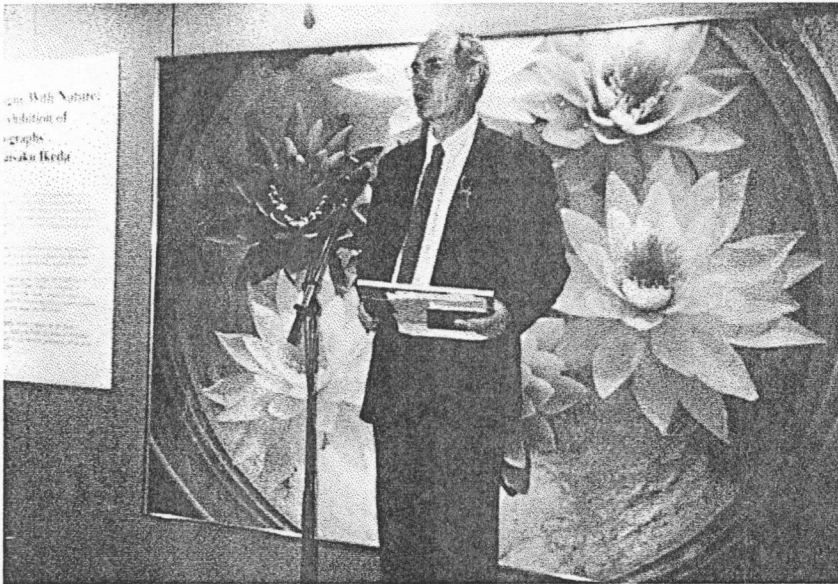


Remembering the beauty of our lives, through photos



Deputy Mayor Clive Doucet, at the opening ceremony: "I won't forget this evening."

One of Canada's leading proponents of global nuclear disarmament has extolled "Dialogue With Nature", an exhibit of photographs now showing at the old City Hall, for its message of peace. Senator Douglas Roche spoke at the opening ceremony on November 27, 2001.

The photos and accompanying poems by Daisaku Ikeda, President of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a Buddhist group "give us tranquility, a source of strength, patience, and courage to see beyond the ordinary, to what is possible," he said. Equally moved, Deputy Mayor Clive Doucet noted how the exhibit encourages us "to remember the poetry of our existence and the planet's existence, the beauty of our lives and of the planet."

An SGI member read the following from a message by Dr. Ikeda, who lives in Tokyo, Japan: "Our partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada on this occasion is one of many ongoing projects to help foster a sense of world citizenship, which I believe is the key to overcoming the differences that have rent our world since time immemorial. Now, more than at any time in history, we need to bring forth the light of our higher nature and enable the wisdom and compassion of that light to banish the dark clouds of violence that have engulfed humanity for too long."

I am by no means a professional photographer. Nor do I travel to many places for the sake of finding photographic opportunities, waiting with camera in hand for the perfect instant to release the shutter. In my travels for peace around the world, I simply record the impression that nature's beauty makes on my heart, as I feel it at that moment.

A photograph that captures the moment is a tapestry that the human heart and nature weave together, reflecting the true aspect of all phenomena. At times I see eternity condensed in a single life-moment. In this sense, the mystic power of art lives in photography.

At the same time, I think photography is a popular art form that everyone can enjoy. As a person who loves photography, which is open to everyone, I feel no greater joy than helping to broaden the path to mutual understanding among our fellow humans - transcending the boundaries between nations and overcoming the barriers of language."

The sheer beauty and tranquility of the exhibition is something we all need desperately now, commented Teena Hendelman, President of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights, who attended the opening ceremony.

The exhibition, which is free, is located in the Sussex Pavilion on the ground floor of the old City Hall, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. The space is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please use the main entrance on weekends and in the evening.