

Thinkers' Lodge restoration gets funding

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PUGWASH — Public funding to complete the final phase of the Thinkers' Lodge restoration was announced Saturday in Pugwash.

A total of \$885,000 from federal, provincial, municipal and community coffers will go toward restoring the Pugwash landmark, a national historic site and one-time summer home for philanthropist Cyrus Eaton.

Eaton hosted retreats and conferences at Pineo Lodge, as it was once called, for some of the most highly-regarded thinkers of the 20th century. The place soon became known as Thinkers' Lodge.

A 1957 conference on nuclear disarmament generated the Pugwash Movement, winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Peace.

"Thinkers' Lodge has an international reputation as the place that brought together some of the world's great scientific minds to work together in the cause of peace, winning a Nobel Peace Prize in the process," Defence Minister Peter MacKay said as he announced a \$535,000 contribution from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

The Nova Scotia government is contributing \$200,000 to employ Cumberland County and area contractors and trades people for the project. Cumberland County is committing \$100,000 while the Pugwash Park Commission, established in 1929 to care for the site and others in the community, is donating \$50,000.

The money will pay to create an onsite meeting place out of the property's former lobster factory, a building that was converted to a dining hall in the 1930s.

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