

The Raging Grannies Need You!



Seen here in Toronto & Parliament Hill in Ottawa!

To Join, Call Granny Kate Chung At 416-925-0745.

**We're just a gaggle of grannies, Urging you up off your fannies,
We're here to protest... Put violence to rest. Stop all war!**

The Toronto Raging Grannies are recruiting. As the founders of the Toronto "gaggle" age and are no longer able to get out to events, new members are urgently needed.

The Raging Grannies are a truly Canadian phenomenon - with a healthy sense of humour. Growing out of the Voice of Women (VOW), the first gaggle began singing in Victoria, B.C. (Raging Grannies refer to their local associations as "Gaggles", read "group".) There are now Gaggles of Grannies all across Canada, and in several cities in U.S.A. Ralph Nader has called them "**Canada's best export**".

The Victoria grannies, whose exploits are celebrated in their book "**Off Our Rockers and into Trouble**", paddled tea parties to the captains of US warships and thus inspired peace-loving women across the country and around the world. Why, you ask, do they dress up in ridiculous garb and sing at peace marches, protests, and rallies?

As Emma Goldman remarked, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be Part of your revolution". Grannies sing out of moral indignation, but they thumb their noses at convention. To a society which relegates older women to the sidelines and decrees they keep on the apron, they say " You want me to wear an apron and a flowered hat? I will, but you can't shut up the voice of justice and peace"

The Toronto Raging Grannies got started in the winter of 1990 and joined with Ottawa and Montreal Grans to protest on Parliament Hill against NATO's fighter-bomber training over unceded lands of the Innu

in Labrador. They are tart and timely voices in deputations before city authorities, against privatization of the water system or the police clamping down on demonstrations, and singing out against war and against the lean, mean government policies hurting the poor. They use humour to reach people on issues of social justice - to touch them, to encourage them to think and act. They delight in turning up uninvited at official functions - such as the swearing in of the Liberal government of Ontario, in 2003, when they took over the steps of the Legislature, and serenaded MPPs and guests with this song:

**"Every breath you take,
Every move you make,
Every pledge you break,
Every step you take,
We'll Be Watching You.
Every single day,
Every word you say,
Every deal for friends,
Every hope that ends,
We'll Be Watching You.
Sick and homeless too,
All are watching you.
You must keep the faith
with every step you take."**

The Raging Grannies are the highlight of many a demonstration, and young people are frequently heard exclaiming "The Grannies rock!" The Grannies think the young activists "rock" too. They are our hope for a better world.

Would you like to sing along? Just join in any time you see them. The only requirement is that you be a woman and that you have "attitude". No age limit and you don't need to be a grandmother.