

***53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs***  
**Advancing Human Security: The Role of Technology and Politics**

**Halifax and Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada**  
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**PEACE**

**By Margaret Eaton**

PEACE

begins in Pugwash  
where a blue heron waits for the tide  
and the salt boat slips from the harbour at  
dusk.

At dawn mist rises from the tranquil water,  
and at noon,  
beneath the blue and white United Nations'  
flag,  
on the grassy slope stretching to the shore-  
line,  
sit multi-lingual scientists  
who have heard the rhetoric of war  
but understood the poetry of peace.

Sunlight reflects  
from myriad miniature silver doves,  
and for a split-second, just an eye-blink,  
it coalesces around the invisible silver-white  
head  
of the industrialist-farmer-philosopher, still in  
our midst,  
even though forty-six years have come and  
gone  
since that first July.

The light flickers there, gaining strength,  
before beaming the message  
into the gathering darkness  
around the globe:  
PEACE.

*Margaret Eaton*  
*July 21, 2003*