

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee

March 15/17

Time Capsule Update Memo

January 7, 2017 HESAC Time Capsule Workshop

Agenda Item 3.3 (pg. 3) – Time Capsule #1 - Public display of contents

- Time Capsule #1 will not be reinserted into the Memorial Bell Tower, as per the original intent of the 1980 Memorial Bell Tower Committee, as clarified by Mr. Alex McCleave, a member of that committee.
- HRM will finalize plan for potential display of these materials. A digital exhibit hosted on the HRM Archives page will be considered.
- HRM will finalize plans for the actual opening of Time Capsule #1, in advance of the Anniversary.

Agenda Item 3 (pg. 4) – Time Capsule #2 – Opening of Time Capsule #2 in 2067

- HRM will consider the 50-year period, with an opening date planned for December 2067, for the 150th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. The Time capsule vessel itself is rated for 75 years.

Agenda Item 3 (pg.4) – Time Capsule #2 – Contents, Schedule and Plaque

- The Committee determined that the contents would reflect the HEASAC Vision statement.
- Schedule for developing the contents is January – April 2017.
- Schedule for finalizing and physically gathering the contents is May – August 2017.
- Schedule for preparing the contents is August 2017.
- HRM will provide guidance on the official letters.
- HRM would not approve the addition of a plaque to the Memorial Bell Tower.

CONTENTS:

Content	Yes	No	Member Responsible	Date
Coin - Description				
Stamp - Description				

George Elliot Clarke Poem				
100 th Anniversary Event Programme				
Official Letter – The Queen				
Official Letter – The Prime Minister				
Official Letter – The Premier				
Official Letter – The Mayor’s open letter to citizens				
Bibliography of Halifax Explosion publications				
Paul Erikson’s History of Fort Needham				
Updated list of fatalities since 1985				
Catalogue of contemporary works of art specific to the 1917 Explosion				
Catalogue of projects funded by the Explosion Grants program				
1917 Explosion artifacts				
Maps and Plans of 1917 and 2017				
Grocery Receipt from 2017, and copies of the 1917 and 1985 receipts				
Local school art project				
Newspaper articles re: 100 th Anniversary commemoration				
Local restaurant menu				
Plans for Fort Needham Park legacy project				
Report to Council to approve the Administrative Order for the 100 th Anniversary Commemoration				
List of HEASAC members (start to finish)				

Map of flora that survived the Explosion				
Map of areas devastated and damaged by the explosion (insurance map)				

New Business:

New updates from HRM – Time Capsule size and purchase date.

- A larger time capsule will be purchased in March 2017. It measures 14” x 14” x 14”.

New updates from HRM – Digital or Virtual Time capsules.

The Committee discussed the concept of a Digital or Virtual Time Capsule and staff were asked to provide information.

- A 2011 article prepared by the Library of Congress has been provided as background information and it summarizes the risks and practical advice associated with preserving digital materials in the long-term.
- There are many Apps designed to ‘host’ digital time capsules. There are no guarantees that these would be suitable for long-term preservation and appear to be more suited to short-term and informal ‘hosting’.
- <https://archive.org/about/> The WayBack Machine is a non-profit digital library that captures webpages, images, audio files, etc and is a global archives for digital materials. Once posted, these become publically accessible records and are added to the vast collection of materials.
- No matter the file format or media, there are no guarantees that materials will be readable or accessible in the long-term. Media can become corrupted, file formats out-dated, etc. Creating this would take significant effort, with no guarantee that the contents would survive.