

SRI CHINMOY PEACE RUN CANADA AWARD CEREMONY

Peace Garden Café

Notes for David Kilgour

26 July 2018

Ottawa



Today, the 2018 international team of Peace Run runners are in Ottawa.

For over 40 years, until his passing in 2007, Sri Chinmoy held twice-weekly prayer and meditation sessions for peace for delegates and staff at the United Nations.

He was an internationally renowned peace leader who devoted his life to the cause of world peace and international understanding. He implemented new and creative ways to instill values of peace on the practical level.

He felt that lasting peace begins in the heart of each individual in the form of love, compassion, tolerance and understanding. He offered his peace service to millions of people from all nations and cultures.

He founded the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run (aka The Peace Run) in 1987.

He founded the Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms programme, which has inspired more than 1,000 worldwide dedications to peace, including nations, cities and natural wonders.

In 1992, Ottawa was officially dedicated a Sri Chinmoy Peace-Capital and in 1998 Canada was officially dedicated a Sri Chinmoy Peace-Nation. I was honoured to represent the federal government at the ceremony for this dedication in 1998.

World leaders and prominent individuals who met and supported Sri Chinmoy's work for peace included:

- Secretary Generals of the United Nations: U Thant, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Kofi Annan;
- President Mikhail Gorbachev;
- President Nelson Mandela;
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu;
- Mother Teresa;
- The Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien;
- The Hon. Peter Milliken;
- The Hon. Jean Augustine;

The Peace Run has become one of the world's great initiatives for cultivating unity and friendship through the dynamic medium of sport. It has helped to bridge barriers and foster oneness among people of all cultures and beliefs by providing a medium through which individuals can 'take a step for peace' by the symbolic passing of a flaming torch.

It has brought the message of peace to more than one million people from all walks of life in over 100 nations on six continents.

The Peace Run is purely an inspirational event. It does not solicit funds and is non-political and non-denominational.

The Peace Run continues to build towards an even greater level of participation and recognition. For thousands of children around the world, it has offered a tangible means of expressing their hopes and enthusiasm for a brighter tomorrow. International participants have included such world figures as Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth II, Mother Teresa, Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

Merci mille fois for returning to our national capital.