

2543 Forbes Street,
Victoria, B.C.

December 3rd, 1967.

City Clerk,
City Hall,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir,

Please convey my thanks to the Province of Nova Scotia and the City of Halifax for their kind invitation to attend the Memorial Service to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion of 1917.

I am sorry I shall not be able to attend as it would not be possible to arrange a flight now even if I could get time off from the Law office where I work. Your kindness is, however, greatly appreciated and I shall be with you in thought at the service.

I left Halifax with my parents in October 1987 coming

B. b. as my home, I still have a very soft spot in my heart for my birthplace, and as long as I have relatives and friends there I shall continue to feel the urge to come back now and then as and when I am able.

I would like to ask one favour. Could you send me a copy of the Service if you have printed forms? I should be most grateful - and if you have extra ones could I further impose and ask for one for each of my two sisters who were both in Halifax at our parents' home (204 West Young Street) on December 6th, 1917.

I shall be thinking of those attending the Service on Wednesday, December 6th, and can join with you in spirit in memory of those who have gone before, and in thankfulness for God's mercy that my injuries have not prevented

straight to Victoria where my sisters and one brother and their families resided, leaving another brother and his family in Halifax. Since then I have been back twice - in 1957 and in 1965 - to visit my brother and family and old school friends. Each time I have noticed many changes in the City, particularly where we had lived on West Young Street. This property was purchased by my mother's father, John Longton, when he came to Canada from England in 1883 with the Dominion Textile Company, and it passed to my mother and her sister on the death of my grandparents in 1912. My brother, Frank, was the last member of the family to still own part of the land when he died in January 1966, and his family now own it - at 5840 Young Street.

Although I have adopted Victoria,

me from supporting myself in a normal way. I feel I have been very fortunate, especially when I think of some of my friends and others I did not know so well, who died or were greatly handicapped as a result of the disaster.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the letter.

December 18, 1967

Mr. Walter Dughera,
[REDACTED]

L.I., N.Y. 11757.

Dear Mr. Dughera:

Your letter of December 2, 1967, advising that you would be unable to attend the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, is hereby acknowledged.

I have been instructed by Deputy Mayor N. P. Meagher, Chairman of the Special Committee appointed to plan the service, to express his regrets that you were unable to be present, and to advise you that the service, which was most impressive, was very well attended by dignitaries, survivors of the explosion and other citizens.

At his direction, I am enclosing a copy of the printed program of the service which I trust will be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

W. J. CLANCEY,
SECRETARY.

WJC/ler
encl.

[REDACTED], L.I., N.Y.
11757.

Office of City Clerk,
Halifax, N. S.



Dear Sir:

Your invitation for me to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the Halifax Explosion has been received. Due to my physical condition it would not be advisable for me to make the trip to Halifax.

I thank you for your kindness and hope the venture will be a success.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Dughera...

WALTER DUGHERA.

January 23, 1968

Mr. Scott L. Ernst,
Principal,
Richmond School,
3380 Acadia Street,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.



Dear Mr. Ernst:

On behalf of the Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I wish to extend to you sincere thanks and appreciation for your assistance and co-operation in helping to make the service an unqualified success. The facilities of the School were most adequate and the arrangements made by you left nothing to be desired.

I would like also to add my own personal thanks to you for having assisted in making my task as Chairman of the Committee a most pleasant one.

Yours very truly,

N. P. MEAGHER,
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

January 23, 1968

Dr. C. Bruce Fergusson,
Provincial Archivist,
Studley Campus,
Dalhousie University,
Coburg Road,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.

Dear Dr. Fergusson:

On behalf of the Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I wish to extend to you sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent address you gave on that occasion which contributed, in a large manner, to the success of the program.

I would like to add my own special thanks for your assistance in making my task as Chairman of the Committee most pleasant.

Yours very truly,

N. P. MEAGHER
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

January 23, 1968

Judge Nathan Green, Q. C.,
Provincial Magistrate,
Province of Nova Scotia,
Spring Garden Road,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.



Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I wish to extend to you sincere thanks and appreciation for the assistance given by you in the preparation of the program and in making the arrangements for the service which I think you will agree, was an unqualified success.

I wish to add my own personal thanks to you for having made my task as Chairman most pleasant.

Yours very truly,

N. P. MEAGHER,
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

January 23, 1968

Rear Admiral J. C. O'Brien,
Area Commander,
CFB Halifax,
Fleet Mail Office,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.



Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I wish to extend to you sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness in granting permission for the band of CFB Stadacona to play at the Memorial Service held at Richmond School on December 6, 1967. The presence of the band and the selections played were appropriate to the occasion and added a proper note of solemnity to the Service.

I would like to add my own personal note of commendation to Band Master MacKay and the Members of the Band for the creditable manner in which they conducted themselves.

Yours very truly,

N. P. MEAGHER,
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

January 23, 1968

Alderman A. M. Butler,
Chairman
Halifax Relief Commission,
1652 Vernon Street,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I wish to extend to you sincere thanks and appreciation for your address on that day. Your remarks were most appropriate to the occasion and were well received and much appreciated by those assembled.

Yours very truly,



N. P. MEAGHER,
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

January 23, 1968

Miss Mary Cameron,
Chief Librarian,
Halifax Memorial Library,
5281 Spring Garden Road,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.

Dear Miss Cameron:

On behalf of the Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor to make arrangements for the Memorial Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance in preparing the program and in making the service an unqualified success.

As Chairman of the Committee, I wish, also, to add my own special thanks for your valuable services which helped to make my task less arduous and most pleasant.

Yours very truly,

N. P. MEAGHER,
DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

/ler

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE: MEMORIAL SERVICE TO
COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HALIFAX EXPLOSION

Council Chamber,
City Hall,
Halifax, N. S.,
November 24, 1967
4:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Special Committee appointed by
His Worship the Mayor to arrange the program for the memorial
service commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Halifax
Explosion, was held on the above date.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor N. P. Meagher, Chairman
Alderman J. E. Ahern
Alderman M. D. Sullivan
Alderman J. L. Connolly
Judge Nathan Green, Chairman Regional Library
Miss Mary Cameron, Chief Librarian
Rev. Lloyd Archer, United Memorial Church
Mr. K. A. Ross, General Manager, Halifax Board of Trade
Mr. Michael Kelly, Halifax Board of Trade
Major W. T. Boulton, Armed Forces
W. J. Clancey, Deputy City Clerk

The Chairman stated that some of the preparatory
work has already been completed by Judge Green and Miss Cameron,
the details of which are explained in the following letter, which
was read:

November 18, 1967

Deputy Mayor
Nicholas P. Meagher,
2560 Poplar Street,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Deputy Mayor:

Judge Nathan Green, Chairman of Halifax City Regional
Library Board, has discussed with me the proposed commemoration
service for the Halifax Explosion to be held on December 6. He
asked me to write to you as Chairman of the Committee appointed
by the Mayor to arrange for this ceremony. Although, as Judge
Green points out, this is not the Library Board's responsibility,
we are aware of the shortness of time left to finalize proceedings
and we are anxious to "get it off the ground". Therefore we are

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Public Archives of Nova Scotia,
Halifax, N. S.

Halifax Explosion Anniversary
November 24, 1967

presuming to forward to you a draft program and a suggested list of platform guests.

For your information, after meetings with the Mayor, we have already arranged the following:

1. Reserved Richmond School for 3 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, 1967 (seating capacity 520)
2. Requested Dr. Bruce Fergusson to speak ten to fifteen minutes on the Explosion at this service.
3. Made plans to bring to Halifax the Memorial Book which is to be presented to the Chairman of the Board for safe keeping in the Halifax North Memorial Library. This book when completed will contain a list of the identified who lost their lives in the explosion.

Further, we understand that Miss Hall, as acting secretary to the Mayor, has been asked to arrange for a printed invitation, and is attempting to draw up a list of those people to be invited. Since it is our understanding that this is a public meeting we suggest that for the benefit of those who will not receive a printed invitation a newspaper advertisement should be arranged.

You will note in the program that we have suggested opening with "O Canada" and closing with "God Save the Queen". We wonder if it would not be wise to arrange for a small band to be present for the service.

We trust that this information may be helpful and will explain what has already been done. It is not intended in any way to be an intrusion in the work of your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Mary E. Cameron,
Chief Librarian.

Also submitted were:

- (a) Letter from Archbishop James Hayes accepting the invitation to attend the Memorial Service.
- (b) Memo advising that Bishop Davis will be out of town on December 6 and, therefore, not able to be present.
- (c) Copy of the printed invitation sent to approximately 210 people to attend the Service.
- (d) Letter from Secretary Manager of Halifax Relief Commission, as follows: