

Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze



May 21, 2017

contains;

Hot links

Exciting Events

An article

**about the May 18 Salon and plans for the rest of the summer.
An explanation of just why I am doing all this.**

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Hot Links

Here is something worth reading

The article "Towards a Post Work Society" from ROAR magazine. It needs to be in the essential readings on BI list.

<https://roarmag.org/magazine/towards-a-post-work-society/>

" Given the escalating crises of work, the dreamer is perhaps no longer the utopian who searches for alternatives, but the person who believes things can go on as they are. The radical solution is the sane solution."

And here is **something worth listening to**. It is a very good discussion of the difficulties people have getting their heads around a BI. They are stuck in "status quo" thinking.

http://www.livingrant.ch/audioarchive/UBI-status-quo-discussion-episode-_mixdown.mp3

EVENTS

May 23

Avi Lewis is following through on his promise to get some discussions going about the LEAP manifesto. This one is at Ryerson. It is not specifically about BI but the subject is likely to come up. If you are a keen BI advocate it would be a good place to spread some leaflets around.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/118615235365722/>

May 29

Here is something very interesting. " Basic Income and the New Economy." These are people who get the point of a BI. It makes sense only when talked about in the frame of the "new economy"; the new kind of world we are getting as the present disappears.

You have to pay some money to get in the door but “low income” people can get a discount. If you want to attend, don’t wait too long; it is filling up.

http://www.ryerson.ca/clmr/events/2017_05_29/

What happened at the “Salon” on May 18? And what will we do the rest of the summer?

Somebody actually showed up. Her name is Ava. We had a nice little conversation.

She was concerned that she is about to retire and get \$17500 a year from GAINS. She is not sure how she will live on that. She thinks there is no real middle class because everybody’s excess money goes to rent or paying a mortgage. Few really live very well.

We talked about many subjects; American politics and the danger of nuclear war, the troubles the old style left has dealing with the BI concept, the consequences of technological unemployment for capitalism. She seemed to feel that some big change was coming around year 2023.

where I am going

She asked me where I was going with my project of trying to build a BI group in Toronto. First off, I said, some kind of presence is needed in Toronto. About half a dozen smaller cities around Ontario have active BI groups, although most of them seem to be ga-ga about the “pilot”.

We need to expand the Basic Income movement all across Canada, but also draw in a lot more people with a ‘left’ frame of understanding, as a remedy to the “make welfare nicer” mentality behind the BI Pilot. We need to build an

actual organization, not just loose networks. This is a huge flaw in the thinking of people from about mine and Ava's generation onward; they have a hostility to structure and then can't understand why they can't get anything done.

I want to see a new advocacy organization, based in Toronto. A few people have started new organizations this way. I have a couple of collaborators but we are older and have few personal resources. I expect it to take about five years. The first thing is to get a good active group together; people who understand the concept and are willing to put some time in, and critically, know how to work with other people to get things done.

Once we establish a track record as a group with its collective head together, which knows its stuff, and is able to do things, we can start applying for some serious funds. We can get to the takeoff point where we can get an office and employ some staff, and start seriously building the powerful movement for a Basic Income which is still lacking at present. There seems to be a lot of support for what is presently being called a Basic Income, but we have been there before. The trouble is and has been that it is a philosophical plaything for a few academics, bureaucrats, and politicians; the public is never really engaged.

over the summer

I asked Ava if she thought I should continue with these Salons. Not over the summer, she thought. She is right; enough of this for now. I can't get people to come to me, the next step is to go to people. I will work on my oral presentation over the summer and take it on the road this fall.

We are also working on finding places for Robyn to do her workshops. For some reason it is very hard to find anything around Regent park. We thought we had someplace, but they seem to have gone cold. The person we talked to was enthusiastic last fall, but now is concerned about Insurance, and it seems, some internal politics in his workplace.

We seem clear to get into Metro hall, and we are looking for openings on the U of T campus.

All this puts a serious cramp on democracy in Toronto. Twenty years ago it was much easier to find a place to hold a meeting. It was also a lot easier to get a crowd of people out to a meeting. It was easier to get word out about a public meeting. Now, everything is so compartmentalized by the internet.

This "Newsbreeze" is now a year old. The first one was May 28 last year. I started it shortly after getting back from the Winnipeg BICN congress. I think, for a first anniversary issue, I will do a review of that congress in light of the events in Ontario of the past year.

Thats all. Next Breeze May 28