



HER MAJESTY'S BLACKBERRY

HER MAJESTY'S MAN
IN CANADA



FIELDS OF ORGANIC DREAMS

EXCHANGE

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STEPHEN HAWKING PUTS WATERLOO AT THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE



INSIDE:

- "Organic before it was cool"
- Canada backs Africa vision
- Capturing "trailing edge technologies"
- G20 - Good news, bad news

FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT COMPUTER VIRUSES

was chaos. Why not use a Canadian Forces base like Cold Lake, Alberta, Bagotville, Quebec or even Trenton? There were suggestions to pick a place in the Canadian North – it would have been an impressive demonstration for the world leaders of Canadian Sovereignty over our arctic territories. The record one billion dollars spent on security for the summit would have gone a long way to build permanent infrastructure there to host future events.

“When things heated up, which after Seattle shouldn't have come as a surprise to anyone, the response of the security forces was completely inadequate, to say it mildly. On Saturday they seemed to stand by while anarchists rampaging through the streets destroyed stores and even set police cruisers on fire. On Sunday there was obviously a 180 degree change of strategy but without any warning or announcement to the public. Now the police forces seemed to round up demonstrators indiscriminately in large numbers like cattle and arrest them. What I saw in the news that evening made the words of the Toronto Chief of Police expressed in a CBC interview two days earlier sound like a cynical joke. He said, the objectives of his officers were to uphold the peace and to protect the rights of peaceful demonstrators to express themselves.

“The aftermath: By far, the most expensive summit ever – one billion dollars (and counting) of taxpayers' money spent at a time when both the federal and provincial governments are running deficits. What are we getting in return? Do we really believe that news footage of street battles, wanton destruction and police cruisers on fire will entice many tourists to visit Toronto?

“An inquiry into police conduct – more taxpayer dollars down the drain;

“Possibly a flood of lawsuits – the taxpayer will be on the hook for the defense cost and ultimately the settlements;

“Erosion of citizens' confidence and trust in their police forces. The RCMP has already been on thin ice.”

Dennis Grimm stated: “I believe the G8/G20 conferences have already helped to position Canada as a Global influencer if not yet a global leader. The longer term impact will depend on what we do with this position we have finally achieved. Laurier said in the early 20th Century that the 20th Century belongs to Canada. His prediction did not materialize. The G8/G20 conference has provided us once again with the impetus to hope that the 21st century can belong to Canada. We have solidified the footing with these conferences and now future actions will determine whether or not the 21st Century will see Canada play a larger role on the world stage.

“The location was ill conceived and brought both internal and external negativity to the conference and to the Host country Canada. But this was not significant and unfortunately the internal impression will last longer than the external impressions of Canada.

“It is time that the World build a secure venue somewhere where such conference can be held safely, a location owned by the world can be used for global conferences and hosted by individual countries even if they are not in the host country. The security would be permanent and therefore affordable and with today's technology these important events can be held without the stupidity of one country having to deal with security as a one off event. Protesters can continue to have their voice heard but in a less confrontational and violent way. Reporters would be free to report on the conference and not the violence and perhaps the people of the world may actually be able to dialogue on the issues and not the shenanigans.”



Jim Flaherty



Catherine Swift



Dennis Grimm

One of the main reasons that computer viruses continue to spread across the internet is because the average computer user doesn't know what to look for or how to avoid them. Some of the most common misconceptions are based on out-dated knowledge or simple misinformation.

Here are a few things you should know:

Viruses don't want to kill your computer.

The days of insidious viruses trying to render your computer nothing more than a glorified paper weight have come and gone. Their primary objective now is to separate you from your hard earned money. To accomplish this, typically it's in their best interest to leave your computer operational so they can go about their duty collecting your personal information or infecting other computers.

That email you got about “THE WORST VIRUS EVER!!!” is a hoax.

It may even cite big corporations, news organizations and other trustworthy sources in an effort to convince you to forward the message on to everyone you know. But if it really was the “WORST VIRUS EVER”, you probably would have heard about it directly from one of those sources, and not an email from your sister, co-worker or long lost high-school friend. While these are not typically the work of viruses or spammers, they can weaken spam filters and confuse the people who forward the message onward.

That new anti-virus system you've never seen before, screaming about all the trojans you have actually is a virus.

If you think about it, what better way to disguise a virus than to play off of people's fear of that very thing? Many viruses are designed to look identical to popular anti-virus systems, and will tell you about all of the “trojans” and “viruses” your system has (all fictional), and offers to remove them... for the low, low price of your credit card information!

You can still get viruses with a fully updated anti-virus system.

It's like having the best goalie in the league: He'll stop most of the shots coming his way, but every once and a while, one can slip through the cracks. Anti-Virus systems rely on their virus definition databases to look for malware. If a new type of virus emerges, there will be a period of time where the anti-virus companies need to update their databases and push those updated identities out to all of the users. During this time, that virus can run rampant. Put simply, it's never safe to open an unidentified email attachment. Ever.

You don't have to erase your computer.

But you do need to know what you're doing! Seek out someone who successfully removes viruses on a regular basis. You should also act quickly: the less time a virus resides on your computer the better.

- by Adam Smith



Queen Elizabeth came to Waterloo to visit Research in Motion – and to pick up her new BlackBerry – during her cross-Canada tour this summer. Shown with the royal visitor are, left, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Research in Motion founder and co-CEO Mike Lazaridis, and Gareth Hughes, of RIM.

PHOTO: KEVIN FUNG