

### Fort Needham Memorial Park –Interpretive Elements Presentation

HEAAC Meeting, February 15, 2017.

The attached FormMedia document describes 8 of the elements that will be part of the interpretive works installed in Fort Needham Memorial Park this year. They are as follows:

1. Terraces

These are a series of CorTen steel retaining walls built into the slope, located on the main path to the Monument from the Union Street parking lot. Each wall is 25m with a bend along its length to create two segments to represent a proportional ratio to relay in graphic form numerical statistics about the Explosion. Text lettering will be cut into each wall elevation.

2. Electrical Box

A large electrical box is required near the plaza to supply power for the events. The dimensions of the box are 2.0m h x 1.8m w x 0.6m d (6.5' x 6' x 2'). The box will be seen from the plaza area so we are proposing to wrap the power enclosure box with a graphic decal depicting historic posters from the post explosion era. This application is in keeping with past and present practice of tacking up posters on available vertical surfaces.

3. Stairs

A precast concrete staircase will be constructed up the hill to the Monument from Union Street along the historic Richmond Street right of way. The word RICHMOND will be etched into the risers of the steps. The name will be legible to viewers at the bottom of the staircase using a technique called anamorphic graphics. As the viewer climbs the stairs, the word disappears.

4. Railing

The staircase handrail will be supported by posts made from CorTen steel plates set at an angle and bent vertically at 90 degrees at the bottom. The names of Richmond businesses and institutions destroyed by the blast will be cut into sixteen of the posts. The text will be facing the viewer as they ascend the stairs.

5. Light Shield

A piece of CorTen steel will be installed at the base of the Monument to shield and back the new flood lights for the Monument. Morse code will be cut out of the steel, and the light from the LED fixtures will shine through the holes. Note that the translation will not be put on the walls, but the name of the dispatcher, Vince Coleman and the date and time of the message will be put on the wall below the Code to give it context.

6. Manifest

A representation of the two ships involved in the collision will be represented in CorTen steel retaining walls along the main pathway. The length of the walls – made up of steel retaining walls and curbing – will be to scale with the length of each ship. The Imo will be on the east side of the path, and the Mont Blanc will be on the west side of the path.

Wooden bench slats will be mounted to the walls. The benches represent wooden cargo crates and will list the 'ingredients' for the disaster – the Mont Blanc's cargo manifest of ammunitions being transported. There will be six benches for the six distinct chemicals on board. The Imo wall will have one bench with the words BELGIUM RELIEF to reference the banner hung on the side of the ship.

The wooden slats will be 2x6's installed vertically with a space between each slat. The text will be routed into the wood and filled with an epoxy resin. The viewer, when standing near the benches and looking down at the seat, will be able to read the back text on slats behind the front slat .

7. Ship ID

The names of the ships will be inscribed on the metal walls at the 'bow' of each ship wall

8. Commemorative Wall

A CorTen retaining wall will be constructed on the northeast side of the Bell Tower Monument facing the approach from the Union Street parking lot. The height will extend above the finish grade behind the wall. This wall marks the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. The dates December 6 1917 | 2017 will be inscribed on the wall. The top half will be perforated with a dot matrix screen showing the text in solid metal, and on the bottom half of the wall the text will done with rivets.