

When Bertrand Russell or Albert Einstein spoke, people listened. But when these two leading thinkers of the twentieth century joined together to issue a manifesto, people acted.

That's precisely what American philanthropist and Pugwash-born Cyrus Eaton did after reading what's now called the "Russell-Einstein Manifesto," a document created in 1955 by Russell and Einstein that called on scientists from both sides of the Iron Curtain to discuss the threat of nuclear weapons.

In 1957 Eaton hosted the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs at Thinkers' Lodge, the property he bought twenty-eight years earlier in his Nova Scotia hometown on the Northumberland Strait. The conference brought together over twenty scientists from the U.S., Canada, the Soviet Union, Japan, the U.K., Australia, China, France and Poland.

"Everyone talked sense," said Illinois Physicist Eugene Rabinowitch in a July 1957 *Life* magazine article on the gathering. "And if anyone brought a soapbox, he left it outside."

That conference not only led to a Nobel Prize for Peace, awarded in 1995 and shared by Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Sciences and World Affairs, but the legacy of a property that became synonymous with peaceful discussion.

Today, Thinkers' Lodge still hosts conferences, seminars and classes, including an intensive week-long Saint Mary's graduate course on peace-building taught by Adjunct Professor Sherida Hassanali of the International Development Studies and Education programs. This is the second year SMU has partnered with Thinkers' Lodge to hold Hassanali's class.

Saint Mary's students participating in a peace-building course at Thinkers' Lodge in Pugwash share the same facility used by some of the 20th century's greatest thinkers when they deliberated on peace issues.

The idea for the course came out of a few conversations Hassanali had with John Eaton, the grandson of Cyrus Eaton and board member of the Pugwash Park Commission (the non-profit that owns



Saint Mary's offers a graduate course on peace-building taught by Adjunct Professor Sherida Hassanali at Thinkers' Lodge in Pugwash. Outside the Lodge during a recent seminar are: left, sitting Jinee Cho; standing left Amy O'Neil; standing middle Marie Brown; standing right April Lockhart; right sitting Linda Pullin; centre sitting Mark Kilby.

Thinkers' Lodge). She then took that idea to SMU President Dr. J. Colin Dodds, who quickly got behind it.

"As Saint Mary's has a long-standing active interest in peace-building, this was a perfect fit," says Hassanali. "Dr. Dodds has been instrumental in getting this course underway. Without his support, none of this would have been possible."

This year's course, entitled "Peace, Education, and Development: Theory and Practice," happened at the end of July. In it, and similar to last year's course, fourteen students critically examined how education, development, classrooms, and communities relate to world conflict and discussed the role teachers and students can play in the promotion of peace and social change.

"The place just exudes history," says Linda Pullin, who took the course as a visiting student from Mount Saint Vincent's Masters of Education program. "The course and the setting allowed me to do a lot of reflective thinking, to understand language around peace. I left there thinking, what can we do in our own personal lives around global peaceful resolution?"

During the six-day class, students completed readings, and participated in discussions and activities that focussed on deconstructing a number of key questions: What is peace? What are the social determinants of peace? Can you have development without peace or peace without development? How do you design peace? What is a culture of peace? What needs to be activated in you for change? How do we incorporate aspects of peace education across curriculums or in our workplaces?

There were no easy answers, but according to those who took the class, the struggle was well worth it.

"Now that I've completed the course, I can say that it really changed the way I see the world," says Marie Brown, a dietician who also took the course as a visiting student from Mount Saint Vincent University. "To be able to sit and live and sleep in a room where so many amazing thinkers have gathered for many years was just such a humbling experience. It's one that I hope many other students in the future take advantage of."

The course will be offered again next summer. Students are encouraged to register early as space is very limited. Questions about the course can be directed to Sherida Hassanali at sheridahassanali@thinkerslodge.org. To find out more about Thinkers' Lodge, visit thinkerslodge.org.



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