
PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
FROM: JOSEPH MAIRS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: 14TH ANNUAL JOSEPH MAIRS MEMORIAL, JANUARY 24TH 2016
DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2015

The Joseph Mairs Memorial Committee welcomes everyone to the 14th Annual Joseph Mairs Memorial at St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, 1135 4th Ave Ladysmith, BC at 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 24th, 2016.

Come and join with other working people to honour Our Labour Martyr, Joseph Mairs.

As always, our general theme for the day is 'Our Common Condition'.

We are very pleased to announce our keynote speaker for this year's event is Donald Gutstein.

Donald is an adjunct professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. He's written five books on media and politics. His recent book, 'Harperism' explains the fundamental transformations which occurred during Stephen Harper's years as prime minister. Now that Harper, the man, is gone from federal politics, the question Donald addresses is how permanently is Harperism entrenched in Canada?

His talk is entitled- So Harper's Gone, But What About Harperism?

As always we will hold a discussion after Don speaks and we encourage everyone to participate. Through this event, we hope to provide an opportunity for all of us to consider our next moves in building a more just, more equal, more democratic Canada.

Again, this year we will enjoy live music by local musicians linked to the Labour Movement (Art Farquharson and friends, Beverley McKeen and friends and Charlie Fox - our splendidly talented family). All this will be technically perfect due to the skills of our sound person Mike Gagnon.

After the indoor programme, we will form a procession behind our long time piper Frank Nichols and walk to the cemetery to place flowers at the graveside of Joseph Mairs.

Joseph Mairs was a trade unionist and a coal miner. He died in 1914, a month short of his 22nd birthday, after being arrested by government troops during the Occupation of Ladysmith.

This struggle which coal miners on Vancouver Island waged was for the eight hour day, health and safety regulations and union recognition.

Joseph rests in the Ladysmith Cemetery beneath a cairn his fellow miners erected in his honour with the inspiring inscription:

"A Martyr to a Noble Cause - The Emancipation of His Fellow Men".

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