

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration - August 5, 2007

The Peace Coalition's fifth annual commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan was held this year at Canada South Science City.



The centerpiece of the event, held to mark the 62nd anniversary of the bombings which took place August 6 and 9, 1945, was a historical exhibition of photographs, images and poems titled “Atomic Bombs and Poems of Sankichi Toge: An Appeal of All Voices from Under the Atomic Cloud”.





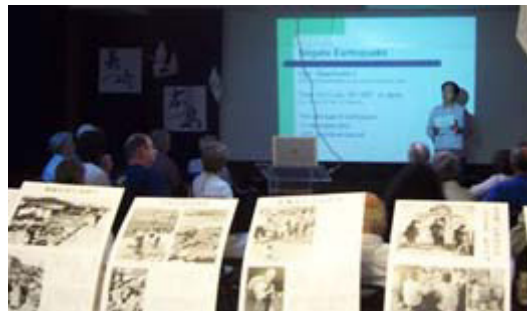
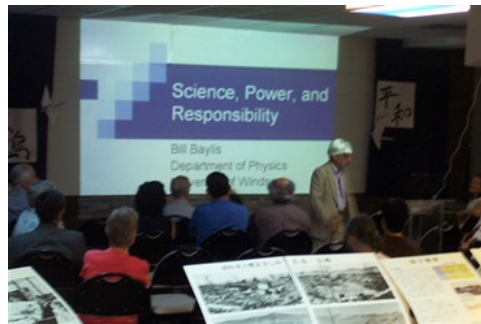
There were also workshops where participants folded paper cranes, painted banners and painted messages on paper lanterns.



Three films were shown throughout the afternoon. “Our Hiroshima” by Canadian filmmaker, Anton Wagner documents the Canadian government’s role in secretly supplying and processing the uranium used to make the bombs, and in taking the decision (along with the U.S. and Britain) to drop them on the two Japanese cities.

Another Canadian film, “Minoru: Memory of Exile”, sparked a discussion and denunciation of the racist policies of the Canadian state which, after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, criminalized Japanese-Canadians based solely on their ethnic heritage, branding them “enemies of Canada”. Their property was confiscated without compensation and entire families were forcibly displaced to internment camps in other provinces.

Speakers at the commemoration included Peace Coalition representatives Cathy Owen and Margaret Villamizar, University of Windsor physicist and member of the Board of Science City, Dr. Bill Baylis, who spoke about “Science, Power and Responsibility” and university student and Science City volunteer, Manabu Natori who spoke about the Japanese people’s concerns over the nuclear industry today, especially in light of the recent earthquake that produced cracks in the country’s biggest nuclear plant, causing leaks.



The program concluded with a traditional ceremony and the launching of paper lanterns decorated with messages of peace and life in Science City’s indoor rock pond.

The Peace Coalition is appreciative of the support and assistance provided by staff and volunteers of Canada South Science City who made it possible to hold this year’s commemoration in their unique facility and contributed significantly to the success of the program.

