



# Pagan Federation / Fédération Païenne Canada

To protect and promote the reputation of  
Pagans and Paganism in Canada

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**Comments??? Send them to us. Have something to say? Send it to us too. We are always looking for input from our members and we would love to print your article or comments.**

## From PFPC

It is with regret that we accept the resignations of Maryanne Pearce and her husband Austin Lawrence. We would like to thank them for their ideas and their participation in last years Toronto Pagan Conference when Maryanne and Austin presented for the PFPC panel. We would like to wish Maryanne all the luck in the world as she pursues her new career as a full-time university student. We know she will do wonderfully. Congratulations!

## Upside-Down Bread

This is one of those superstitions that are known throughout Europe, having more to do with the poverty of peasants than anything else. A loaf of bread must always be placed face up, or else bad luck will come. Upside down bread is taken quite seriously at times, especially on board fishing boats, where bad luck could mean no fish or worse.

This belief is still adhered to by many people, but reflects just how important bread was in the life of a starving peasant or immigrant family. For these people, bread was life and so every precaution was taken in order to keep it on the table.

## Moonstones

The moonstone is characterised by an enchanting play of light. Indeed it owes its name to that mysterious shimmer which always looks different when the stone is moved and is known in the trade as 'adularescence'. In earlier times, people believed they could recognise in it the crescent and waning phases of the moon.



Moonstones from Sri Lanka, the classical country of origin of the moonstone, shimmer in pale blue on an almost transparent background. Specimens from India feature a nebulous interplay of light and shadow on a background of beige-brown, green, orange or brown. These discreet colours, in connection with the fine shimmer, make the moonstone an ideal gemstone for jewellery with a sensual, feminine aura. This gemstone was very popular once before, about a hundred years ago at the time of Art Nouveau. It adorns a noticeably large number of the jewellery creations of the French master goldsmith René Lalique and his contemporaries, mainly to be found in museums and collections

today.

This gemstone is surrounded by a good deal of mystique and magic. In many cultures, for example in India, it is regarded as a holy, magical gemstone. In India, moonstones are also regarded as 'dream stones' which bring the wearer beautiful visions at night. In Arabic countries, women often wear moonstones sewn out of sight into their garments, for in their cultures the moonstone is a symbol of fertility.

The moonstone symbolizes our being in its entirety. With its soft shimmer, it strengthens our emotional and subconscious aspects. The associations connected with that make it a "lovers' stone", evoking tender feelings and safeguarding the true joys of love. It is also said that wearing a moonstone strengthens our intuition and our capacity to understand.  
*(With thanks to the International Colored Gemstones Association)*

### Amber

"Stone Age man imbued amber with supernatural properties and used it to wear and to worship," says Mr Federman. "Amber took on great value and significance to, among others, the Assyrians, Egyptians, Etruscans, Phoenicians and Greeks. It never completely went out of vogue since the Stone Age. Between 1895 and 1900, one million kilograms of Baltic amber were produced for jewelry."



There are many myths surrounding the origin of amber. Ovid wrote that when Phaethon, a son of Helios, the sun, convinced his father to allow him to drive the chariot of the sun through the heavens for a day, he erred too close to the earth, scorching it. To save the earth, Zeus struck Phaethon with a thunderbolt and he died, plunging out of the sky. His mother and sister turned into trees in their grief but still mourned him. Their tears, dried by the sun, are amber.

The Greeks called amber 'elektron', sun-made, perhaps because of this story, or perhaps because it becomes electrically charged when rubbed with a cloth and can attract small particles.

Homer mentions amber jewellery - earrings and a necklace of amber beads - as a princely gift in the Odyssey.

Another ancient writer, Nicias, said that amber was the juice or essence of the setting sun congealed in the sea and cast up on the shore.

The Romans sent armies to conquer and control amber-producing areas. The Emperor Nero was a great connoisseur of amber. During his time, according to the Roman historian Pliny, the price of an amber figurine, no matter how small, exceeded the price of a healthy slave.

The ancient Germans burned amber as incense, so they called it 'bernstein', or 'burn stone'. Clear colourless amber was considered the best material for rosary beads in the Middle Ages on account of its smooth silky feel. Certain orders of knights controlled the trade, and unauthorised possession of raw amber was illegal in most of Europe by the year 1400.  
*(Again, with thanks to the International Colored Gemstone Association)*

### Arachne's Web

By: Lisa Crandall

I've recently become enamoured of e-bay auctions. They have some lovely pagan things but it made me wonder if there were any pagan auction sites out there. According to The Witches Voice there are at least 126. So I goggled and found a few I thought were interesting. Besides, it's never too soon to think about Yule gifts.

**www.auction-goddess.com** This site offers a limited selection that seems to come from two or three main suppliers. Still might be worth checking out. The first thing I came across was a charming stain glass piece representing a bubbling cauldron. There is also a nice selection of soft body dolls. One of the larger sections is for hoodoo related items – Marie Laveau and Baron Samedi dolls, journals, post cards and conjuring kits. The herbal section looks to have lots of variety too.

