

1917  
Agenda. April 8, 1991. Halifax Explosion Commemoration Committee.

1. Name of committee.
2. Further member.
3. Secretary.
4. Time frame and organization.
5. Events.

Service on Fort Needham and in churches.

Alan Ruffman has received agreement from the Gorsebrook Institute of Atlantic Canada Studies that a symposium will be held there, beginning on the evening of Thursday, December 3, 199<sup>2</sup>, ending on Sunday, December 6.

The Art Gallery at St Mary's will probably mount a photographic display. Papers and field trips will form part of the symposium. At least one member of this committee should be on the symposium committee.

Art, stories and poetry competitions.

Exhibits.

Reception in Halifax Hall.

Special anniversary brochure.

Further suggestions?

6 Anticipated budget.

RE: 6 DECEMBER, 1992 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HALIFAX EXPLOSION 1917

SUGGESTION!

{ FERRY TO SITE OF EXPLOSION - BRIEF SERVICE ON WATER.  
ESCORTED BY NAVAL CRAFT

9:05 AM TOLLING OF BELLS IN HALIFAX - DARTMOUTH.

DEBARK AT DOCKYARD BY BUS TO MEMORIAL BELLS - SERVICE 11:00 AM

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM DISPLAYS ESP. NORTH END MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SPONSOR SPECIAL LECTURE (EG. P. B. BAKER LECTURE) @ NSHS.

SPONSOR SPECIAL MAP SHOWING EXPLOSION SITES AND ARTIFACTS.

- MONT BLANC ANCHOR SHANK / MONT BLANC GUN BARREL /  
ST. PAUL'S ① WINDOW SASH SECTION, ② PROFILE WINDOW / HILL'S  
BAPTISTRY - ST MARK'S / OUTDOOR MUSEUM - ST. STEPHEN'S /  
DISPLAY MARITIME MUSEUM OF ATLANTIC / MARCOM MUSEUM (?)

ARRANGE TOUR (BUS, WALKING) HYAROSTONE DISTRICT, RICHMOND.

CONCLUDE WITH ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE IN NORTH END CHURCH

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- EXTEND INVITATION TO BOSTON AUTHORITIES.
- RECEPTION AND TEA AT HALIFAX HALL FOR SURVIVORS OF 1917.
- SPECIAL MEDIA RECORDS - VIDEOTAPE, TV, FILM, ORAL RECORD.

LOU COLLINS  
8/5/91

# Dartmouth of Yesterday



**MIC MAC VILLAGE CIRCA 1900** — This photo taken by the late W.H. Stevens shows a part of the Indian encampment at Tufts Cove about the year 1900. Chief Louis Paul is seated at the left. There

were several wigwams and huts in the Tufts Cove reservation until all were destroyed in the explosion of 1917.

## Mic Mac Indians lived in Tufts Cove

For many years before 1917 there existed a Micmac Village at Tufts Cove, North Dartmouth. Just when the tribe settled there is hard to determine, although they must have been there before 1850. Wigwams and dwellings followed the shoreline from near Grove Street, outward to the Shannon Park Area.

They made a modest living by constructing sweetgrass baskets,

trinkets, moccasins and other items that they could trade with white population. Their food consisted of wild fowl, rabbits and the readily available fish. Also in the forest nearby, during the summertime, there was a variety of sweet berries.

Life, although hard in winter, must have been satisfactory and peaceful at least, until 1917, when the great explosion destroyed the entire set-

tlement killing many of the inhabitants including nine children in the Tufts Cove School. The surviving members of the band moved to Shubenacadie and never returned.

So ended the Micmac population in this area except for a few families South of Dartmouth. The last of whom is believed to have died a few years ago at her residence off Caldwell Road.

# 1917 Explosion Commemoration Committee.

1. Name of Committee
2. Further members
3. Secretary - David Fleming
4. Time frame and organization
5. EVENTS - e.g. Garsbrook Symposium.  
- Schools - contact Frank Mitchell.



**Department of  
Education**

Nova Scotia Museum Complex

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic  
1675 Lower Water Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1S3

902 ~~429-7208~~ 424-7490

Our file no:

July 10, 1991

Mr. Louis W. Collins,  
6446 Liverpool Street,  
Halifax, N. S.  
B3L 1Y4.

Dear Lou:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the 1917 Explosion Commemoration Committee held on May 8, 1991. I am also attaching an updated list of the Committee members.

Since that meeting I appeared before the Halifax City Council and received approval for both the terms of reference for the Committee and our modest budget for the next year. The Mayor and Aldermen were supportive of our activities and I shall be keeping them informed as to our progress.

I shall be contacting you in due course about a meeting in September. In the meantime, If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to call me.

Yours sincerely,

  
Janet Kitz,  
Chairperson.

