

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Conference Brings PNND to Pugwash

From July 10 to 12th, the Pugwash Peace Exchange played host to over twenty-five members of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) for their conference, "Pugwash, Parliamentarians and Political Will: Advancing the Agenda for Abolition."

The goal of this conference was to develop new strategies for building the political will necessary to take bold steps for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, leading to the abolition of nuclear weapons and the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world.

This conference was particularly critical given recent and upcoming leadership changes in the Nuclear Weapon States which will provide new opportunities for progress, provided that effective action is taken and sufficient political will is generated by legislators, experts, officials and key constituencies in civil society.

Representatives of the PNND came from all around the world, including such countries as New Zealand, the Marshall Islands, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russia and Tanzania, among others. We were also fortunate to have present the Norwegian Minister of Defence, Anne-Grete Strøm-Erichsen, as well as the Australian Minister of Defence, Warren Snowdon.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2008 CONFERENCE

Working sessions were held on Friday and Saturday, with public events every evening during the conference.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this conference

such an enjoyable and productive one.

For more photos and reports from the conference, please visit the PNND Pugwash Conference webpage at www.gsinsitute.org/pnnd/archives/Pugwash.html. An unofficial summary, showing the outcomes of the various working sessions, is available at <http://www.gsinsitute.org/>

Third Annual Dinner of Peace a Success

Our Third Annual Dinner of Peace was held on Saturday, July 12th. Over 300 Pugwash Peace Exchange members, conference attendees and special guests attended this event.

Prior to the dinner, our guests indulged their competitiveness by bidding in our silent auction, the most coveted item being an original sketch by famed Nova Scotian artist Tom Forrestall.

The always-riveting Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire, Senator, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and we were delighted to welcome back Premier Rodney MacDonald, who brought greetings from the Province of Nova Scotia.

The crowd also greatly enjoyed

the incredible talents of our guest, ECMA award-winner and Juno nominee, John Gracie.



John Gracie

After dinner, the assembled group was treated to a thought-provoking speech by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament, Sergio Duarte. His thoughts on the role of political will in the quest for disarmament gave people much to ponder.



Sergio Duarte

We would like to thank all who were involved in making the silent auction and dinner such a success.



Summer 2008



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Be Green!

If you wish to receive this newsletter online instead of by mail, please contact our office.
Thank you!

Thinkers' Lodge Granted National Historic Status

The "Thinkers' Lodge" has a special meaning for everybody involved with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. Birthplace of the conferences, it has served as the symbolic and spiritual heart and home of the movement.

The significance of this structure was recently given national recognition, as the Thinkers' Lodge was granted National Historic status by Parks Canada.

The application was originally submitted by the Pugwash Park Commission (PPC) staff member Kathy Langille. The PPC is currently chaired by John Eaton, a descendent of Cyrus Eaton. Additional information, materials and resources were supplied by the Pugwash Peace Exchange,

resulting in a cooperative effort by these two groups to ensure national recognition of this historic treasure.

The announcement took place during the PNND conference, on July 12th, with Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defense and of ACOA, making the official announcement on behalf of the Government of Canada.

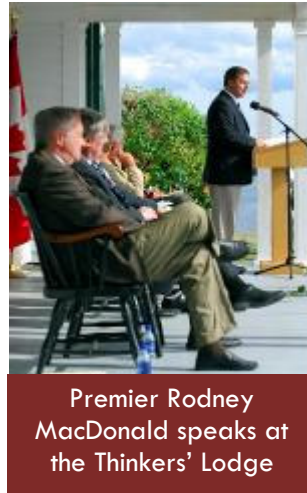
Premier Rodney MacDonald also spoke on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Earlier this year, after extensive promotion by the PPE, with additional urging from the PPC, the Prov-

ince granted \$500,000 towards the restoration and repair of the Thinkers' Lodge.

The funds were distributed to the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Agency (CREDA) for guardianship while the necessary planning stages for repair are being developed and put into place.

Hopefully the Thinkers' Lodge will now be around to inspire not only this generation or the next one, but many generations to come — just as Cyrus Eaton likely would have intended.



Premier Rodney MacDonald speaks at the Thinkers' Lodge

"MANY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES IN CANADA ARE FORTS — SYMBOLS OF CONFLICT. HOWEVER, THINKERS' LODGE IS A SYMBOL OF PEACE FOR SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD."

- PREMIER RODNEY MACDONALD

PPE Wins Rotary International Award

This summer, the Pugwash Peace Exchange was awarded the Rotary International (Zone 22) Donald MacRae Peace Award that recognizes and honours PPE for outstanding achievement, in advancing "international understanding, goodwill and peace." Zone 22 consists of Rotary Clubs in Canada as well as parts of the United States, France and Russia.

"Pugwash Peace Exchange exemplifies Rotary's main objective: To provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world," said Rotary International President, Wilfrid Wilkinson.

"The Pugwash Peace Exchange is deeply honoured to accept this award," said Stephen Leahey, President of the PPE. "The Donald MacRae Peace Award is a tribute to all



Donald MacRae Peace Award

members and volunteers of the Pugwash Peace Exchange, the conference participants who work tirelessly for peace and disarmament around the world, and the community of Pugwash that has been so

supportive of our activities over the years."

The award commemorates the contribution of Halifax Rotarian Donald MacRae, who, in a speech to the International Convention in Kansas City in June, 1918 first proposed that Rotary promote goodwill and peace among nations.

In recognition of this honour, we received the following letter from Dr. Jayantha Dhanapala, President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs:

"As President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, I'm writing on behalf of the international Pugwash community to congratulate you on the Rotary International (Zone 22) Donald MacRae Peace Award."