**www.e-witch.com** This one features a wide assortment of Llewellyn books, including the teen series of novels. This might be the place to check for items no longer available through Llewellyn. The herb section has some interesting

things, i.e., black walnut leaves and hulls, deer's tongue leaf and buckthorn bark. The crystal & gem section is wholly given over to natural stones, including mini fans of matching stones for making jewelry. Check out the snowflake obsidian and the jasper leopardskin sets.

**www.bid-witch.com** One special section really caught my eye on this site. Check out the witchling category - baby bibs and body suits featuring different styles of pentacles! In the clothing section itself are various styles of tote bags, nice long straps perfect for taking to the grocery store. You'll also find pentacle panties and boxers along with the regular t and sweat shirts. Right now this site also offers a wide array of fairy/goddess design throw pillows.

And finally one of my favorite accidental discoveries; It is not an auction site but I did find it through an e-bay search. Are you one of those people endlessly wondering which car is yours as you walk down that row of same color cars at the mall? For so long I've envied my folks who have a cactus with kerchief around its neck and a cowboy hat on their antenna. It's easily 8-10 inches tall and there is no mistaking which car theirs is in the parking lot. Well I finally found out they are called car antenna toppers (smaller

sizes) or car antenna ornaments (bigger ones), and they come in a huge array of styles, shapes and colors. Check them out at

**<http://www.antennaornaments.com/home.php>**

You'll also find them on E-bay where they tend to be Disney and classic cartoon oriented.

### **Witch Leaving Town After Attack**

By: Stéphane Massinon The Daily News  
9.09.2007

<<http://www.hfxnews.ca/index.cfm?sid=60876&sc=89>>

A Spryfield witch says too much toil and trouble is forcing her out of town.

For weeks, Shauna Cook, 37, said she's been targeted in her Spryfield home on Lavender Walk because she is a hedge-witch natural healer. Most recently, it was two of her pagan friends being attacked.

Shortly after midnight on Friday, an 18-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy were leaving Cook's house to catch the bus when four males approached them and asked where they were going.

After they told them they were going back home,

the boy was attacked. Two more people jumped into the fight, making it six against two.

The woman ran back to Cook's house and picked up the phone to call police. While she was on the phone, one of the attackers threw a rock through a window and hit her in the forehead.

"I'm pretty sure it was aimed at my head. They had impeccable aim and he was looking directly at me," she said.

Meanwhile, the 17-year-old boy was beaten and stabbed in the back before he made it back to the house.

The attackers fled in all directions.

### *Treated at hospital*

The two victims, who for safety reasons do not want to be identified, were brought to hospital, treated and released a few hours later.

This attack comes weeks after her family was swarmed by bat-wielding assailants.

Cook said her friends were attacked yesterday partly because she is a hedge-witch, a religion she calls a more traditional form of wicca. She says her Greystone area neighbours don't understand her religion and call her a white supremacist, which she says is simply not true. Cook's black clothing and cloaks she occasionally wears - plus her grammatically correct English - make her "stand out like a sore thumb," she said. "I try to mind my own business."

### *Moving to Valley*

The latest bout of alleged anti-witch violence has convinced her to move her kids to the Annapolis Valley to be with her mother.

"I'm not willing to have this happen anymore to my family," she said.

Both victims of the attack told *The Daily News* that being pagan and associating with Cook were likely motivating factors in the sudden attack.

"I believe it started because we're pagan and we wear black," said the 18-year-old woman who had the rock thrown at her.

She did not suffer a concussion and said she feels surprisingly clear-headed. Cook, whom she calls her "mummy munchkin," is like a den-mother to the kids.

"I'm in pain and in shock and scared out of my wits for the family that's still up there," she said. The boy who was stabbed was patched up in hospital.

"I'm fine; just a bit of back pain," he said.

Police are still investigating.

"The suspects are described as black males between the ages of 16 and 19 years old, average

build and wearing baggy clothes," said Halifax Regional Police Sgt. Joe Collins.  
The female victim said she knows the attackers, but not by name.

**PFPC Elections 2007**  
PFPC will be holding elections on Samhain 2007 for 3 positions on the PFPC Board of Directors. In order to qualify for nomination (and you can nominate yourself), you must be a member in good standing for one year and current in your membership. You don't have to be in Ottawa to be on the board; with the advancements in technology, meetings can be held on-line as easily as everyone being together in one room. We need you!!! Join PFPC and make a difference!! All nominations must be received before midnight on October 15, 2007.

**Something Wiccan This Way Comes In A Bid To Loose Zeus And Conjure Up A Goal For The Toronto Football Club**

By Mike Strobel Toronto Sun 09.22.2007  
<<http://torontosun.com/News/OtherNews/2007/09/22/4517110-sun.html>>

This ought to do the trick, soccer fans.  
"Zeus, Lord of Olympus," Tamarra James cries out.  
"Receive this offering of precious incense and turn your eyes to this place."  
A cloud crosses the midday sun over BMO Field. A gull keens. A security guard shifts nervously.  
Ms. James, 56, is high priestess of the Wiccan Church of Canada. She is this country's top witch.  
We are here, with her deputy witch, Nicole Cooper, 31, to put a spell on Toronto FC.  
A good spell. A spell to bring a harvest of goals. Or at least one. Starting today, with Columbus in town.  
As any suffering FC fan knows, the team has not scored in nine games. Not once. No even on their own net. Not even in practice, I hear.  
In desperation, I have called Tamarra. "Sure," she says. "Can you pick us up?" What, no brooms?  
So I zip over to Tamarra's place off St. Clair Ave. W. She is wed to high priest Richard James. They own the Occult Shop on Vaughan Rd. Their house must drive kids wild on Halloween.

