STANDING UP FOR THE GIANTS**

# **I'M GONNA ROAM AGAIN**

(words & music Mike Ford 2007)

Schoolgirl blowing bubble gum  
Blows a big balloon and pops it  
Children ask her where she's from  
She spins a globe and with a finger stops it  
"We got out when it got too rough  
But when I see it again  
I'll share it with you my new friend"

**I'M GONNA ROAM - I'M GONNA ROAM**

See the big house, see the pride  
20 rooms just for the filling  
Precious goods from far and wide  
Where the merchant's make a killing  
Will he ever have enough  
To make his heart less empty  
Here in the Land of Plenty?

**I'M GONNA ROAM - I'M GONNA ROAM**

Let's rewrite the opera  
Now that we've hung our leaders out to dry  
The curtain rises Canada  
But will you only close your eyes?  
You might think you've seen enough  
But a planet calls again  
To share it with all our friends

**I'M GONNA ROAM - I'M GONNA ROAM**

Sing to me of where you're from  
The melody will paint a picture  
Use the bright notes for the sun  
We'll make a syncopated scripture  
I know I'll never hear enough  
Sing it loud again  
Share it with me my new friend

**I'M GONNA ROAM - I'M GONNA ROAM**