



# December 2022 Newsletter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Interview with Jean Tolfeson

[P.1-P.3](#)

What is Pugwash?

[P.4](#)

Events

[P.5](#)

Ploughshares Meetings in 2023

[P.5](#)

Good News

[P.6-P.8](#)

U.S. Sending Nuclear Weapons to NATO Bases: Finland & Sweden

[P.9](#)

Museum Initiative Update

[P.9](#)

Negotiations Are Not Enough

[P.10](#)

Nuclear Threats and Canada's Disarmament Diplomacy

[P.11-P.12](#)

Remembering Mary-Wynne Ashford

[P.13](#)

Want to donate to Ploughshares Calgary? If you haven't yet made your 2022 donation, please consider doing so soon! Email [office@ploughshares.ca](mailto:office@ploughshares.ca) for more information on how to donate.



## Consider Donating this Holiday Season & Beyond!

If you receive funds from the provincial government, as 'Danielle dollars' and do not really need them, please seriously consider donating them to Ploughshares Calgary Society to support our staff and activity costs.

## Thank You!

Ploughshares Calgary Society would like to extend a thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Villages Calgary shopping event on November 13th, as well as those who came out to see us at the Peace Fair on November 19th & 20th.

Contact Us:



## INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER JEAN TOLLEFSON

### Jean Tollefson: A Shining Light to Us All

A conversation with friends in Manchester about 1980 first ignited Jean's concern about the grave threat of nuclear weapons. One of the friends had just returned from participating in anti-nuclear marches in London, England. As new grandparents, Jean and her husband, Eric, felt that they could not sit idly by, but rather needed to respond to this threat. That deep love and concern for future generations has never wavered, and inspired an ongoing commitment to peace activism.

Over decades Jean and Eric (who passed away in 2009) dedicated much of their time and energy to the pursuit of a more peaceful world. They became a driving force in the formation and activities of Project Ploughshares, which later became Ploughshares Calgary Society.

Rev. John Guy was also instrumental in Jean's journey. He spoke with Jean, Eric and their daughter, Bev DeLong, at a workshop at Parkdale in the early 1980s about the nuclear threat to global peace. At that time, several activities were already taking place in Calgary in support of peace, such as a Children's Peace Rally at the University of Calgary campus. Jean and Eric attended their first international Pugwash meeting in Banff in June 1982. In the fall of that year, they worked with others to start a local branch of the national Project Ploughshares committed to peace and nuclear disarmament. Project Ploughshares Calgary was formed, and a first meeting was held in October of that year. In 1983, the group was involved in several protests against cruise missiles, including one ending at the Family of Man statues at the Calgary Board of Education grounds and a second walk ending at the Federal Building. Jean remembers it was encouraging to see the number of people who participated.





## INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER JEAN TOLLEFSON

Jean's husband, Eric, also helped form the University of Calgary Peace and Conflict Resolution Study Group, and then became the first president. It was active at the University for about eight years. Eric became part of the Canadian Pugwash Group, where he served on the Executive for a period of time with Jean providing support for his role as Treasurer (see below for more information about Pugwash.) The couple was able to attend eight Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. For instance, in 1982, Eric participated in the 32nd Pugwash Conference in Warsaw, addressing the topic "The Current Danger of Nuclear War: The Relevance of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto Today." Jean says that, as an accompanying person, she found Pugwash meetings very interesting, and through them made good friends from around the world. This thoughtful, caring group of people put great effort into respectful, collaborative discussion, seeking practical solutions to thorny problems and conflicts in the world. No doubt, Jean and her husband were able to make valuable contributions to the work of Pugwash.

Through their involvement with Project Ploughshares Calgary, Jean and Eric also became very busy at the local level. Jean and Eric had the opportunity to speak several times at Calgary churches, building understanding of the dangers of nuclear weapons and support for a peaceful world, and advocating for an end to nuclear weapons. Jean took on a very active role, including leadership roles as a member of the Executive, as well as putting in many volunteer hours helping to organise events. This included helping with the well-attended Holiday Peace Fairs, organising many workshops and talks, and supporting the group's staff members and monthly newsletters.