What are you going to dress up as, Tamarra?  
"I guess I'll be a witch."  
Even at noon on a Friday, my spine tingles.

**WITCH GODDESS**

Careful, don't bump the table guarding the Sleepy Hollow driveway. Finely carved African black granite, it is dedicated to Hecate, goddess of witchcraft.

A gnarly old oak crowds the front yard. Halfway up, a mask of Zeus gazes out at his realm. Indeed, he peers directly toward BMO Field. Zeus is chief god of the heavens, and of sports. The first Olympics were in his honour. The entrance to the house is darkest gumwood. Eerie eyes peer from picture frames. A room brims with books on potions and black notions. Wands of wood, clay and crystal. Egyptian myrrh. Ethiopian jawi. Coconut resin. Amazon copal. Hemlock gum. ("Not the poisonous one.") Sandalwood. Sulphur.

On the second storey, a few steps below the temple, is an altar to Zeus.

In bronze, he wields his trademark lightning bolt. "He's the god we'll be working with," says Tamarra. (I hope we haven't blessed the game with a thunderstorm.)

Beneath the bronze is a softball, signed by a prison team. The James do outreach rituals for Wiccan convicts.

Now, to business. Hi ho, Hi ho, off to BMO we go.

Team officials won't let us on the field. Oh, toil and trouble. So Tamarra and Nicole set up at Gate 3. Close enough for Zeus, lord of sport.

**FRANKINCENSE**

They have brought their best frankincense. Five bucks a bottle back at the shop.

Plus a goblet of wine in homage. A nice full-bodied Australian shiraz.

Tamarra holds it to the heavens. Sweet frankincense sparks on a stand of charcoal. She calls to Zeus:

"Hear me as I ask your blessings on this stadium, where bold men will strive on the morrow to wrest victory in the field.

"May their efforts delight your eyes. Let their battle be glorious, yet grant safety to these men in their exertions.

"And (this is the biggie), let those who behold the contest see many goals over which to raise their voices in wild cheers of approval."

The cloud drifts off the sun. The dying light of summer bathes red bleachers where goal-starved fans will sit today.

A flag ripples. The high priestess lights a Viscount.  
"Nothing in life is guaranteed," she says. "But I have a deep and abiding belief in Zeus. To me, sport is a link to antiquity, a gift from Zeus. "We've invited him to watch this game." Just to be sure, I dust Gate 3 with something another witch gave me years ago. Jinx Removing Powder.  
"Think of a dark cloud hanging over the team," Tamarra directs. "Then picture you removing it." Done. So, if you are going to today's game, keep an eye out for Zeus. You will know he's about if FC breaks the drought. Or if it rains and thunders. If either happens, thank my good witches. Okay, ladies, let's talk about the Leafs.



*Prince Vlad "the impaler" is thought to have stayed at Castle Bran*

*(For all the closet vampires out there, Just in case you are looking for that retirement cottage)*

### **Legal Row Over 'Dracula's Castle**

BBC News September 20, 2007  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7004758.stm>

Romanian MPs have become embroiled in a row over the ownership of Bran Castle - the 14th-Century building famous for its links to the Count Dracula story.

It was returned to New York architect Dominic Habsburg, a descendant of the country's former rulers, last year after 60 years under state control. Some MPs say that process was illegal and want to stop the castle being sold.

Mr Habsburg has threatened legal action, saying it would be a "dreadful injustice" to strip him of ownership.

The infamous Prince Vlad "the impaler", the real-life inspiration for Dracula, is reputed to have spent a night at Castle Bran.

This connection has been a boon to the tourist industry in Romania, and MPs are keen to hold on to a prized asset.

### *'Thrown out'*

Earlier this year, Mr Habsburg said he would be willing to sell it back to the Romanian authorities for \$78m (£40m) - but ministers said the price was too high.

During a parliamentary debate this week, opposition MP Dumitru Ioan Puchianu said the return of the castle had been illegal because of procedural errors.

He said Mr Habsburg, whose family was thrown out of the castle after World War II, should not be allowed to sell it.

In response, Mr Habsburg issued a letter through his lawyers threatening to sue for damages of some \$200m if the MPs stripped him of his right to sell the castle.

"I live once more with the feeling of dread in which I once lived, as a child, when my family and I were forced out of our home and thrown out into the streets in mid-winter," the letter said.

The castle rises dramatically from the forests in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, 170km (105 miles) north of the capital Bucharest.

About 450,000 tourists are said to visit each year.

PFPC is always looking for articles for the newsletter. Submission date for the Fall 2007 issue is November 21, 2007

