

[These notes were found amongst the detritus of Hass' home. - Robert Von Stricker Beresford]

The National Anthem.

No, not the Radiohead song. No, this section doesn't have an awesome sax part in it. But that would be one way to improve things.

Our anthem should not have lyrics. Have you ever actually paid attention to the lyrics? Either we abandon the lyrics or we get a new anthem entirely. Personally, I don't have a problem with the music to the current one, but that is because I learned it in school. Perhaps the music isn't very good after all (what do I know? I'm not a musician).

English:

O Canada! Our home and native land!

It is our home, in a sense, but it isn't our native land. It really isn't even the natives' land. They got it like we did, only with a lot less death. In any case, it isn't our native land.

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

I don't know that patriotism is like love, and tends to be more like hate. But I guess it could be. I've noticed we have a severe lack of patriotism in this country, so the line is not appropriate. The sons of the Queen? What is the other part even about?

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

Eek. Canada? "The Twentieth Century will be Canada's Century." Insert hysterical laughter here.

The True North strong and free!

It is true, that we are north of lots of things. We're not particularly strong (just look at our arctic sovereignty issues), and I guess we're fairly free, but I would have to consult Freedom Watch first....

From far and wide, O Canada,

Does this regard immigrants, or the size of the country? People come from far and wide, I guess. And we also live far and wide apart, I guess. It's appropriate! It's the only line we should keep! The whole song should be about distances! I'm a genius.

We stand on guard for thee.

Well some of us do. The French tend not to. And then it really isn't a matter of standing on guard for Canada, as for people in other parts of the world, not normally Canadians (as there aren't many of us).

Unless of course there's an opportunity for our PM to show off with his private jet and rescue some.

But he wasn't really guarding Canada.

God keep our land

Eek. This must go.

Glorious and free!

We have to keep it glorious. And we have to pay more attention to how it is getting less glorious (I'm speaking, of course, of the aesthetic nature of the word glorious, rather than its military meaning). Ditto with the freedom thing. Regrettably, the two conflict.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee; O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

See, it sucks. And you should see the complete lyrics. Eww.

English Translation of French:

O Canada! Land of our forefathers
Thy brow is wreathed with a glorious garland of flowers.
As in thy arm ready to wield the sword,
So also is it ready to carry the cross.
Thy history is an epic
of the most brilliant exploits.
Thy valour steeped in faith
Will protect our homes and our rights
Will protect our homes and our rights.

I don't think I have to say anything about the French lyrics. They are scary. You know what we should really do? We should abandon anthems completely. We could claim to be the first country to be “above” anthems! That would be great!