"We in the long established Pugwash Movement, which had its origin at Pugwash, Nova Scotia but has now spread throughout the world and has earned global recognition through the Nobel Peace prize award in 1995, appreciate the supplementary role that PPE plays supporting the aims and objectives of the mainstream Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs."

The Pugwash Peace Exchange is very honoured to receive this award and would like to thank all of our members and volunteers for their support and their encouragement.

Canada's Brightest Visit Pugwash

From July 10th to 11th, Pugwash hosted some of Canada's brightest young students.

The Shad Valley program is a month-long summer enrichment program held at several host universities across the country. It focuses on the sciences, technology and entrepreneurship and brings together well-rounded and accomplished students from all across Canada, providing an academically stimulating adventure.

The visit by the Shad Valley students took place during the PNND conference, allowing the students to meet with several of the conference delegates.

Thursday evening, as part of the conference program, a panel discussion was held, featuring four out of the five female co-presidents of the PNND. The Shad Valley students greatly enjoyed this opportunity to hear and ob-

serve this dialogue regarding nuclear disarmament, and asked several thought-provoking and in-depth questions of the panelists.

At the end of the evening, the Shad Valley students generously presented the Pugwash Peace Exchange with a document that they created, titled "The Pugwash Manifesto of Shad Valley Dalhousie 2008." This was in homage to the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, which gave rise to the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs.

The students visited several local attractions on Saturday, before heading back to Halifax, much richer for having visited Pugwash.

We would like to thank the volunteers who worked to coordinate the Shad visit, as well as Gulf Shore Camping Park for providing accommodations.



Shad Valley Students make presentation to Stephen Leahy of the PPE

"As a group of diverse individuals brought together by Shad Valley, we speak with a united voice against the inequalities present in our world today.

Learning from the lessons of the past and using the knowledge of the present, we will promote an understanding of science and how it can be used to benefit humanity as a whole. Through our actions, we commit to the ideals of global peace, cooperation, social justice and human security.

Drive further. Stretch higher. Dream greater.

- The Pugwash Manifesto of Shad Valley Dalhousie 2008

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We've accomplished a lot this year, and we need your help to keep the momentum going!

The Pugwash Peace Exchange has just launched its annual operating campaign. If you are a current Pugwash Peace Exchange member, you should have received a letter from us, asking for your support.

This campaign's goal is to raise \$50,000 — funds which will be used towards the day-to-day expenses of running our office and continuing the work that we have done towards establishing a facility that will foster learning and passion for peace, while contributing towards economic development in our province.

Some of our accomplishments since last year's campaign include:

- A successful April dinner in Halifax with Romeo Dallaire as guest speaker, which raised funds towards the expenses associated with the PNND conference in July.
- A very successful conference of international parliamentarians, where we brought together over 25 leaders from around the world to work towards nuclear disarmament.
- Our Third Annual Dinner of Peace, attended by 300 PPE members and guests.
- We contributed towards the designation of the Thinkers' Lodge as a National Historic Site.
- We delivered educational presentations to numerous schools in northern Nova Scotia, teaching youth about the Nobel Peace Prize, the Pugwash Conferences, and the concept of peace and how their choices affect the world.
- Our lobbying efforts were a major contributor towards the Province of Nova Scotia earmarking \$500,000 towards the restoration of the Thinkers' Lodge (these funds are not available for operating costs).

So much has been accomplished this year! And next year will be even more exciting as we work towards the development of our site and interpretive plan, which will detail precisely what the final Pugwash Peace Exchange complex will look like. It will also detail what our visitors will experience as they come to the various buildings of the PPE, blending the lessons of the past with the ideas of the future.

Exciting times are ahead, but we won't be able to do it without your support. To contribute towards our 2008 operating campaign, please contact our office at (902) 243-2328 or at mail@pugwashpeaceexchange.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



CUMBERLAND REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION



Canadian
Pugwash

Affiliate of the Pugwash Conferences
on Science and World Affairs

Tourism, Culture and Heritage



One University. One World. Yours.



A HUGE "THANK YOU!" GOES OUT TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF OUR JULY 1ST PEACE CAFÉ, THE PNND CONFERENCE, OUR DINNER OF PEACE, HARBOURFEST AND THE MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Face-to-face with Facebook!

Word about the Pugwash Peace Exchange is reaching more people than ever, thanks to Facebook!

This social networking site boasts more than 80 million active users worldwide. One of the features on the site is "Groups", where users can create a group based around a common interest, event, or affiliation.

In August, 2008, the Pugwash Peace Exchange group was created on Facebook. This group's purpose is twofold:

- It will allow current Pugwash Peace Exchange members from all over the world to interact with each other — something that is impossible via other mediums.
- It will help spread the word about the Pugwash Peace Exchange, our goals, our activities, and recent updates.

If you currently use Facebook, please come and join the Pugwash Peace Exchange group. You will be able to interact with other members, discuss items relating to world peace and nuclear disarmament, share stories and photos from PPE events, and spread the word about the PPE to your friends!

To find the group, simply search for "Pugwash Peace Exchange", or go directly to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=26080286492>. Hope to see you online!



Film Festival News!

"The Strangest Dream" tells the story of Joseph Rotblat, the history of nuclear weapons and the fight against their proliferation.

Featuring interviews with members of the Pugwash movement and passionate public figures including Senator Roméo Dallaire, "The Strangest Dream" demonstrates the renewed threat of nuclear weapons, while encouraging hope through the example of morally engaged scientists and citizens.

Director: Eric Bednarski Producer: Kent Martin

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada

Running time: 90 minutes

The film will screen during the Atlantic Film Festival at Park Lane 8 in Halifax, **Sunday September 14th at 2 PM.**

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