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Wow my heart's going pitter-pat—the city is organizing the peace walk this time: Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30-12:00 “participants of the second annual Community Spring Climb for Health and World Peace will be walking up and down Knox Mountain Drive and the Apex Trail.” according to the City’s website kelowna.ca. It’s a little mellower than the popular ear-shattering, tire-shredding, pollution-propelled fossil fuel festival in May.

Perhaps we’ll even hear some real birds tweeting.

But of course this event is apolitical right? Something is “political” in current usage only if the status quo is being questioned. If you agree with the status quo you’re not being “political”. So we can exercise our hearts and be “for world peace” without “protesting” anything.

Like the nuclear-armed t... organization (NATO), like the \$15 billion arms deal with the Saudis, like the increase in Canadian troops in the Middle East, like the \$22 billion annual defense budget, like our occupation of unceded Syilx territories.

The love affair between capitalists and militarists/imperialists is not a spring romance—it is a toxic co-dependency, based on real shared interests. Though the enormous outlays for ships, jet bombers and sci-fi weapons systems that will never be used or don’t even work may seem insane from a common sense perspective—“Mommy why is that general walking in the parade buck naked?” asks the seven year old—they make perfect sense from the perspective of wealth and power. Our military spending is mainly a way to generate profits for the rich and powerful without at the same time empowering the broader population. Obstructing social spending is not some minor unintended by-product of “defence,” it is to a large degree the motivation behind war spending in the first place. Class warfare is not peaceful or healthy.

So let’s exercise our open heartedness, our good heartedness, greet our friends and really think about what being good global neighbors would look like as we climb up Knox Mountain. Maybe we could form a mass movement for peace, love and a fossil fuel free future.

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