Along with the challenging and serious work of speaking out against global violence, Jean also remembers the good times she had with fellow members of Project Ploughshares. She remembers fondly the many Christmas parties they attended or hosted for members, singing Christmas carols together, and enjoying potluck feasts. Keeping our spirits up was, and remains, essential.





## INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDING MEMBER JEAN TOLLEFSON

One of Jean's fondest memories is of an event that took place on January 14, 1991, just before the United States bombed Iraq in retribution for its invasion of Kuwait. Rev. Murray Eddy and Rev. Helen Stover Scott, both with Parkdale United Church, were able to very quickly organise an interfaith Peace Prayer Service. Representatives from eight faith groups, including Christian, Muslim and Jewish groups, shared messages, prayers and songs about peace. The church was packed! Jean remembers it as a beautiful and moving event.

After Eric's passing, Jean and her family established the Tollefson Fund to support nuclear disarmament work by Ploughshares Calgary. Jean continues to be an active member of Ploughshares Calgary Society (PCS). Although she recently moved to a residence for seniors, she continues to keep up with world affairs, to act as an honorary board member of PCS, and to participate in educational events.

Jean has given so much to help create a more peaceful and hopeful world for not just her own children and grandchildren, but for all of ours, and all those still to come. Jean expressed that there could not have been any more enriching or important work she could have done during her life. She encourages young people to become more informed and engaged.

We have been so fortunate to have had Jean Tollefson as a dedicated, kind and wise promoter of peace in our world, and an inspirational and committed member and leader of Ploughshares Calgary Society. She continues to be a beacon of light, love, gentleness, integrity and commitment, and her example inspires us all.





## WHAT IS PUGWASH?

**What is Pugwash?** A Manifesto was issued in 1955 by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein and signed also by leading international scientists which called upon scientists of all political persuasions to assemble to discuss the threat posed to civilization by the advent of thermonuclear weapons. Most famously, it called for people to, “Remember your humanity, forget the rest.”

Pugwash takes its name from the location of the first meeting, which was held in 1957 in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada, birthplace of the American philanthropist Cyrus Eaton, who hosted the meeting.

The international Pugwash website explains:

“Pugwash seeks a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Through our long-standing tradition of ‘dialogue across divides’ that also earned us the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995, Pugwash aims to develop and support the use of scientific, evidence-based policymaking, focusing on areas where nuclear and WMD risks are present. By facilitating track 1.5 and track II dialogues, we foster creative discussions on ways to increase the security of all sides and promote policy development that is cooperative and forward-looking.”

The Canadian Pugwash Group hosts discussions with civil society and government with an aim to providing recommendations to the Government of Canada and the public for improved Canadian security policies.





 **GOOD NEWS**

- Andy Keith developed two solar energy companies in Canada; they provide small affordable solar energy systems to homes across Kenya. Such homes have no access to a local electrical grid and people are handicapped regarding evening activities, including homework. The systems provide 4 lamps, a lantern, and a radio. They serve an estimated one million people. The companies are hoping to extend these provisions to Zambia, Malawi, and Nigeria. (Globe & Mail, November 21, 2022)
- Isabel Jewell, a spritely 18 year old woman, graduated with her master's degrees in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Toronto. Her older sister, Sophia (just two years her senior) also graduated with her master's degrees in the same faculties. The two sisters began their undergraduate studies at the University of Alberta when they were just 12 and 14 years of age. When Sophia was fourteen, she found herself fascinated with languages and was able to register in a language course at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Isabel, also an avid learner, soon joined her sister at University and they were both soon pursuing their undergraduate degrees in modern languages and cultural studies. Prior to their university experience, the sisters were homeschooled by their mother. Their younger sister, Rosalina Jewell, 14, says she will most likely follow in her older sister's footsteps. (CBC News Toronto, November 12, 2022)



