

**Notes for a Testimonial Statement**

**by Paul Heinbecker\***

**Regarding Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis,**

**Co-CEOs of RIM**

**Canadian Chamber of Commerce Dinner**

**Toronto**

**November 19, 2006**



**When I was Ambassador to Germany in the mid-Nineties, the Blackberry was a twinkle in RIM's collective eye.**

**When, in the summer of 2,000, I became Ambassador to the United Nations, I was about the only diplomat there who had a Blackberry.**

**(For many of my UN colleagues, the term "Luddite" would have been a compliment.**

**I used to torment them by reading my up-to-the-second instructions straight off the Blackberry.)**

**In New York on 9/11, the Blackberry was the only way to communicate to the outside world.**

**Four years later the US Government was describing the Blackberry as essential to US national security.**

**That is warp speed even by communications industry standards.**

**It was only about five years ago that you had to check whether Blackberry would work in certain parts of Ontario.**

**Now you can get off a plane in any of 150 countries and it works.**

**RIM has operations in North America, Europe and of course the Asia-Pacific.**

**It has relationships with more than 300 carriers worldwide.**

**(By the way, I confess to a quiet moment of schadenfreude whenever I see people trying to get their laptops through airport security.**

**I also look forward to red lights now!**

**And there is no longer any such thing as sitting, bored through meetings, at least in Waterloo where Blackberry use is encouraged during meetings.)**

**Jim and Mike are technology and commerce driven visionaries.**

**The world really is their oyster—or at least their Pearl!**

**And they are not just bringing innovative wireless solutions to the world.**

**They are also bringing the world to Canada, and especially to Waterloo.**

**They run a literal world-class enterprise from Waterloo Ontario.**

**Senior management is a mini-United Nations of nationalities**

**Their employees are drawn from 300 colleges and universities in over 30 countries.**

**To be sure, perhaps 30% from the University of Waterloo and 10% from Laurier.**

**But if Jim and Mike shine as business people, they are outright incandescent as community members.**

**Neither one has ever shrunk from big ideas.**

**One blustery January day several years ago, Jim called David Johnston and me and a number of others together at his cottage on Georgian Bay**

**for advice on how to change the world.**

**That weekend Jim effectively created the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI),**

**a non-profit, non-partisan research institution based in Waterloo**

**which has become in the intervening five years arguably Canada's premier international policy research and advocacy institution,**

**if I must say so myself.**

**In less than five years, CIGI has grown to about 60 staff and has a network of partners, associates and advisors across North America and literally around the world.**

**While Jim has been busy changing the world, Mike has been busy trying to change the universe or, at least, to advance our understanding of it.**

**Fascinated all of his life with finding out how things work, Mike has created the unique Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics,**

**Well over 100 of the best scientific minds from around Canada and virtually every corner of the globe come to Perimeter to spark ideas off of each other, literally to understand how the universe works.**

**Mike also endowed the extraordinary Centre for Quantum Computing at the U of W which David Johnston has mentioned.**

**Both universities and our community college and the local community itself have benefited in literally uncounted ways from the imaginations and energy and audacity and generosity of these two extraordinary people.**

**Not least have been the literally 100's of leaders each year who come to Waterloo.**

**By the way some of us are hoping that Jim will soon be bringing more international young people to Kitchener-Waterloo,**

**named Malkin, Ekman, Gonchar, Ruutu and Crosby!**

**No tribute would be complete without a reference to the devotion—not too strong a word—to their families of these great Canadians.**

**Anyone who has witnessed the love of these two extraordinarily successful men for their families,**

**and the love of their families for them, cannot be anything but humbled.**

**Mrs. Pearson once said after listening to her husband give yet another interminable political speech, “behind every successful man there is a surprised woman.”**

**I doubt that either Ophelia or Heidi is surprised.**

**After all, Mike and Jim are partly the products of their genius.**

**Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce.**

**You have chosen extremely well this year.**



