

AN ACTIVE CANADIAN PUGWASH GROUP JOINS AND SHAPES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

In anticipation that they would be part of a historic event, thirty Canadian Pugwash members from across Canada traveled to the village of Pugwash for July 5 – 9, 2007. The expert discussions of the Extraordinary Workshop "Revitalizing Nuclear Disarmament" included the contributions of Ernie Regehr, Erika Simpson, and Adele Buckley; and a number of CPG observers were enabled with ideas for their own sphere of work in nuclear disarmament. We took pride in the fact that the Hon. Douglas Roche, co-Chair of the slate of anniversary events, is a past Chair of Canadian Pugwash. Presently the Chair of the Middle Powers Initiative, he continues a distinguished career in fighting for nuclear disarmament. Media arrangements for the 50th anniversary projects of Canadian Pugwash, and also for the complete suite of events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Pugwash Conferences were handled by the Rideau Institute, based in Ottawa, with very satisfactory results.



Roméo Dallaire, Adele Buckley and M.S. Swaminathan

Recording of a conversation between M.S. Swaminathan and Romeo Dallaire was a special project for us, in which we wanted to experience the views of both East and West. Conversation guide was Erika Simpson. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, President of Pugwash is a renowned genetics scholar who has been accorded many honours. Lieut. General Senator Romeo Dallaire, the Honorary Patron of the Pugwash Peace Exchange, has had a distinguished military career and has presented a motion in the Senate of Canada urging complete nuclear disarmament. A transcript of this conversation is available. Several publications were prepared specifically for the 50th anniversary, and were distributed in Pugwash. These were (1) summer edition of Peace Magazine, featuring Pugwash interviews and authors (2) brochure commemorating eminent member Anatol Rapoport and (3) pamphlet "Canadian Pugwash calls on NATO to Denuclearize".



Erika Simpson and M.S. Swaminathan

Interactions with the international scientists and policymakers, as well as with the local community and members of the Pugwash Peace Exchange were frequent and stimulating. We appreciated a special dinner at Fox Harbour on July 6, including after dinner comments by CPG member Giovanni Brenciaglia, nephew of Cyrus Eaton, and head of the Pugwash Park Commission. CPG members attended the ceremony of the presentation of the Nobel medal to the Pugwash Peace Exchange and went on to the Dinner of Peace – a highlight event. In the after dinner program, the

crowd was delighted with a short piano concert of Bach and Chopin by international performer Pierre Jasmin, CPG member and also President of Les Artistes pour la Paix.

Our Annual General Meeting was scheduled three months earlier than usual, to coincide with the 50th anniversary. Held at the Cyrus Eaton Dining Hall, the business meeting included election results, financial reports, and reports from Chair, Adele Buckley, and incoming Chair, Walter



Walter Dorn, New Chair of Canadian Pugwash

Dorn. In addition to hearing from Douglas Roche on the Extraordinary Workshop, others reported on progress on CPG sponsored projects – campaign for recognition of the name of Canadian Pugwash (in Canada); anniversary campaign “Canadian Pugwash Calls on NATO to Denuclearize”; Global Issues Project and the planned (Sept 21,22, 2007) roundtable on Climate Change and Energy. During the early spring of the year, a nomination and election process had been carried out that included the entire Canadian membership. The AGM affirmed the following new slate for the Board of Directors, and Executive Committee – Walter Dorn, Chair; Erika Simpson, Vice-Chair; Adele Buckley, Treasurer; Sergei Plekhanov, Secretary; David Harries, Member; Steven Staples, Member; Michael Wallace; Member. An evening reception and dinner was held in recognition of the contributions of Adele Buckley, Lee Lorch, Stephanie Reford and Murray Thomson.

The Public Forum, “*COMMUNICATING THE URGENCY OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT*” was organized by Canadian Pugwash and co-sponsored by five additional Canadian peace groups. The speakers: - Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell “*NEWS FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY WORKSHOP*” ; Dr. Janet Eaton, Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace – “*CONNECTING TO THE POWER OF WOMEN*”; Murray Thomson, O.C., Canadian Pugwash Member - “*NEWS FROM THE CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE NATO NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES*”; - Sandra Ionno Butcher, Director, Pugwash History Project “*STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS*”. Keynote speaker was Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, President, Pugwash Conferences. [See www.pugwash.org]. Those who heard his wide ranging presentation on the forum theme were inspired and motivated. His long journey from India especially to be at our Canadian forum was much appreciated. Breakout groups worked on the draft of the planned output of the forum - the CALL to CANADIANS. We want all citizens to become informed about the present peril of nuclear weapons and urge action from every level of society and government in Canada. An excerpt from the distributed text follows. The full text is at www.pugwashgroup.ca :

Submitted by:
Adele Buckley
Canadian Pugwash
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CALL TO CANADIANS

Understanding the Urgency of Nuclear Disarmament

As long as nuclear weapons exist they will one day be used. Nuclear arsenals remain enormous, nuclear capabilities are spreading, and the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons is growing. Canada, a nation that has a reputation for promotion of international cooperation, should exercise its moral authority, connect with like-minded states and insist on real progress toward an ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear weapons are targeted at cities, in gross violation of the human rights of their citizens. In spite of the real and serious threat of a nuclear attack, accidental or deliberate, Canadian political parties attach low importance to nuclear policy development. Widespread determination to end this threat must develop in governments at all levels, academic institutions, corporations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and the general public. Public opinion ultimately shapes political action in democratic countries. It is imperative for many Canadians to become informed about the *present* peril of nuclear weapons

This year commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Pugwash Conferences, which subsequently became a worldwide peace movement. The **Canadian Pugwash Group**, at a meeting with 5 Canadian peace groups in Pugwash Nova Scotia on July 8, 2007, adopted this **Call to all Canadians**.

- Engage the mass media. Launch a sustained movement for public understanding of the grave perils of nuclear weapons – immoral, and declared illegal by the International Court of Justice. When the public becomes aware that they are the targets, then they will insist on action from their decision makers.
- “Remember your humanity and forget the rest” quoting from the Russell – Einstein Manifesto, the founding document of the Pugwash movement.
- Engage youth in the process, as participants and decision makers. Introduce in school curricula, information relating to the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, so as to bring home the immediate and long term disastrous impact of a nuclear war.
- Start a nuclear peril literacy movement, so that the climate for ending nuclear proliferation and eliminating nuclear weapons can be generated.
- Recognize the interconnectedness of global threats. Because of the multi-dimensional threats posed to human security by climate change, and the instability in global affairs that will result, it is vital to remove the threat of nuclear weapons *now* and avoid the risk that some nation will instigate a nuclear exchange.
- Encourage and support Canadian Mayors in joining Mayors for Peace, led by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima.

Appeal for action *now*, **from every level of society and government in Canada**; insist on clearly demonstrated progress on these urgent matters
[*The “Call” continues with recommendations to the Canadian government.*]