The Jewell Family in Toronto  
 Photo Credits: Paul Borkwood, CBC News



**GOOD NEWS**

- According to a new review published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, virtual overdose monitoring services may help reduce deaths from opioids and other substances by providing quick, anonymous access to emergency care. Virtual overdose monitoring services will operate 24 hours a day using phones and smartphone apps to connect people anonymously with individuals who are able to develop personalized emergency response plans and supervise substance abuse. An example of this service is called NORS, The National Overdose Response System. Studies show between December 2020 and February 2022 NORS monitored 2,172 substance use events and 53 adverse events required emergency response while no fatalities were reported. According to NORS operations director Lisa Morris-Miller, calls typically last 15-20 minutes and mental health support is provided to callers. (Calgary Herald, November 28, 2022)
- A group of volunteers spent four hours drawing large poppies onto the sand at Beadnell Bay in Northumberland, England as a tribute to the fallen ahead of Remembrance Day on November 11th. Claire Eason, a retired doctor and beach artist led a team to create poppies beneath a dove of peace using garden rakes. Under the poppies, 104 flags designed by students at a couple local primary schools were placed, each one to represent a year since the end of the ‘Great War’. Watch a video of the of the project [here](#). (Good News Network, November 10, 2022)



Poppies & Dove beach mural  
Photo Credits: Soul2Sand







**GOOD NEWS**

- Kоди Lee, a 26 year old American musical prodigy, is blind and autistic. You may recognize Kоди as the 2019 winner of America’s Got Talent. Kоди has perfect pitch and an audio-photographic memory, meaning he can recall music after hearing it once. Since then he has helped raise over one million dollars to support individuals on the autism spectrum. He performed for over 800 people this November in Vancouver, BC for an Autism fundraiser. (Global News, November 25, 2022)
- When Brad Aronson's wife, Mia, was diagnosed with cancer, a patient advocate suggested that Brad, Mia and their five year old son, Jack, create projects to provide a purpose and a distraction while they spent hours in the hospital each week. Brad’s project consisted of him writing small acts of kindness that he experienced from friends, family, and even strangers during his wife's treatment. When his project was done, Brad decided that he wanted to keep going, and thus, HumanKind was born. HumanKind is a book dedicated to those small acts of kindness that make a huge impact. All proceeds from sales of HumanKind go to the nonprofit Big Brothers Big Sisters, and they have already raised over \$100,000. Click [here](#) to purchase one now. (Good News Network, November 27, 2022)



The Aronson Family  
Photo Credits: Good News Network





## U.S. SENDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO NATO BASES: FINLAND AND SWEDEN

The United States has nuclear sharing arrangements with five NATO allies which include Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Turkey. These allies house the nuclear weapons, ready to be loaded onto bombers. There are at least 100 American nuclear weapons on alert at NATO bases. Now that Finland and Sweden are planning to join NATO in 2023, will they strike up similar negotiations with The United States?

Finland has held their anti-nuclear stance. Finland's president and commander-in-chief of the Finnish Armed Forces (FAF), has said that having nuclear weapons was never discussed as a pre-condition for Finnish Membership in the alliance and that they wish to maintain 'good neighbour relations' with Russia.

There was concern regarding Sweden back in July 2022, as a letter penned by Sweden's Foreign Minister stated that Sweden accepts NATO's approach to security and defence, which includes housing and use of nuclear weapons. However, more recently, Sweden's Prime Minister has adopted the same approach as Finland, stating that they will not house any nuclear weapons on their land.



### MUSEUM INITIATIVE

- Our proposal has been submitted to CEO and President Nicholas R. Bell, MP and Engagement COO Melanie Rjorlien, and Board Chairman Lori Rooijan of the Glenbow Museum. We await a response.
- Extra work on this project has been pursued by Shinobu Apple, Deb Kocay, Ciernae Allen, Anna Pena Egle, and Trudy Govier.
- Rory Cory, Curator, The Military Museums, has provided advice as to how to go forward, in addition to supplying information about their planning and anticipated further development. He strongly advised getting charitable status for the supporting group and applying for grants to make it possible to have staff working on the project.



## NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH

A statement by Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.  
 Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons  
 Ottawa, November 29, 2022  
 Summarized by Haylie Smith

Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C. was asked three questions:

1. Can there be peace without 'capitulation' or 'victory'? I answer yes.
2. Will stopping the nuclear blackmail help meaningful negotiations?  
 Definitely.
3. How can Canada help the negotiations? I answer: Implement Canadian values.