/md

P.S. I am having my annual Tea Party for the Halifax Explosion survivors on Tuesday, July 16, 1991 from 2:30 P.M. Anyone wishing to drop in and meet some of the survivors would be more than welcome.

## THE 1917 EXPLOSION COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Janet Kitz,  
Chairperson,  
1110 Rockcliffe Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3H 3Y6  
H. 423-4284

Louis W. Collins,  
6446 Liverpool Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3L 1Y4  
455-6093

Marjorie Davidson,  
161 Glenforest Drive,  
Halifax, N. S. B3M 1J2  
445-5694

Alan Dunlop,  
Public Archives of Nova Scotia,  
6016 University Avenue,  
Halifax, N. S. B3H 1W4  
Bus. 424-6067

David B. Flemming,  
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic,  
1675 Lower Water Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3H 1S3.  
Bus. 424-6440 H. 455-2400

Ms. Marilyn Gurney, Curator,  
Maritime Command Museum,  
CFB Halifax, N. S. B3X 2X0  
Bus: 427-7740

Dr. Ruth Johnson,  
156 Cobequid Road,  
Lower Sackville, N. S. B4C 2N3  
Home: 865-0484

Donald Julien,  
P. O. Box 1590,  
Truro, N. S. B2N 5V3  
Bus. 895-0385 H. 893-8398

Franklyn Medjuck,  
Cornwallis Place,  
1601 Lower Water Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3J 2X1.  
Bus. 429-4061 H.429-0663

Carmen Moir,  
46 Summit Street,  
Dartmouth, N. S. B2Y 3A3  
463-6616

Jock Murray,  
Dalhousie Medical School,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N. S. B4H 4H7.  
Bus. 494-2514 H. 443-1074

Marie O'Malley,  
3738 High Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3K 4Y9  
Home: 455-2014

Kay Pottie,  
35 Colindale Avenue,  
Halifax, N. S. B3P 2A3.  
Bus. 421-6700 H. 477-8979

Reg. A. Prest,  
3804 Basinview Drive,  
Halifax, N. S. B3K 4Z9  
Bus. 429-7460 H. 455-8144

Alan Ruffman,  
Geomarine,  
5112 Prince Street,  
Halifax, N. S. B3J 2L4  
Bus. 422-6482 H. 477-5415

## THE 1917 EXPLOSION

### COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Commemoration Committee was held on Wednesday, May 8, 1991 at 1200 at 1110 Rockcliffe Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PRESENT: Janet Kitz, Chairman  
Louis W. Collins  
Marjorie Davidson  
Alan Dunlop  
David B. Flemming  
Donald Julien  
Carmen Moir  
Jock Murray  
Reg. A. Prest

ABSENT: Kay Pottie  
Alan Ruffman

1. Mrs. Kitz welcomed members of the Committee and outlined the mandate as envisaged by Mayor Wallace in a letter to her. Some discussion on additional members resulted in the suggestion that Marilyn Gurney, Curator of the Maritime Command Museum and someone from the Africville Genealogical Society be invited to participate as members of the Committee.

2. (a) Miss Davidson suggested that since the City of Dartmouth played an essential role in the disaster, the Committee should be called "The 1917 Explosion Commemoration Committee."

(b) Mr. Julien noted that the Department of Indian Affairs had records dating back to 1917 and it was likely that information on the Tuft's Cove Reserve could be gleaned from these records.

(c) Mr. Moir suggested that a public meeting of the Committee should be held at least one year in advance so that the general public could be made aware of the event and their opinions solicited.

(d) Mr. Moir and Mrs. Kitz agreed to approach the Dartmouth and Halifax School Boards to seek advice on how they could become involved in the Commemoration..

3. Mr. Flemming volunteered to act as Secretary for the Committee and his offer was accepted by the members.

4. A general discussion on activities suggested by Lou Collins and by Alan Ruffman ensued. Among the activities suggested were a series of dramatic readings by Neptune Theater actors; a school essay contest; a walking tour of the north ends of Halifax and Dartmouth; exhibits at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, the Maritime Command Museum, the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and Saint Mary's University Art Gallery; a reception in Halifax Hall, a special 70th Anniversary brochure; various religious services; the preparation of a special map noting various explosion site and artifacts.

5. It was noted by many Committee members that certain aspects of the disaster should be developed in order that the Commemoration may be as wide as possible. This would involve a closer examination in the role of the police and fire departments, medical authorities women, children, Dartmouthians, blacks and Micmacs..

6. The Gorsebrook Institute of Atlantic Canada Studies has agreed to hold a symposium on the Explosion from December 3 to December 6. It was felt that at least two members of this Committee should be members of the Symposium Organizing Committee.

7. After some discussion it was agreed that a budget of \$1,500 be requested from the City of Halifax for the use of the Committee in its deliberations. It was agreed that the next meeting would be called after Mrs. Kitz had an opportunity to discuss the matters noted above with Mayor Wallace.

The meeting was adjourned.