The Ukraine war is currently the focal point of governments & the media, but the list of crises threatening global security is staggering; global warming worsens every hour and modernization of nuclear weapons continues every day. The world is facing so many intermingled crises that a new term is now being used: the polycrisis.

Canada by itself cannot solve the worlds greatest problems, but Canada can lead the way with its partners in the multilateral forums, including the U.N. Canada should engage in the development of the U.N. Secretary-Generals "New Agenda for Peace.". This document will be published next year. CNANW should encourage Canada to resist NATO's insistence on Western military defense, leading to a first step in common security.

CNANW should contribute to lessening the present extreme dangers to enable the international community to get on working for comprehensive negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons. Most of the world's population want nonviolence as a guiding principle for a peaceful world. Nonviolence is more than just physical, it also applies to economic and social relationships. A change in our attitude to reject militarism would enable Canada to adopt a more holistic approach to pursuing peace



## NUCLEAR THREATS AND CANADA'S DISARMAMENT DIPLOMACY

Paul Meyer, CIPS/CNWC event, University of Ottawa,  
 November 28, 2022  
 Summarized by Haylie Smith

Nuclear weapons and the existential threat they pose to humanity have assumed a new and disturbing prominence in the last few months. Russia's blatant use of these nuclear weapons as instruments of intimidation and coercion has reminded global society that huge arsenals of these weapons of mass destruction remain. As four generations have come and gone since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the mass slaughter they caused, the horrific reality of a nuclear weapon detonation has faded from public consciousness.

Last month we marked the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The respective leaders at the time were simply unable to control every aspect of developments and the fact that nuclear war was avoided may have relied as much on luck as it did on diplomacy. The experience provided the impetus for the first post-war arms control measure, the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty that prohibited all but underground testing of nuclear weapons. The (Nuclear) Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) which entered into force in 1970 and currently has 191 states parties is often referred to as "the cornerstone" of the global nuclear edifice.

On July 7, 2017 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted by a vote of 122 in support. The TPNW officially entered into force in January 2021. It currently has 68 state parties and 91 signatories.





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Five issues which Paul Meyer believes could benefit from a new approach by Ottawa:

1. A more respectful attitude towards the TPNW is warranted. Canada has been a long standing supporter of multilateral arms control and disarmament as well as a champion of international humanitarian law, which is generally acknowledged to be incompatible with nuclear weapon use.
2. Canada should be more active in shaping NATO policy on deterrence and disarmament. How NATO develops its nuclear policies will have much significance for the future security landscape.
3. Canada could take more of a leadership role in cooperating with other like-minded states to promote disarmament goals. Canadian capacity for leadership on disarmament files has been in decline for some time.
4. It is time for Canada to take a new tack on a long-standing disarmament goal. This is the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) a long-standing agreed objective of NPT states, which envisages a ban on the production of fissile material, the essential ingredient for nuclear weapons.
5. Global Affairs Canada should revive a regular consultation with civil society on disarmament issues.



**REMEMBERING MARY-WYNNE ASHFORD (1939-2022)**



For 37 years Mary-Wynne wrote about and spoke internationally about peace and disarmament. She was Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) from 1998-2002, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, and President of the Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War from 1988-1990. She led two IPPNW delegations to North Korea in 1999 and 2000. Her award-winning book, *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror, and War*, has been translated into Japanese and Korean. She won many awards including the Queen’s Medal on two occasions, the Gandhi Prize in 1997, the Award of Excellence from Doctors of BC in 2019 and, with Dr. Jonathan Down, the 2019 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. She recognized the vital role of women as peace activists and in 2018 joined twelve hundred women from around the world to walk across the Reunification Bridge to a peace park in the DMZ between North and South Korea. In 2021 she developed and taught an online course, *Global Solutions for Peace, Equality, and Sustainability* sponsored by Next Gen U and IPPNW Canada.

To read the full obituary, click [here](#).